

Native Affairs—Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Twelve Months ended 30th June, 1947.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit Annual Report under “*The Aborigines Preservation and Protection Acts of 1939 to 1946*” and “*The Torres Strait Islanders Acts of 1939 to 1946,*” as at the 30th June, 1947.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of aborigines, half-bloods, and Torres Strait Islanders is:—

Aborigines	.. ..	9,100
Half-bloods	.. ..	6,460
Torres Strait Islanders	.. ..	5,000

Aborigines and half-bloods are to the extent of 42 per cent. located on Government Settlements and Church Missions. The areas and approximate population of these Institutions are:—

	Area.	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Total.
	Acres.			
Palm Island Government Settlement	15,510	551	453	1,004
Cherbourg Government Settlement	26,765	204	630	834
Woorabinda Government Settlement	54,800	352	483	835
Yarrabah Mission (Church of England)	39,710	230	400	630
Lockhart River Mission (Church of England)	588,400	302	6	308
Edward River Mission (Church of England)	554,880	300	1	301
Mitchell River Mission (Church of England)	616,320	677	16	693
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian)	860,800	114	166	280
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian)	1,216,000	642	8	650
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian)	1,600,000	154	..	154
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian)	245,120	269	34	303
Monamona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist)	318	176	99	275
Doomadgee Mission (Brethren)	57,600	176	36	212
Purga Mission (Salvation Army)	628	..	10	10
Total	5,876,851	4,147	2,342	6,489

The remainder—viz., 4,953 full-bloods, 4,118 half-bloods—are located on country reserves and camps in country towns and on cattle stations where they are employed. The total also includes nomads.

An accurate figure of the aboriginal population of the State will be indicated when the result of the recent census is disclosed. Meantime, and as no census has been taken for many years, the foregoing can be accepted as reasonably accurate.

EMPLOYMENT OF ABORIGINES.

The Queensland aboriginal still continues to hold an important position in the labour utilised in the pastoral industry. It is maintained that the absence of such labour would militate against the success attending that industry.

Due to the acute shortage of labour in the canefields of North Queensland, the organisation set up during the war years for the employment

of mobile gangs of aboriginal cane-cutters continues, and although the numbers comparable with the war years are considerably reduced by reason of the necessity for the greater development of Aboriginal Settlements and Church Missions, there are still employed in this calling approximately 120 men. The call for domestic servants from all Settlements and Church Missions is greater than the supply.

In all, approximately 4,000 aborigines are engaged in various callings through the State, the majority naturally being engaged in the pastoral industry.

For the year under review, their earnings totalled £240,000.

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PEARLING INDUSTRY.

The months of July to November, 1946, saw the discharge of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion, which had performed an excellent

war service for the nation. That battalion, numbering approximately 700 men, constituted the majority of workers in the pre-war pearling industry.

The Queensland Government, immediately hostilities with Japan had ceased, guaranteed to these Islanders a rehabilitation in the industry which they claim, with a very considerable measure of justification, to be the birthright of their race.

The recommencement of pearl-shell fishing was an economic necessity from the point of view of the ex-army Islanders, and to allow Queensland and Australia to participate in the attractive markets available for the produce in keen demand overseas.

At the cessation of hostilities, the pre-war Island fleet, amounting to twenty-four vessels, had been reduced by army impressment and losses to six cutters. During the year under review, by purchases and acquisitions, the fleet was built up to forty luggers, cutters, and launches. This industrial unit is the largest individual pearling fleet which has operated in Australian waters for many years. It is giving employment under particularly remunerative conditions to approximately 700 Islanders—i.e., every discharged soldier was given a job.

The Torres Strait Island community, during the war years, conserved their soldiers' wages and allowances for the purpose of rehabilitating themselves. The purchase of these luggers and cutters was, in the first instance, financed by the Government-controlled Island Industries Board, but every vessel was ultimately paid for to the extent that there is now no liability to the State in the establishment of this fleet.

The Queensland Government did provide an organisation under the supervision of the Director of Native Affairs and the Protector of Islanders, Thursday Island, to direct, advise, and generally help the Torres Strait Islanders in their rehabilitation. The cost of that administration was met by the State, and it is maintained that the efforts of these men in the partial

re-establishment of the Queensland pearling industry is deserving of commendation and worthy of the help given them.

During the year only portion of the 40 vessels were actively engaged in the industry, but during that period they produced for export overseas marine produce to the value of £115,292. There is every reason to assume that for the next financial year the value of the produce won will double this figure.

Pre-war, Japanese indented divers monopolised the diving activities in the pearling fleets of Queensland to such extent that only a few Islanders were engaged as divers—all were employed as swimmers for pearl-shell, trochus-shell, and beche-de-mer.

A determined effort is being made by the Queensland Government and it is hoped that the Commonwealth Government will correspondingly assist these ex-soldier workers to qualify as dress divers, and thus preclude any necessity for representations for the importation of alien divers.

Already Island Industries Board has made arrangements for the equipment of several of the Torres Strait Island owned vessels for dress diving purposes, and the records to date indicate every possibility of the successful employment of these men as divers. The established impression that Islanders are incompetent, incapable, or unwilling to undertake dress diving work cannot now be accepted. Tests have shown their adaptability for this type of marine work.

Apart from the Islanders employed on their own vessels, private pearling companies totalling 19 vessels give employment to 110 Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals at award rate of payment determined by the Government for these employees.

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

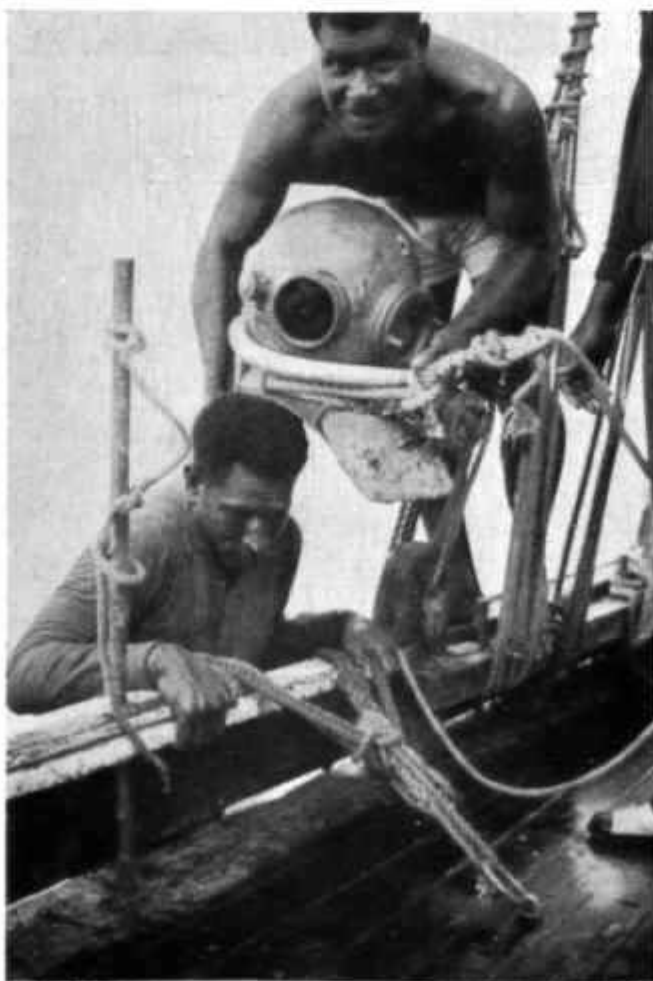
Cattle Raising Operations.—The following cattle are depastured on the three Settlements, and the value of this livestock as a Departmental asset is £42,000.

Settlement.	Beef Cattle.									Dairy Cattle.					Horses.		
	Bulls.	Brooders.	Spayed Cows.	Steers.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Working Bullocks.	Bullocks.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Total.	Draught.	Saddle.	Total.
Woorabinda (including Foleyvale)	51	1,894	33	517	520	406	17	608	4,046	..	..	..	..	..	36	46	82
Cherbourg (including Aboriginal Training Farm)	1	345	260	73	63	186	14	..	942	1	79	27	..	107	13	16	29
Palm Island	..	..	..	16	..	..	55	..	71	1	72	17	17	107	26	18	44
	52	2,239	293	606	583	592	86	608	5,059	2	151	44	17	214	75	80	155

PEARLING INDUSTRY SECTION

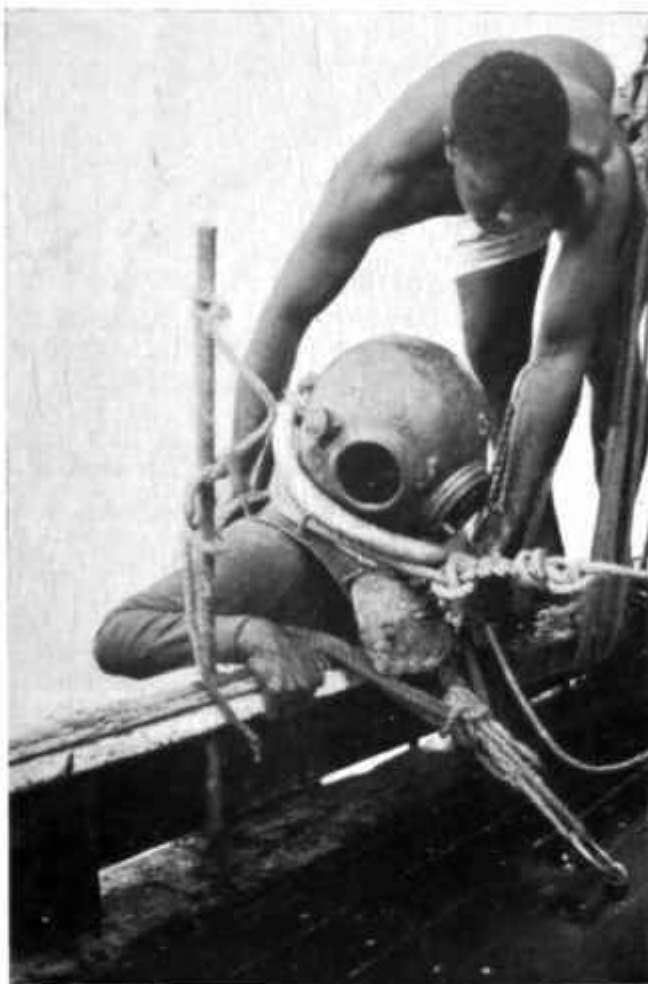


Lugger Proceeding to Sea



Adjusting Diving Helmet

PEARLING INDUSTRY SECTION



Going Over the Side



Pumping Air

PEARLING INDUSTRY SECTION



Pumping Air



Diver Working Below

PEARLING INDUSTRY SECTION



Diver Working Below



Coming Up from Below

PEARLING INDUSTRY SECTION



Cementu Aboard



Mother of Pearlshell

In addition to the supply of meat for local requirements, the following cattle were surplus and were disposed of:—

		Net Return.	
		£	s. d.
374	No. 6 steers	1,870	0 0
161	heifers	563	0 0
214	fat bullocks	3,370	0 0
18	bulls	137	0 0
		<hr/>	
		25,940	0 0

To indicate the returns obtained from cattle-raising operations, it is necessary to add to this figure the sum of £4,200, representing the value of cattle killed for local consumption on the Settlements. Therefore, the return from cattle raised during the year can be fairly quoted at £10,140.

The period July, 1946, to January, 1947, was marked by one of the most severe droughts experienced in Queensland for many years, and the Settlement herds suffered considerably thereby. Although the losses were comparatively small, it became necessary to transfer every beast from Cherbourg Settlement to Woorabinda Aboriginal Settlement, and to Kilrush Pastoral Company's property, twenty miles from Murgon.

Overcoming the difficulties surrounding this transfer of 1,000 head of cattle with only nominal losses is a credit to the staff and aboriginals engaged in the cattle-raising industry. Fortunately, good rain fell during February and March, allowing the cattle to return in good condition with prospects of a better season than the last.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE ABORIGINAL PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION ACTS.

Wherever following investigation it is established that a half-blood or a full-blood aboriginal appears capable of controlling his own affairs, a certificate of exemption is issued to him. In some instances trial exemption covering a period of twelve months with option of renewal at the expiration of that period is issued. In other cases complete exemption is granted.

Over the last five years the number of exemptions so granted have averaged 100 per annum, and during this year 112 persons were so exempted.

The percentage of cancellation of exemptions is very small, and over the last five years only 28 such cancellations were necessary. The cancellation of an exemption certificate is not always due to misconduct by the owner. In many instances the aboriginal or full-blood finds that he is unable to take his place in the white community and to support his wife and family. There is also the inherent call in some aboriginals and half-bloods to return to Settlement or Mission life, and in a few instances that call is so keen that the exempted person hands in the exemption certificate and returns to the Settlement.

SCOUTING.

Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement. Scoutmaster, F. A. Krause.

Herewith is a report on the activities of the Boy Scouts Troop on this island.

For some time scouting has been in the doldrums and a small handful of boys kept the troop open.

Early this year an effort was made to augment the number of boys and at present there are 35 to 40 boys in training. Several young men have volunteered to act as assistant scoutmasters and the troop seems to have regained fresh vigour.

Meetings are held each week at the school and periodically the boys are given practical training in camping, &c., over at their standing camp site on Esk Island, where they practise pioneering and the many other phases connected with scouting.

A very successful camp was held there during Easter, when 40 boys, many of them raw recruits, entered into a four-day camp there. It was very gratifying to see the smoothness with which the whole camp functioned, the elder lads shepherding and guiding the younger ones. Their conduct was excellent, and all went to their various tasks with a right good will.

For this camp, the troop acted as individual patrols, and there was much keen rivalry as to which patrol would set up the best camp. To add to their comfort and enjoyment a small electric lighting plant of 12-volt capacity was installed and lights run into each patrol camp.

The troop is now reasonably well equipped, and its finances too are in a healthy position, having a credit balance of £200 in the bank. Shortly we anticipate buying uniforms for the whole of the troop and this will reduce our bank credit a little.

Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement. Scoutmaster, H. R. Pascoe.

During the last year, the Scouts represented the Department in the Australia Day celebrations in Brisbane. They took part in the Anzac Day procession and attended service at Murgon. A Scouts camp was held at Cherbourg on the King's Birthday week-end, when over 100 visiting Scouts were in camp. The Easter camp was also held at Cherbourg, and over 100 Scouts were present from Maryborough and Gympie.

The Scouts also had a float in the Victory Day procession. S. M. Doolah and the G.S.M. spent 11 days during the August vacation in attending a Scout officers' camp. Scouters and patrol leaders attended a week-end training camp at Ficks Crossing during October. A two-week Scout camp was held at Urangan during the Christmas vacation and over 30 boys attended. A cub pack has been recently formed under Cubmaster J. Doolah.

GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT.

Quite recently a move was made to establish a Girl Guide company at Palm Island for the purpose of training the young native girls and women. Two teachers attached to the Settlement school have offered their services and expect to shortly go into training so that the movement may be inaugurated there. Endeavours are also being made to introduce the Girl Guide movement to Cherbourg.

ACCOMMODATION FOR COUNTRY ABORIGINALS.

This is a matter which is causing the Department considerable concern, in that it is known that the accommodation for aboriginals in many country towns or on reserves established adjacent to those towns is not of adequate standard.

The war period militated against any action to improve this accommodation, but as a preliminary measure, during the war years, where reserves were not established, action has now

been taken for such. This action is the forerunner to a concentrated effort for better housing, consistent, of course, with the availability of materials and labour for erection.

ABORIGINAL ACCOUNTS.

As shown in the following table, all deposits, withdrawals, and balances, the total amount held in trust in the savings bank accounts of aboriginals is £384,798 16s. 9d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw within reason against their savings bank accounts.

TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1947.

	Total.		Savings Bank Balance as at 30th June, 1947.	Commonwealth Stock.	Total Funds.
	Deposits.	Withdrawals.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg	17,395 0 1	17,482 0 5	3,377 14 7	1,000 0 0	4,377 14 7
Palm Island	21,228 8 3	23,086 4 6	1,431 2 4	13,000 0 0	14,431 2 4
Woorabinda	14,963 1 6	15,255 18 11	6,338 15 2	4,000 0 0	10,338 15 2
Various Protectorates and Missions	155,056 1 6	152,615 16 5	53,755 15 2	238,000 0 0	291,755 15 2
Torres Strait Islands ..	191,253 0 6	222,931 16 3	67,225 4 7	..	67,225 4 7
	399,895 11 10	431,371 16 6	132,128 11 10	256,000 0 0	388,128 11 10

In the case of a deceased aboriginal, immediately following death being reported action is taken to distribute the estate amongst the next-of-kin. The number of estates so administered was 94, and the amounts made available to next-of-kin were £5,773 9s. 6d.

The balance, £384,798 16s. 9d., represents the savings of aboriginals from their earnings. A separate account for each individual is kept by the Director of Native Affairs and the current Commonwealth Savings Bank rate of interest is credited annually to each account.

Duplicates of these accounts are kept by the Protector of Aboriginals in the district in which the aboriginal resides, thus allowing the latter to operate on the account in his home town.

These savings bank deposits are entirely the property of the individual aboriginal, the Director of Native Affairs being the trustee of the accounts. Only the aboriginal owner, or a person authorised by such owner in writing, can withdraw money from his account.

No aboriginal is precluded from operating on his savings bank account for his immediate means and innumerable cases can be quoted of:

- Aboriginals receiving their exemption from the provisions of the Act and receiving their savings in a lump sum to set them up in business suited to their calling.
- Homes being built for aboriginals from their savings.
- Plant and equipment being provided from savings to allow the aboriginal to improve his industrial status.
- Funds made available for interior aboriginals to enjoy a holiday at the seaside.

CHILD ENDOWMENT ACCOUNTS.

The Commonwealth Government child endowment is paid to aboriginal mothers at the rate prevailing for white mothers. The payment of

this endowment has proved of immeasurable benefit to aboriginal children, in that it allows the purchase of luxury foodstuffs, better type clothing, &c., than was possible before its inception.

