

Native Affairs—Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Twelve Months ended 30th June, 1948.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit Annual Report under “*The Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946.*” and “*The Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946.*” as at 30th June, 1948.

POPULATION.

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

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

Aboriginals 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	557	557	1,114
Cherbourg Government Settlement	26,765	211	677	888
Woorabinda Government Settlement	54,800	361	478	839
Yarrabah Mission (Church of England)	39,710	230	400	630
Lockhart River Mission (Church of England)	588,400	294	6	300
Edward River Mission (Church of England)	554,880	300	1	301
Mitchell River Mission (Church of England)	616,320	672	16	688
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian)	860,800	115	168	283
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian)	1,216,000	642	8	650
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian)	1,600,000	157	..	157
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian)	245,120	322	35	357
Monamona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist)	318	159	129	288
Doomadgee Mission (Brethren)	57,600	201	36	237
Purga Mission (Salvation Army)	628	..	7	7
Total	5,876,851	4,221	2,518	6,739

The remainder—viz., 4,879 full-bloods, 3,942 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 ABORIGINALS AND INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

Every able-bodied man of the Torres Strait island population is employed, the majority

being in the pearl-shell and trochus shell industries on their own vessels or on vessels the property of registered pearling companies. An innovation in the employment of the Torres Strait Islanders has been the organisation of a unit of approximately 80 men recruited from the islands for employment as cancutters in the Gordonvale area. These men, ex-members of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion, are strong, virile Australians and should prove a valuable contribution to the labour shortage in that industry.

Additional to this island labour, there are approximately 200 aboriginals cancutting in the Ingham area and in areas further north.

In all approximately 5,000 islanders and aboriginals are employed in various callings throughout the State, the majority of mainlanders naturally being in the pastoral industry, where they continue to prove a valuable asset.

The initial work undertaken by the Queensland Government for the re-establishment of the pearling industry and the provision of employment for every able-bodied islander and aboriginal in the Thursday Island area was based on sound lines, and the pearling fleets continue to operate, manned principally by this labour. Every effort is being made to improve the living and working conditions of coloured workers in the far north of the Peninsula, including the Torres Strait Islanders. From those islands where living conditions have for years been bad, primarily due to malaria and sea erosion, a gradual infiltration to the Peninsula by islanders is being encouraged to such an extent that there are now several hundred in the Cape York area.

It is the intention of the Government to co-ordinate the activities of Northern Church Missions in a scheme to provide every possible assistance to the development of this far northern area, and in such development the Torres Strait island ex-soldiers will, it is hoped, prove that they can not only be trained as competent marine industry workers, but as agriculturists, timber getters, and pastoral workers.

The developmental scheme envisages the establishment of a sawmill to overcome the house-building difficulty, the introduction of farm machinery and stock, and generally a set-up which should convert the present uninhabitable area into a location providing a living for people indigenous to it, and, what is most important, the establishment of a population creating a defence unit for the far north.

In effect, to these aboriginal areas in the far north, which were more detrimentally effected by the war than the south, a concentrated effort of industrial expansion and better social and living conditions for the people is envisaged as the policy for the next several years.

TORRES STRAIT ISLAND PATROL BOATS.

The absence of a seaworthy patrol vessel for the Torres Strait area has been keenly felt over the years since the termination of the war. Previously the Queensland Government had stationed the ketch "Melbidir" at Thursday Island and, although on the small side, she performed an excellent service. This vessel was taken over by the military authorities during the war, and it is now gratifying to know that the Government has made arrangements to secure a much larger vessel capable of carrying in the vicinity of 150 tons of cargo.

It is expected that during the current year this vessel will be stationed at Thursday Island and thus fill the long-felt want by providing a facility for the speedy carriage of all types of foodstuffs, building materials, &c., and for the comfortable transport of passengers.

TORRES STRAIT AND PENINSULA RADIO SERVICE.

Pre-war the Queensland Government had established in the Torres Strait-Peninsula area its own wireless service, with mother-station at Thursday Island. Daily contact was possible with all of the Torres Strait islands and the peninsula missions as far south as Mitchell River, a distance of approximately 360 miles. This service was utilised by the armed forces during the war, but, being out-moded, the whole service was dismantled and removed by the army.

It is now pleasing to record that the Government has arranged for a similar modern installation which, it is hoped will be operating before December, 1948. The value of such a service cannot be over-emphasised. It will provide daily contact with all outlying centres. The service will be staffed and operated by Native Affairs officers. It will be available for sick and other emergent calls, and generally it will give to those people, white and coloured, in distant centres a contact so necessary for administration and protection.

INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION.

Cattle Raising Operations.—The following cattle are depastured on the three settlements, the value of this livestock as a Departmental asset being £46,500.

Settlement.	Beef Cattle.									Dairy Cattle.				Horses.			
	Bulls.	Breeders.	Spayed Cows.	Steers.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Working Bullocks.	Bullocks.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Total.	Draught.	Saddle.	Total.
Woorabinda	43	1,401	..	43	619	683	7	..	2,796	..	37	33	..	70	56	42	98
Foleyvale ..	..	229	..	476	..	23	..	604	1,332	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cherbourg ..	18	378	28	44	61	214	12	12	767	..	..	..	..	..	13	16	29
Aboriginal Training Farm ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	51	26	24	103	2	2	4
Palm Island	..	..	..	16	..	..	50	..	66	1	66	19	41	127	28	16	44
	61	2,008	28	570	680	920	69	616	4,961	3	154	78	65	300	99	76	175



Torres Strait and Peninsula Radio Service—Receiver Transmitter Outstation.



Torres Strait and Peninsula Radio Service—Transmitter Main Station.

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

214 fat bullocks	£3,370
220 cows	1,980
137 heifers	959
	£6,309

To view returns from cattle-raising operations in their true perspective, to the above figure must be added £5,130, representing the value of cattle killed for local consumption on the Settlements. Accordingly, stock returns for the period under review amount to £11,439. Seasonal conditions were good and assisted in the recovery of the Settlement herds from the long sequence of subnormal rainfall years.

With the development of Foleyvale, the consequent increase in carrying capacity and improvement in pastures of first quality land, numbers of cattle carried will be increased, and a substantial improvement in turnover can be expected.

Development of Settlements.—Recognising that the Government Settlements are in effect townships of considerable size, efforts are being made to provide amenities in the form of water supply and the provision of electricity as would be regarded as normal in white townships of comparable size.

Projects now either in hand or under consideration comprise—

Palm Island.—Settlement domestic water supply. Installation of electricity.

Fantome Island.—Installation of electricity.

Woorabinda.—Provision of electricity. Provision of domestic water supply.

Cherbourg.—Complete rehabilitation of water supply, including new concrete tank and purifier. Scheme for the hygienic disposal of waste water.

Progress on the schemes approved is being held up by material and labour difficulties such as obtain generally, but it is expected that the next twelve months' operations will make material progress towards the completion of the projects.

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 111 persons were so exempted.

The percentage of cancellation of exemptions is very small, and over the last five years only 26 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 half-blood finds that he is unable to take his place in the white com-

munity 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.

Last year the troop was re-formed and a number of new recruits were admitted. These have now all passed their tenderfoot tests and the strength of the troop now is 32 boys, a troop leader and four assistant scout masters. It is hoped soon to be able to do something for those scouts that have reached the age when they can no longer remain in the troop, and it is hoped a Rover patrol will be established.

The camp site situated on Esk Island is being developed and now is quite an attractive spot and one where the boys can gain much of their practical experiences in camp craft, pioneering, and other scouting activities.

Very successful camps have been held there and special training camps for patrol leaders and the A.S.M's are held whenever circumstances permit.

The boys themselves are very keen on their scouting and the patrol system is now extensively used. The progress that these lads make at their camping is really surprising. Bridge-building and other forms of pioneering are special features of their camps at Esk Island and some big bridges have been erected by them.

Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement, Scoutmaster H. R. Pascoe.

Scouting activities at Cherbourg Settlement have been well maintained throughout the year. Camps have been held at Pialba, and the closest co-operation exists between the Cherbourg Scouts and white Scout Troops in the South Burnett area.

The value of the Scout movement at this settlement is exemplified in the conduct and demeanour generally of the boys.

GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT.

Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement, Guide Captain, J. A. Pickering.

In September last a Guide Company was formed and weekly meetings have been regularly held and very keen interest has been shown by all concerned. The enrolment of the first six girls and the dedication of the colours—the World Flag—was one of the proudest days of this new company. The district captain of Townsville performed the enrolment ceremony and the churches united for the dedication of the flag. The day's celebrations were brought to a close by a camp-fire concert in which the boy scouts also took part.

The Guides visited Esk Island while the Scouts were in camp there and they gained much useful knowledge by this visit. They hope to have a camp themselves during the month of June.

A Brownie Pack is also being formed among the younger girls and is receiving eager recruits.

ABORIGINAL ACCOUNTS.

As shown in the following table of deposits, withdrawals, and balances, the total amount held in trust in the savings bank accounts of aboriginals is £356,759 4s. 9d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw within reason against their savings bank accounts.

TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1948.

	Total.		Savings Bank Balance as at 30th June, 1948.	Commonwealth Stock.	Total Funds.
	Deposits.	Withdrawals.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg	18,095 10 9	19,115 0 1	3,532 4 10	1,000 0 0	4,532 4 10
Palm Island	24,604 9 9	19,678 0 4	4,929 4 9	11,000 0 0	15,929 4 9
Woorabinda	14,264 12 8	15,198 18 2	4,532 6 11	4,000 0 0	8,532 6 11
Various Protectorates and Missions	125,809 0 5	154,004 0 3	7,350 16 9	238,000 0 0	245,350 16 9
Torres Strait Islands ..	199,411 11 6	188,266 6 5	82,414 11 6	..	82,414 11 6
	382,185 5 1	396,262 5 3	102,759 4 9	254,000 0 0	356,759 4 9

The balance, £356,759 4s. 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.

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 53, and the amounts made available to next-of-kin were £4,342 19s.

No aboriginal is precluded from operating on his savings bank account for his immediate needs 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 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	202
Cherbourg Settlement	96
Palm Island	48
Woorabinda	69
Torres Strait Islanders	449
Total	864

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £42,159 1s. 3d.

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	91
Mitchell River Mission	98
Monamona Mission	127
Aurukun Mission	143
Mapoon Mission	139
Mornington Island Mission	145
Weipa Mission	50
Yarabah Mission	322
Purga Mission	16
Fantome Island	11
Woorabinda Settlement	95
Palm Island Settlement	284
Cherbourg Settlement	133
Total	1633

EDUCATION.

As indicated in the following table, the number of children receiving primary education is 2,349 :—
ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.

Description of School.	Name.	Enrolment 31st. December, 1947.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement	Cherbourg	124	134	258
Settlement	Palm Island	102	83	185
Settlement	Woorabinda	74	81	155
Reserve	Cowal Creek	22	22	44
Country Town	Gayndah Aboriginal	16	7	23
Aboriginal Mission	Aurukun	42	34	76
Aboriginal Mission	Doomadgee	26	47	73
Aboriginal Mission	Lockhart River	35	24	59
Aboriginal Mission	Mapoon	28	33	61
Aboriginal Mission	Mornington Island	35	46	81
Aboriginal Mission	Mitchell River	48	41	89
Aboriginal Mission	Monamona	41	37	78
Aboriginal Mission	Purga	12	13	25
Aboriginal Mission	Weipa	12	22	34
Aboriginal Mission	Yarrabah	44	43	87
Island Mission	St. Michael's R.C., Palm Island	23	30	53
Island Mission	St. Paul's, Moa Island	35	28	63
Inland Mission	Normanton	15	18	33
Torres Strait	Island Schools	430	442	872
	Totals	1,164	1,185	2,349

At present there are 6 boys in All Souls' Secondary School, Charters Towers; 4 girls in St. Ann's Secondary School, Townsville; 2 girls in St. Gabriel's Secondary School, Charters Towers; and 4 girls and 2 boys at St. Mary's Secondary School, Herberton.

MANUAL TRAINING.

Palm Island School.—The Senior Boys in Grades III. and IV. attend manual training classes, while the girls from Grade II. upwards attend the sewing-room. Twenty-four boys attended the industrial training, while 42 girls received instruction at the sewing-room.

Besides these girls, 4 young women are employed full time to attend to the making of clothing for the women and children of this settlement, and several thousand garments are produced during the twelve months.