A close check is made on every individual account to which child endowment is credited to ensure that the expenditure by parents is in keeping with the purpose for which the payment is made. The number of aboriginal parent endowees in the State is:—

	Endowees.
Country Protectorates	200
Cherbourg Settlement	106
Palm Island	95
Woorabinda	77
Torres Strait Islanders	457
Total	935

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £40,232.

Where aboriginal children are wholly maintained in Mission and Government Settlement institutions the endowment is paid to the institution funds. These funds are utilised solely for the benefit of the children by providing luxury foodstuffs, better type of clothing, all forms of sporting and general recreation equipment, library books and reading material.

The following table reveals the number of children in institutions for whom child endowment is collected:—

	Number.
Doomadgee	97
Mitchell River Mission	101
Monamona Mission	132
Aurukun Mission	134
Mapoon Mission	140
Mornington Island Mission	119
Weipa Mission	44
Yarrabah Mission	327
Purga Mission	26
Fantome Island	12
Woorabinda Settlement	54
Palm Island Settlement	105
Cherbourg Settlement	94
Total	1,375

EDUCATION.

As indicated in the following table, the number of children receiving primary education is 2,726:—

ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.

Description of School.	Name.	Enrolment 30th June, 1947.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement	Cherbourg	129	134	263
Settlement	Palm Island	104	89	193
Settlement	Woorabinda	73	82	155
Reserve	Cowal Creek	25	23	48
Country Town	Gayndah Aboriginal	14	10	24
Aboriginal Mission	Aurukun	38	32	70
Aboriginal Mission	Doomadgee	27	50	77
Aboriginal Mission	Lockhart River	37	26	63
Aboriginal Mission	Mapoon	30	32	62
Aboriginal Mission	Mornington Island	30	36	66
Aboriginal Mission	Mitchell River	49	39	88
Aboriginal Mission	Monamona	40	37	77
Aboriginal Mission	Purga	10	16	26
Aboriginal Mission	Weipa	12	18	30
Aboriginal Mission	Yarrabah	46	54	100
Island Mission	St. Michael's R.C., Palm Island	33	33	66
Island Mission	St. Paul's, Moa Island	38	30	68
Inland Mission	Normanton	12	17	29
Torres Strait	Island Schools	688	533	1,221
	Totals	1,435	1,291	2,726

At present there are 7 boys in All Souls' Secondary School, Charters Towers; 4 girls in St. Anne's Secondary School, Townsville; 2 girls in St. Gabriel's Secondary School, Charters Towers; and 3 girls at St. Mary's Secondary School, Herberton.

MANUAL TRAINING.

Palm Island School.—Manual training classes were conducted regularly for the senior boys of the school, and the full-time manual training class had 10 pupils, while the part-time students numbered 17. Of this number, 7 were Grade 4 boys, and 10 Grade 3 boys.

Beside the usual exercises, these lads also tackled repair jobs around the school such as repairs to forms, desks, tables and chairs, and other jobs. Trade drawing was also undertaken before attempting an exercise and many of these were of quite creditable quality.

Gardening was attempted, but owing to continued dry periods not too much was achieved.

Palm Island Convent School.—This class of 12 boys between the ages of 14 and 16 years was handled by the priest of the Mission. The boys attended the class during the normal school hours and performed works of a very varying character. Agriculture—particularly growing of vegetables, flowers, fruits, ploughing, scarifying, handling of horses, snigging, sledwork; dairy work—milking, droving, dipping, branding, &c; carpentry—use of tools, building of houses, painting and use of paints, repair work of all kinds, plumbing, tankmaking, simple cabinet-making, making of small sea-boats, e.g., dinghies and flatties; concrete and cement work; use of launch and its engine, boatwork; well-sinking.

These works are done under supervision of the priest, who, in turn, supplements his knowledge and supervision by advice and workers from the Superintendent and officers on the Settlement.

Progress has been good, despite handicaps.

Cherbourg.—Hereunder is list of completed work for the year in the cabinet-maker's workshop and the plumber's workshop.

Manual Training Section.

26 pansteads
29 seats for Settlement hall
2 kitchen dressers
8 kitchen chairs
6 veranda chairs
2 lowboys
11 suitcases
3 small boxes
1 shaving cabinet
6 knife boxes
2 walking sticks
1 axe handle
1 bookcase
2 coffins
15 pannikins
6 funnels
6 buckets
2 tubs
2 watering cans
3 cake tins
1 baking dish.

Cabinet workshop.

20 pansteads
11 kitchen cabinets
9 tables
12 lowboys
9 chairs
7 doors
8 forms
2 small wardrobes
3 school presses
2 plate cupboards
1 large provision cupboard
1 desk and bookcase
1 cupboard
1 sideboard
1 laundry wagon
1 clothes airer
1 set steps
1 box for cricket material
1 farm sled
1 projection cabinet in hall
1 dining suite—for show purposes.

Plumber's workshop.

6 garbage tins
32 buckets
40 sanitary tins
7 tubs
1 flour bin
1 sugar bin
1 water trough—22 feet
12 ramp spikes.

Employees in the cabinet workshops were also engaged in much repair work at the various Settlement offices. Many locks were repaired, as were safes and sinks. A new body was made

for the sanitary wagon and repairs were effected to Settlement wagons and drays. Renovations, including the interior lining of walls, were made to the Settlement recreation hall and a picture projection room was erected.

Employees in the plumber's workshop carried out much repair work, including the repairing and supplying of chimneys, stove piping, showers, sinks, water services, taps, &c. Piping was made and fitted to the theatre plant. Light shades were made for the Settlement hall. Water services were extended, an axle fitted to a Settlement dray, eyebolts and bolts were made for electric installation, and a number of picks and bars were sharpened.

Woorabinda.—Despite the inadequacy of supervision, an effort is being made to carry out the Department's policy of manual training for selected boys from the primary school. Woodwork and tinsmithing are taught.

Woodwork embraces the use of tools, rules, &c., following which is the manufacture of panel doors, suitcases, chairs, and general utility sets for native homes. Included also are general repairs to desks and forms and minor repairs to the school building.

Appreciation.—The loyal assistance received throughout the year from the staff of head office is gratefully recognised, as also is the work of the Protector of Islanders, Thursday Island, the Manager, Island Industries, and the officers under their direct control.

The Superintendents and staffs of the large Settlements have earned the Department's appreciation for their zealous efforts at all times for the welfare of their people.

The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, the Commissioner of Police, the Manager, State Stores Board, and the staffs of their Departments have always readily afforded any assistance and advice needed.

The various police officers appointed as district protectors have carried out their arduous duties most capably. It would be impossible for the protection policy of the Department to function smoothly and efficiently were it not for these country police protectors.

The Superintendents and staffs of the Church Missions also deserve commendation for their self-sacrificing labours, often in difficult and trying conditions.

Reports of the Settlements and the Missions, in respect of Torres Strait Islanders, are attached as appendices.

Appendix 1	Palm Island Settlement.
Appendix 2	Cherbourg Settlement.
Appendix 3	Woorabinda Settlement.
Appendix 4	Torres Strait Islanders.
Appendix 5	Island Industries Board.

Appendix 6	Yarrabah Mission.
Appendix 7	Lockhart River Mission.
Appendix 8	Edward River Mission.
Appendix 9	Mitchell River Mission.
Appendix 10	Mapoon Mission.
Appendix 11	Aurukun Mission.
Appendix 12	Weipa Mission.
Appendix 13	Mornington Island Mission.
Appendix 14	Monamona Mission.
Appendix 15	Doomadgee Mission.
Appendix 16	Purga Mission.

APPENDIX I.

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. G. STURGES.)

HEALTH.

(Medical Officer Dr. B. Short, M.B., B.S.)

The analysis given by Dr. Short in separate heading is most interesting, and shows clearly the results being obtained by the inauguration of the Baby Welfare Centre, Babies' Home, extra rations, and the detailed attention under competent supervision which is now being given to mothers and children.

Regular visits to the Settlement are made by a dentist from Townsville.

A complete check and treatment of the whole of the white and the native population was made by the Health Department's Hookworm Officer.

Medical Officer's Report.—The daily average number of patients in hospital for the year was 42.45. This figure represents a daily average of 30.21 patients in the hospital, excluding the remaining 12.24 in the Lock Ward.

There were 888 patients admitted to hospital for the year, 812 being admitted to hospital excluding the Lock Ward, and the remainder, 76, to the Lock Ward.

Number of births during the year was 40, including 3 still-births. Number of deaths was 29. Outpatients Department treated on an average of 2,062 patients monthly.

Forty-seven operations were performed during the year, of which 44 were minor, remaining 3 being major.

There were no serious epidemics during the year. Most of the admissions were for chest infections. A number of 15 out of the total of 29 deaths were due to chest infection, and of these 15 infections 9 were tuberculous. Pulmonary T.B. was a contributing factor to the cause of death of 2 of the 14 cases who did not die from chest infection.

It is hoped that when an X-ray plant is installed the incidence of T.B. can be better controlled.

Hereunder are statistics showing births and deaths for the corresponding previous five years:—

Period.	Total Deaths.	Under 12 Months.	One to Five Years.	Expectation of Life.	Live.	Births Total.	—
1-7-41—30-6-42	59	9	2	38.6	17 H.C. 17 F.B.	34	..
1-7-42—30-6-43	92	25	9	28.1	17 H.C. 16 F.B.	33	..
1-7-43—30-6-44	85	16	4	34.4	26 H.C. 8 F.B.	34	..
1-7-44—30-6-45	38	6	3	29.0	20 H.C. 14 F.B.	34	..
1-7-45—30-6-46	52	9	7	29.0	31 H.C. 10 F.B.	41	..
1-7-46—30-6-47	29	2	3	41.3	26 H.C. 11 F.B.	37	..

For the year 1st July, 1946, to 30th June, 1947, a marked improvement is seen. The total deaths under 5 years also shows a marked improvement; the average number of deaths of children under 5 for the preceding 5-year period being 18, and for the current year 5.

The improvement over the last twelve months as shown in the above figures is due to:—

- (1) The inauguration of the baby welfare and maternity section;
- (2) The extra rations supplied through the baby welfare and maternity section;
- (3) The inauguration of the Babies' Home by Sister Quirk (now used as a babies' ward) and the devoted nursing and training of the native staff.

COMPARATIVE BIRTHS AND DEATHS OF FULL-BLOODS AND HALF-CASTES FOR PERIOD 1ST JULY, 1941, TO 30TH JUNE, 1947.

Total live births of half-castes for period	137
Total live births of full-bloods for period	76
	213

i.e.

64.32 per cent. of total births were half-castes.
35.68 per cent. of total births were full-bloods.

		Per cent.
Total half-caste infant deaths for period	23	34.3
Total full-blood infant deaths for period	44	65.7
	67	

i.e.

83.21 per cent. half-castes survived after first 12 months.
42.67 per cent. full-bloods survived after first 12 months.

Baby Welfare.—The Baby Welfare Centre was commenced on 12th February, 1946, and until May of 1946 only babies under the age of 2 years attended. However, since May, 1946, all children under the age of 5 years have attended.

At present we have 150 children under 5 years of age attending, also an average of 25 expectant mothers attending each week.

The following table shows the number of deaths amongst baby welfare attendants:—

Deaths in children attending from 12th February, 1946, to 30th June, 1946 ..	1
Deaths in children attending from 1st July, 1946, to 31st December, 1946 ..	4
Deaths in children attending from 1st January, 1947, to 30th June, 1947 ..	1

All children under the age of 5 are seen every week, stripped, inspected for dirtiness, sores, &c., and weighed. Any loss of weight, sores, or any ailments at all noticed or reported are seen by the Medical Officer, who prescribes the necessary treatment. No feeding is altered or changed in any way without the advice of the Medical Officer.

Infants and children who are not doing as well as is expected are taken in daily at the Baby Welfare Centre and are correctly fed. Mothers are shown then in a practical way how to prepare the correct meals and feed the child.

Every child is kept at Baby Welfare until its weight shows that it can be returned home. When indicated, this work is carried out seven days a week.

Rations are given out each week, and these, when fully available, cover the complete feeding requirements of each child for a full week.

All children under 5 years are issued with clothing, blankets, and linen, according to requirements. In addition to this, all newborn infants are issued with a complete layette.

The homes of all children under 5 years in the camps are inspected. In many instances it has been found that a whole family is living in one small room. It is pointed out here that the conditions in most of the camps are not nearly up to standard, although about 50 per cent. of the mothers have made slight improvements, and I think that many more are really trying to their utmost to improve their homes. It will be a great advantage when it is possible to provide more houses and hence raise the standard of living conditions around the camps, particularly in the homes where there are children under the age of 5 years.

Frequently we have found mothers who had not the slightest idea of keeping a house, home, or hut tidy, or how to care for what little they may have, but many of these women, though at first seeming quite hopeless in this respect, can and will improve conditions considerably if it is shown to them how they can help to achieve marked improvements in their homes.

Classes are held during the week for the expectant mothers and they are lectured and shown the proper procedure in the feeding and care of the expected infant. Many of these women are genuinely interested and do their best to grasp all the information they can from these classes.

Expectant mothers also receive milk rations weekly, and also report to the Baby Welfare Centre every week to have their urine tested. Any who complain of being unwell, or whose urine test is not satisfactory, are referred to the Medical Officer. After seven months' pregnancy all women are examined by the Medical Officer every two weeks. All pregnant women also have a blood sample taken at the Baby Welfare Centre by the Medical Officer. These are despatched to the Townsville Laboratory for examination for syphilis infection.

Schoolgirls, thirteen years and over, are also taken in classes every week, and they too are taught the care and correct feedings for infants and children. Patience is needed in the instruction of these girls, and it has been found that they learn more quickly from actual demonstrations.

Hygiene and Sanitation.—With the appointment of a full-time hygiene officer, this important work is now well under control. The hygiene officer has a full-time gang under his control and all matters affecting sanitation and hygiene throughout the Settlement receive constant and immediate attention.

Maternity Bonus.—Seven persons received maternity bonuses, the total amount being £115. The maternity bonus is payable to half-blood women only.

Conduct and Discipline.—No serious offence was recorded for the period under review. Four natives absconded from the Settlement, three of whom were apprehended and returned here.

Sixty-five natives entered this Settlement on removal orders from other Settlements and Missions. This figure includes 1 woman (who accompanied her husband) and 16 children (who accompanied their parents), but does not include 12 native men who originally were inmates of this Settlement.

Education.—Primary education is provided by (a) Departmental school and (b) Convent school. Reports from both schools appear in this report and give details of work being carried out in the schools.

Recently a decision was made to supply all school children with a midday meal based on a balanced diet and well-prepared food. It is the intention, as soon as the necessary equipment and facilities can be provided, that these meals will be prepared at the schools and form part of the Domestic Science training for girls.

Palm Island School Report.

Head teacher, Mr. F. A. Krause.

Herewith is my report on this school for the year July, 1946, to June, 1947.

The enrolment during this period ranged from 179 to 192 children and this was made up of 100 boys and 92 girls. The attendances of these children throughout this period were quite good and there was a noticeable absence of the usual epidemic of skin diseases usually so common during the summer months. The daily average attendance was 172 children; of this number 94 were boys and 78 girls.

The work progressed steadily throughout the year, though shortage of trained staff was a handicap. With the appointment of a male teacher early this year the position has eased. The present staff now stands at a head teacher, one male assistant, two female assistants, and one Domestic Science teacher. Native monitors still assist with the many classes and a native manual training teacher is attached to the school workshop.

The Domestic Science teacher conducted the Settlement sewing-room and had four young native women working full time on this work making hundreds of dresses and other garments for free issue on the Settlement. In addition to this work, the senior girls from the school attended three afternoons and a full day to receive instruction in their needlecraft; a total of 35 girls were thus trained. The frocks made for distribution were neatly done and nicely modelled to suit each individual wearer.

School sports are fostered and interschool sports encouraged. Football matches were held between this school and the Convent. Swimming, tennis, and many forms of ball games are played.

The children are all well behaved at school.

Palm Island Convent School Report.

Priest in charge, Rev. Father T. Dixon.

Organisation.—Three teaching Sisters—Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

Three Classes—

- (1) Prep. 1 and 2—24 pupils.
- (2) Prep. 3 and 4, Grades 1 and 2B—30 pupils.
- (3) Grades 2A, 3B, 3A, 4—26 pupils.

Total enrolled during year—80. Total enrolled at end of year—53 (average—59). (Families have moved to the mainland; pupils have gone to work.)

Classrooms are fairly well equipped with blackboards; 80 per cent. of the pupils have individual desks and chairs.

Methods.—Aim to develop self-discipline by awakening a just pride and ambition.

- (1) Constant use of the blackboard by teachers and pupils.
- (2) Constant supervision and direction of the individual.
- (3) Public exhibition of classwork.
- (4) Encouragement to parents to visit school.
- (5) Monthly public distribution of report cards and recompenses for conduct and application.
- (6) Use of the school library, puzzles, and games as a reward for application.

Character development through work and a growing desire of attainment is very evident.

Gymnastics and Games.—Marching, handball, physical exercises, basketball, football. The pupils have met the pupils of the State school on the sports field.

Music.—Classroom singing, assembly singing, percussion band, mouth-organ band.

Arts and Crafts, Sewing.—Knitting pandanus basketry, novelties in shells, coconuts, tin, wood, garments, embroidery.

Milk and food are distributed at the school daily. These foods are supplied from the Government sources.

Extra Curricular.—Picnics, outings on the coral reef, correspondence encouraged with pen-pals; musical concerts are given to visitors to develop poise and a social attitude.