The boys attending the manual training classes receive elementary training, and as they progress are able to tackle other bigger jobs around the place. This included mainly the repairs to school furniture and other jobs in and around the school. Their latest effort was to screen off a portion of a veranda to be used as a projection room.

Palm Island Convent School.—This year's class was a continuation of last year's group; and a very wide variety of practical tasks and jobs were attempted, embracing the practical use of tools and implements, and in particular instilling into the individual boy the necessity for constant effort and personal initiative so that character might be developed, without which mere knowledge of tools and their use is fruitless and vain.

The younger boys worked under the supervision and kindly guidance of Rev. Bro. Rickards, who laboured with them and introduced them to the elementary use of tools which they handled on particular and specified jobs—carpentering, plumbing work, dairy work, stock work, boat work, and experience of same, growing of vegetables; while three petrol engines supplied an experience in fundamental mechanics.

These same lads, aged 14 to 16 years, also from time to time helped in their own propor-

tionate way in the construction of a reliable road linking the Casement area and the Settlement proper, which was undertaken by Rev. Fr. Dixon, M.S.C., and the youths from the last two years' manual training classes. This road is roughly a mile and a-half in length and rises to a height of some 450 feet over that distance. It can support the heaviest traffic on the island, and contains three concrete inverts and one culvert constructed of eight concrete cylinders. The road is top-dressed over every foot, and good, reliable draining gathers the bulk of water so that a reasonable and regular maintenance should keep the road in its present excellent condition.

Although the larger share of the labour was performed by the priest and his young co-labourers—who indeed worked willingly and consistently well with picks, shovels, crowbars, and wheelbarrows—appreciation, however, must be shown for the interest and help of the Superintendent, Mr. G. Sturges, and particularly for the co-operation of Messrs. B. Smith and A. McClure, who provided transport to convey top-dressing to the more distant sections of the road with the motor lorry, and who were responsible for the actual cementing of the inverts and handled the actual blasting of rock.

The whole construction was a valuable experience for the young men and boys in road-making, which embraced the actual engineering, drilling of rocks, use of crowbars, inverts and culverts, heights and inclines, and above all, the general advantage of working at one single job over a period of many months. Although the work was at times hard, difficult, and a little disheartening, it was fortunate that not a single accident was sustained; nor did any of the youthful workers miss one day through sickness or ill-health due to the work itself. On the contrary, their health was excellent and their physique was very noticeably improved.

Cherbourg.—This section was in operation throughout the year, and has generally shown satisfactory results. The enrolment varied from 38 to 29, inclusive of 20 primary school boys. Boys from the primary section attend manual training on two days per week.

The cabinet-makers' and plumbers' workshops are attached to this section, and hereunder is listed work completed at the workshops:—

Manual Training Section.

- 10 chairs
- 3 tables
- 20 pannikins—for general school use
- 3 suitcases
- 6 wall brackets
- 3 walking sticks
- 3 bread boards
- 4 kiddies' chairs
- 1 set jumping standard—school use
- 24 stools—hospital use
- 1 commode
- 5 gates—for settlement showground
- 11 toys—wooden
- 1 plane
- 4 caketins
- 4 funnels
- 10 billy cans
- 8 quart pots
- 1 kettle—tin
- 1 dipper
- 1 bridle

Cabinet Workshop.

- 7 kitchen cabinets
- 17 chairs
- 9 tables
- 25 pansteads
- 6 lowboys—girls' dormitory
- 1 meat safe
- 1 school press
- 1 meat box—lined—for meat dray
- 2 desks
- 1 desk } for settlement office
- 1 cabinet }
- 4 stools
- 3 filing cabinets—for head office
- 2 toilet screens—for head office
- 3 benches—for A.T.F. dairy
- 1 door—for settlement store

Wire netting frames made and fitted to settlement store

Various repair jobs were done on the settlement, some of which were—Fitting louvres to school veranda; refitting door and repairs to locks at small girls' dormitory; making and fitting wash basin at girls' dormitory; renovating 2 duchesses, repairing safe, attaching masonry to table top, and repairing locks and catches at settlement hospital; painting and preparing and erecting settlement displays at Kingaroy and Murgon shows; erecting, shelving, and fitting pavilion at Cherbourg show.

Leatherwork.

- 2 bridles
- 4 hame straps
- 2 pole straps
- 4 hobble straps
- 2 cruppers
- 3 pair reins
- 2 split girths
- 2 stirrup leathers

Blacksmithing.

- 3 pair gate hinges

Sharpening of tools for hygiene and road gangs

Plumber's Workshop.

- 231 sanitary tins
- 18 buckets
- 17 chimneys
- 6 garbage tins
- 10 stove piping lengths
- 9 tubs
- 1 dish
- 2 oilcans for settlement mill

Various maintenance and repair jobs were performed including—repairing and laying water services to recreation ground and native camp;

- 3 pedestal tanks at hospital
- Coppers at hospital
- Making and fitting 2 urinal troughs.

The primary school boys are showing fair progress, and those attending full time are making good headway. This section still proves itself to be of much value to the Settlement—much repair and maintenance work being performed by the boys.

Examples of all classes of work were exhibited in both Kingaroy and Murgon shows.

Woorabinda.—During the period under review the following work has been performed by the boys:—

- 2 large drawers, with dovetailed front corners, and divided into several compartments; carefully fitted into the settlement store
- 15 folding deck chairs
- 6 swing-back porch chairs
- 10 laundry trolleys
- 16 toothbrush racks
- 6 wooden soap dishes
- 6 wooden folding chairs
- 7 axe handles
- 7 hammer handles
- 4 inkstands, made of ringed stringybark and french-polished
- 1 large cupboard for use in school downstairs
- 1 lowboy
- 12 sanitary-paper holders
- 15 tree-guards, palings only
- 5 replacements of broken panes in school windows, and general repairs to desks and forms

Tinsmithing.

- 10 tin dishes, wired all round, for laundry trolleys
- 10 small articles of conical and rectangular construction
- 13 large conical articles, consisting of kettles and funnels.

APPRECIATION.

The loyal assistance forthcoming from all officers of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs is gratefully recognised.

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, and 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.

(Temporary Medical Officer, Dr. R. Hilyard
Smith.)

Report of the Resident Medical Officer follows. It will be noticed that the standard of health is such that although a severe measles epidemic was experienced during the latter half of the year, resulting in 169 cases being admitted to hospital, no deaths occurred.

The foregoing is convincing evidence of the dividends being paid by the establishment of the Maternal and Child Welfare Centre, special rations issued to convalescents and invalids, improved rations issued to inmates generally, and careful attention to hygiene and sanitation.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

In-patients, male 217.26, female 186.42. Total, 403.68.

Out-patients' visits, total, 21,278.

Births, male 28, female 18. Total, 46.

Deaths, male 11, female 6. Total, 17.

Measles, 169 cases.

Catarrhal jaundice, 20 cases.

Doctor's visits, 877.

Doctor's examinations, 6,268.

It may be observed that compared with last year's figures of 888 admissions to hospital, this year's total is less than half. This is due largely to the care exercised in general hygiene in the camps and to supervision of all children up to the age of five years at the Maternal and Child Welfare Centre.

Upon my arrival to take up duties four months ago, an epidemic of measles was in full swing. Of the 169 cases dealt with we had no complications during or following the outbreak. This can be attributed to the nursing staff at the hospital. We were then, as we are now, understaffed with white nurses, and the brunt of the work fell upon native nurses. I cannot speak too highly of them and the service that they rendered. They are worthy of special mention in this respect. Their devotion to duty at this period certainly justified the introduction of the Native Nurses' Training School, which was recently inaugurated.

There was a sporadic outbreak of catarrhal jaundice. Twenty cases were admitted to hospital, one proving fatal, following pneumonic complications.

NATIVE NURSES' TRAINING SCHOOL.

This was inaugurated recently. From the beginning, these young women have been taught that the calling they follow is one of service and humanity to the ill and helpless. We find that they are proud of the work they are doing, of the uniform that they wear, and the added respect with which they are treated. In the latter case, our policy is to see that they are treated with the respect due to their calling, and any slip on the part of their associates to do otherwise is quickly corrected. This teaching of respect for them has raised the necessary

self-esteem within them, which I think is a strong feature in making the training scheme successful.

Another encouraging thing is the high results obtained in the examination papers set periodically to test their knowledge of nursing subjects.

The teaching follows closely the curriculum of the great teaching hospitals.

I have seen the practical demonstration of promise in the spirit and enthusiasm shown to meet the epidemic of measles. As previously mentioned, they bore the brunt of work entailed.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

At present we have 158 children under the age of five years attending the clinic. The attendance weekly is 100 per cent., when the usual examination routine is carried out.

Out-patients.—Four months ago it was felt that a closer check could be kept on the welfare of the children under five years of age if their ailments were treated at the welfare centre itself. Accordingly, an out-patient department at the clinic was instituted and all ailments which were formerly treated at the hospital are now treated at the Baby Clinic. This has been made possible with the advent of trained nursing staff at the clinic. Out-patients are seen twice daily. This new scheme is proving highly satisfactory, as serious conditions are recognised early and admitted to hospital.

The standard of health is such that the measles epidemic resulted in no deaths in children under five years of age, or complications. All children received a prophylactic dose, and though a number contracted the disease, within a few weeks, they had regained normal weight and health.

Scabies.—This condition is fairly prevalent, and it is felt that the erection of a fumigation room would greatly assist in the eradication of this parasite, as the children are the chief sufferers.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

The average weekly attendance at this clinic is 22.

These clinics are well attended, and a close check is kept on the expectant mother, and any abnormality detected in time to correct before the birth of the child. Normal routine is to take a blood test to eradicate the possibility of syphilis. The clinic is modelled on the most up-to-date methods, and follows closely the practice adopted by the great London hospitals.

FANTOME ISLAND LEPROSARIUM.

I have recently approached the Director-General of Health for his co-operation in the introduction of new treatment of leprosy by diazone, and in consequence it is hoped to have the treatment in operation during the coming year. At present, difficulties arise owing to the dollar exchange, diazone being an American preparation.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

Under the able supervision of the Hygiene Officer, Mr. Elliott, who commenced his duties last May with the nucleus of the hygiene gang, which now consists of eight men, and a sanitary gang, which comprises ten men, the following work has been carried out:—

Water Supply.—All wells have been tested for purity and chlorinated at least once each fortnight. No sickness has arisen during the year which could be attributed to the contamination of drinking water. Both well water and stream water on the settlement are excellent.

Garbage Disposal.—This is still being done by the digging of rubbish holes, which are sprayed and burnt out twice weekly.

Sanitary Service.—This essential service has been efficiently carried out by the sanitary gang, now doing a seven-day week service. The school, hospital, dormitories, and guest houses are serviced daily. Other places have a bi-weekly service, and this will be increased as circumstances dictate and materials become available.

The manner in which the sanitary gang carry out their vital but unpleasant work is a credit to them.

Drainage.—The drains at the hospital and dormitory are now all of the open type cement drain and have been cleansed and the grease traps attended to daily. All storm-water channels have been deepened and widened.

Dormitory Hygiene.—The interiors of the three dormitories have been sprayed three times per week; this service includes the spraying of all beds and bedding.

Flies and Mosquitoes.—Continuous action has been taken to keep these insects in check as much as possible. Stagnant pools and swamps have been sprayed, kerosene put into tanks, and a great deal of time has been spent trying to educate the natives to be fly-conscious.

Camp Inspections.—At least once a month, all native homes have been visited and, where necessary, instruction has been given to improve on the general cleanliness of cooking and eating utensils, as well as the house and its surroundings. There is still room for improvement, though most of the natives are willing to co-operate.

Fantome Island Leprosarium.—The hygiene gang has accompanied the Medical Officer to Fantome Island Leprosarium when required. Spraying and general hygiene work has been carried out as found necessary. The hygiene standard at Fantome Island is high.

Pencil Bay, Butler Bay, and Casement.—These areas have been visited weekly, and spraying, water testing, and any other work necessary executed.

Sanitary Depot.—A new drain and troughs have been put in at the depot and conditions there are satisfactory.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

Visitors.—The annual Arts and Crafts Show was officially opened by the Deputy Premier, the Hon. V. C. Gair, M.L.A., who was accompanied by Messrs. C. G. Jesson and W. M. Moore, M.M.L.A.

The Hon. the Premier, Mr. Cain, and the Hon. the Attorney-General, Mr. Slater, of Victoria, were also visitors to this Settlement during show week and expressed, both verbally and by letter, admiration of the work being done by the Queensland Government, through this Department, in the uplift of the native population.

Native Nurses' Training Scheme.—This scheme is now in full operation, and both the Medical Officer and the Hospital Matron are very pleased with the enthusiasm and ability of the trainees.

Hygiene and Sanitation.—The Medical Officer's report indicates the careful attention now being given to these essential services, and the thoroughness with which the work is carried out is reflected in the general health of the community.

Education.—The introduction of visual education by means of silent and sound films has given children much greater interest in school work generally, and will in the future play an important part in all phases of child and adult education.

The standard being obtained in both the Departmental and Convent schools was favourably commented on by the Inspector of Schools.

The successful road-building job carried out by the elder boys of the Convent school manual training class is a very fine effort, and is a monument to the untiring efforts and patience on the part of Rev. Father Dixon.

Settlement Development.—The year under review has been one of great activity by way of preparatory work in connection with the installation of—

(1) *Water Supply.*—This scheme calls for the construction of a 1,000,000-gallon concrete reservoir and the reticulation of water throughout the Settlement. A very efficient and compact stone-crushing plant has been installed, and at present approximately half of the crushed stone required is on the site. The excavation is complete, and materials such as steel, timber, &c., are now arriving in increasing quantities. It is expected that the construction of the reservoir will be started within the next few months.

(2) *Electric Light.*—Engines and alternators are expected to be ready by the 31st March, and will be landed here as soon as transport is available. Materials for the power-house are on order and preparatory work on the settlement is well in hand.

Picture Show.—A very fine open-air theatre has been built, and was formally opened on the 11th October, 1947. Pictures are screened each Wednesday evening and are much appreciated by the whole population.

Pontoon, Townsville.—The old cargo punt was converted to a pontoon for use by the settlement launches while berthed at Townsville. The conversion was very capably carried out by native labour under staff supervision at this settlement, and this Department now has a pontoon equal to any in the Townsville Harbour.

Rainfall.—59.76 inches.

Farm Produce.—

Sweet potatoes	..	10	tons 7 cwt.
English potatoes	..	2	tons 19 cwt.
Lettuce	..	12,209	head
Chinese cabbage	..	486	sacks
English cabbage	..	1,644	head
Tomatoes	..	92	cwt.
French beans	..	22½	cwt.
Radish	..	21	sacks
Cucumber	..	2,096	
Beetroot	..	7	sacks
Kohl rabi	..	4	sacks
Marrow	..	327	only
Turnips	..	24½	sacks

Peas	31 cwt.
Carrots	11½ sacks
Pumpkin	12 tons 13 cwt.
Watermelons	2,707
Pineapples	1,122
Bananas	322 bunches
Papaw	727

Dairy.—Milk produced, 3,642 gallons. Stock on hand, 31st March, 1948: bulls 1, dairy cows 66, weaners 41, heifers 19, steers 16, working bullocks 50.

Horses on hand, 31st March, 1948.—Draughts 26, saddle 16.

Piggery.—Sixty pigs were killed for rations during the year. Pigs on hand, 31st March, 1948: boars 2, sows 4, stores and weaners 49.

Fish Traps.—3,435 lb. of edible fish were caught and issued to inmates.

Social and Welfare Association.—The annual report of this association clearly indicates the interest being taken by the native population in the welfare of this settlement. This interest is fostered by members of the staff giving unstintedly of their time in assisting in all phases of the Welfare Association's activities. Sufficient indication of the co-operation existing between the administration staff and the Welfare Association is indicated from the fact that in every instance an officer of the settlement has been elected chairman of the eighteen committees from which the executive of the welfare association is formed.

Employment.—Applications for native labour, both male and female, are far in excess of that available from this settlement.

As in past years, native canecutters were supplied to the Herbert River district. Finally 52 men were supplied, their gross earnings being £5,767 18s. They cut a total of 13,274 tons of cane.

Conduct of Inmates.—On the whole the conduct of the natives has been very satisfactory. This is confirmed by the fact that during the year three visits to the mainland were made by football and dancing teams, and their conduct was such that already this year invitations have again been received for footballers and dancers to visit Home Hill, Charters Towers, and Townsville.

General.—Owing to the severe floods experienced in February and March, 1947, very heavy maintenance work on roads and bridges has been necessary. With the introduction of motor transport the stage has been reached when every bridge on the settlement has to be rebuilt. This is being done as fast as the material supply permits. All bridge timber is cut in the settlement sawmill. Bridge construction is such that lengthy and useful life is assured and maintenance reduced to a minimum.

Maintenance to administrative and native buildings has been attended to as far as the material supply position allowed.

FANTOME ISLAND LAZARET.

This institution is most satisfactorily conducted and notable improvements during the year were—

- (1) Installation of radio communication with Palm Island. Daily communication between the islands is now possible at set times. This makes administration much easier.

- (2) Installation of 16 mm. talkie picture plant. This has proved a great boon to the patients, and has been the means of materially helping them in their great affliction.

It is expected that an early start will be made on the installation of electric light throughout the institution.

PALM ISLAND SCHOOL REPORT.

(Head Teacher, Mr. F. A. Krause.)

The following is a report on the activities of the Palm Island School for Aborigines for the twelve months from 1st April, 1947, to 31st March, 1948.

The enrolment during that period fluctuated from 180 to 194, the best enrolment being 109 boys and 85 girls.

Unfortunately, the school was closed for eight weeks last year owing to an epidemic of measles. This naturally put the children back in their studies, and the first quarter of this year had to be used to complete any work that was not done last year before the school closed for the epidemic. Steady progress is being maintained and gradually the children are regaining any previous lost efficiency.

Apart from the epidemic, the daily average attendances were quite satisfactory.

The staff still comprises a head teacher, one male assistant, and two female assistants in the primary school, with a temporary domestic science teacher to look after the senior girls. Five native monitresses are also employed, as well as a native manual training monitor. With the appointment of another assistant teacher it would be possible to dispense with practically all the monitresses except perhaps one or two. These girls could then be diverted into other useful channels. The best monitress relinquished her job at the school and took up nursing under the nurses' training scheme, and from reports she is doing an excellent job.

The infant classes are taught along kindergarten methods, but unfortunately our supplies of kindergarten materials required by them are now very restricted.

The senior boys in Grades III. and IV. attend manual training classes, while the girls from Grade II. upwards attend the sewing room. Twenty four boys attended the industrial training, while 42 girls received instruction at the sewing room.

Besides these girls, four young women are employed full time to attend to the making of clothing for the women and children of this settlement, and several thousand garments are produced during the twelve months.

The boys attending the manual training classes receive elementary training, and as they progress are able to tackle other bigger jobs around the place. This included mainly the repairs to school furniture and other jobs in and around the school. Their latest effort was to screen off a portion of a veranda to be used as a projection room.

Early this year a talkie plant was installed and now the children are able to receive the benefits from visual education. More is still to be done to this veranda to make it a really good

classroom for the projection of their educational films, which are obtained from the Department of Public Instruction's library and from Shell Co. of Australia, who also provide a good selection.

The conduct and discipline of the children are satisfactory and the children come to school clean and tidy, being inspected each morning by the Settlement Matron.

PALM ISLAND CONVENT SCHOOL REPORT.

(Priest in charge, Rev. Father T. Dixon.)

The enrolment ranged from 64 pupils to 48, the decrease due to the older pupils (boys and girls) going into the manual training section and the domestic science section, respectively. Attendance during the period was low as there was a serious epidemic of measles. Skin disease has been very prevalent. The school was closed during the periods 13th to 24th October, and 18th November to 2nd February.

Because of the great loss of time the academic work is not up to the standard.

The classes were reorganised at the opening of the new school year. The academic work is conducted by two teachers; the third teacher devotes all her time to the domestic science classes of the older girls, laundry, sewing, gardening. The junior girls attend the sewing class one afternoon a week.

Gymnastics, games, and music form a part of the programme as in previous years. To the music has been added the flute and mandolin harp. These interests capture the attention of the pupils and aid in general discipline, which has improved slightly.

Interest in the annual show was as keen as ever. The school carried off twenty-four prizes as compared to twenty-six in the previous year.

REPORT, SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. F. A. Krause.)

It affords me very great pleasure to submit to you the third annual report of the activities of the Palm Island Social and Welfare Association for the period ending 31st March, 1948.

Committees.—The executive committee governing the Social and Welfare Association has now increased in membership from 16 to 18, which means there are now 18 different committees functioning. Each committee has from 7 to 9 members, which means that well over 100 individual natives are taking an active interest in the welfare of their own people and this settlement generally.

This committee has as its chairman a white officer, who acts as an adviser to the committeemen and is able to help them in the conduct of their meetings, &c. Each committee also nominates one of its members to be its representative on the executive body, but this does not prevent the other members of the committee from coming along to any executive meetings and even expressing their views on any matters under discussion. The executive representatives only have the right to vote.

Meetings are regularly held and usually well attended by executive members, members of the staff, and the general public. Discussions are free and easy, and natives are encouraged to take part in them and express their views.

The various committees now are arts and crafts show, talkie picture, garden project and home development, newspaper, stalls, football, library, boxing, band, dancing, transport, social entertainment, women's sports, tennis, concert, aquatic sports, cricket, and general sports.

Corroborees, Dancing, and Boxing.—Each Saturday night some form of entertainment is organised by the Welfare Association, and boxing is held on alternate Saturdays to native dancing. Last year competitive contests were held among the various dancing teams, and enthusiasm was very pleasing. Some original dances have been presented and reflect credit on the ingenuity of some of these people. They sometimes do not leave much room for imagination, so real do some of these dances appear.

Last year several of the dancing teams accompanied the footballers to the mainland and gave very entertaining displays of their dances, spear, and boomerang throwing, fire lighting, and other old-time activities.

The quality of the boxing too has been much improved, and two teams of boxers visited the mainland, each winning most of their fights. Boxing is still very popular and generally draws a very good attendance. A new boxing ring has been constructed in front of the picture stage, and is now lighted by two very powerful lights at the top of the picture stage. Trophies were competed for last year, and in all seven divisions were open to the boxers.

Much of the equipment used by the boxers was purchased by the Welfare Association, and several handsome donations of gloves and of dressing gowns were received from various admirers who visited the settlement during the year. Two of these came from Melbourne visitors, while the others were from Queenslanders.

Several trainers are working very hard with their teams to put boxing on a better basis. One of our boys has taken on boxing professionally, and so far has acquitted himself very well.

Football.—Football is a very popular sport, and last season a representative team from this settlement visited Townsville, Home Hill, and Charters Towers. It was very gratifying to see the very clean game played by our boys, and their conduct both on and off the field left nothing to be desired. On each occasion a party of 30 or more dancers accompanied the footballers, and provided an entertainment for the spectators as a kind of preliminary before the football teams took the field.

There were nine teams at the commencement of last season, but as quite a number of the cancutters went to cut in the Ingham-Halifax districts some of our best footballers went, and all teams suffered losses.

Tennis.—Interest in tennis is not so strong as in football or boxing, though some of the better players have kept this sport going. Various types of matches were organised, and perhaps the best liked was the "Hurry-Scurry" tournament. It is hoped to top-dress the tennis court, and when this is completed no doubt more players will be forthcoming.

Concert and Choir.—A concert party and a native choir trained very hard last year and gave a very fine programme at their annual

show. Concerts were also organised and taken over to Fantome Island to entertain the lepers. It has again formed up this season and we hope will do well.

Talkie Picture Show.—Perhaps the greatest achievement has been the installing of a talkie picture plant at Palm Island. A very fine and up-to-date projection-house was erected, and at the opposite end an open-air stage was built, with engine-room at the back as well as dressing sheds and a storeroom for boxing gear, &c.

Pictures are held midweekly and are well patronised. The admission to these pictures is free, and natives in receipt of wages make a voluntary donation towards the maintenance of this outfit. By this means sufficient income is raised to pay for the programmes and maintain the running of the plant and its repairs.

The pictures are shown in the open air, and seats are transported from the school for the folks to sit on, though these are not nearly sufficient to seat everybody. Quite a number of the people bring along their own seats. It is hoped to get more seats, though they will need to be portable as the space occupied by seats on picture nights is also used by the dancers on Saturday nights for the conducting of their dancing contests.