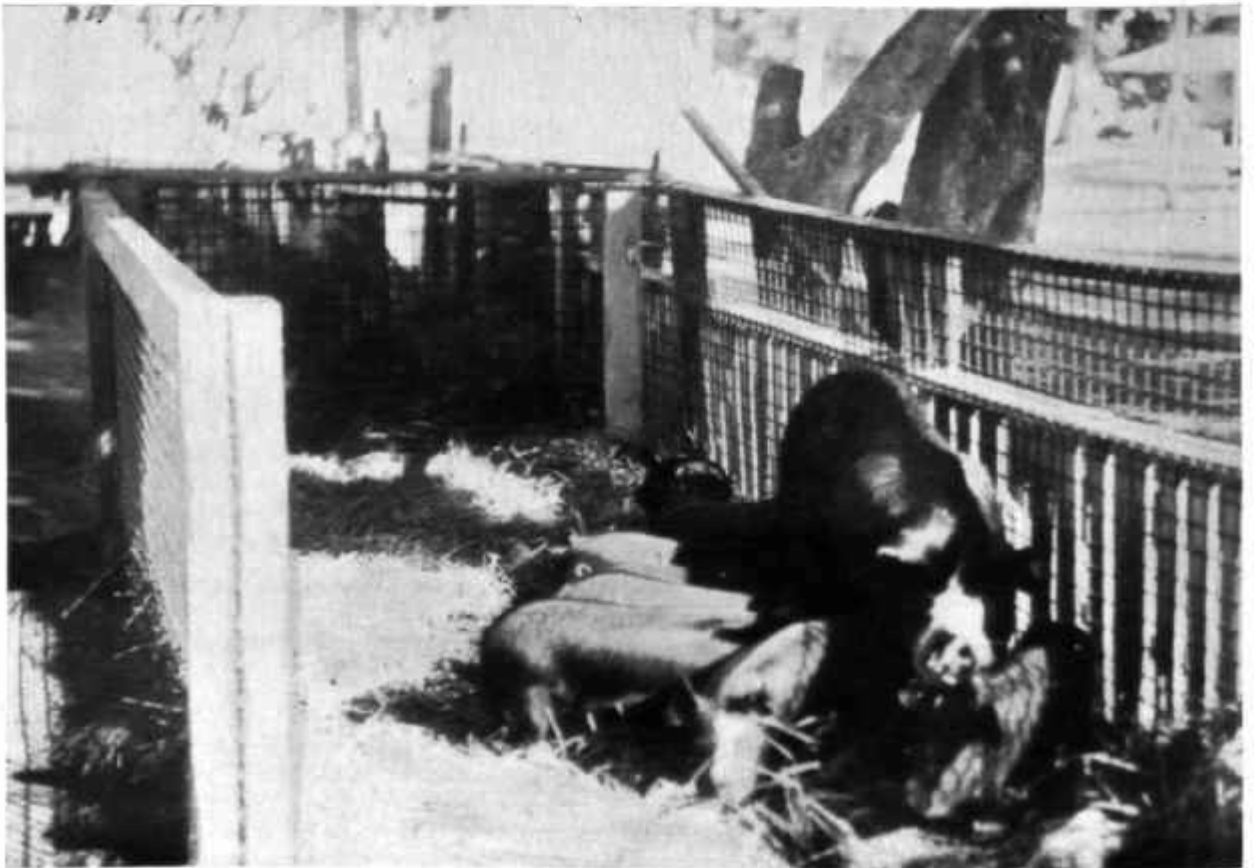
The school entered enthusiastically into the competition offered by the Annual Show. The pupils won fifteen 1st prizes and eleven 2nds in various sections—pastel drawing, pencil drawing, novelties in shells and coconuts, sewing, embroidery, knitting, basketry, plasticine modelling, and ironing. Some of the work was displayed in Townsville and at Woorabinda.

Industrial Development.—Isolated from the mainland as it is, the industrial activity of this Settlement covers many trades and callings of which the following—building in all its phases, sawmilling, boatbuilding, blacksmithing, plumbing, mechanics, fitting, timber felling and hauling, charcoal burning, marine work, refrigeration, saddlery, bridge-building, road construction, &c.—give great scope for the training of the native in useful avenues of employment.

PALM ISLAND SECTION



General View of Farm



Pigs

Building Development.—The difficult position of materials supply has hampered building during the year. However, it has been possible to—

- (1) Remove the office and dispensary from the old Lock Hospital at Fantome Island and re-erect it as a Babies' Home in the hospital grounds at this Settlement.
- (2) The old hospital kitchen has been converted to a large laundry for the hospital.
- (3) Extensive maintenance work to all administrative buildings has been carried out.
- (4) A total of 33 A.W.C. prefabricated huts were purchased and erected on the Settlement to alleviate the position of native housing.

Native Housing.—In an effort to solve the housing problem for the aboriginal at Palm Island Settlement and to overcome the difficulties in obtaining building materials, the Superintendent has, over a considerable period, experimented with a concrete brickmaking plant and success has attended his efforts. With a machine built on the island 300 bricks a day are now being turned out by aboriginal workers under supervision. The matter is still in an experimental stage in that tests are continuing to obtain the best type of brick.

When the experiments are completed and a satisfactory product is guaranteed, it is quite possible that the scheme will be extended to other Government Settlements.

Roads and Bridges.—Three bridges on the main road to the farm were rebuilt. These are of substantial construction and will last for many years.

After the heavy floods experienced early this year, very extensive road work has been necessary and all roads are now trafficable.

Jetty.—The jetty, which was damaged by fire some time ago, has been rebuilt and is of great service at suitable tides.

Pontoon—Townsville.—The old cargo punt is being converted to a pontoon for use by the Settlement's boats in Townsville. It is estimated that a saving of approximately £300 will be made, compared with the building of a new pontoon.

Fish Traps.—A start was made on the erection of fish traps in December, 1946. Since that date 3,100 lb. of fish have been caught, valued at £194 5s. (based on the wholesale price in Townsville). Of this, 300 lb. of fish were forwarded to the General Hospital, Townsville.

Rainfall.—Total for period of report, 89.17 inches. The following will give an indication of the difficult time that has been experienced during the past 16 months:—

Rainfall 5th March, 1946, to 1st February, 1947 (a total of 48 weeks)—5.00 ins.
 Rainfall 2nd to 9th February, 1947—40.69 ins.

Rainfall 10th to 28th February, 1947—49.92 ins.

Rainfall, 1st January to 30th June—87.82 ins.

It will be seen from the above that extreme drought conditions were followed by severe floods, the damage being incalculable.

Water Supply.—Owing to the severe drought experienced during 1946, the water supply of the Settlement became most acute, and serious consideration had to be given to the evacuation of a large number of natives. However, after the purchase of the motor water-tanker, water was carted in large quantities from the farm irrigation well and evacuation was avoided.

In December, 1946, work was commenced on the construction of a 1,000,000-gallon reservoir. While this quantity will not be sufficient to provide a full supply in drought years, it removes the yearly problem of carrying on through the dry season.

An engine and pump were fitted to the hospital well. The well at Casement was deepened and lined with concrete cylinders.

Fantome Island Water Supply.—This supply became most acute, but with the fitting of a diesel engine and pump to the new wells, sunk late in 1945, and the installation of another 10,000-gallon storage tank sufficient supplies were maintained.

Farm Produce.—The heavy cyclonic rains experienced during the early months of 1947 severely hampered the production of food crops and effected considerable damage to farm lands and other crops. The damage to farm land is so severe that it will take a number of years to put everything right again. Meanwhile the greatest possible efforts are being made to keep up production of all vegetable and fruit crops. Six thousand pineapple suckers, 100 banana suckers, and 700 papaws were planted out. The severe floods completely destroyed all papaw plants.

Lettuce	10,623	head
Chinese cabbage	203	sacks
English cabbage	1,756	head
Chinese spinach	48	sacks
Sweet potatoes	26	sacks
English potatoes	7½	sacks
Tomatoes	59	cwt.
Cucumbers	4,447	each
Marrow	652	each
Pumpkin	48	cwt.
Eschalots	21	sacks
Beans	8	cwt.
Peas	7½	cwt.
Beetroot	5	sacks
Kohl rabi	2	sacks
Silver beet	1	sack
Turnips	8	sacks
Watermelons	3,896	each
Pineapples	212	each
Bananas	33	bunches
Mangoes	40	cases to Woorabinda
Coconuts	50	sacks to Cherbourg
Coconuts	100	sacks to Woorabinda.

Floating Plant.—Two important additions to this plant were made during the year—

- (1) The purchase of the 65-ft. launch "Radio" for the Palm Island-Townsville service;
- (2) The purchase of the 25-ft. launch "Sylvia" for use by the Medical Officer.

Electric Light.—It is anticipated in the near future that work will be commenced on the installation of electric power throughout the Settlement. Plans are now such that as soon as materials come forward an immediate start can be made on this work.

Employment.—The demand for native labour, both male and female, far exceeds the capacity of the Settlement to satisfy all requests. One hundred and seventeen natives are working on agreement and in addition to these 14 men were sent to assist in the maize harvest on the Ather-ton Tableland. Wages earned by these men amounted to £373 9s. 4d. Forty-two men were sent to assist in the cane harvest in the Ingham area. Tons of cane cut amounted to 10,681½, and wages earned £3,759 5s. 8d.

Picture Show.—It is hoped in the near future that pictures will be screened weekly. The projector box is complete and projectors installed. The stage is almost complete, the only holdup being the engine to drive the alternator.

It is desired to place on record that a large proportion of the money required to purchase this plant has been raised by the natives through the medium of their Welfare Association, and that the running, maintenance, and upkeep of this plant will be borne by the Welfare Association.

Social and Welfare Association.—The Annual Report on this association appears in this report. From this it will be seen that this association is a very live body and is fulfilling a very important phase in the native's life. The manner in which the Welfare Association conducts its affairs calls for much praise and commendation. A number of the officers of the Settlement give unstintingly of their leisure time in assisting this association in all its activities.

Annual Report Social and Welfare Association.

President, Mr. F. A. Krause.

It affords me very great pleasure to submit to you the second Annual Report of the activities and work of the Palm Island Social and Welfare Association, for the year ended 30th June, 1947.

The Association's executive committee now has 16 native members, all of whom represent as many organisations under its control. Meetings are conducted regularly and have been consistently held throughout the year. The amount of work now involved has increased so much that it has been necessary to train another native as a native clerk to assist the president and secretary. At present this native is being taught to use the typewriter and duplicating machine and is showing progress.

Corroborees, Dancing, and Boxing.—Each Saturday night the Welfare Association organises either native dancing or boxing. These entertainments have continued throughout the year and have been well patronised. Very soon we hope to include a mid-week picture show among our regular entertainments.

The quality of these Saturday night entertainments has improved considerably, and the smooth way in which these functions are now being conducted by the native committees has been very noticeable.

Boxing has been given a new interest when a team from here visited Mackay and won honours in a match there. It is a very popular pastime and overwhelmingly well patronised.

Christmas and New Year Cheer.

Fantome Island.—This year as on a previous occasion the Welfare Association provided Christmas cheer for the inmates of Fantome Island Leprosarium. A concert party accompanied the executive committee and entertained the lepers to a varied programme of items, while the executive committee provided a dainty meal of cakes, sandwiches, cordials, and ice creams, which was greatly relished by the inmates there.

Palm Island.—This Association appreciated the Christmas gifts supplied by the Department and assisted the Superintendent with their distribution. In addition to these gifts by the Department, the Welfare Association also saw fit to send along Christmas hams to the hospital for the patients and provided a nicely decorated Christmas tree for the children patients.

Children's Christmas Tree.—A general Christmas tree was provided for all the children and the members co-operated with the Superintendent in preparing this tree. A large pine tree was obtained and the gifts attached to it. Soon after sunset all the children gathered round the tree admiring the many toys hanging there and speculating which toy was theirs. Shortly after it grew dark there was a stir when Santa Claus arrived to distribute the gifts. It was a gala night for the children and one which I am sure will be long remembered.

Schools' Breaking-up Picnics.—As in former years, the two schools celebrated their breaking-up by each holding a picnic. Apart from the generous grant from the Department for this purpose, the Welfare Association made a substantial donation from its own funds. A very enjoyable day was spent by all.

Tennis and Football.—The various sporting committees are endeavouring to do a good job with their respective fields of sport. The tennis committee has organised tennis tournaments, while the footballers have had several invitations to play football on the mainland.

All the trips have been well conducted and the conduct of the boys while on these trips has been highly commendable. It has been the means of stimulating the players to put their best into their games and consequently a better standard of football has resulted and a better tone of conduct on the Settlement generally.

Already several outside teams have made tentative bookings for our boys to play them again next season.

Concert Party and Choir.—During the year an effort was made to form a native choir and this has met with much success. A concert party is also functioning and provides entertainment at intervals throughout the year.

Home and Garden Project.—Another home and garden project was again conducted in conjunction with their annual show this year. Unfortunately heavy rains during the early months of this year did considerable damage to the gardens. Planting operations were delayed, and many suffered a second setback when

further heavy rains came a month later. However, most folks were not to be daunted or thwarted in their efforts to get their gardens in good order for another Home and Garden Contest. Some very fine gardens and neatly kept homes and house yards are now to be seen around the Settlement.

One-Family Exhibit.—An addition to this year's show is the inclusion of a one-family exhibit in the pavilion display. This will embrace samples of cooking, needlework, handicrafts, display of coral and shells, samples of vegetables, fruit, and flowers grown by the exhibitor, and anything else one may wish to display which will depict the efforts of husband, wife, and children in that home.

Show Schedule.—A very elaborate show schedule has been prepared, printed and widely circulated. Besides containing a list of the many competitive items one may enter in the show, it is well illustrated with pictures of local interest, and contains a wealth of information that is valuable to anyone whether living on Palm Island or elsewhere. It has been printed on a really good class of paper and the cost of its production has been practically covered by the advertising contained therein.

Natives' Donations.—A particularly pleasing feature this year is the ready response by the natives themselves to contribute to the prize list of their show. Almost 100 natives have donated cash prizes towards their show and this has been added to by donations from some of their employers as well as local white residents and business people in Townsville. The native is really showing a keener interest in this show movement and learning something thereby.

Settlement Show.—The annual show was held in July and proved a great success. This is easily the biggest undertaking by the Welfare Association. Exhibits were of a good quality and the cookery and needlework were particularly outstanding. Some excellent work was also to be seen in the schoolwork section, where drawing, modelling, and handwriting stood out prominently. A section that attracted many was the exquisite display of tinted and white corals and marked shells. Necklaces, ash trays, reading lamps—all made from shells—were just a few of the novelties on display. Large polished tortoise-shells, plaited pandanus mats and baskets, as well as carved boomerangs and walking-sticks, were also admired.

Another highlight of the pavilion display was that of the Settlement farm produce. Despite the many setbacks earlier in the year vegetables seen were of excellent quality and fresh and crisp in appearance. Pumpkins of various kinds, several types of cabbages and lettuce, turnips, carrots, beetroot, tomatoes, and other vegetables were on display.

Free Public Library.—Early this year the Welfare Association saw the need for providing some means whereby the more intelligent natives might indulge in reading and thus broaden their outlook on life and improve their general knowledge. Hence a free public library was established. The library at present contains approximately 200 books of varying tastes and

is open one night each week. Natives may borrow books to read at home, while there are some books and magazines that are not available for borrowing, but are read at the library, which is accommodated in the schoolroom.

Settlement Newspaper.—A very recent innovation has been the publication of a weekly newspaper by this Association known as the P.I.N. (Palm Island News).

Every available copy of the first issue was sold out soon after publication and present indications are that this paper will be popular and will provide a long-felt want on the Settlement. Correspondence is invited from other Settlements and copies are sent to these other Settlements. At present this paper is done on a duplicating machine, but it is hoped to one day be able to install a small printing press, when a more elaborate paper can be produced.

Tourists' Welfare.—Another activity worthy of mention is the entertainment that is provided by this Association for the tourists who visit here during the winter months. Several of the native women provide refreshments on arrival, while the menfolk put on an open-air entertainment of native dances, corroborees, spear and boomerang throwing displays, firelighting with fire sticks, peeling coconuts with teeth, and other forms of native sport.

Appreciation Boy Scouts.—This Association feels it is indebted to the Native Boy Scouts Troop for the use of its small electric-lighting plant, which now provides the lighting for most of its functions, including the reading room of the library, the boxing, corroborees and dances, and all meetings conducted at or within the precincts of the school. To this troop we express our sincere thanks.

Picture Plant.—Good progress is being made with the installation of a moving picture plant for the Settlement. A very fine operating box has been erected and the screen will be housed in a special edifice now being constructed. This will have a stage for concert work and all pictures shown will be open air.

Finances.—The finances of the Association are in a healthy condition, and, considering the isolated position of this Settlement and the restricted field of operations, must be considered as highly satisfactory.

Commencing the financial year last July with a bank balance of £195 and £20 in cash, the cash received during the ensuing twelve months amounted to £1,397 odd, while a further addition of £287 from a sports fund was transferred to our welfare funds. A few smaller donations, and our receipts stand at £1,900. Against this amount cheques to the value of £1,124 were drawn, while a further sum totalling £219 was paid in cash payments, which made the total expenditure amount to £1,343 odd.

This then leaves the year's turnover stand at a credit balance of just a little over £550, to quote in round figures, which is quite a creditable effort.

Appreciations.—We are indeed grateful to the Hon. the Minister for Health and Home Affairs for his interest in our organisation, and wish to

express our sincere thanks also to Mr. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, whose untiring efforts in the interests of natives throughout Queensland are much appreciated.

The staff, too, have shown a keener interest in the work of the Welfare Association during the past year and quite a number of them are taking an active and lively interest in the various branches.

We also desire to express our gratitude to the Superintendent, Palm Island Settlement, for the support and co-operation received from him from time to time, and it is our wish that he may remain long enough in his office as Superintendent to see the fruitful labours of this Association materialise.

To those members of the executive committee and other natives who have given their services willingly to help in the uplift of this Settlement we tender our sincere thanks.

General.—The dormitories in which are housed children, senior girls and boys, young women and others needing care and protection play an important part in the Settlement administration. They are well conducted, kept scrupulously clean, well fitted out, and provide a training ground from which practically all the female labour required is drawn to staff the various institutions within the Settlement. Details of inmates are as follows:—Women and small girls, 84; Boys' Home, 37; Girls' Home, 42.

APPENDIX 2.

CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(SUPERINTENDENT, W. PORTEOUS SEMPLE.)

HEALTH.

Hospital.—Particulars of treatment for the year ended 31st December, 1946:—

	Male.	Female.
Number of patients in hospital first day of year	3	8
Number of patients admitted	346	421
Number of births	22	14
Number of deaths	12	7
Number of patients discharged	348	421
Number of patients days	3,800	4,769
Daily average	10.41	13

Doctor's weekly visits	51
Special visits	33
Total	84

Minor operations	16
Outpatients	3,681
Number of visits	16,703

Staff employed at hospital—1 matron, 3 sisters.

Native Staff—	
Ward girls	6
Ward boys	4
Cook	1
Assistant cooks	2
Yard boys	2
Laundresses	2
Part-time domestics	4
Total	21

Causes of Death, 1946—	
Premature births	3
Valvular disease of the heart	2
Tuberculous meningitis	1
Asphyxia neonatorum	1
Chronic nephritis	1
Pneumonia (lobar)	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	1
Cerebral haemorrhage	1
Chronic myocarditis and endocarditis	1
Broncho-pneumonia	2
Coronary sclerosis	2
Measles and marasmus	1
Carcinoma	1
Pneumonia and measles	1
Influenzal pneumonia	1
Deaths at hospital	19
Deaths at camp	1

Settlement Collections from 1st January, 1946, to 31st December, 1946.—

	£	s.	d.
Savings Bank	6,094	19	6
Settlement maintenance	877	0	2
Beef sales	83	3	7
Rail fares	127	6	4
Car fares	18	6	1
Phone calls	41	2	3
Telegrams	11	15	1
Cash sales, retail store	6,022	2	5
Officials	484	10	10
Sale of hides	129	11	7
Sale of stock	132	0	0
Sale of Bedford utility	140	0	0
Sale of timber	6	4	6
Sale of stumps	1	12	11
Sale, Rural School furniture	32	10	0
Miscellaneous collections	32	5	3

Savings Bank balances at December, 1945	6,396	7	5
Savings Bank balances at December, 1946	6,087	13	10

Child Endowment—			
Natives receiving endowment	116		
Total endowment received	5,254	12	2
Average monthly payments	404	4	0
Store orders on endowment	330	0	0
Town orders authorised by Office	32	0	0

Improvements.—The electric light was switched on at the Settlement on the 16th November. The Under Secretary for Health and Home Affairs was present, attended by the Director of Native Affairs, also a large gathering of officers, representatives from the Shire Council, and others interested. Over fifty native cottages received light, also all dormitories, hospital and officers' residences. The streets are adequately lighted and a ring of lamps was placed around the sports ground. The benefits received from this lighting are appreciated by natives and officers.

Fencing Native Cottages.—New fences were built round the front row of native cottages. The fences are made of split posts and split palings, wired with suitable wire. The work is well constructed and lasting. This fencing is still going on.

Storage Tanks.—The storage tanks for the domestic supply were all cemented inside and painted with bitumastic paint. This is a permanent job.

Bathroom, Boys' Home.—This floor was cemented. The following tanks were cemented inside:—One at the Guesthouse, one at Mr. Rahal's, one at Mr. Crawford's, and two at hospital. This work is still being carried on. A shed was erected over the copper at the boys' home. No painting was done owing to lack of material.

CHERBOURG SECTION



Sawmill Buildings



Logs for Mill

Boring for Water.—Considerable success was attained during the year by getting good supplies of water for the stock. A bore was put down at Black Snake Swamp, where a good supply was obtained. Troughing, storage tanks and engine were installed. From September to December, during the hottest and driest periods of the year and during the worst of the drought, 600 head of cattle were watered at this bore. The total depth is 76 feet.

A second bore was put down at Fisher's Dam. This was one of the most successful and quickest drilled bores. The period of drilling was only five days and at a depth of 79 ft. a supply of beautiful blue water was found equal to rain water. The supply is unlimited and engine, storage tanks, and troughing were erected. Hundreds of cattle watered here during the drought.

An additional bore was sunk nearer the Settlement. This bore has good water with an unlimited supply, and boring is proceeding.

In all, five bores are now operating on the Settlement and a continuous water supply for stock is assured.

Road Grader.—A road grader was bought and the road from Murgon to the Settlement is kept in fairly good order.

Sawmill.—70,414 super. feet of timber were milled during the year. Much time was lost owing to repairs to the mill and engine, also the difficulty in getting in logs, neither having transport and suitable gear. This transport had to be let on contract. 14,153 super. feet were dressed.

Soup Boiler.—Soup was made on the Settlement during the winter months for all inmates and was given out four evenings per week. This soup was made from fresh beef and vegetables. The vegetables included turnips, cabbages, cauliflowers, carrots.

Farm.—Wheat, oats, milo, cowpeas, and millet were planted on the farm. From May until December no rain fell. The season was very dry and droughty. The only rainfall between October and December was 60 points. The season was one of the driest on record. Therefore trying to grow crops on the farm was impossible.

Vegetables.—The following were grown and given out:—

Tomatoes	.. .. .	700 lb.
(This crop suffered from fly and wilt and was practically a failure.)		
Lettuce	.. .. .	120 lb.
Silver beet	.. .. .	280 lb.
Cauliflower	.. .. .	6,000 lb.
Cabbages	.. .. .	9,000 lb.
Carrots	.. .. .	600 lb.
Beetroot	.. .. .	300 lb.
Kohl Rabi	.. .. .	250 lb.
Turnips	.. .. .	3 tons
(Two tons of over-ripe turnips which matured very quickly were given to the pigs.)		
Swede turnips	.. .. .	1,000 lb.
Pumpkins	.. .. .	4 tons

Employment.—Forty-two males and 75 females, making a total of 117, were sent out to employment under agreement.

The following were sent as casual or seasonal workers:—

Peanut workers	.. .. .	60
Sugar workers	.. .. .	30
Cordwood cutters	.. .. .	17
Forestry employees	.. .. .	9
Shire council workers	.. .. .	8
Other casual employment	.. .. .	80
Total	.. .. .	204

Education.

School report for the year 1946:—

Enrolment.—The enrolment for the first and second quarters was 253, and for the third and fourth quarters 247. The average quarterly enrolment was 250.

Attendances.—The attendances for the year were 22,435½ boys and 24,046 girls, a total of 46,481½. The average daily attendance for the year was 107 boys and 114.7 girls, a total of 221.7. This is an increase of 10.6 on that for 1945.

The average attendance was affected somewhat by a prevalence of colds and illness during the month of June and a certain amount of sickness, probably due to the excessive heat and dry weather, in December.

Conduct.—The conduct of the children attending school was quite satisfactory throughout the year. Those attending for their first year settled well to school discipline.

Progress.—Generally satisfactory. Preparatory grades showed quite satisfactory progress, middle grades were quite good, third grades showed fair progress, whilst fourth grade was quite good. Progress was upset somewhat during the first half of the year through staffing upsets, but the latter half enabled continued progress to be maintained.

Domestic Science.—This section continues to operate satisfactorily. All students show keen interest and enthusiasm. Progress has been very satisfactory. The enrolment varied from 29 in the June quarter to 22 in the December quarter. During the latter part of the last quarter all the first year trainees were placed in outside employment and very satisfactory reports have been received concerning these girls. The monthly returns show the activities and output of this section. Under separate heading is a list of all work completed by the girls employed as seamstresses in the sewing room. Morning teas were provided for many visitors, including the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, during their visits to the Settlement.

An average of 170 scones and 170 cakes were baked weekly and forwarded to the primary school as a contribution to the lunches being provided.

Collections of cookery, jams, &c., and needlework were provided as part of the Settlement display at Murgon Show and at Palm Island Show. Competitive entries were sent to Palm Island and Woorabinda Shows and some prizes obtained.

Students from this section were used to depict Domestic Science training on a suitably equipped truck in the Labour Day procession in Brisbane and in the Victory Day procession in Murgon.

Luncheon was served to approximately 100 children competitors at the Murgon and the Kingaroy interschool athletic sports.

Garments completed by girls attached to Domestic Science Sewing Room.

For retail store.—

140 blouses
379 frocks—various sizes
36 dresses—working
50 dresses—children's
145 petticoats
97 school uniforms
2 bedspreads
2 pillow shams
2 table covers
1 table runner

For hospital.—

36 wardmaids' uniforms
18 aprons
70 nightdresses
4 men's aprons
4 doctors' gowns
6 chair covers
3 infants' nightdresses
3 infants' petticoats
3 infants' frocks

For boys' dormitory.—

58 bedspreads

For girls' dormitory.—

80 school uniforms
25 blouses

For school.—

48 school bags—navy
49 school uniforms—for girls competing in sports

For nurses' quarters.—

2 pairs curtains
4 cushion covers

For guest house.—

7 pairs curtains

For settlement display at Murgon show.—

4 frocks—women's
3 dresses—children's
1 baby's outfit
1 school uniform
1 blouse

Primary Manual Training.—This section was in operation throughout the year. The enrolment varied from 40, including 23 primary school boys, during the first quarter, to 38, including 20 primary school boys, in the last quarter of the year. Generally progress was quite satisfactory. Boys from the primary section attended the manual training section on one day per week during the last two years of their schooling.

The cabinet-maker's workshop and the plumber's workshop are attached to this section. This section has been of great value to the Settlement and much general repair maintenance work has been performed by the boys. Water services have been extended, and repairs effected to various vehicles. Work from this section was displayed at Murgon and Palm Island Shows.

Two native assistants are being employed as teachers and are showing definite promise.

General.—In the South-East Burnett District school sports this school was successful in winning the "A" class school championship, and second place was obtained in the "A" class school championship in the South Burnett school

sports. This is considered a very creditable performance in the athletic field. Teachers, both white and native, gave much of their own time to the training of the children so that these results might be achieved.

The primary, domestic science, and manual sections of this school prepared and staged an exhibit at the Palm Island Settlement show. Competitive entries were made in all school sections and many prizes obtained. Assistance was also given for the Settlement display at the Murgon show.

During the year information was obtained regarding a sound-on-film projector and results of inquiries submitted to the Director of Native Affairs, who has made arrangements for the supply of the machine.

The usual breaking-up festivities were held on the last day of the school year. The children were entertained with various games, luncheon was served in the school grounds, and the afternoon was devoted to a special screening of pictures in the Settlement hall. A very enjoyable day was spent by both teachers and pupils.

It is desired to place on record the ready co-operation of the teaching staff in all matters affecting the school, both during and outside school hours. Our thanks are extended to the Superintendent, the Settlement staff, and the Settlement Welfare Association for the assistance given to the school throughout the year.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION—PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

(*President.—H. R. Pascoe.*)

The following is the second annual report of the activities of the Cherbourg Social and Welfare Association. It covers briefly the work accomplished by this committee during its period of office.

During the period under review, 26 ordinary meetings and three special meetings of the Association have been held. At two of these special meetings the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, was present. We wish to express our appreciation to the Director, who has at all times been sympathetic and helpful in any movement by the Association to bring about improvements or benefits to the residents and to the Settlement in general.

Welfare Officer.—A very important step achieved during the year through the representations of this committee was the appointment of a full-time Welfare Officer. The appointment of Mr. E. H. Rees to this office is concrete evidence of the interest taken by the Department in the progressive movements desired by this Association. The appointment has given innate a high measure of satisfaction, as they now have a medium of approaching the Department in regard to complaints, requests, &c. The Welfare Officer has shown a keen interest and a high standard of ability in his work here. Many more improvements and further amenities can be anticipated as the result of the sympathetic and progressive activities of the Welfare Officer.

Finance.—The financial affairs of the Association are in a very sound position and sums amounting to £1,354 were spent in improvements and other activities throughout the year, and that we now have a credit balance of £410 14s. 9d. in our account and an amount of £2,500 to work on in our Loan Account.

Seaside Home.—The necessity of a seaside recuperation and vacation home for the people of Cherbourg and other Settlements has been discussed and it is hoped that representations made to establish this worthy project will receive earnest consideration .

Electric Light and Power.—During November, the official switching-on of the electric light and power was performed by the Under Secretary of the Department of Health and Home Affairs. After the switching-on ceremony, free pictures were screened in the recreation hall to celebrate the introduction of electricity and talkies to Cherbourg.

Cinematograph.—A complete talking picture plant was purchased during the year and installed in the recreation hall. The plant was installed by the Welfare Officer and serviced by R.C.A. through their engineer, Mr. J. Oliphant. To date, 31 screenings have been presented. Fourteen screenings were for those who can afford the admission charges of 2s. for adults and 1s. for children, and 14 screenings were for indigents for which the Association has borne the full costs. Prices of admission compare favourably with rates of 2s. 6d. for adults and 9d. for children, which prevail at the theatre at Murgon. Inmates going to Murgon pictures also pay return bus fares of 2s. for children and 4s. for adults.

The programmes screened at Cherbourg consist of 1 general knowledge short, 1 cartoon, 1 serial chapter, 2 features.

Comments on screenings to date have been most satisfactory, and the Association does appreciate the standard and quality of programmes that have been forwarded to date through the Film Renters' Association.

Recreation Hall.—The following improvements were effected and installed in the recreation hall, and we now have a hall the like of which any community could be justly proud. Improvements are,—

- (1.) Windows have been reglazed with opaque wired glass.
- (2.) The hall has been lined with pine and caneite; this has improved its appearance and sound effects.
- (3.) The stage has been enlarged and equipped with three sets of curtains and scenery.
- (4.) Dressing rooms have been built to stage level.
- (5.) Fluorescent lighting has been installed for hall lighting and stage footlights.
- (6.) New seating accommodation has been made.
- (7.) Two electric air circulators now ensure more comfortable air conditions.
- (8.) A public address system is available for both on stage and outdoor use.
- (9.) The cinematograph installation with all equipment plus a spotlight is giving excellent service.
- (10.) The piano has been overhauled, also a contract has been signed to install refrigeration in the hall.

Arrangements are in hand to erect an office for the Welfare Officer on the hall veranda.

The use of the hall is made available to the Salvation Army every alternate Monday for the holding of services. Departmental lectures are also given in the hall.

The Association was able to purchase in Kingaroy a picture theatre, which is being removed to the Settlement. This hall measures approximately 87 feet by 45 feet, and will allow the present recreation hall to be removed to the show grounds, where on high blocks it will become a show Pavilion, with a dining room and dressing rooms for sporting bodies underneath. The newly acquired theatre will be erected on the site of the present recreation hall. The Association is also committed to effect a further addition to the hall, as loan money has been made available for this purpose, with a dignified frontage. The addition would incorporate a cafe, billiard room, library, and if possible, a barber's shop.

Christmas Tree.—During the Christmas season a Christmas tree was arranged for the children of the Settlement. The purchase of gifts and the decoration of the tree was arranged by the Welfare Officer. Altogether over 560 gifts were distributed. A Christmas dinner was arranged for 60 elderly indigent people, and each person received a suitable gift. On New Year's Eve a gala night was held on the sports ground, floodlit for the occasion; a very enjoyable evening resulted and inmates saw the New Year in under really enjoyable circumstances.

General.—Representations made by the Association were the means through which a considerable amount of household fencing has been accomplished. In all, 11 cottages have been fenced, while a considerable number have posts up waiting for the palings we hope to receive in the near future. Where houses are now fenced most householders have started gardens and it is expected of all householders that they should make some effort to keep tidy and endeavour to beautify the grounds around their cottages. The association will co-operate with householders by supplying plants and shrubs for this purpose.

The Welfare Officer has arranged for the purchase of a horse-drawn hearse, so that in future a more dignified burial transport vehicle will be used.

Picture screenings are presented twice a week. Dances are usually held each Saturday night. Two variety shows visited the Settlement during the year, and Buddy Williams was induced to make a short appearance at the Settlement. In addition, six boxing tournaments were held during the year.

Reports on various sections of the Association.

Orchestra.—Under the direction of Mr. Morley, a talented musician, an orchestra was formed. With Mr. Morley's departure the activities of this fair-sized orchestra lessened somewhat. However, Jeffrey Doolah has always been available with enough players to ensure music for dances. This Welfare Committee has arranged for piano tuition to be given to four young people. This has been done in an endeavour to provide piano players to fulfill both concert and orchestral needs in the future. Percussion instruments and a cornet have been purchased and now authority has been given for the purchase of a good quality piano-accordion.

Concert Party.—The concert party is now under the able control of the Welfare Officer, who exhibits real talent for this type of work. It is hoped that members of this troupe will so interest themselves and perfect their talents that they will worthily represent Cherbourg when they go on concert tours. If the Department wishes to foster this group then their co-operation should be such as to encourage the enthusiasm of the Welfare Officer.

Football.—Football had a very successful season. Their committee, with Mr. Smith as president, made some progressive steps in football affairs. During the season the Cherbourg Rugby League was formed and affiliated with the Wide Bay and Burnett District Rugby League. In addition to district fixtures, a competition was played on the Settlement between three Cherbourg Rugby League clubs, each club having a junior and a senior team. The Settlement competition resulted in the Rovers winning the Senior premiership, the Tobin Cup, and the Ambulance Cup. The Junior premiership was won by the Kookaburras. In the district fixtures for the Core Cup, Cherbourg reached the final round and were beaten for the cup by Bundaberg, 29 points to 15 points. The taxi-drivers of Maryborough, after witnessing a very thrilling match when Maryborough narrowly defeated Cherbourg, were so impressed that they donated a shield for annual competition between Cherbourg and Maryborough. The first match in this competition was played at Maryborough on the 1st September last year, resulting in a win for Cherbourg. Other representative matches played were at Kingaroy, Gympie, Nanango, Toowoomba, Jandowae, Lower South Burnett, and Maryborough. Of these Cherbourg won eight and lost three. Points scored in all representative matches were 175 as against 119. A credit balance of £130 9s. 10d. resulted from the season's activities and credit is offered to Mr. Smith for the interest he displayed in football affairs.

Cricket.—The Cherbourg Cricket Club is this season affiliated with the Murgon and District Cricket Association. The district fixtures are still in progress and our team so far is unbeaten. In Association representative teams Cherbourg has received good representation. During Christmas four cricketers were sent to Brisbane to take part in the Country Week Cricket Carnival, and they performed most creditably during the carnival. A considerable amount of material was purchased for the cricket club. This material, with care, should be sufficient to carry them over the next season. Our thanks are due to Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Lutteral for the help they have given to the cricket.