In addition to the 35-mm. projectors this association contributed £75 towards the cost of a 16-mm. talkie projector for the school. This has now been installed, and it is intended to use this for public screenings of suitable documentary or other educational films that will be of special interest to the general public, as well as for screening educational films in the school.

Public Library.—The public library is still accommodated in the school, and it is now open two nights per week. New books are continually being added to those already in circulation and many of the aborigines are showing a keen interest in it. A very capable aborigine has been trained as a librarian and he is doing a splendid job.

Numerous periodicals are now being regularly received as well as copies of "Hansard," which also are being perused by quite a number of the natives.

Palm Island Newspaper.—The "Palm Island News," commonly called the "P.I.N.," is becoming more popular and our circulation is round the 200 per week. Sometimes it is up to 215, while other times it may drop to 190.

Since our last report the Welfare Association purchased a Gestetner duplicator, and all the printing of the "P.I.N." is done on it. An attempt was made to produce a Christmas number, which was done in three colours. It turned out quite a success, and not one copy is left of 400 copies printed.

To make the paper more attractive sketches and other drawings have been included, and much valuable assistance in the art work has been received from the assistant storekeeper. It is now almost a year old, and correspondents are encouraged to send in contributions from any part of the Commonwealth. Several aborigines are acting as reporters on the island and supply the sporting news and social gossip as well as occasionally inducing one of their people to contribute an article of interest to the readers.

Some of the articles so presented dealt with memoirs of the early days of settlement on Palm Island, experiences of some of the residents both here and on the mainland.

To interest the children in reading the paper and becoming interested in their own affairs a children's page called "Uncle Martin's Corner" is included. Not only have the children at Palm Island responded but children from other settlements and missions have written in to Uncle Martin, and given quite interesting news of happenings on their Settlements or Missions. Competitions are frequently held for the children and many enter these contests.

It is hoped to add to this plant by purchasing a photographic plant to use in conjunction with it. Since purchasing this Gestetner the Welfare has produced all its own letter-headed stationery and done all the duplicating work required by the administration. It has been a good investment and is returning dividends of approximately 10s. per week on the weekly publication of the "P.I.N."

Arts and Crafts Show.—By far the greatest undertaking by this association is the holding of a two-day show. This took place in July last and proved a financial success. Boats from Townsville and Lucinda Point brought visitors both days of the show. The show was officially opened by the Honourable the Deputy Premier, Mr. Gair, and many prominent visitors were present.

Interest centred round the pavilion display, which was attractively arranged and contained unique exhibits of handicrafts, as well as a beautiful display of delicately tinted coral and shells of all shapes and sizes, while the farm display also attracted considerable attention. The school-work exhibits were of a high standard and well patronised. Ring events were mainly in the nature of native sports, and included dancing, spear and boomerang throwing, fire lighting, peeling coconuts with one's teeth, and other native pastimes. A wood-chopping contest aroused keen interest among the visitors, especially the wood chop for native women.

A very attractively illustrated schedule was printed, the cost of printing being covered by the advertising contained therein.

A special feature of this show was the one family exhibit, similar to the one-man farm exhibit one sees in country district shows.

A contest was also held earlier in the year to terminate when the show took place, and this included prize money totalling £30 for the best homes and gardens. Quite a number entered this contest, and some really nice homes and gardens were to be seen. A similar contest is to be held again this year, and already some of the homes are looking very nice.

To encourage a communal spirit among the people prizes are given for the best kept groups of cottages.

This year about 50 school children are trying their skill at gardening, and in some cases have taken over almost the entire gardens at their respective homes.

Christmas and New Year Activities.—As on previous occasions Christmas Cheer was given to the patients at Fantome Island. The band, a concert party and a party of axemen visited

Fantome and staged a wood-chopping contest, gave a concert, and treated the patients to many dainties—cakes and sandwiches, cordials, and ice creams.

The settlement Christmas tree on Christmas Eve was very popular and the tree looked very attractive with its many toys kindly supplied by the Department of Native Affairs.

The local hospital was not forgotten and a case of soft drinks was sent up to the matron for distribution on Christmas Day.

When the two schools on the island had their breaking-up festivities, this association contributed £10 towards a picnic for the children. This was much appreciated by the children of both schools.

I would like to place on record our deep appreciation of the interest in our organisation of the Hon. the Minister, Mr. A. Jones, and of the Director, Mr. O'Leary, whose untiring efforts on the natives' behalf are much appreciated.

I would like to express my thanks to the Superintendent for his co-operation and the support he gives us from time to time, and the members of the staff, who also have done much to help this organisation achieve the success it has done.

To the members of the executive and the various committees I also tender my sincere thanks and look forward to further success in the future.

APPENDIX 2.

CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.
(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. W. PORTEOUS SEMPLE.)

HEALTH.

	Male.	Female.
Patients in hospital first day of the year	11	15
Admitted to hospital	307	362
Births	16	27
Deaths	12	7
Discharged	311	389
Patients' days	4,521	5,120
Daily average	12.38	14
Doctor W. Monz, visiting medical officer—		
No. of special visits	41	
No. of weekly visits	52	
	93	
Minor operations	32	
Major operations	5	
Outpatients treated	6,325	
No. of visits	17,930	
Daily average	49.1	
Staff employed at hospital:—1 matron, 3 sisters, 21 native assistants.		
Births—		
Full-bloods—		
Boys	3	
Girls	1	
	—4	
Half-castes—		
Boys	14	
Girls	26	
	—40	
Total births	44	
Deaths—		
Half-castes—		
Males	5	
Females	7	
	—12	
Full-bloods—		
Males	4	
Females	3	
	—7	
Total deaths	19	

Causes of Death at Cherbourg Hospital,
1947—

Pneumonia	3
Measles and marasmus syphilis	1
Cardiac failure coronary sclerosis	1
Cerebral thrombosis	1
Tubercular meningitis	2
Prematurity	3
Toxic myocarditis and rheumatic myocarditis	1
Acute leukaemia	1
Cerebral haemorrhage precipitate confinement	1
Pulmonary embolism	1
Pneumococcal peritonitis	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	3
Deaths at hospital	19
Deaths at camp	1

EMPLOYMENT.

Number under agreement—

Males	50
Females	39
	—89

Seasonal workers—

Herbert Rivers Canegrowers' Association	31
Fairymead Sugar Co.	21
Hapsburg (Fairymead)	6
Peanut workers at silos	11
General peanut workers	50
Cordwood cutters	6
Forestry employees	9
Shire Council employees	3
Brickwork employees	9
Other casual employment	90
	—236

RAINFALL.

Total for year, 3,824 points. So much rain fell during November and December that it was impossible to cultivate and the ground was water-logged.

Stock.—Stock grazing 1st January on this settlement—

32 herd bulls
339 herd cows
76 steers
63 heifers
197 weaners
14 working bullocks
1 dairy bull
41 cows
27 weaner heifers
106 speyed cows
—896

Herd Bulls.—18 herd bulls sold realised £138 10s.

Sale of Hides—221 hides were sent to Brisbane for sale which yielded £206 18s. 10d.

Bores.—Boring was continued until September, 1947, when the plant was overhauled and sent to Foleyvale with the borer, Mr. Helmers, and his native assistant, Doctor Roberts. One bore was completed in the slaughter-yard paddock and a very good supply was found at 160 feet.

Branch Creek.—In Cherbourg and at the boundary of Watman's paddock another bore was sunk to a depth of 182 feet, where a very good supply was obtained. The bores equipped at No. 1 bore, Branch Creek, Well Paddock bore, Black Snake Swamp bore, and the Fisher's Dam are all giving valuable supplies of water.

Fencing Native Cottages.—New fences have been completed around the front and the back row of cottages, the front row facing the main street.

New Native Cottages.—Five cottages were completed during the year and two others commenced.

Roads for Hauling Logs.—Much work was done on roads to enable timber to be hauled to the mill by timber truck. Deep cuttings had to be made and bridges thrown across deep gullies, which entailed weeks of work. This included the use of tractors and bulldozers.

Domestic Water Supply.—The Worthington steam pump for pumping water to storage tanks was discarded and replaced by an electric motor with a 4-inch centrifugal pump belt. A small portion—namely, 1½ chain—of the raising main had to be made to connect with the centrifugal pump to part of the old main. This small portion was sunk down to a depth of 7 feet.

Improvements at Hospital.—Outpatients' dispensary: This was considerably enlarged; cupboards and presses were made for medicines and instruments; walls were lined with pine; water was laid on; wash-hand basins were installed, lead-lined with nickel taps. The whole of this dispensary was repainted. A separate entrance was also made which enabled the patients to get treatment without entering the hospital proper.

New Wash-house and Boiler: A 40-gallon boiler was bricked in with proper flue and fireplace. The wash-house was floored with concrete and the whole roofed over and made weatherproof.

Fluorescent Light: This was installed in operating theatre, thus giving proper lighting accommodation there.

Electric sterilisers were installed in the maternity ward, theatre, dressing-room, and outpatients' department.

Boilers for hot and cold sterile water have also been installed in the dressing-rooms and maternity ward.

Wireless Installation: The wireless was installed in the hospital office, with loud speakers in each ward and kitchen which could be controlled from the hospital office.

Dormitories.—Wireless installations were also placed in the older girls' dormitory and boys' home.

Butcher Shop.—This was all relined with fibro-cement with flyproof ventilators to give air. The whole of the interior was painted. New tables for meat were made, also flyproof safes.

Sports Ground.—Water was laid on to the sports ground, also the four native cottages adjacent.

Electrical Pumps.—Electrical motors and pumps were placed on the settlement for the domestic water supply and two for irrigation purposes.

Citrus Trees.—Approximately 400 trees were planted in the paddock near the stables and are showing good growth. These were kept very clean until December, when excess rain fell, with the result that nut grass, which is very prevalent there made heavy growth but is doing no harm to the young trees.

New Lawns at Hospital.—A commencement has been made to make lawns at the front of the hospital by the cartage of loads of black soil for top dressing to a depth of 6 inches, in which blue couch has been planted. More work has yet to be done in this respect.

Settlement Collections (1-1-47 to 31-12-47)—

	£	s.	d.
Savings bank	8,047	14	2
Maintenance	962	1	6
Beef sales	73	5	0
Rail fares	159	0	8
Electric light	47	9	2
Store sales	4,934	13	1
Store sales to officers	258	5	4
Sale of blood for inoculation	0	5	0
Sale of five pigs	22	0	0
Sale 16 bags of seed potatoes	14	8	0
Sale of 18 bulls	138	10	0
Native fines	7	10	0
Royalty on timber	2	16	0

Store Transactions—

Cash sales to natives	4,934	13	1
Sales to officers	258	5	4
Retail sales on order to natives	2,887	18	11
Free issue order to inmates, including groceries and clothing	936	18	2
Child endowment orders	912	4	3

Child Endowment—

Number of natives receiving endowment—109		£	s.	d.
Total endowment paid to natives	5,173	8	1	
Average monthly payments	390	5	0	
Savings bank balance, 31st December, 1947	5,123	16	7	

Sawmill.—326 logs were hauled to the sawmill during the year, from which 102,427 super. feet of first-class building timber were obtained. This should have been greater only repairs to sawmill and engine had to be made, also much time was lost at the latter end of the year owing to the difficulty of getting in logs owing to excess wet weather.

Timber sent to Woorabinda, 8,305 super. feet to erect a power-house.

Farm.—Oats and wheat were planted in Hegarty's Paddock and Muddy Flat, also Creek Paddock. These crops showed good growth and, not being wanted for hay, this was fed to the dairy herd as green feed; 27 acres were grazed. In shed paddock, 4 acres of sudan grass were planted. It grew exceedingly well and was a very good crop.

Vegetables.—Although late there was a good supply of vegetables from July onwards, which included—

2,500 cauliflower
4,000 cabbages
1 acre swede turnips

Thirty-two bags of these swede turnips were sent to Woorabinda, also beetroot, silver beet, &c. During August and September there were 4 acres of vegetables planted, which included French beans, 1 acre tomatoes, melons, squashes. During the excess wet weather in November, until January and February of the present year, this crop was severely damaged and was not harvested until late January and February.

CHERBOURG SCHOOL REPORT FOR YEAR 1947.

(Head Teacher, Mr. R. T. Crawford.)

Enrolment.—The enrolment varied from 264 in the first quarter to 258 during the last quarter. The mean quarterly enrolment was 261.25.

Attendances.—The attendances for the year were 23,375 boys and 24,435 girls, a total of 47,810.

The average daily attendance for the year was 111.8 boys and 116.9 girls, a total of 228.7. This was an increase of 7 on that for 1946.

The average daily attendance was affected by—

- (1) Some very wet days during February and March;
- (2) Colds and some sickness during the months of June, August, and September.

All factors considered, the attendance is considered quite satisfactory.

Conduct.—The conduct of the children attending school was quite satisfactory throughout the year.

Progress.—Generally satisfactory. The lower grades showed greater progress for the year. Staffing conditions affected progress during the earlier part of the year, and, even with staff increase, the third grades did not make as much progress as desired. However, towards the end of the year progress was good and, with staffing stability, it is hoped that this will be maintained during the coming year.

Domestic Science.—The domestic science section continues to operate satisfactorily. All students show keen interest and enthusiasm and all are showing good progress. The enrolment varied from 31 during the first quarter to 29 during the last quarter. Eighteen primary school girls received tuition on two days per week. The monthly returns show the various activities of this section of the school.

An average of 22 dozen scones and cakes were baked weekly and forwarded to the primary school as a contribution towards the daily 11 o'clock issue. Collections of cakes, scones, biscuits, jams, jellies, and needlework were made for exhibition in both Kingaroy and Murgon shows.

Luncheon was prepared and served to approximately 100 children competing in the district school sports. The official luncheon on show day was prepared and served by the students of this section.

The passengers on the Pioneer tourist cars are given an opportunity to visit and inspect the work of this section during the visits to the settlement each week. The girls of the Grades III B and II A receive weekly tuition in needlework.

Since its inception this section has trained 22 girls, who have been sent to outside employment, and it is pleasing to note that only two girls failed to make the grade outside. Of these two, one now appears to be settling down and should yet prove satisfactory. Some girls who received training here are filling positions on the settlement itself.

List of garments, &c., completed by girls attached to Domestic Science Section Sewing Room—

For Retail Store—

69 pair panties
12 children's dresses

For Hospital—

97 sheets
30 infant matinee jackets
11 playsuits
5 blouses
68 quilts
23 wardmaid's uniforms
53 nightgowns
12 aprons
109 covers

For Dormitory—

248 school uniforms
319 school blouses
140 dresses, s.w.
52 pair panties
20 children's dresses
2 pair curtains
2 pillow slips

For free issue—Indigents—

2 dresses, w.
2 children's panties—flannelette
2 children's petticoats—flannelette
2 children's vests
6 children's dresses

For Concert Party—

5 evening dresses—full length
2 slack suits—tap dancers
3 pair men's trousers
1 frock—flower girl
1 suit—page boy

For Settlement Show Exhibit—(Display at Kingaroy and Murgon Shows)—

1 child's dress
1 blouse
1 school uniform
1 patchwork quilt
1 woman's frock
1 maid's frock
1 ladies' linen frock
1 boy's suit
1 playsuit
1 girl's frock

Also red collars were fixed to the representative football jerseys.

Domestic Science Cookery Class.—This class supplied an average of 170 cakes and scones for children's lunches on two days per week during the early portion of the year, and when lunches discontinued supplied 22 dozen cakes and scones twice weekly for children during 11 a.m. recess.

Staffing.—As applied last year, quite a few changes occurred this year. Mr. Leach was transferred during the 1946-47 vacation, Miss Clyne was appointed temporary assistant teacher, and Mr. Burchill was appointed assistant teacher. Native staff was not stable: Violet Smith, Eileen Jacobs, and Beryl Bligh left for varying reasons; Darcy Cummings and Iris Hegarty were appointed.

It was only during the last quarter that the staffing was really stable and at its best. It is hoped that next year will find stability in this respect. All teachers attended regularly and devoted themselves in an earnest manner to the duties required of them. Godfrey Daylight, Jeffrey Doolah, and Angus Rabbit are proving quite good native teachers. It is felt that much more satisfaction will attend the employment of males if suitable males can be induced to become native teachers.

Cleaning.—All cleaning is done by the girls of the upper grades of the school. Classrooms and other offices are swept daily. Desks, forms, classrooms, and lavatories are scrubbed weekly.

Accommodation.—As previously obtained, all accommodation is at a premium. The temporary school building is still in use and must continue to be so until such time as a further building is added to the present school. The need for this extension should not be lost sight of, because present arrangements make adequate supervision difficult, and the administration not as effective as desired.

General.—The school was closed on: 23rd May, Murgon show; 21st July, in honour of visit of Lord Montgomery; 25th July, Cherbourg show; 5th September, District school sports; 20th November, in honour of wedding of H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth.

In the South-East District School Sports this school was again successful in winning the "A" class school championship. This school has been successful in winning this championship each year since the inception of the school sports in 1944, which is considered quite a creditable performance. Teachers, both white and coloured, gave much of their spare time to the training of the children in order that satisfactory results might accrue.

A sound-on film projector and equipment was installed during the year. Films are obtained monthly from the Department of Public Instruction. The children have shown a keen interest in this form of instruction and it is felt that the general knowledge of the pupils will be greatly extended by the use of this facility. Our thanks are extended to the Department of Public Instruction for their promptness in despatching the films so regularly and to the quality of the films sent.

The primary, manual training, and domestic sections submitted entries in all available classes in the Cherbourg show and were successful in annexing practically all of the prizes. General displays were included in the settlement display at the Kingaroy and Murgon shows. The manual training section entered in the competitive sections at the Kingaroy, Wondai, and Murgon shows and obtained 9 first and 4 second prizes.

The usual breaking-up festivities were held on the last day of the school year. The children were entertained with various games in the morning and luncheon was served in the school grounds. The afternoon was devoted to a special screening of suitable 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, both white and native, on all matters affecting the school, both during and outside of school hours. My thanks are extended to them. Our thanks are extended to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the Superintendent and Settlement staff, and the Settlement Welfare Association, and the natives generally for the assistance given to the school throughout the year.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION REPORT.

(President, Mr. H. R. Pascoe.)

I have pleasure in furnishing the third annual report of the Cherbourg Social and Welfare Association for the year ended 30th January, 1948.

This report will give some indication that the natives generally have taken a keen interest in the Association's activities, which are calculated to improve and stimulate responsibility by all, in the affairs of the community.

Meetings.—During the year 27 meetings were held and the regular attendance and lively interest shown by committee members was most commendable.

Finance.—The treasurer's report will show that the financial affairs of the Association are very satisfactory. Receipts for the year were £2,359 11s. 6d. Expenditure for the year was £2,311 17s. 7d. Balance in the trading account is £468 8s. 8d. Liabilities are £1,831 10s. 8d. Assets are £3,610 8s. 8d.

General.—The Association is responsible for all social activities for natives on the Settlement and little fault can be found with the conduct, in general, at any of the functions held. Although social activities are most prominent in the work of the Association, there has been a lot of time and consideration given to the less spectacular activities, where affairs of the native, both individually and collectively, have, after discussion with the Department, been improved in many instances. An interest is shown in those people, both old and young, who do not earn pocket money. The Association has provided free pictures for them throughout the year and remembered them at Christmas. A bus was hired to transport indigent children to the Murgon show and to the school sports; they were also provided with pocket money for both Murgon and Cherbourg shows. Fencing of cottages continued during the year, when 18 cottages were fenced. It was most pleasing to note that nearly all the cottages with fences had gardens. We want people to know that we appreciate their efforts in their gardens and we want them to keep up their endeavours to beautify Cherbourg.

The Association has co-operated with outside organisations, and in particular we have been pleased to conduct successful efforts for the Murgon District Ambulance.

The Association has endeavoured to improve musical talent here; two boys and five girls are receiving tuition in piano playing and their teacher has given a satisfactory report on each pupil. A costly piano-accordion and another banjo-mandolin augment the number of other instruments that are available for use by anyone showing an interest in playing musical instruments.

During the year considerable endeavour was made to inaugurate the Girl Guide movement on Cherbourg; however, the failure to obtain a Guider to control Guiding on the Settlement is the reason that this movement is not yet functioning.

During the year delegates from Cherbourg Welfare Association attended the annual shows at Palm Island and Woorabinda, and delegates from Woorabinda and Palm Island attended our annual show. A gift comprising a kitchen suite was made to the Woorabinda Social and Welfare Association.

Recreation Hall.—The most ambitious and progressive undertaking by this Association to date is the building of a new theatre, incorporating a balcony and a new stage with all modern conveniences; the new theatre is almost completed and although pictures are being screened in the theatre it is proposed that the official opening will coincide with the annual show. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in obtaining timber to complete the seating accommodation. The picture projectors are giving splendid service, and another amplifier has been ordered.

Christmas Festivities.—Christmas Eve was celebrated here as it is done in fairy tales. Under a blaze of 600 coloured lights the Christmas tree, laden with over 500 gifts and decorations, was a most spectacular sight. Gifts were distributed to young and old by the traditional Father Christmas. A number of visitors present, together with the local people, voiced the opinion that not only was it spectacular but it was also a most enjoyable and memorable Christmas celebration. The organisation of this function was done entirely and untiringly by the Welfare Officer, and we offer him credit for his efforts; we also offer thanks to his helpers, and to the Department for their financial assistance. New Year's Eve was celebrated in the new hall. Competitions, dancing, and gaiety delighted the many who saw the New Year in, under most pleasant and enjoyable conditions.

Show Grounds.—The old recreation hall will be removed to the show grounds, where it will be available as a show pavilion for future shows. New and improved drafting yards and a buck-jumping crush have been erected. Jack Thomas, who made an excellent job of these yards, is now building some horse stalls. New lavatories were built for visitors; the high ground on the ring and the race track were graded. It can be seen that endeavours are being made to provide all the facilities required for the successful staging of shows and sports meetings. It is also intended to build a dining hall, which will adjoin the main pavilion.

Welfare Officer.—The Welfare Officer, Mr. Rees, has carried out his work in a very conscientious manner; he has been unsparing in both time and effort to provide better amenities and entertainment; he has also shown a lively interest in the personal welfare of all natives, and he has done all within his power to remedy complaints. During the year he installed motion picture plants at Palm Island, Fantome Island, and Peel Island. His willingness to work long, late hours in the interests of natives deserves our unstinted appreciation.

Show Society.—The Show Society, under the very able leadership of Mr. Crawford, held a successful Annual Show during July, 1947. Among distinguished visitors present were the Hon. S. J. Brassington, M.L.A., Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, who opened the show; Messrs. B. H. Corser, M.H.R.; J. A. Heading, M.L.A.; Ald. T. A. Rasey, and Rev. D. A. Brown, Superintendent of Missions for the Presbyterian Church of Australia. The show itself presented an excellent example of the various work that can be done by the people of

this Settlement. All sections in the pavilion, including culinary, flowers, vegetables, fancy-work, schoolwork, and manual training, were of a high standard and would compare favourably with exhibits in any country show. In the ring events competition was not quite as keen as it was expected through a lack of horses. It is hoped that more horses will be prepared for the forthcoming show. On 25th October the society staged a one-day campdraft, open to all competitors; entries included some of the best camp horses and riders in Queensland. Among the many successful performances and horsemanship witnessed was that of some of our own stockmen. The Show Society is affiliated with the South Burnett Show Societies, and it has been arranged for this year's show and campdraft to be in the South Burnett sequence of these events. We would like to stress that the success of these events depends entirely on the willingness shown by everybody in the making and the preparing of exhibits. We wish to thank exhibitors for their past efforts, and also the show committee, who have a credit for the year of £90 for their successes both from a financial and Settlement point of view. We also thank Mr. Goodchild, whose keenness in Show Society affairs has so largely contributed to their successes.

School.—An amount of £75 was contributed towards the cost of a 16-mm. projector installed in the primary school. The Association also provided part of the cost of lunches for children competing in the district school sports. Pocket money was also given to Settlement children representing the district at the inter-district primary school sports held in Brisbane. A free picture matinee was screened for the school children on breaking-up day.

Football.—Under the presidency of Mr. Rees the footballers had another active season, when matches were played in Brisbane, Maryborough, Gympie, and Chinchilla, as well as matches throughout the district. The most notable success was the win over the Core Cup winners when the Maryborough Taxi-Drivers Shield was won outright by defeating Maryborough 18 points to 16 points. This Association has a sincere desire to foster the talent of the footballers; it also reminds them that the Association desires stricter attention to training and practice, and, most important, that as representative sportsmen of Cherbourg it is required that their personal good conduct and sportsmanship must be above reproach. By observing good conduct they will win a better respect for not only themselves but for all natives, and Cherbourg's welcome to all football fields would be assured.