Boxing.—The Boxing Committee, under the presidency of Joe Hegarty, have made an effort to revive boxing, and tournaments have been held. The Association has provided all the necessary material for this body. However, it has ceased to squander money in providing for and paying too much prize money to those who indulge in the sport when there are so many other necessities required by all the people of the Settlement. The Boxing Committee should run all future tournaments with prize money not exceeding 40 per cent. of gate takings. Then

boxers would be doing their share in helping to provide finance for general Settlement improvements.

Show Society.—It is regretted that owing to climatic conditions the Annual Show set down for the 13th and 14th September, 1946, had to be postponed to the 7th and 8th March, 1947, and that again, owing to climatic conditions, the Show had to be further postponed until the 25th and 26th July, 1947, when it is hoped that the season will be such as to allow us to stage a Show that will be an exhibition showing the capabilities of the Settlement. The schedules for the annual show have been again printed by the South Burnett Newspaper Company, and our thanks are again due to the business houses of Murgon for their excellent support in advertising in the schedule which paid for their cost. The Cherbourg Show Society is affiliated with the South Burnett Associated Show Societies. Many benefits will be derived from this affiliation, such as joint advertising, side-show fees, and gate charges. Mr. Crawford and Mr. Goodchild and the Show Committee are to be commended for their efforts in running various functions to obtain their present financial credit of £116.

School.—Recognising our responsibility toward school children, authority has been given for the expenditure of £75 toward the cost of introducing visual education in the school. During the year the Association also contributed toward the expenses of school children competing in school sports at Wondai, Kingaroy, and Brisbane. A free matinee was screened for the school children on their breaking-up day.

Sporting Activities for Girls.—Through the efforts of the Welfare Officer and the co-operation of the Director of Native Affairs, sporting material has been supplied by the Department for the girls. Vigoro and basket ball teams are being formed and the girls are displaying keen interest in these forms of sport.

Appreciation.—To those Departmental officers who have shown consideration and interest in the work of the Association we offer our thanks. We also offer our thanks to those Settlement people who have shown a willingness to help in welfare affairs. We offer our thanks to the secretary and treasurer, who have capably performed their duty, and also to those ladies on the committee who voluntarily gave so much of their time in the interests of the Association.

It is the wish of this Association that everyone show a keener interest and co-operation in working to obtain further improvements that will make Cherbourg a more picturesque and pleasant place in which to live.

The above report constitutes a record of progress and uplift brought about by this committee, who can justifiably be proud of their achievements. For their co-operation I offer them my sincere thanks. I trust that every member of this community will recognise his and her responsibility toward running their own affairs successfully, and take some share in the effort required to bring about the further progress on Cherbourg desired by all.

ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM— MURGON.

(ACTING MANAGER, MR. A. V. WESSLING.)

Area.—703 acres; dairy herd, 75 cows; under cultivation, 120 acres; pigs, 56; citrus trees, 5 acres.

As indicated in previous annual report, this property was purchased on the 8th January, 1945, for the primary purpose of giving to the aboriginal youths on Government Settlements a training in up-to-date farming to permit their ultimate employment as useful members of this primary industry throughout the State.

However, during last year, in common with all similar undertakings in the South Burnett area, all possibility of making the farm a self-supporting unit of the Department's industrial organisation was prevented by the severe drought conditions experienced for at least eight months of the year.

Nevertheless, it is pleasing to record that no stock losses occurred due to drought conditions, a factor brought about by the best possible provision of stock feed. Additional to such, the farm produced, at a time when other similar undertakings were drought-stricken, two good crops of saleable potatoes.

As opportunity offers, and as additional staff becomes available, it is intended to extend the operations of this farm. To date, it has been possible to provide a most up-to-date electrified dairy, electrified irrigation, and a general improvement of the dairy herd. It is felt that the purpose for which this farm was established is being met.

APPENDIX 3.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. R. W. NAGGS.)

Health.—Throughout the year the health of the people has been very satisfactory. No epidemics likely to cause concern were experienced. The hospital has functioned well and has given suitable and adequate treatment to the patients, but the shortage of white nursing staff has been felt.

Hereunder are health statistics:—

Daily average—

Men	7.3
Women	8.5
Admissions	656
Out-patients	2,076

Industrial.

Sawmill.—It is unfortunate that the sawmill operated for approximately six months only, due to the resignation of the sawyer, who obtained a more remunerative position. Despite this lay-up, the mill produced 55,000 super. feet of timber, which was utilised in the building programme for the benefit of the Settlement generally.

The timber supplies were augmented by the transfer of demolished buildings from Dunwich. By reason of the production of locally cut timbers and the acquisitions mentioned above.

steady progress in the building programme, limited, of course, by the absence of skilled white supervision, was maintained.

Road Making.—During the war years, and due to the absence of labour from the Settlement in the harvesting of food crops for the nation, improvements such as road making were, of necessity, neglected. The opportunity occurred this year to undertake some work in this direction, and as a result 3 miles of road from the Settlement towards Baralaba have been grubbed and the first grading carried out.

This road is 40 feet wide and provides an excellent approach from the Settlement to the main Baralaba-Duaringa road. The first grading has been completed on 4 miles of the road section connecting the Settlement with the Duaringa-Bauhinia road. Woorabinda Settlement is now in the happy position of having reasonably good approach from the Settlement to all main roads in its vicinity.

Dam Sinking and Water Conservation.—This Settlement, by reason of its location and low rainfall, is dependent on surface water. Therefore a continuous policy of dam building is necessary to ensure the safety of its 3,000 head of cattle during drought seasons. This policy has to date produced excellent results, in that during the last severe drought, experienced in the central west—the worst for over twenty years—it was possible, with only nominal losses, to save the herd and obviate any removals to relief country.

As indicated elsewhere, Woorabinda Settlement was able to take, during the worst period of the drought in the South Burnett, 500 head of stock from Cherbourg Settlement. The carrying capacity of Woorabinda and the conservation of water was a factor which saved these Cherbourg cattle. As exemplified in the foregoing, there is a uniform policy between both Settlements in cattle raising and general development of beef herds.

The excellent rains which fell in February and March, 1947, demonstrated the holding capacity of the Lily Creek Dam, which since its completion two years ago, was never filled to capacity. This dam will, it is certain, prove its worth, when, as is inevitable, drought seasons are experienced again.

However, it is not intended to depend solely on surface water as an antidote to drought conditions. Already arrangements have been made for the transfer of the Department's boring plant to Foleyvale and Woorabinda. These experiments will be carried out in ascertaining some artesian water potentialities, and it is reasonable to suppose that some success will be achieved.

Farming Operations.—The total area now grubbed for cultivation exceeds 100 acres. Woorabinda Settlement, with a 25-inch rainfall for the production of food crops, is dependent on irrigation, and the 7-acre area devoted to this purpose with irrigation from Mimosa Creek has produced excellent results, so much so that it has been possible for the major portion of the year to provide the Settlement inmates with all vegetable requirements and also to send to Government hospitals in the Central West over a period of several months vegetables sufficient for hospital needs.

The citrus orchard—700 trees—which is a Departmental innovation aimed at an ultimate financial assistance towards the self-support of the Settlement, has, despite drought conditions, given encouraging results. Annually, this area will be extended to provide 1,000 trees. One of the major menaces to the success of this experiment was the severe frosts experienced, but such has now been overcome by, during the severe winter months, the burning of sawdust fires.

Another agricultural experiment aimed at the greater remunerative employment of aboriginals is the cultivation of peanuts. Last year, as recorded in the annual report, and under adverse weather conditions, there was every reason to believe that for a period at least, peanuts could be successfully grown. For the year under review, the original area of 8 acres was extended to 25 acres, and the production for the current year was 1,000 bags, which, at date of writing, have been harvested. In this particular industry it is considered that there are potentialities at least worth experimenting with.

Employment.—The call for labour from the Settlement has declined with the exception of that for domestic help. In this class there is no prospect of filling the demand. Naturally, in an area such as this, the main call for labour is from the pastoral industry, and Woorabinda, like every other Government Settlement, is doing its best to meet that demand, consistent, of course, with its own requirements as an agricultural and cattle-raising property.

Adult Education.—An innovation in the education of aboriginals has been undertaken by the Head Teacher, who has evolved a scheme whereby night lessons are held twice weekly providing post-school residents with an opportunity of revising or acquiring an education commensurate with their social status.

Woorabinda Welfare Association.—The Welfare Association has been quite active during the period under review and the annual show and sports held on 31st May last were successful both socially and financially.

In addition to the usual interesting displays of handierfts, sewing, and school educational and vocational work, a colourful and artistic display was forwarded by the Palm Island Settlement. Favourable comments on the work displayed were expressed by all visitors and most flattering were the remarks made in connection with articles of fancywork performed by this Settlement's women, the opinion being, "They could successfully compete in any exhibition in the State."

The present football season had an enthusiastic reception and teams from the Settlement travelled to the following centres:—Baralaba, Goovigen, Emerald, and Mount Morgan. Return matches have been played at the Settlement with Baralaba and Emerald, and Mount Morgan will be making the visit before the end of the season. The Woorabinda team will also visit Rockhampton on 24th August to play the Rockhampton junior representative "A" team.

The only defeat suffered to date has been by Mount Morgan, which was expected as that team this year consists of many "importations" and is of considerable strength.

The Association has provided regular fortnightly "talkie" screenings, these being supplied by a mobile unit from Rockhampton and are greatly appreciated by the inmates.

Indoor games of table tennis, bobs, and deck quoits are keenly contested.

With the installation of electric light and a "talkie" plant, both of which have already been procured, a bright and enjoyable future for Woorabinda is anticipated.

FOLEYVALE RESERVE.

This property was acquired early in 1946 as a further demonstration of the Queensland Government's desire to provide training for its aboriginal youths and to demonstrate the policy of aboriginal workers under supervision to successfully work a pastoral property.

The aims behind the acquisition were:—

- (1.) A continuity of locally grown beef for feeding Woorabinda and Cherbourg Settlement inmates, totalling 1,700,
- (2.) The production of grain and other fodder for dairy stock, poultry, &c., to be utilised on Government Settlements and to be disposed of on the open market.
- (3.) The training of young aboriginals in up-to-date grazing, fattening, and dry and irrigated farming methods.
- (4.) Sales of fat stock, receipts from which would offset the costs of running the Settlements and/or finance their further development.

The expressed doubts on the wisdom of this acquisition did not materialise. The doubts emanated in the supposition that under heavy rainfall conditions this property would be flooded to such extent as would militate against the Department's policy of fattening stock on it. The heavy rains of last year gave no indication that the safeguards provided by the Department against any flooding would not be effective.

Continuous and systematic development of this area to make it worthy of the purpose of its acquisition is continuing. At date of writing it carries 1,500 head, and the carrying capacity will be extended as developmental work—viz., ring barking, water conservation—is implemented.

Minor experiments in agricultural development have been carried out and it is intended to proceed with them, based on a policy essential in every such low rainfall area, that successful cultivation is a result of irrigation and dry farming is subject to seasonal conditions.

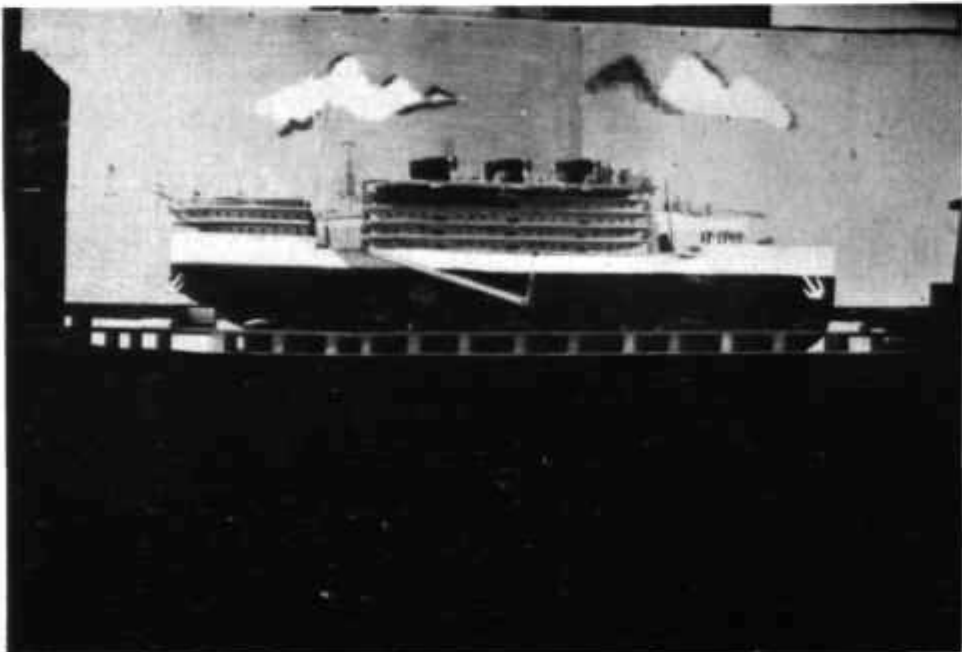
During the year under review, the following improvements have been effected:—

- (1.) The homestead erected.
- (2.) Accommodation provided for native workers.
- (3.) Drafting yards and cattle dip have been built.
- (4.) Preliminary action has been taken for the construction of a causeway over the Mackenzie River to provide a solid crossing.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS SECTION



Secondary School, Badu Island



Model in Badu Secondary School

- (5.) A main road, 40 feet wide, from Duaringa, the adjacent railhead, to a point 10 miles from that centre.
- (6.) A telephone line—22 miles—is in course of erection, and will be completed before the wet season commences.
- (7.) To guard against isolation during flood conditions, adequate boating facilities to provide crossing of the river at any flood time have been made.
- (8.) An area of 600 acres has been cleared and stumped in readiness for cultivation.

APPENDIX 4.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS.

PROTECTOR OF ISLANDERS, MR. P. JENSEN.

The serious disruption occasioned by the advent of war to the long accustomed mode of life practised by the Torres Strait Islanders has had a profound effect on both the economic and psychological aspects of their makeup. From a cultural point of view the war contact was disastrous, in that it was swift and all-enveloping. In its aftermath came various degrees of bewilderment, for the rehabilitation of these people embodied, not a return to pre-war conditions, but a return to conditions changed forever by the wave of unprecedented prosperity that has swept over the entire area.

During the year all efforts were concentrated on administration, which was directed towards softening the new impact. Especial attention was paid to the direction of moneys, energy, and efforts into well-defined and carefully premeditated channels.

The majority of the island ex-servicemen were discharged from the Forces during the year under review. Proof of their desire to materially assist in their own rehabilitation will be found in the tables showing the quantities and value of marine produce won and those dealing with the purchase of army buildings for re-erection as improved types of homes on all islands.

Through the agency of the Island Industries Board 164 army buildings were purchased for the sum of £3,809. These buildings were resold to Islanders and it is conservatively estimated that not less than 200 new homes will eventually be erected on the Torres Strait Islands. The desire for an improved type of home is foremost in the minds of these people, and in an effort to improve the standard of homes, plans approved by the Queensland Housing Commission were obtained and made available to all who required them. In the not too distant future a complete village will make its appearance at Badu Island. The land has been surveyed, definite roads determined, and blocks pegged in readiness for the re-erection of the new homes. All purchases made and all costs involved in the demolition, transport, and re-erection of the homes were borne by the Islanders, and it would be difficult to find any other race of people so imbued with the desire to improve their own well-being in every sphere. Had the purchases not been made during the current year, it is reasonable to assume that, with the acute shortage of building materials, there would have been

little development along these lines for many years, during which time the now proud owners of new homes might possibly have become disinterested, the consequential results of which are obvious.

Education.—It is the distinct duty of those charged with the education of the Islanders to bridge the gap between them and ourselves by means that would be mutually understood and mutually appreciated. Complete conversion to the life of the white races must come, and all concerned should realise the implications of such a transition and be ready to deal with any eventuality that may arise. The change has come rapidly, and to prevent subsequent disillusionment a carefully thought-out plan of education must be instituted. Sincere and serious thought must be given to the qualifications of teachers for this area, prior to their appointment. Mere academicians are useless, unless they can combine with their ability to pass routine examinations a desire to understand and fully appreciate the psychology of their charges. Education does not begin and end with the school day; it should be continuous. Unless the teacher is a strict personal disciplinarian and at all times an example of his teachings his efforts and time will be wasted.

During the war years the education of the rising generation was, of necessity, left in the hands, with one exception, of Islanders. All schools remained open and definite progress was made; this provides ample evidence of the ability of the average island teacher. The return to more normal conditions, and following the appointment of other white teachers, thorough education should progress most satisfactorily.

During the year plans were made for the reopening of the secondary school. All necessary buildings were made available and although the school has not been officially opened 20 students have been enrolled and have been given instructions in what is actually "higher" education. All students of the secondary school will be catered for on lines similar to those in operation at any boarding school. It is planned that industrial education will receive added attention, for there can be no doubt that such training increases wage-earning capacity, promotes accuracy, and develops character.

The following table shows the present statistics relative to schools and schooling in this area:—

School.	Teachers.	Classes.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Dauan	2	3	11	7	18
Boigu	2	5	24	26	50
Saibai	5	7	58	67	125
Mabuiag	6	5	38	39	77
Badu	4	6	64	59	123
Cocunut	3	6	18	21	39
Yam	3	6	41	33	74
Yorke	4	5	27	24	51
Rennell	1	1	6	2	8
Stephen	1	4	6	4	10
Naghir	2	5	5	6	11
Dauar	1	4	20	20	40
Murray	5	8	88	97	185
Darnley	4	6	48	54	102
Kubin	3	6	30	27	57
Cowal Creek ..	3	7	26	24	50
Mutee Head ..	1	3	4	10	14
	50	..	514	520	1,034

Marine Industry.—The fleet, now operated entirely by Islanders, numbers 40 boats, of which 20 are luggers, 8 are cutters, and 12 cutter launches. During the year 31 boats costing £20,216 were added to the fleet.