Boxing.—Few tournaments were held here during the year. One very successful tournament was held on campdraft night. Cherbourg boxing teams have competed in outside tournaments on eight occasions; they are always popular, frequently successful, and their appearance contributes highly to the success of these functions, which are staged for charitable purposes.

Cricket.—On the cricket field Cherbourg has been strongly represented and has had a fair share of successes in the district association. Last season finished with Cherbourg gaining most points in the premiership competition; however, Murgon, who had the right to challenge,

defeated our team in the final. In the present season, not yet concluded, Cherbourg are possibly in the position where they will have the right to challenge for the premiership. We thank Mr. Coultas for the interest he has shown in cricket affairs.

Concert Party.—Under the very able and untiring direction of Mr. Rees, the concert party was practised into a very entertaining unit of artists. This party was able to stage very good entertainments at Maryborough, Kingaroy, Murgon, Goomeri, and Wondai. Press reports on these entertainments were excellent and highly encouraging. Pioneer tourists also offered many compliments on the shows staged for their benefit during the touring season, and numerous requests for return concerts have been received from towns visited. The concert party is talented enough to go on tour, and it is an excellent example to all white people of the interest shown not only by this Association but by the Department in the welfare of the people of the Settlement.

Appreciation.—Our thanks are due to and sincerely offered to the following:—The Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, whom we are always pleased to welcome at meetings and functions, for his interest and aid to the Association; to the Superintendent, for the help he has given; to the Treasurer, who has spent many hours keeping the financial records of the Association in order; to all other departmental officers who have shown an interest in expediting and furthering the aims and interests of this Association; to the Murgon Show Society for the help willingly proffered at show times; to all natives who have shown a willingness to do their share of work in the various sections, especially to those ladies who have given splendid service at stalls and at various functions; and to Secretary Jim Hamilton for his interest and attention to Association affairs. To Jack O'Chin the Association offers its appreciation for the many excellent jobs he has so willingly done for the benefit of all.

This committee has at all times, to the best of its ability, endeavoured to carry out the responsibilities of office to the general satisfaction of the people of Cherbourg and in a manner that has the approval of the Department.

The incoming committee should have the support and help of every member of this community. Every inmate should observe the laws of health, cleanliness, and good conduct and lend a helping hand in bringing about improvements in all branches of settlement activity. This Settlement has been set up as your home and this Association expects each member of the community to do his or her share to make it a comfortable, bright, and happy community in which to live.

In conclusion, I wish to express my personal appreciation to those people who have extended a fair measure of courtesy and help to me throughout the year: and to all members of the committee I extend my thanks for your loyalty, co-operation, and successful endeavour during the present term of office.

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WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT.

(Welfare Officer, Mr. E. H. Rees.)

Many of the homes have been fenced in, considerably improving their appearance. Also the insides of the homes have improved after a little talk with the people concerned. The children look clean and happy.

Gardens have been started, which make the surroundings look much nicer.

I would like to comment on the improvement of the conduct and dress of the natives at all functions held at the hall. It has been most pleasing to see the changes that have taken place throughout the year.

The picture show has proved its worth, not only as the means of getting funds but, from what people have told me, they have learnt a lot.

The concert party has improved out of sight and throughout the year has played in many towns and has been well received, and also has added to the welfare funds.

Football has also played its part in the Settlement progress and has helped to swell the Association's finances.

Natives have interested themselves in all sports I have put on and I hope to get the older people into much more sport in the near future.

Many improvements have been made at the hall regarding amplifiers and musical instruments, &c.

My work has been made very easy through the help I have received from the Superintendent at all times.

HYGIENE OFFICER'S REPORT.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. N. S. Garvey.)

Hygiene Officer's Report for period 30th June to 31st December, 1947.

Settlement Area.—The state of cleanliness and tidiness of the area has improved greatly during the above period. The native residents appear to realise now the importance of efficient household hygiene.

Sanitary Service.—This service is now carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner. The sanitary depot was extended in area and the burial areas are being marked out and smoothed down in a satisfactory manner. An attempt was made to construct a culvert at the gully near the depot but had to be abandoned owing to the absence of suitable vehicles for the hauling in of the required logs. This gully greatly inconveniences the efficient operation of the sanitary service and imposes great and unnecessary strain on the sanitary cart and horses.

Rubbish Depot.—A "controlled tipping" sanitary rubbish depot was instituted. The laborious task of collecting (and disposing of in the depot) the vast piles of carelessly disposed of rubbish is progressing slowly, but it is hoped that all such rubbish will be collected and disposed of in the depot before next summer.

Drainage System.—The hospital septic tank was cleaned out in July. The draining system was cleaned out regularly and close attention was given to the sludge-drying beds on the creek bank.

Cottages.—All cottages and other living premises were inspected regularly. The state of cleanliness and tidiness of the cottages, &c., has improved greatly. All possible assistance was given to the people in an endeavour to improve their living accommodation. More cottages are still required.

Slaughtering.—The slaughter-yard and butcher shop were regularly supervised. Any diseased or suspicious-looking meats were destroyed and the dangerously unhygienic practice of feeding the offal to dogs each killing day ceased on the threat of the dogs' destruction.

Dairy and Piggery.—Since being directed to supervise the cleanliness of these premises (15th July), they have been inspected regularly and suitable action taken where necessary.

Special Investigations.—Special investigations of native camps at Red Hill, Kingaroy, at Wondai Brick Works, and at other camps were carried out and reported as directed.

Personnel.—Close attention was given to the general health of the natives during the area inspections, and any person found suffering from any form of illness was sent to the hospital. On 4th December, a list of elderly people more deserving of better quality meat than they had been receiving was handed in to the office. It was also suggested on this occasion that a mincer be obtained, as minced meats would be more acceptable by these elderly people.

Infectious Diseases.—On receipt of notification of any communicable disease, all possible preventative measures were carried out to prevent further spread.

Veneral Diseases.—Inspections of male personnel were carried out regularly; ten men were found infected with gonorrhoea and treated; one man was found infected with syphilis and treatment begun.

D.D.T. Spraying.—All cottages and other premises were sprayed regularly with a 5 per cent. solution of D.D.T. in kerosene and all accumulations of water were treated with a similar solution. As yet no disease-carrying insect vecta (fly or mosquito) has been noticed.

ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

(Manager, Mr. C. S. Oliver.)

The Aboriginal Training Farm is 703 acres in extent and carries 103 dairy stock and 54 pigs. Permanent crops comprise 25 acres of lucerne and 5 acres of citrus trees, the balance of 120 acres of cultivation being used for the growing of cash and fodder crops.

The improvement in seasonal conditions as compared with previous years was put to good use and at the present time 50 tons of oaten and wheaten hay and 20 tons of lucerne hay have been conserved for the use of the dairy herd.

As in previous years, excellent results were obtained from potato crops, which furnish a substantial proportion of the farm's earnings. It is hoped to further extend returns from cash crops by the growing of onions, of which 6 acres are now planted.

Returns from the farm for the twelve months were—

	£	s.	d.
Proceeds of cream	740	10	9
Sale of pigs	437	2	11
Market crops (principally potatoes)	615	16	11
	<u>£1,793</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>

During the year the farm staff was increased with the appointment of Mr. C. S. Oliver as manager, and it is now possible to implement the policy behind the purchase of the farm—viz., the training of young aboriginals showing aptitude for the work in rural pursuits. Study of farm theory has not yet commenced, but at present twelve aboriginals are working on the farm and receiving practical training in dairying, pig raising, citrus growing, and general farming.

APPENDIX 3.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

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

HEALTH.

Hospital Report, 1st April, 1947, to 31st March, 1948—

	Males.	Females.
Remaining in	5	5
Admitted	290	350
Discharged	296	396
Births	15	22
	(Stillbirths, 1 male and 4 females.)	
Deaths	2	3
Remaining in	9	7
Total No. of Patients' Days ..	2,925	3,622
Daily average	8	9.896
No. of doctor's visits		51
No. examinations by Doctor ..		848
No. of out-patients		1,439
No. of treatments		24,090

The general health of the people remains very satisfactory and we enjoyed another year free from serious epidemics. The Settlement hospital has continued to maintain an adequate medical service despite the fact that there is still a shortage of white nursing staff.

INDUSTRIAL.

Pastoral.—The Settlement is carrying 3,027 head of cattle, and although the total rainfall for the year has been well below average, a careful and continuous policy of surface-water conservation has placed us in a position to face the winter with every confidence and little fear of loss.

Total rainfall for the year was only 20.77 inches, so it is very apparent that until such time as a sub-artesian supply is located continuous efforts have to be maintained to conserve the surface water. As anticipated last year, the Lily Creek dam has proved a great success.

During the year 683 head of cattle were branded—335 males and 348 females. This number may seem small, but that fact can be directly attributable to the severe drought conditions of 1946 and early 1947.

Eighteen horses were branded—six draught horses and 12 saddle horses.

Cattle killed for consumption by the Settlement inmates totalled 320.

Twenty herd-bulls were purchased during the year and one draught stallion. Thirty-two herd-bulls were transferred to Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement.

Dairying.—A dairy herd of 70 Illawarra cows and heifers was acquired from Cherbourg and these have increased the supply of fresh milk to a stage where there is ample for everyone.

Agricultural.—Considerable progress has been made in agricultural activities over the twelve months under review and the area under cultivation has increased to approximately 180 acres; thus, in addition to the 7 acres irrigation area, from which has been derived all fresh vegetable supplies to meet Settlement requirements, there is under cultivation 137 acres of peanuts, and the citrus orchard has been extended to 800 trees.

Peanuts.—Last year the cultivation of peanuts was considered to be at an experimental stage; the yield then being 700 bags; this year it is expected to be in the vicinity of 3,000 bags.

Citrus.—The citrus orchard has recovered from the setback received during the severe drought conditions and heavy frosts of 1946, and the menace of heavy frosts has been completely eliminated by the burning of sawdust fires. It is anticipated that favourable commercial results will be obtained from this orchard.

General produce, grown under irrigation, varies with the seasons and comprises cabbages, lettuce, eschalots, beetroot, carrots, radishes, sweet potatoes, onions, kohlrabi, turnips, tomatoes, cucumbers, cauliflower, and water-melons.

Sawmill.—This important plant was unfortunately only in operation for a period of seven months out of the twelve, owing to inability to obtain a sawyer; nevertheless, the total cut was 82,256 super. feet for a recovery of approximately 45,000 super. feet. A planing machine has been installed and considerable planing work has been done.

Buildings.—The building programme is of course closely linked with sawmill operations, but the timber supply was adequate to enable a vigorous building programme for the betterment of conditions of the inmates generally and for Settlement maintenance.

Employment.—The pastoral industry still absorbs the greatest number of employees and all demands during the year have been met, and, excepting in a very few isolated cases, to the satisfaction of both employer and employee. There is still a very acute shortage of girls for domestic employment, the demand far exceeding our ability to supply. We always have a long waiting list of applicants for this type of employee and there is little prospect of the position improving.

It speaks well for the girls that when they do go out to employment employers generally choose to renew agreements as they expire and the period of employment often runs into a number of years.

The amount collected in respect of wages for the year was £8,521 19s. 7d.

Exemptions.—In conformity with Departmental policy it was recommended that exemp-

tions be granted to nine persons during the year—six males and three females. Of the nine granted only one has been handed in and it is gratifying to report that the other eight appear to be making a success of life in their various places of employment.

GENERAL CONDUCT.

The general conduct of the population has been of a very high standard and only one crime of a serious nature was reported.

FINANCE.

Financial statistics are as under:—

Cash Collections:—

	£	s.	d.
Natives savings bank accounts ..	7,820	11	7
Settlement maintenance	701	8	0
Sale of farm produce (including peanuts)	273	2	6
Sale of milk	21	15	0
Sale of meat	88	14	8
Agistment	1	4	0
Stallion fees	4	4	0
Sale of hides	288	8	11
Fines, &c.	26	9	9
Total ..	£9,225	18	5

VISITING OFFICIALS.

During the year we were favoured with visits from the following:—Hon. A. Jones, M.L.A. (Minister for Health and Home Affairs), Mr. W. C. Ingram, M.L.A., Mr. R. H. Robinson (Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs), Mr. C. O'Leary (Director of Native Affairs), Mr. A. H. Scott (Visiting Justice), Mr. N. E. T. Pyle (District Inspector of Schools), Mr. W. Smith (Inspector of Machinery).

SCHOOL REPORT.

(Head Teacher, Mr. W. S. Jarrett.)

The number of children enrolled on 1st April, 1947, was 73 boys and 79 girls, a total of 152 pupils; while the enrolment on 31st March, 1948, was 77 boys and 86 girls, a total of 163. The numerical gain during the year was 11 pupils.

Classification of Pupils.—At the end of March, 1948, there were the following classes, the enrolment being shown in brackets after each class:—Preparatory Grade 1 (28), Preparatory Grade 2 (20), Preparatory Grade 3 (15), Preparatory Grade 4 (23), Grade I (21), Grade IIB (25), Grade IIIA (27), and Grade IV (4).

The Staff.—The teaching staff consists of two white teachers, five monitresses, one monitor, one woman who helps in the teaching of elementary needlework for two hours weekly, and one coloured man who assists in the teaching of vocational work to the boys.

The professional help received from the monitorial portion of the staff is slight.

A difficult staffing situation has arisen from the fact that the preparatory Grade 1 consists almost entirely of five-year-old pupils. There are 28 pupils in this grade. Nothing but the very finest teaching is effective with aboriginal children so young, and in an understaffed school the time and the teaching skill spent on these

young children are just so much loss to the children of higher grades. Only a very full staff of teachers could justify the admission of five-year-old aboriginal children.

A Suggested New Scheme.—In February, 1948, the Head Teacher submitted to the Department an educational scheme whereby the average age for commencing school would be 6½ years, and the average age at the completion of Grade IV. would be 14½ years. Under the suggested scheme the English and Mathematics would be the same as in the schools under the control of the Department of Public Instruction.

The scheme may be summarised as follows:—

Average Age of Admission to Grades shown in Next Column.	Grade.	Time in Grade.	Age at Completion of Grade Course.
		Year.	Years.
6½ years	Prep. I.	1	7½
7½ years	Prep. II.	1	8½
8½ years	Prep. III.	½	9
9 years	Prep. IV.	½	9½
9½ years	Grade I.	1	10½
10½ years	Grade II.	1½	12½
12½ years	Grade III.	1½	13½
13½ years	Grade IV.	1	14½
14½ years	Any pupils remaining could proceed with Grade V. work, as prescribed by the Education Department.		

Among the many advantages of the scheme is this: That teachers from the Department of Public Instruction could enter the school service of the Natives Affairs Department without having lost any appreciable familiarity with the work awaiting them. The scheme is being examined by the Department of Public Instruction.

Inspection.—In October, 1947, Mr. District Inspector Pyle, of the Department of Public Instruction, inspected this school, and in his report he made recommendations for increased staffing and for improved accommodation. Up to the present, effect has not been given to any of these recommendations.

Primary School Section.—The daily parades are orderly, and each morning before the children march into school they sing the National Anthem.

Within the school a full syllabus is attempted. The staff is qualitatively weak, but stupendous efforts are made to overcome defects.

English.—This is the most important branch of education. Reading is fluent, but, except in simultaneous reading, too quiet. Recitation, like reading, is too quietly rendered, and expression is not inspiring. Spelling, with few exceptions, is good. Writing is, in general, very neatly done. Oral Expression: The great difficulty here is to induce the children to speak out with clear, strong enunciation; the fault is not with their comprehension, but with their utterance. Written Composition: In the upper grades this branch of English is surprisingly good; in the lower grades many crudities have to be eradicated.

Mathematics.—Simple Notation is very good; repetition of tables is good, but exercises upon them are not so satisfactory. Mental Arithmetic is very sound in most grades, but in almost all cases the rate of working is still too slow. Written Arithmetic: Throughout the school this subject is satisfactory.

Geography and Mapping.—Mapping is very good. In Geography the most popular portion is that dealing with people in other lands.

Drawing.—Pastel drawing is taught, and some of the children show considerable artistic talent.

Scripture.—Bible lessons are taken from the authorised books as issued by the Department of Public Instruction. These lessons make a strong appeal to the spiritual side of the pupils.

Vocational Training—Girls.—The girls have one day a week for sewing. This activity includes knitting, fancywork and plain sewing, the taking of measurements, and how to use paper patterns.

During the past twelve months various articles have been made by the girls, as follows:—

46 frocks of various sizes, trimmed with tucks and coloured bindings. Some of these were made from the girls' own materials.

5 pinafore frocks.

7 babies' frocks, embroidered.

9 aprons, bound and embroidered by the girls. Several of these aprons were the girls' own.

25 pairs of bloomers, various sizes.

24 slips of various sizes. Some were scalloped and embroidered.

4 small boys' suits.

6 blazers.

3 cloth bonnets.

Knitting—

7 pullovers } all for girls from 12 to 14 years of age.
2 cardigans }
2 knitted tea cosies.

Fancywork—

9 supper-cloths, with crocheted edges

12 duchess sets

4 centres.

6 doilies.

3 pillow-shams

4 rag cushions

All articles had crocheted edges done by the girls themselves.

Boys.—During the period under review the following work has been performed by the boys:—

2 large drawers, with dovetailed front corners, and divided into several compartments; carefully fitted into the settlement store

15 folding deck chairs.

6 swing-back porch chairs

10 laundry trolleys

16 toothbrush racks

6 wooden soap-dishes.

6 wooden folding chairs.

8 towel rollers

7 axe handles

7 hammer handles

4 inkstands, made of ringed stringbark and french-polished

1 large cupboard for use in school, downstairs

1 lowboy

12 sanitary-paper holders

12 tree-guards, palings only

5 replacements of broken panes in school windows, and general repairs to desks and forms

Tin-smithing—

10 tin dishes, wired all round for laundry trolleys.

10 small articles of conical and rectangular constructions

13 large conical articles, consisting of kettles and funnels.

The Settlement Shows.—Every effort is made by the two teachers to induce the children to produce the best possible work for exhibition. The spirit of emulation that is aroused and the pride in work that results are evidenced by the high quality of work submitted. In this way the shows do a measure of good in the training of the children.

Adult Education.—The obvious need of many people in the Settlement prompted the Head Teacher, in November, 1945, to inaugurate a system of education for adults and for the older school children. The classes are held at night on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in alternate weeks, and on Monday and Wednesday in the intermediate weeks. The nightly session is of two hours' duration.

There is always a literature session, and many interesting books have been read aloud by the Head Teacher.

Part singing is taught, but as there is no piano, progress is disappointing.

Physiology and the anatomy of the human body make a strong appeal. The work is made as practical as possible; for example, after lessons on the circulatory system instructions on the arrest of bleeding are given.

In arithmetic, the four simple rules in vulgar and decimal fractions have been taught; and some of the students have learnt simple interest sums to the extent of finding the simple interest, the principal, the rate, or the time.

Miscellaneous lessons are given according to fancy or demand.

WOORABINDA SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President Mr. R. W. Naggs.)

The Welfare Association has had a very successful year, and the interests of the natives in their Association has been maintained with excellent results. The Association caters for all types of sporting activities, including football, cricket, and tennis, and many successful games with outside organisations have been played. As usual, the New Year's Day rodeo eventuated, and proved most successful. This type of recreation is particularly popular amongst the natives of Woorabinda Settlement, as the majority of the men are outstanding stockmen and rodeo performers. The Annual Show held on Friday and Saturday, the 28th and 29th May, was in effect the culmination of a most successful year. The following extract from the Palm Island News Publication admirably reports the success which attended the show:—

“Woorabinda's Third Annual Show, which was held on Friday and Saturday, 28th and 29th May, was officially opened by the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, who deputised in the absence of the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Hon. A. Jones, M.L.A.

“Mr. O'Leary congratulated the Superintendent, his show and welfare committees and the members of his staff on the excellent show that was staged. He spoke of the interest the Queensland Government has taken and is still taking in the welfare of the aborigines of this State and said that at a recent conference in Canberra the attention of all other States was directed to Queensland and its way of caring for its coloured peoples. He also paid a tribute to the work of the native welfare associations now functioning on all three Settlements and said how happy he was to be directly associated with them.

“The pavilion display was a vast improvement on last year and was really a credit to all who sent along their entries, which were nicely displayed. The local school was well represented and its exhibits occupied a considerable amount of space. Some beautifully made fancywork and other needlecraft captured the attention of all who passed through the pavilion.

“A non-competitive display of farm produce grown on the Woorabinda Settlement was an innovation and showed just what the soil was capable of producing. Occupying a central position was a stook of peanuts opened up to show visitors the heavy crop of nuts. Fruit, vegetables, farm seeds, and preserves of farm products were also included in this display and were much admired by all.

“Two other non-competitive exhibits came from the sister Settlements of Cherbourg and Palm Island and these too attracted considerable attention. Articles of furniture in the Cherbourg display and colourful exhibits of delicately tinted corals and pandanus weaving in the Palm Island display were the chief centres of attraction. It is hoped to organise a competitive display from each of the three Settlements next year to be staged at all three shows.

“The ring events attracted many people and bullock riding, horse events, and general sporting items were the things that thrilled the throng. An innovation to their ring programme was a wood-chopping contest. This was their first attempt at this form of competition and all the competitors were very keen. A similar contest for women was introduced and a dozen young women braved the ordeal and put on quite a fine impromptu performance.

“The weather was mild and wintry and a little dusty, but this did not deter from the enthusiasm of both the spectators and the performers.”

FOLEYVALE RESERVE.

Steady progress is being made with the development of Foleyvale Reserve, and now that work is approaching completion on unproductive but essential projects, such as provisions of roads to the property, construction of causeway over the McKenzie River, and the construction of a telephone line, available labour will be concentrated on ringbarking, fencing, and the clearing of further areas for cultivation.

Pastoral.—1,332 head of cattle are running on Foleyvale, a considerable portion of which will be sold as fats over the next six months. The policy of transferring young male cattle from Woorabinda to Foleyvale, where they are grown to maturity as prime fats, is proving much more profitable than the procedure followed before the acquisition of the reserve, viz., the selling of young steers as stores.

Development.—Steady progress has been maintained with developmental work, gangs of men being constantly employed at ringbarking, fencing, road clearing, &c., and the country has been opened up considerably.

Four boreholes have been drilled and so far with favourable results. Water suitable for cattle has been located in two bores at 182 feet and 255 feet. The results of samples taken from the other two at 153 feet and 252 feet are not yet to hand.

With further ringbarking and clearing these bores will enable the cattle to graze over a much wider area, thus increasing the carrying capacity of the whole and lightening the strain on river-frontage paddocks.

Agricultural.—Approximately 700 acres have been cleared for ploughing and approximately 500 acres are under cultivation. A crop of milo is ready for harvesting and good results are expected.

It has been plainly demonstrated that a success can be made of growing crops of the milo type under dry-farming methods in this area, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that assistance could be given to the "Food for Britain" project from this country.

Modern farm machinery has been procured for the experimental farm, thus enabling the aboriginal to learn modern methods of cultivating and harvesting and making him a more proficient employee when he is sent to outside employment.

General.—The causeway across the Mackenzie River has been completed and only a little work on the approaches remains to be done.

The Duaringa Shire Council has graded approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the road approaching Duaringa, and eventually a good road will be constructed right to the causeway. Gangs working on the reserve have cleared sufficient roads to ensure mobility at all times.

No serious floods were experienced during the year, and it is still evident that safeguards provided by the Department against flooding would be effective in any emergency.

APPENDIX 4.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

(Protector of Islanders, Mr. P. Jensen.)

The year under review has been particularly interesting, in that it marked a further development in the social organisation of the Torres Strait Islanders, both with respect to their industrial and semi-self-governmental activities.

The first post-war Councillors' Conference was held at Badu Island between the 24th and 27th September, 1947. The conference was opened by the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. A. Jones, M.L.A. Thirty-two councillors attended the conference, and from the business discussed it was apparent that the councillors realise the importance of effective administration, both departmentally and domestically, for the welfare of their people. Arising out of the conference was a development of considerable importance to this area. That development was—"The Government shall approve the appointment of a committee of three to represent the peoples of Torres Strait in discussions to be held in Thursday Island, or elsewhere, as may be determined with the Protector, on all matters concerning the general welfare of the islands." Also, at the conference, matters of vital importance to the development of the area were discussed with the Honourable the Minister and the Director of Native Affairs. The conference was an outstanding success, in that it again demonstrated the efficacy of the policy being pursued for the islanders' interests. Since the conference, and following the appointment of the delegates, three conferences have been held in Thursday Island, at which particular business was discussed and necessary action taken. Had these conferences not been held the progress and development so manifest in this area would not have eventuated.