For the twelve months ending 30th June, 1947, marine produce valued at £115,292 was won. Only 11 boats operated throughout the entire season, others going to work as they were acquired.

The total catches with value as under:—

	Tons.	Value. £
Mother-of-pearl shell ..	133½	83,790
Trochus	334	31,062
Blacklip	4	440

Individual boat catches are shown both as a point of interest and for comparison. See statement appearing in this report.

Name.	Captain.	No. of Drifts.	Purchase Price.		Value.		Value Produce Won.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Adelphi	Tanu Nona	10					16,685	0 0
Petta	Phillip Nona	8	1,160	0 0	1,600	0 0	8,720	0 0
Cessa	Dick Mills	9	1,010	0 0	1,300	0 0	7,057	0 0
Yanna	Baira Ned	7	1,010	0 0	1,250	0 0	6,798	0 0
Nancy	David Mosby	6					4,928	0 0
Sania	Solomon Nona	7					4,264	0 0
Yaza	Daniel Blanket	8					4,122	0 0
Maria	Maino Mosby	9					3,765	0 0
Kismet	Edward Mosby	6					3,114	0 0
Caroline	Yessie Pearson	6					3,054	0 0
Rebecca	Daniel Pau	5	850	0 0	850	0 0	3,022	0 0
Millard	Nadi Anu	5	1,200	0 0	1,200	0 0	2,875	0 0
Loyalty	Noel Baker	5	1,160	0 0	1,200	0 0	2,830	0 0
Naianga	Timothy Tamwoy	3	700	0 0	1,400	0 0	2,817	0 0
Gona	Wake Oba	4	1,010	0 0	1,150	0 0	2,353	0 0
Sarah	Peo Tamwoy	4	300	0 0	Lost		1,366	0 0
Jesima	Ned Wacando	3	15	0 0	125	0 0	1,314	0 0
Wakaid	Charlie Laza	4	900	0 0	750	0 0	1,175	0 0
Binibin	Jir Wapsu	4	375	0 0	425	0 0	1,107	0 0
Macoy	Jerry Wasiu	3	1,375	0 0	1,400	0 0	964	0 0
Doagi	Sebau	1	400	0 0	400	0 0	953	0 0
Miriam	Edward Savage	4	25	0 0	Lost		938	0 0
Adiana	Alo Tapim	2	910	0 0	1,100	0 0	798	0 0
Danie	Wasaga Billy	3	20	0 0	125	0 0	652	0 0
Lankara	Tom Jack	1	1,070	0 0	1,200	0 0	630	0 0
Wakemab	Naiama	2	1,500	0 0	1,500	0 0	597	0 0
Huia	Ben Aragu	1			On hire		397	0 0
Tom	Charlie Gibuma	1	475	0 0	625	0 0	353	0 0
Darra	Jacob Matthew	1	700	0 0	850	0 0	312	0 0
Surum	Waraka Adidi	1	35	0 0	60	0 0	249	0 0
Sui	Aaron Anau	1	15	0 0	65	0 0	155	0 0
Darlin	Japanea Hammond	2	1	0 0	70	0 0	143	0 0
Rose Marie	Eseli Sagigi	1	20	0 0	60	0 0	127	0 0
Viking	Lamico Gagai	5	15	0 0	75	0 0	126	0 0
Zena	Mataika Maza	New	1,050	0 0	1,200	0 0	Newly purchased	
Marston	Anau Mau	New	1,200	0 0	1,200	0 0	Newly purchased	
Alcia	Tumena	New	1,400	0 0	1,400	0 0	Newly purchased	
Sheila	Levi Jacob	New	300	0 0	475	0 0	Newly purchased	
Kabakaul	Tom Madu	1	15	0 0	35	0 0	42	0 0
Sunrise	Joseph Mooka	1			On hire		623	0 0

The demand for trochus shell fell alarmingly towards the end of the season, but prices for mother-of-pearl shell remained at a comparatively high level. A market for this year's production at a most favourable price is assured and the future is faced with much optimism.

Beche-de-mer is still prohibited as an import by both China and Japan. Immediately this restriction is lifted much employment will be found for the older men on the eastern islands. Besides, an opportunity will present itself for the men of the far eastern islands to engage in the production of "fish." These men, owing to the slump in the trochus market, are endeavouring to swim for pearl-shell, but their experience in this direction is extremely limited and consequently the results obtained are not comparable with those of the western islands. This brings about a feeling of inferiority, which would not exist were it possible for these men to engage in work that is familiar to them.

The rehabilitation of the marine industry in this area has been effected mainly by Islanders

and the value of this to Australia, as the agency for producing dollars, is not generally recognised.

Training of Divers.—So that Islanders may be able to at all times compete with others in the marine industry a plan has been developed for the inauguration of a scheme whereby Islanders will be trained as suit divers. It is confidently expected that this scheme will be put into operation early in the new year. It is envisaged that not less than 12 men will be trained in all aspects of the work during the first twelve months. No fear is entertained as to the outcome of the venture following a careful selection of the crew, it is felt that the scheme will pay for itself from the outset.

Vital Statistics.—The population of the Torres Strait Islands continues to increase. Although the actual number of people in the islands is not actually known, it is estimated that the present population is in the vicinity of 5,000.

The number of births during the year was 142 and the deaths 79, which is at the rate of 26 and 16 per thousand respectively.

Health.—The general health of the Torres Strait Islanders is good. The activities of the men promote good health, and with the availability of increased food supplies it is not likely that any deterioration of health will be attributable to malnutrition. It is known that the altered diet of the Islanders has had its effect and that the rapid spread of tuberculosis amongst the people is an ever-present hazard. The changed housing conditions will materially assist in preventing the spread of this disease, but no real progress will be made until all are subjected to an X-ray examination and all active cases isolated. Figures dealing with the treatment of patients in established hospitals are as under:—

—	Monthly Average In-Patients.	Monthly Average Out-Patients.
Bedu	15.6	199.25
Saibai	12.3	134.41
Yorke	5.5	75.6

Accounts.—

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1947.

—	No. of Accounts.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.		Balance at 1st July, 1946.		Balance at 30th June, 1947.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Torres Strait Islands	2,384	191,253	0 6	222,931	16 3	93,904	0 4	67,225	4 7

During the year following the discharge of soldiers from the Forces all military allotment accounts were closed and balances transferred to savings bank accounts. This action was taken to reduce possible confusion in payments made by the various Island branch managers.

Although the withdrawals may appear abnormally large, it can be safely stated that little of the money was devoted to purposes other than for the general improvement of the Islanders themselves. Large sums were spent on the original purchases of boats, whilst other large sums were devoted to the purchase of houses, building material, domestic furniture and cooking utensils, farm implements and clothing. Other aspects of the wise spending of money by Islanders will be reflected in the Trading Accounts of the Island Industries Board.

Social Services.—At the end of the year 406 Islanders were receiving child endowment, whilst 97 others were receiving either old-age or invalid pensions. These payments have materially assisted to bring about the marked improvement that is manifest everywhere in this area. Seventy-three Islanders are receiving war pensions.

Patrol Boat.—The patrol boat "Cetonia" was in constant use throughout the year in connection with the administrative requirements of this Office. It has no carrying capacity, nor has it any means of mechanical propulsion and

consequently is inadequate for the duties required of a patrol boat. It is known, and fully appreciated, that sincere efforts have been made to secure a satisfactory boat, but without success. It is impossible to have Islanders understand why a boat is not available that will carry their requirements efficiently and quickly as was done pre-war by the "Melbidir." At the moment there is not less than 300 tons of building materials to be shifted to the outer islands, and in addition there are approximately 70 tanks awaiting shipment. Although the Island Industries Board vessels have rendered every possible assistance in connection with this vast transportation job, they are unable to cope with the demand. Through an arrangement with the Allied Works Council a barge was made available to convey materials to the closer islands, and this job has almost been completed. However, the barge is unable to travel long distances on the open sea.

Councillors, Police and Native Teachers.—The above paid officials of the Department have carried out their work in an exemplary manner and are worthy of the highest commendation.

Their work during the past year has not been easy, but at all times they have endeavoured to carry out the responsibilities placed upon them, and there can be no doubt that by their example considerable improvements in village life generally have been made. Towards the end of December Council elections were held throughout the entire area, and it is pleasing to note that on all islands men of the younger generation are represented on the Councils.

Behaviour.—Considering the circumstances that obtained during the year, the general behaviour of the Islanders has been excellent. No serious crimes were reported from the islands, whilst in Thursday Island fourteen were charged with drunkenness, one for assault, one for illegal possession, and one for stealing. Over the Christmas period there were as many as 670 Islanders in Thursday Island, but though in possession of large sums of money caused no trouble whatever either to this Office or those charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order.

Any misdemeanours by Islanders or aboriginals in Thursday Island are directly attributable to the effects of alcohol.

Appreciation.—This staff wishes to convey sincere appreciation to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their guidance and sympathetic assistance during the past year.

APPENDIX 5.

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

MANAGER, MR. J. WALLER.

In presenting this report on the activities of the Island Industries Board for the year ended 30th June, 1947, the Board can say with some measure of pride that much has been accomplished during that period. Most of the Islander ex-servicemen received their discharges during the year and from their association with Australian personnel they had assumed a changed outlook on life, completely altering in many ways their way of living as compared with pre-war days. They had seen how the European people lived, their style of buildings and dress, mode of living and habits. To meet this change the Board has had to alter its outlook also to some extent. With money in quantities which they had never before possessed, the Islanders abandoned their desire for cheap articles and were asking for good clothes, more manufactured food as against their own native products and, above all, building material in order to erect dwellings on the European style.

Knowing that the prospects of obtaining building material in large quantities was well nigh impossible, and realising that long delays might well dampen the spirit of enthusiasm, the Board had to make other plans. With the vacating of the island by the Army the Board purchased 164 army buildings for the sum of £3,809, these buildings being resold to the Islanders at a very low cost. With a will that is a credit, these people demolished the buildings and in many cases found their own means of transport to remove the materials to their home islands for re-erection. For islands closely situated the Board was able to arrange the transport of a large quantity of the material by means of an Allied Works Council barge. With a view to offering encouragement to them in their desire to better themselves the Board has acquired the services of a carpenter and a plumber. These two white men are to visit the islands and demonstrate how buildings should be erected. This service is being offered free and it is hoped, with the effluxion of time, to see all the Islanders with houses of a weatherproof nature and in a manner befitting the quiet pride and dignity of the race.

The Islanders are now the owners of a fleet of 40 boats consisting of 20 luggers, 8 cutters, and 12 cutter launches. These boats have been paid for by the Islanders without any assistance except of an advisory nature. With such a fleet it is only to be expected that repairs will be necessary and the Board decided to establish its own slipway at Thursday Island. Under the guidance and supervision of a white shipwright some 30 odd island boys are employed in this work, some being trained men. Many of the boats have already been slipped, some requiring minor repairs, others being practically rebuilt, but all work turned out has been of a high standard. Men are engaged both repairing and building dinghies, but unfortunately it is not possible at the moment to build sufficient to meet the demands. With the acquisition of more modern machinery as it is available, production in this department will increase whilst overhead

expenses should decrease. The knowledge that the Islanders have their own slipway affording facilities for the repair of their own vessels has been received with enthusiasm.

For the year the following marine produce was handled by the Board:—

	Tons.	Value. £
Mother-of-Pearl Shell	133½	83,790
Trochus	334	31,062
Blacklip	4	440
Total		£115,292

With so many new boats with few experienced divers every encouragement was offered for them to engage at first in the more easily obtained product, namely trochus. The Board was fortunate in obtaining a contract at an excellent price and were thus able to offer this price right up to the close of the season, by which time the price offering on the open market had dropped considerably. Mother-of-pearl shell was sold by tender in various lots and realised an excellent price.

Despite the abovementioned achievements the Board never lost sight of its main duty—the supply of food and clothing to the various islands. Additional to the main store at Thursday Island, the Board has 18 branch stores giving employment to 30 Islanders. For the year purchases were £79,754 against £60,432 for 1945-46, whilst the sales realised £111,434, compared with £97,582 for the previous year. These figures indicate that the Board is still expanding, and it was found that to continue to ship cargo to the islands by means of luggers was slow and inadequate, involving a heavy outlay. It was successful in purchasing late in 1946 a 56-ft. boat powered with a Grey marine engine of 220 h.p. for £6,000 and, early this year, another vessel with a 165 h.p. Grey marine engine for £9,000. Each of these vessels has a carrying capacity of 25-30 tons. They are controlled in each case by a white captain-engineer, but otherwise manned by the Islanders.

The Board is encouraging the workers on the pearling boats to change from skin diving to dress diving. One boat is already equipped in this manner and is going out for its first drift. The eyes of the crews on the other boats will be on this experiment with interest, and provided it is a success it will be the forerunner of other similarly equipped ventures.

In conclusion, I would like to offer to the Director and his staff the Board's deep appreciation for their kindly interest. The manner in which they have looked after the purchase of our goods, and, until just recently, the complete selling of our marine produce was something that could not be accomplished by the Board itself owing to its remoteness from the metropolis.

APPENDIX 6.

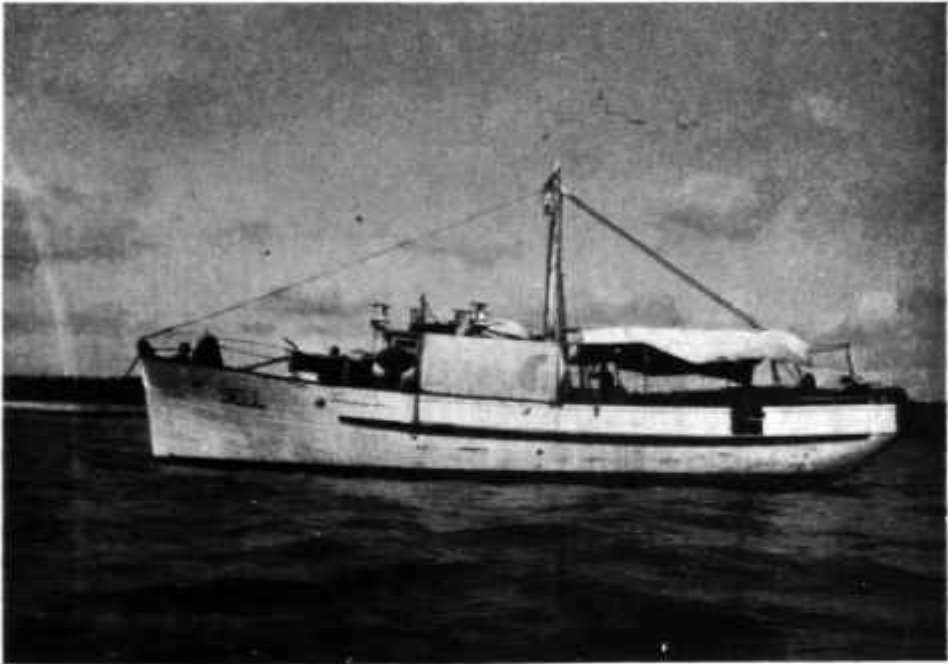
YARRABAH MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, REV. C. G. BROWN.)

Staff.—At the end of the year the members of the staff were as follows:—

Rev. C. G. Brown (Superintendent).
Rev. R. S. Campbell (Chaplain).

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD SECTION



Cargo Vessel "Dell"



Cargo Vessel "Reggie P."

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD SECTION



Island Crew of "Reggie P."



Island Industries Retail Store

Mr. J. Owen (Storekeeper).
 Mr. J. Madssen (School Teacher).
 Mr. and Mrs. Bates (in charge of Farm Settlements).
 Mrs. A. E. Turner (Matron, Girls' Dormitory).
 Sister M. C. Stanley, C. A. (in charge of Hospital).
 Miss F. W. Ashton (Secretary).

Mr. A. E. Turner resigned in March in order to train for Holy orders at St. Francis' College, Brisbane.

Health.

Epidemics, measles, T.B.: 3 (treated at Cairns).
 V.D., gonorrhoea: 4 (treated at Cairns).
 In-patients at Mission Hospital, 341.
 Out-patients, daily average, 7.
 Dental extractions, 247.
 School children inspected once a month.
 The health of the babies has been on the whole excellent.

Conduct and Discipline.—This has been satisfactory.

Education.—Yarrabah school was open 222 days. Average number on roll was 110, and the average daily attendance 94. Kindergarten classes were started in January. The Head Teacher is assisted by three male and five female native teachers.

Oombunghi Settlement school has an average of nine children, of whom five are in the State Correspondence School. A school has also been opened at Mourighan Settlement with an average of six children. Two boys and six girls are attending secondary boarding schools.

Industrial Operations.—These include:—

Workshops (Blacksmith, tinsmith, plumber, wheelwright).

Sawmill.—Owing to the lack of rain and consequent failure of water supply to the mill, sawing operations were confined to the five months from February to June.

Logs cut—201.

Timber sawn.—24,935 super. feet.

Building.—Completed buildings are as follows:—One additional store, one additional school room, one temporary boys' dormitory to replace building destroyed by fire, office, two settlement headmen's houses, ten native dwellings, one new Mission House at Oombunghi.

The church at Oombunghi was practically rebuilt. Ten native dwellings are under construction. A church at Mourighan is under construction.

Water Supply.—A pipeline has been laid to Reeves Creek, approximately 1½ miles, which ensures a permanent supply of water to the Head Station. Reticulation has been extended throughout the village so that water is within easy access of all native dwellings and administrative buildings. Encouraged by the assurance of a continuous water supply, many of the natives have gardens surrounding their houses well stocked with fruit trees, vegetables, and ornamental plants.

Farms.—Production was limited owing to drought conditions which prevailed for eight months. The following crops were produced:—

Sweet potatoes	.. .. .	11 tons
Pumpkins	.. .. .	3½ tons
Green vegetables	.. .. .	323 lb.
Tomatoes	.. .. .	3 cwt.
Cucumbers	.. .. .	85 lb.
Bananas	.. .. .	6 cwt.
Papaws	.. .. .	69 lb.

The policy of increasing the arable land has been continued.

Marine Transport.—The Mission launch has been laid up for over two years owing to the want of an engine. Two native-owned small launches have been used during this period for conveyance of cargo and passengers. This arrangement has involved the Mission in heavy expenditure.

Religious Ministrations.—Church services are held daily, morning and evening, at the Head Station, and twice weekly at Oombunghi. Sunday School is held regularly. The Mothers' Union and Girls' Guild meet monthly. Evangelistic meetings are held frequently in native houses with the consent of the occupants.

Holy Eucharist.—Head Station: Celebrations, 433; Communions, 5,058. Oombunghi: Celebrations, 54; Communions, 963.

Baptisms, 31.

APPENDIX 7.

LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. H. E. JOHNSON.)

Religion.—During the year the Lord Bishop of the Diocese paid two visits. Fifteen candidates were presented for confirmation. Two visits were paid by priests of the Diocese. Daily services are held. In addition classes of instruction for the old people and confirmation candidates are held weekly, all being well attended.

Health.—The general health is fair. Dugong oil is given daily to the school children. Hook-worm treatment was administered twice during the year. The majority of the deaths were of old people who were suffering from the effects of the measles epidemic of 1943 and its attendant complications.

Buildings.—Twenty-three new houses were erected and all others repaired. The head stockman's house was pulled down and re-erected in a more suitable place. In addition, a workshop, storehouse, and boys' quarters were built near the yards.

Industrial Activities.—Owing to the extreme drought stock losses were very heavy. In addition we lost a number owing to the prevalence of crocodiles. Buffalo fly has caused us a great deal of trouble. With the addition of the new country to the reserve and the improvements in the breeders since the purchase of the stud bulls we hope to greatly increase the herd in numbers and quality. An average of two beasts was killed weekly and given to the people as a free issue of meat. Owing to the addition of

the new country, it was necessary to pull down some of the fences and re-erect them. New yards were also built, particularly around and near the Lockhart River.

School.—The teaching of the school children has not been satisfactory. The school has been closed since the middle of May. A new fully qualified white teacher has been appointed and will commence duties early in August.

Conduct.—The conduct has been good, but not up to the usual high standard of these people. The lack of supervision of those men who were working in the South during the war years has left its mark, particularly so with those who became addicted to metho. drinking. If the Government wishes to assist the natives of the State to become wealthy and reliable citizens some protection against the unscrupulous sale of methylated spirits must be made. I understand metho. drinking is prevalent among natives from other Missions and Settlements and also on Thursday Island and the islands of the Torres Strait.

Marine Produce.—Owing to the failure of those engaged in the trochus-shell industry through the severe drop in the price of shell we have a number of able-bodied men and boys unemployed, the majority of whom have had no experience in other classes of work.

Due to the prevalence of floating mines (more mines have been washed up on the beaches within a few miles of headquarters than on any other beach along the Queensland coast) very little fishing and hunting of dugong or turtle have been possible. Wild pigs have been easily and frequently caught, and with the addition of wild native foods, such as roots, bulbs, and fruit, also papaws and bananas from the gardens, a good balanced diet has been maintained.

Appreciation.—I wish to place on record my appreciation of the ever-ready assistance and material help of the Director of Native Affairs, whose years of experience greatly assists in the administration of the Mission and the general welfare of the natives.

APPENDIX 8.

EDWARD RIVER MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. J. W. CHAPMAN.)

Steady progress has been made during the past year, the main work of the Mission being to raise the natives from a wild nomadic life to a more settled one. In this much success has attended our efforts. There is now quite a large village of well-built houses. There are good gardens in which much foodstuff is grown.

Only a short time ago the natives of this area were quite wild, having neither houses nor clothes, and they obtained a livelihood from what they could hunt or gather from the bush. Now all is changed. They live in villages and obtain a good part of their food from gardens and fish traps. The swing over from a nomadic to a more settled life has been remarkable, likewise their ability to learn English.

Health.—Apart from an epidemic of whooping cough among the younger children the health of the natives has been good. Three infants died from the epidemic.

Native Customs.—As a recreation, corroborees, especially those dealing with the past history of the tribes, are very popular. Initiation ceremonies take place at intervals, sometimes lasting for weeks. Apart from "puri puri" or bone pointing, the natives are free to retain their tribal customs, but bone pointing is definitely harmful to them and has to be suppressed. This is no easy task, but I think much headway has been made in stamping it out.

The Superintendent has never had any white assistant, but valuable help is given by natives who have had some training.

Visits.—The Rev. A. Flint paid two visits during 1946, when Holy Communion was celebrated for the first time on this Mission.

APPENDIX 9.

MITCHELL RIVER MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, F. W. CURRINGTON.)

STAFF: MISS WALL, Head Teacher; Sister ROACH, Hospital Attendant; R. BARR, Cattle Manager.

Number drawing rations from Mission account, 400. No rations supplied by Department.

Number of births, 10; deaths, 14; marriages, 6.

School attendance.—Days school open, 202½ days; average attendance, 81.6.

Health.—Excellent. Several visits by flying doctor, who was immunising children against diphtheria. Also have had two visits from Doctor Boydell, Normanton, who extracted quite a lot of teeth whilst on his visits.

Conduct.—Good. No removal orders asked for.

Social Improvements.—Five new houses built and quite a number repaired. General improvement in family life.

General Improvements.—District drome inspector visited here and has now surveyed another 500 yards on the south-east end of our main strip, making total 1,560 yards.

Employment.—Demand extra good for stock work. No complaints from any stations where boys employed.

Industrial Operations.—Total number of mixed stock, 4,461; number of cattle sold, 336; bulls purchased, 50 head to improve stock; cattle killed for home consumption, 170; area available for cultivation for production of food and fodder crops, 10 acres; area under cultivation and estimated annual production, 6 tons sweet potatoes; also other green vegetables grown, but no records of same kept. No market for produce, and food only grown that can be consumed by Mission.

Recreation.—Football, cricket, general sports.

APPENDIX 10.

MAPOON MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, F. A. CANE.)

Births, total 11; male 6, female 5. Deaths, total 7. Marriages, no tribal, 2 legal.

Health.—Generally good; an epidemic of whooping cough early in the year. This was nothing to the epidemic of 1937, there being no deaths this time. There were the usual minor cuts and sores which kept the dispensary busy each day, dugong oil being given to each child at school twice weekly, and any child that is considered weak or possibly T.B., daily. This oil is also available to nursing mothers and babies should they so desire.

School.—Owing to having no school teacher, Mrs. Cane tries to supervise this department of the Mission with the help of half-caste women and junior teachers. The Primary Correspondence School curriculum was secured and Mrs. Cane supervises the teachers in this and they in turn take their classes from her directions. Good progress is shown. Fancy needlework and fanmaking are also taught. There has been an average attendance of 55. 62 children being on the roll.

Employment.—Twenty-two men are engaged in the cattle industry in the Normanton and Croydon district; seven are employed on pearling boats from Thursday Island.

Industrial Cattle.—A general muster brought a total of 850 head; this is a lot lower than the general muster of last year, losses being big from drought and deaths from bogs; 200 were sold during the year; 57 killed for food for the children.

As reported last year, cattle here need constant supervision; there being no fences to hold them on the reserve they wander away and are lost in the herds of neighbouring stations. The dry-time feeding is away from the Mission, and to hold them nearer would entail considerable expense and supervision. The Superintendent cannot be away from the Mission for any length of time, not having anyone else to take his place. Therefore the work is left more or less entirely to half-castes, who, being so far away from watchful eyes, do not always carry out instructions. A three-wire fence between the Coen and Batavia Rivers, a distance of about 25 miles, would help this side of the Mission work considerably.

Dingoes are also a big menace and cause a great number of deaths with the young beasts.

Three yards were repaired and a new one built during the year.

Garden.—The crop this year was not altogether a success, the late rains being responsible for this. The ground does not lend itself to great crops as it works itself out about every third year. New ground then has to be cleared and planted. New ground will be put under operations for the forthcoming wet season.

Airstrip.—This was nearly completed and was in condition for the flying doctor to land here during her visit, when she gave immunisation

for both the whooping cough and diphtheria. Work on the airstrip has given work to a great number of the Mission people during the year, and will be complete within the next two or three months. Not so many people are now engaged on this strip.

Milking Yard.—A new milking yard and bails were erected. Bails having concrete floor; also calf pen has a concrete floor. This is nearer the Mission. More cows are milked and it is the aim to have sufficient milk for all. As it is, all nursing mothers get milk once a day, all sick are able to have milk, and the school children receive milk once a day during the months when feed is at its best, approximately five months, when they each have half a pint of fresh milk; after this only babies and nursing mothers are able to be supplied.

Coconut Planting.—Three hundred coconuts were planted out on the Gulf side of the Mission and is known as the Victory Plantation. This was entirely the work of the school children and they water and care for them.

Social.—Usual games and recreation indulged in by the people and children. There is a great need for building material for new homes. This is one of the setbacks of the Mission, that so many have to live in so few houses.

Another drawback is the lack of young unmarried men on the Mission. The number of unmarried women and young girls to the number of unmarried and young men is two to one and there seems no prospect of a number of these women being married.

During the year representation was made by the Protector in Thursday Island for Badu Islanders to visit here to select girls for wives. Unfortunately the people here were not in favour of this as they would have to return to Badu to live if they married them and the project did not come to anything.

If some of the young men who went away from here four and five years ago to work at Normanton in the cattle industry were to return home, there would be a fair chance of some of them getting married. Being away from the Mission has its disadvantages. In fact, word has come back that in one case one has married there, which means that the girl left behind here now has no one here she can marry. It is felt that all men engaged outside the Mission should come home each year.

Discipline.—This has been good. The native police and councillors have been most assiduous in their duty. Police uniforms were supplied this year as before the war.

Church Attendance.—Has been good and interest shown.

Appreciation.—I would like to express my thanks to the Department, the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for help shown and given, also to the Protector of Aborigines in Thursday Island for his interest and help given in all matters relative to the Mission and its inmates.

APPENDIX 11.

AURUKUN MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, REV. W. F. MACKENZIE.)

Births, 10; deaths, 6; marriages, 12.

Visits and Health.—Doctors Alberry and Thomas of the flying doctor service paid five visits to the Mission to give immunisation treatment against whooping cough and diphtheria. Two other visits were also made in response to medical calls. The Mission wishes to record its appreciation of the generous help given by the flying doctor service. A severe epidemic of whooping cough was averted by immunisation. One small girl who was away and did not receive treatment died from whooping cough. Cases of malaria, broncho-pneumonia, influenza, coughs, colds, sore eyes, skin diseases, boils, sores, cuts, and wounds were treated in the dispensary. Two cases of V.D. from outside the reserve came in for treatment and were sent on to hospital. One case of yaws, a woman from the bush, received injections of acetylarsan and was discharged. Hookworm treatment was given to children and adults. Dugong oil was given to all children and sick adults requiring it.

Industrial.—Sawmilling, timber-getting, fencing, buildings, and general repairs. Work was continued on the cross landing strip. This is now 950 yards in length, but it is hoped to make it the same length as the main one—viz., 1,300 yards. Two pilots used the new strip and reported favourably on it.

Agriculture.—Two large paddocks were planted in cassava, another in sweet potatoes. In addition papaws, pineapples, yams, and pumpkins were also planted out. Total area under cultivation is 10 acres. The vegetable garden has been very disappointing, owing to erratic weather conditions and the difficulty of keeping seed fresh over the wet season. Last year tomatoes were also grown with good success. More work has also been done at the coconut plantation at Wutan, which is now yielding a good supply of ripe coconuts which are used to augment the children's food.

Conduct.—On the whole, conduct has been very good. One serious breach of discipline on the part of a number of young men had to be rigorously checked. One removal was applied for as a result. All cases of discipline were handled by the native councillors and policemen under the guidance and advice of the Superintendent and the Acting Superintendent, thus encouraging the natives to maintain discipline on a broader basis for the common good rather than for small tribal factions.

School.—Boys 38, girls 32. The school functioned as usual, following the lines described in the previous report to this. Part of the time, owing to the absence of the head teacher on leave, the school was in charge of a full-blood woman, who had not previously had charge of the school. She saw to it that the work set out for each term was followed and the pupils continued to make good progress. A playroom has been instituted and each class has a period a week in it. The boys especially take a great interest in modelling, at which they show considerable skill. They model bush animals and birds, but their favourite objects to model are everything to do with a stockman's outfit—e.g.,

hats, boots, saddles, &c. They also play games with numbers and letters. New overseas readers have been introduced into the school. The Caribbean Readers for the negro children of the West Indies are proving most useful and helpful and very popular with the children.

Cattle.—Cattle continue to do well and to date over 200 calves have been branded. Sixty head have been killed for beef. Arrangements have been made to purchase ten fresh bulls. It is the plan of the cattle work to purchase a number of fresh bulls each year, so that at no time are there bulls which have run too long with the herd. A new stock stallion has also been bought. Swamp cancer is very prevalent in this district, and the last stallion died as the result of this. Buffalo fly is also very troublesome, but spraying with DDT has proved helpful in combating the pest. Despite shooting and poisoning of crocodiles these still constitute a menace to stock and a number of cattle are taken each year. Three hundred head of bullocks sent for sale. Milking herd continues to supply adequate quantities of milk for babies, children, and sick folk.

Pasture.—Efforts made to introduce new fodders for stock. A new lucerne seed, *Stylosanthes gracilis*, received from C.S.I.R. promises to do well. A trial has been made with Western Australia subterranean clover, Japanese millet and Kikuyu grass. So far these are doing fairly well, but it remains to be seen if they will be suitable for this district.

Buildings.—The only natural material for house building here is messmate bark, but through the years the supply has been depleted and the people are forced to go further afield. Lack of iron necessitated experimenting with other material. Mr. Sydney showed some of the men how to split shingles, and one house in the village was roofed with these, while a tool and implement shed in the Mission is in the course of erection. Unfortunately the great labour involved and the consequent cost does not altogether commend this method. The people are showing more appreciation for houses built on stumps off the ground and with slab floors. Some of the newer houses have two small rooms and a veranda.

Sanitation.—Improvement of health due to pan and pit system. The more backward of the people have gradually overcome their fear of sorcery and are using the new method.

Water Supply.—Shortage of water for domestic use and for stock has always been a problem. The question was discussed with the Premier, the Hon. E. M. Hanlon, and with the officials of the Native Affairs Department and the Irrigation Department Dr. Whitehouse and Mr. Ferguson paid a visit to the Mission as a result of these discussions. Dr. Whitehouse is of the opinion that adequate supplies of water sufficient for all purposes would be found at a depth of 40 feet. This will necessitate an extensive plan of well-sinking and the erection of windmills, tanks and troughing to supply the village and also to meet the requirements of the stock.

Domestic Work.—Senior girls taught sewing, cooking, washing and the preparation of meals. Older boys trained in workshop, garden, and cattle work.

WEIPA MISSION



Air Strip, Weipa Mission

Weipa Mission, Queensland
SHOWING AIR STRIP

Recreation.—Ball games, fishing, hunting, camping, dancing, and athletic sports both for adults and children. The people are encouraged to keep up their dances which deal with their folk lore. Last year an initiation ceremony was held.

Employment.—All men previously employed in the Forces have received their discharges and have settled back into their places very well. Eleven men went out on marine work and eighteen men are out on stock work. Our own cattle work gives employment to a number of men. At the Mission men and women take three monthly terms at work. All able-bodied adults not in employment hunt for their own tucker, and surplus food is traded at the store for flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, &c. The proceeds are used to make a change in the children's diet, which with garden produce prevents too much European food being used.

Patrol.—Owing to the staff shortage and lack of boats, patrol work has not been undertaken. The Mission keeps in touch with the bush natives through the work of Christian natives who are kept supplied with medicines and tobacco for use amongst the nomads.

Christmas is an event eagerly awaited. This year a big Christmas tree was laden with gifts for children and adults. Gifts were handed out by Father Christmas assisted by a person equally popular, and who was specially asked for by the children, "Mother Christmas." This person kept the assembly in convulsions with "his" antics. In the afternoon a feast was held, beef and rations having been given out earlier. The day closed with a big corroboree. On New Year's Day sports were held in the afternoon and a very happy day was had by all.

Religious services are held each morning during the week, and on Sunday the main service is held in the morning. In the afternoon a song service is held and the people choose their favourite hymns. All these services are well attended.

Appreciation.—The Mission wishes to thank all who have helped it during the past year. Our special thanks are due to Mr. C. D. Sydney, who volunteered to come north to take charge of the Mission while the Superintendent and Matron were away on leave, and who has kindly stayed on to give us the benefit of his help and great experience in all branches of the work. Thanks are also due to Mr. C. J. Cameron, who kindly volunteered to help Mr. Sydney for several months.

APPENDIX 12.

WEIPA MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. J. S. WINN.)

Staff.—The staff throughout the year numbered three. Superintendent, Mr. J. S. Winn; Matron, Mrs. J. S. Winn; Teacher, Miss Margaret Winn.

School.—There are 18 girls and 12 boys, divided into six classes, attending the school. Miss M. Winn has two native teachers to assist. The senior class is doing the work of Grade V.

State school standard with extra subjects of elementary physiology, drawing and design, and modelling, at which they show great aptitude.

Modern methods are being used in the kindergarten class with great success.

Physical culture and activity songs are also taught. Parental interest has been stimulated by displays of all the phases of the school work.

The average attendance for the year was 27.98. Absenteeism was due to whooping cough epidemic.

Out of school the girls are taught domestic science, sewing, machining, laundry, breadmaking, and general cooking.

Amenities for Children.—These include wireless and electric light in the dormitories, a lending library, net ball, and circos.

Health.—The general health was good, with the exception of an epidemic of whooping cough which caused the death of one infant and was severe amongst the adults, but which was mitigated among the children by injections.

Our thanks are due to the Flying Doctor Service of Cloncurry for the immunisation of children ten years of age and under against whooping cough and diphtheria.

Among the adults T.B. in several forms is becoming more apparent.

Teeth are extracted, but a periodical visit by a qualified dentist with equipment for filling would be of great benefit.

Conduct.—Conduct on the whole has been very satisfactory and the people have been very co-operative. No serious offences have been committed.

Social Improvements.—The standard of living has been raised considerably in all sections of the community this past year, due largely to the circulation of more money. This has been an extremely busy year.

House-building scheme was commenced for the village and sixteen houses are at present under construction. Hardwood stumps were cut and brought in by the men, who also felled and brought in mangrove logs for the framework by canoe. The logs were cut on the Mission sawmill, and under supervision the timber is prepared by the men individually. This is proving good training. The houses have three rooms—bedroom, sitting room, and kitchen—a veranda and back landing extended. Each kitchen has a stove recess and cupboard.

The walls are of fibro and the roof of corrugated fibro. At the present time two houses are nearing completion, and the rest are in various stages of construction. The men are very enthusiastic to push ahead, but with only one man to supervise, who has already a multitude of daily tasks to perform, progress is much slower than we would like.

A more modern and hygienic building comprised of a kitchen and a dining hall has been erected for the children. The construction is of concrete for foundations, floor, and walls to a height of 3 feet, with timber framework, and fibro walls and corrugated iron roof. The kitchen measures 18 feet by 12 feet, the dining

hall 36 feet by 18 feet. A servery is in the partition dividing the two rooms. Twenty windows (casement) give ample light and ventilation.

The school building is still incomplete, though in use.

Our two airstrips are in splendid condition, being all-weather landing grounds. Their respective lengths are 1,350 yards and 1,250 yards.

Employment.—There has been a fair demand for stockmen, but since discharge from the Army few men have desired outside work. Local building activities have kept them fully occupied and content at home. Nine men are at present in employment as stockmen on various cattle stations. One man on agreement is employed as a cook on m.v. "Cora."

Industrial Operations.—

Stock.—No recent muster having been made, exact figures are not available, but I would say approximate figures are cattle 200. None have been sold, suitable bullocks being killed for meat. Horses number 18, some of which are rather old.

Area under Cultivation.—15 acres are under cultivation.

Nature of Produce.—This consists mainly of potatoes, beans, tomatoes, papaws, pineapples, and bananas. None of these were sold, having been used for local consumption.

Timber Milled.—No record was kept, but all timber used in construction of houses and buildings has been milled here. No timber was sold.

General.—A truck was purchased from the Army in the disposal sales. This is for general work on the Mission. An irrigation plant comprised of motor, pump, and pipes was procured, but has not yet been installed.

Religion.—A daily church service and Sunday school has been conducted throughout the year. The Sacraments have been administered regularly. Two young people were admitted to full membership. Three babies were baptised. Number of communicants, 91.

The year has been strenuous but worth while.

Appreciation is sincere towards the many who in various ways have helped along a great work—the Christian friends who by work, gift, and prayer have proved fellow workers; the P.W.M.U. and many guilds in all States for their support; the various fellowships and Sunday schools who contribute towards the support of our little ones. Dr. Thomas and Dr. Alberry of the Flying Doctor Service, Cloncurry, and the A.I.M. Sisters of Dunbar Nursing Home on several occasions have proved very helpful and quick to respond to all calls.

Finally, to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff special thanks are due for their co-operation, being ever ready to fulfill our requirements and for safeguarding the interests of our people.

MORNINGTON ISLAND MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. J. B. MCCARTHY.)

Number drawing rations—All natives on this reserve draw rations.

Number of deaths—Males, 1; females 3 (causes—pneumonia and senile decay).

Number of births—Males, 7; females, 4.

Number of marriages—Legal, 2; tribal, nil.

School.—The Mission Matron as supervisor has been assisted by one white assistant since August, 1946, and three half-caste teachers and two full-blood teachers. The average attendance consists of 31 males and 36 females. The girls are taught domestic science, needle and crochet work, and agricultural work. The boys are taught dairy and cattle work, boat work, and a little carpentry and agricultural work. Their progress is very good. Plans laid for the following year include dinghy building for young men, regular classes of juniors in use of carpentry tools, saw sharpening, &c. Our committee has recently purchased many tools with this end in view.

Health.—The general health is good. Two patients were removed to the Cloncurry Hospital during the outbreak of meningitis, but there were no fatalities. There was also an outbreak of whooping cough and all children under ten years were infected. Immunisation was carried out by the A.M.S. for this outbreak.

Visits by flying medical officer, 6; dental treatments, 2 extractions.

Conduct.—There is a big improvement in the conduct of the inmates. One family was removed to Doomadgee Mission for misbehaviour.

The people are very industrious and always ready for any form of employment that can be offered by the Mission.

Social Improvement.—The old camp site near the Mission is being turned into a village; streets have been laid out and individual houses built. These consist only of bark at present owing to shortage of materials. Barbed and fencing wire have been supplied freely to those requiring same and fairly large areas have been enclosed as native gardens and cultivated. Seeds and shrubs are being supplied by the Mission, and many have fenced in their own yards and put same under cultivation. These gardens show promise.

Foundations have been laid and timbers to the value of approximately £70 have been purchased by the committee for the erection of a new hospital.

Employment.—There is a strong demand for labour at present. There are now 28 males and 3 females under agreements.

Industrial Operations.—About 30 acres are under cultivation for production of food.

An engine and pumping outfit has been purchased and installed. A 100-gallon wooden tank has been purchased and erected in the Mission yard. Water for Mission use is now pumped from the well into the Mission yard.

Three new mustering yards have been erected on the Island. A winged kitchen has been erected to the rear of the assistant's cottage. The Mission Church, Superintendent's dwelling and assistant's cottage have been painted. Extensive repairs have been carried out to Mission vessels.

Approximately 900 head of cattle have been mustered, and 1½ tons of salt collected.

Nine hundred and sixty-four garments have been cut out and made for Mission women and children. This included infants' layettes.

Buildings.—The following buildings are under construction:—New meat house, new hospital, and new workshop.

Recreations.—Sports are organised and full day picnics are held.

Bentinck Island.—Many visits have been made to the Bentinck Island people. Good contacts have been made and friendly relationship established. The Superintendent and a party of Mission natives have slept more than one night with different sections of the people. On one occasion they remained three days on the island and were escorted to the different water-holes and camping places and into the large salt pan in the centre of the island.

Gifts of food, clothing and blankets, fishing lines, steel points for spears have been made.

We feel that big strides with the relationship to these people have been made this year, and wish to thank the Department of Native Affairs for their very practical help and sympathy in this work.

Launches.—This year we suffered the loss of six men and the cutter "Albinia" when they were on their way to Burketown for native rations. The loss of the men was a severe blow and cast a heavy gloom upon the people. We have again to thank the Department for their practical help in making aircraft available for the search and for the chartering of the launch "Victory."

The search was very thorough. A little wreckage of the boat and some articles of clothing have been found and it is presumed that the cutter foundered in heavy seas. The crew were very efficient seamen and the loss cannot be ascribed to any negligence on their part. The Mission has since obtained a 38-foot launch, powered by a 38 h.p. diesel engine, to enable the contacts with the Bentinck Island people to be more frequent.

In closing I should like to express appreciation for the ever ready assistance in our work offered to us by the Department of Native Affairs.

APPENDIX 14.

MONAMONA MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. L. A. BORGAS.)

Health.—There were no epidemics aside from ever-prevalent colds. Three children were sent to Mareeba Hospital with bronchitis and two boys met with minor accidents from falling from horses. There were five tonsil operations and

one bladder trouble. One child is now in hospital suffering with heart trouble subsequent to having rheumatic fever.

Conduct and Discipline.—Conduct is fair, aside from girls breaking out of their dormitory. Native constabulary do an excellent job.

Education.—Number of days school was open, 172 days; average number on roll, 75; average daily attendance, 71.4.

Three girls are in their third year of piano-forte tuition. Special classes are held twice a week, when boys are taught mechanics and carpentering, and girls needlecraft and cooking.

Building Development.—All male hands are employed on complete reconstruction programme. Up to present houses built are:—Fifteen native cottages, school boys' dormitory, school girls' dormitory, young men's barracks, carpenter's shop. (This building is not equipped.)

Work is slow because of shortage of roofing iron and nails. All timber is cut by the Mission sawmill and the timber is from the reserve.

Stock and Farming.—During the drought of 1946 about 40 per cent. of the Mission herd died, among them most of the dairy herd. Since the rains came, six cows and one Jersey bull were purchased and we hope that soon the dairy will pick up again.

Each new native cottage is built on ¼ acre of land and from this each family is expected to grow its own vegetable supply. So far this plan has met with good success. Main crops, such as sweet potato, corn, and pumpkins, &c., are grown in the Mission garden and rationed to the families.

Religious Ministration.—Worship is held each morning and evening. Prayer meetings once a week. Church community singing is held once a week. Sabbath school and preaching services are held on the Sabbath as is also the meeting for the Young People's Missionary Society.

Recreation.—Ball games such as basket ball, rounders, cricket, and football are all engaged in by groups to their liking. Fishing is always the favourite pastime. Loya cane gathering is a lately acquired pecuniary recreation for the men, as is grass and pandanus basket-making for the women.

APPENDIX 15.

DOOMADGEE MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. M. G. READ.)

Staff.—During portion of the year we have had the help of Mr. Watt, an iron and sheet metal worker from Melbourne, while Mr. and Mrs. Read were away from the reserve for six and ten months respectively. Mr. T. Bartlett was Acting Superintendent in the absence of Mr. Read.

School—Staff.—Mrs. Read assisted by six native teachers. Owing to the absence of Mrs. Read very little could be done this year until late May, when a full curriculum commenced.

Attendance averaged.—Boys, 27; girls, 50; total, 77.

Classes range from Kindergarten to Grade 4.

Manual Instruction.—Boys: General stock and station work; agriculture. Girls: Sewing, domestic, and agriculture.

Health.—Epidemics—Gastric; 2 slight outbreaks, checked successfully. Venereal—Nil. Pulmonary—Nil. Operations—Two; appendix 1, tonsils (at Cloncurry). General—15 slight cases tonsillitis; 1 child mental condition poor, nephritis (aged 6 months). Usual variety of dispensary cases, none serious. Accidents—1 fractured forearm, 6 treated for burns. Immunisation—44 children given Formalinised toxoid anti-diphtheric serum. Dental—34 extractions. Births 5, deaths 4, marriages 1.

Social.—Conduct.—Only fair on average. One removal was carried out.

Improvements.—See building development.

Industrial.—Demand for labour for stock work has been good during the greater portion of the year, 42 natives having been out on employment during the period.

Pastoral.—The period to December was very dry, and coming after a very poor wet season earlier in the year rendered cattle work very difficult. Good rains came in February and more especially in March, but on the average the season must be reported as poor from this viewpoint. The condition of the cattle at present is quite good, but brandings have not been up to expectations.

Number of Stock.—Horses, 80; goats, 140; cattle, 569; cattle brandings for year, 160; cattle killings for year, 72.

The increase for the period might be said to be fairly good for the prevailing climatical conditions.

Horses.—The increase here is due to a further number of brumbies having been trapped and broken in for stock.

New Yards.—A second trap yard for brumbies was constructed, and of the number trapped 12 were selected for stock work. Serious bush and grass fires destroyed three second-class cattle-mustering yards out in the scrub country and these had to be rebuilt during the year.

Fencing.—Repairs: Work of this nature requiring approximately 100 posts was effected. New fencing to the extent of $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of three-wire cattle type was built.

Agriculture.—Area cleared and fenced, 30 acres; area under cultivation, $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres; harvest, approximately 5 cwt.

Owing to the absence of Mr. Read, and the building work in hand, very little could be done on the land. The harvest was mainly fruit. Most of the trees in the experimental block are doing well, especially the citrus. Not many have borne fruit as yet but they show good promise.

New Plant.—A new Farmall A tractor has been acquired for this work, and it is equipped with a single mouldboard plough, two-furrow disc plow, four-row vegetable cultivator, and grass mower. We trust shortly to be able to

add bedding or furrower attachments. We have also just received delivery of a new Lister diesel engine of 27 to 30 h.p. to be used as a water-pumping unit for irrigation and general purposes. These two will form the main power units as far as the work on the land is concerned, and when put into service will allow of more extensive cultivation than has been possible in time past. Unfortunately, Mr. and Mrs. Read arrived back from the south too late to do much for this season, but it is hoped to get spring and summer crops in as time and other works permit. The finance for the above plant was provided almost entirely by the Department of Native Affairs, and we could not too loudly voice our appreciation of this liberal assistance. The natives themselves have expressed their thankfulness for these gifts and look forward to the prospective harvests. Other new plant received and being put into use includes 330 feet 4-inch fibro cement piping for irrigation purposes and a 5,000-gallon tank. We have on order a new 4-inch centrifugal pump and expect later to be able to acquire approximately 400 feet of 6-inch fibro cement piping for the main delivery of the system. When these further items are in service we should be set up for some years to come and should be able to show good production figures.

Cleared.—Approximately 3 acres. We have found that ringbarking is useless without poisoning and do most of our clearing the hard way, digging out roots completely when the land is to be used for agricultural purposes.

Timber Milled.—Practically nil. Building work has been of steel or concrete.

Building Development.—The following buildings have been completed during the period.

Boys' Dormitory.—40 feet by 20 feet floor space with 5 feet overhang on the roof. All-steel frame with corrugated iron covering. Concrete flooring.

Bulk and Ration Store.—40 feet by 20 feet of same construction. Later we trust to add a shop and office to this building, increasing the floor space to 75 feet by 20 feet. This structure allowed for good ventilation, was painted white walls and silver-glow roofing, and proved comparatively cool during the summer months.

Garage, Workshop and Saddle Room.—This building is of the same construction again, though the floors are not yet concreted. Saddle room, 10 feet by 20 feet; workshop and tool room, 30 feet by 20 feet; garage, 40 feet by 20 feet.

Under Construction.—

Workers' Cottage (staff use).—Three rooms 14 feet by 12 feet with 9-foot veranda all round and detached kitchen 12 feet by 10 feet. All-steel frame, corrugated iron covering and concrete flooring. This work is well in hand and should be completed in about three weeks' time.

Hospital Ward.—Dispensary and sisters' quarters. Ward 15 feet by 18 feet, quarters 15 feet by 12 feet, dispensary 15 feet by 9 feet on veranda space, and verandas on front and sides, 9 feet wide. All-steel frame, corrugated iron covering and concrete flooring. This work should be completed within a few weeks also.

DOOMADGEE MISSION



Brumbies for Stock Work



Brumbies for Stock Work

Unattached Women's Quarters.—One of the two buildings planned is completed (overlooked above). The second is almost finished and held up for timber for the time being. These each contain three rooms 10 feet by 10 feet in line—viz., 30 feet by 10 feet. Concrete walls and floors, corrugated iron roofing. These were also reported as fairly cool last summer.

Lavatories.—One single one constructed of steel and corrugated iron, and one two-cubicle convenience of concrete walls and flooring and corrugated iron roofing.

Buildings in mind and for which part of the material is in hand or being shipped include:—Young women's dormitory, 40 feet by 20 feet, to be built over a dining room of open veranda type, 40 feet by 40 feet, with kitchen to be attached 20 feet by 15 feet. Local timber and cement for flooring to be purchased. Steel for frame on hand. Some corrugated iron will still be available. Young men's dormitory, 40 feet by 20 feet, also on high stumps. Local timber and cement for ground floor still to be acquired. Steel frame, &c., on hand. Gospel hall, 60 feet by 20 feet, steel frame only.

Aerodrome.—The main strip has now been surfaced over the full width and is now 4,885 feet by 300 feet. The second one has been made wider and surfaced to the same width. Now 3,300 feet by 300 feet. Both can be termed all-weather strips as it would take a very heavy rainfall indeed to give trouble. Thirty-two markets have been constructed, each 20 feet by 4 feet. These are of corrugated iron and steel frame, and other markings necessary for an "A" grade aerodrome have been completed. A provisional license has been granted pending final inspection, and we are waiting upon the authorities for the provision of a weekly airmail service.

Religious Ministration.—Daily instruction was given and attendance is good.

APPENDIX 16.

PURGA MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. O. C. SMITH.)

Population.—At the beginning of the year there were eleven girls in residence; two were sent to employment and two transferred to Palm Island, leaving seven girls. There were four boys at the commencement of the year; one was transferred to Woorabinda, leaving three boys, a total of ten children.

Health.—There has been no serious illness during the year, but as a result of the visit of the School Health Services dentist, a number of children received the necessary dental attention. The Government Medical Officer, Dr. Patterson, examined the children medically and, as a result, certain minor defects in some children were corrected.

School.—The school continues to claim the wholehearted interest of Mr. Tom Wilkie and his wife, and a good response on the part of the scholars has been maintained. The school participated in the Ipswich Primary Schools' Sports, resulting in the securing of 4 firsts, 2 seconds, and 1 third place. One girl and one boy were among the representatives of the district at the finals in Brisbane, the boy winning the Champion Broadjump. Instead of the usual "break-up" party in December, a trip to Wynnum was made by bus. A number of the children had not seen the sea previously and all thoroughly enjoyed the outing. A trip by bus to the Brisbane Gardens was another feature of the school holidays.

Ipswich Salvation Army Corps provided transport to enable the children to participate in two annual events:—(1) The Sunday School Anniversary, when the children received their prizes and took part in the programme. (2) The combined Sunday School picnic, which, on May Day was held in Ipswich Park. This was a grand day for the boys and girls.

Visits.—Mrs. O'Leary, wife of the Director of Native Affairs, with a lady representative of the Department, made a Christmas visit to the Mission. During her visit we were happy to show Mrs. O'Leary some of the work done by the school children. A book for everyone and sweets were left by the visitors. Sweets were also provided by the State Children Department, while the Salvation Army ladies of Ipswich and Annandale (New South Wales) donated gifts which greatly added to the happiness of the inmates at Christmas time. A donation made by the Salvation Army assisted in the providing of a suitable menu.

The Ipswich Congregational Christian Endeavours have paid their usual happy visits at Easter and Christmas time.

Improvements.—The buildings have been somewhat improved by the painting and renovating of the dining-room and kitchen. The boys have been issued with new bed linen and pyjamas, a dormitory having been renovated and painted to accommodate them.

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