During the early part of this year an unprecedented ingress of tidal water caused serious, and in some cases irreparable, damage to properties and gardens. The island of Saibai was completely inundated, whilst those of Boigu, Mabuiag, Badu, and Kubin were less seriously covered. Huge gardens were destroyed, which for the next year must remain unplanted.

Following the damage done at Saibai, all people there have decided to evacuate the island, and it is expected that this evacuation will be completed by the end of the current year.

During the year several families from Saibai evacuated to the Mutee Head area on Cape York Peninsula and there commenced what must rightly be termed a new life. The area now occupied by these people has no health hazards as existed at Saibai, and, above all, possesses unlimited scope for the development of agricultural activities. The development of this new area is a project on which is focussed the attention of many families now resident on totally unproductive Torres Strait islands.

HEALTH.

Although the general health of the people in this area has been good, some aspects of it are causing concern.

The majority of islanders have now reverted to the cultivation of gardens, and it is confidently expected that, following the consumption of garden foods, they will materially improve.

This Office has devoted considerable time and energy to the provision of new houses, and it is conservatively estimated that by the end of 1948 approximately 200 new homes will have been erected in this area.

The establishment of the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Thursday Island will prove a worthwhile institution.

The Thursday Island General Hospital has rendered valuable assistance in connection with both the treatment of the sick and advice to the medical aid posts established on the islands.

Schedule 1 shows statistics of the hospitals controlled by the Department in this area.

EDUCATION.

During the year three white teachers took up duty in the area. The benefits that arrive from having white supervision on islands are obvious. Too much cannot be expected of teachers for some time, as it will be necessary for them to make up the leeway occasioned by the war before any real progress can be made.

It has everywhere been recognised that elementary education conceived as a training for coloured people in literacy alone no longer provides an adequate preparation for life in modern society. The conviction is spreading that education must begin as early as possible and must carry the individual as far as his abilities permit. In addition, such education must be accompanied by measures aimed at the promotion of general health and social welfare.

That which contributes most to the permanence of institutions is the adaption of education to the form of government desired and practised within that institution. Education inevitably reflects the status of the society which it seeks to serve, and, consequently, it must play no small part in the future development of this area.

Any policies now compounded with respect to education will have a direct influence upon, and will be largely responsible for, the future of all concerned.

Adherence to a good system of education creates good natures. By good education is implied one that will, to a large extent, create interest and be a stimulus to the innate faculties that we know are possessed by most coloured peoples. Instead of bookish knowledge and information, individual development and growth by a richer and more meaningful syllabus, based on a gradually expanding environment, must be brought into effect. This promotion must come from activity, physical, and intellectual rather than from dull acquiescence and memorisation.

Experience has shown that the correlation of academic and industrial pursuits provide and produce insatiable interest for coloured children. It is realised that the recognition of ability may only become apparent after the peoples have had some concrete experience in the use of tools. As an aid towards this end, and also for the general good of the islanders, it is intended to establish a modified form of industrial school, the subjects to be taught to be part of the ordinary school curriculum.

During the year the secondary school at Badu Island was opened and pupils admitted from various Torres Strait islands. There are 23 students undergoing training at the college and the progress made has been greater than it was even dared to anticipate. At the end of the first term the students were submitted to a searching examination and of the 19 who sat 17 passed. Percentages gained ranged from 96 per cent. to

70 per cent. The future development of this school, especially when the dormitory is opened, will be watched with considerable interest for from it should come all the coloured staff required for the administration of the area.

Schedule 2 shows the school statistics as at the end of March, 1948.

MARINE INDUSTRY.

During the year 33 islander-owned boats operated and the following produce was won:—

Mother-of-pearlshell.—129 tons 18 cwt. 0 qr. 4 lb., valued at £74,956 10s. 5d.

Trochus.—184 tons 2 cwt. 3 qr. 20 lb., valued at £13,119 19s. 2d.

Total.—£88,076 9s. 7d.

The above amount represents actual cash paid to islanders and not the market value of the shell won.

Although the figures are lower than those won the previous year, it is pointed out that from 12th December, 1947, to the end of the year under review very little produce was won on account of the excessively bad weather experienced during that time in this area.

Schedule 3 gives details of the boats that operated their respective catches and earnings.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS.

So that interest in gardening would be stimulated, a concerted effort was made to develop a large scale farm on the Cowal Creek Reserve. The completed farm area has been netted with wire that was obtained free of all cost. The fence is wallaby and pig proof.

The people, working solely by hand, have cut, chipped, and cultivated approximately two-thirds of the total farm area. In this area are planted 800 banana suckers, approximately 300 to 400 of each having thrown three leaves; 1,300 casava plants, approximately 950 of which have grown to a height of 6 to 12 inches; 100 pumpkin plants to a height of about 8 inches.

Ninety rows of sweet potatoes, each row approximately 50 yards long, are growing, and it is anticipated that of these plants 10 rows will be ready to be dug towards the middle of next month.

Three by fifty yard rows of peanuts.

Three hundred pineapple plants have been cultivated and hilled. A further 400 have been reclaimed, and there is a further 500 plants to be reclaimed in the near future; this making a total of 1,200 pineapples in the garden.

It is intended in the near future to establish a pig run approximately 100 yards square. Sufficient galvanised heavy gauge mesh wire for this run has been secured, as has the necessary iron to erect a suitable shed.

The garden is a credit to the inhabitants of Cowal Creek, and will, for the rest of this year, supply them with more than ample garden produce.

ACCOUNTS.

The accounts held in this Office and their respective balances are as under:—

	Accounts.	Balance.
Natives	2,499	45,381 18 2
Missions	586	25,762 4 7
Child Endowment	534	6,348 8 4
Island Fund and others	44	4,922 0 5

Transactions on the above accounts for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1948, are as under:—

	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Balance at 1st April, 1947.	Balance at 31st March, 1948.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Torres Strait Islands and Missions	3,663	199,411 11 6	188,266 6 5	71,269 6 5	82,414 11 6

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year there were 204 live and 6 still births and 99 deaths, which is at the rate of approximately 41 and 20 per thousand respectively.

ARTS AND CRAFTS.

During the year several island families established workshops on their home island. These workshops give employment to a considerable number of men, and the output from the shops is increasing monthly. Particularly fine articles of furniture have been made at Darnley, Dauan, and Saibai Islands, whilst at Mutee Head and

SCHEDULE 1.
HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31-3-48.

	Saibai.					Badu.					Yorke.				
	Monthly Average In Patients.			Out Patients Monthly.		Monthly Average In Patients.			Out Patients Monthly.		Monthly Average In Patients.			Out Patients Monthly.	
	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.
April	0.2	2.2	2.4	150	334	1.0	1.5	2.5	184	480	1.0	1.0	2.0	90	124
May	0.5	5.2	5.7	244	793	2.0	4.7	6.7	194	756	1.2	2.2	3.4	101	120
June	0.6	3.3	3.9	188	768	1.8	2.4	4.2	158	739	0.8	1.0	1.8	100	137
July	1.8	1.1	2.9	227	1,175	2.6	1.4	4.0	188	668	1.0	0.4	1.4	182	383
August	2.3	0.7	3.0	249	645	1.2	0.2	1.4	210	780	..	..	..	98	101
September	1.9	0.7	2.6	110	467	3.0	2.2	5.2	196	572	2.0	3.5	5.5	38	49
October	2.1	1.4	3.5	233	1,184	3.4	4.0	7.4	248	944	1.4	3.2	4.6	72	96
November	0.4	..	0.4	135	367	3.0	3.3	6.3	234	752	1.8	3.4	5.2	78	126
December 1948	0.9	..	0.9	159	366	0.3	1.1	1.4	111	313	..	..	..	28	46
January	0.5	0.6	1.1	217	717	0.1	0.3	0.4	106	322	..	..	..	76	102
February	0.2	0.7	0.9	156	489	1.7	2.4	4.1	320	691	4.0	2.9	6.9	234	324
March	1.1	0.8	1.9	205	353	2.7	3.4	6.1	456	720	3.1	11.5	14.6	224	238
	In Patients, Daily Average 2.35					In Patients, Daily Average 4.14					In Patients, Daily Average 3.8				
	Out Patients, Number Treated 2,273					Out Patients, Number Treated 2,605					Out Patients, Number Treated 1,321				
	Out Patients, Number of Treatments 7,658					Out Patients, Number of Treatments 7,737					Out Patients, Number of Treatments 1,846				

SCHEDULE 2.
SCHOOL STATISTICS.

School.	Teachers.	Classes.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Badu	6	6	61	42	103
Boigu	3	6	23	23	46
Coconut	3	6	17	20	37
Cowal Creek	6	7	22	24	46
Mutee Head	3	7	19	26	45
Darnley	5	6	41	49	90
Dauan	1	5	11	8	19
Kubin	2	6	25	34	59
Mabuag	7	5	38	39	77
Murray	6	6	50	44	94
Naghir	2	5	5	7	12
Rennell	1	2	4	2	6
Saibai	6	7	37	39	76
St. Pauls .. .. .	..	5	37	26	63
Stephen	1	3	5	4	9
Yam	5	6	34	31	65
Yorke	4	5	22	20	42
Dauar	1	7	22	20	42
Thursday Island	3	5	71	67	138
	65	..	544	525	1,069

Saibai dinghies, showing first-class craftsmanship, have been made. Numerous articles of tinware have been made at Darnley, whilst at Coconut and Yorke fine examples of shell work and wood carving have been produced. At Boigu an attempt has been made to foster the art of the stonemason.

The development of these arts has meant the supply of furniture and other household articles to the islanders at moderate cost.

BEHAVIOUR.

The behaviour of the islanders and aboriginals under the control of this Office has been particularly good.

Several islanders were charged with drunkenness and other allied offences, whilst one was committed to imprisonment in his Majesty's Prison, Townsville, for assault.

APPRECIATION.

This Office conveys to the Director of Native Affairs, his staff, and the officers associated with the administration in this area, its thanks and appreciation for the ever-ready help and assistance that has been given during the past year.

SCHEDULE 3.

Boat.	Captain.	Number of Drifts.	Marine Produce Won				Value.		
			T.	C.	Q.	LBS.	£	s.	d.
Adelphi	Philip Nona	10	35	1	1	18	10,586	6	1
Petta	Tanu Nona	10	19	11	2	21	10,458	2	6
Cessa	Songhie Mills	9	31	18	0	18	8,789	9	7
Yannah	Byra Samuel	8	32	2	2	26	6,590	13	3
Nainga	Peo Tamwoy	8	23	14	0	0	5,833	0	4
Nancy	Sam Mosby	5	9	18	2	3	5,086	17	6
Caroline	Philemon Pearson	6	11	1	3	4	3,891	19	6
Kismet	John Morrison	6	8	2	1	3	3,312	6	8
Gloria	Henry Stephen	4	5	7	3	17	2,807	5	0
Maria	Frank Mosby	6	5	15	3	27	2,772	10	1
Loyalty	Mapoo Gela	6	15	9	2	8	2,335	17	11
Macoy	Paijai Pai	6	11	9	2	7	2,296	4	8
Sania	Salepati Sagigi	5	8	15	0	15	2,138	1	8
Millard	Nadi Anu	4	11	7	0	8	1,970	4	5
Seisia	Tumena Sagaukaz	4	3	7	1	24	1,667	11	5
Rebecca	Daniel Pau	4	16	0	3	20	1,648	9	7
Adai	Mataika Maza	3	26	17	1	20	1,546	17	1
Athalia (Gonah)	William Waia	4	2	19	1	27	1,517	9	1
Wakaid	Joseph Bowie	5	2	13	2	10	1,435	12	5
Thoran	Anau Mau	5	2	13	3	14	1,368	11	10
Yasa	Daniel Blanket	4	2	4	0	21	1,212	3	3
Danie	Solomon Nona	8	2	5	1	4	1,199	13	9
Sunrise	Tom Jack	3	2	2	2	18	1,139	14	4
Zunal	Charlie Gibuma	5	2	3	0	8	1,109	4	11
Darra	Jacob Matthew	5	1	9	2	2	753	13	2
Adiana	Guchen James	2	11	16	0	12	660	13	11
Cape York (Margaret)	Aaron Anau	2	1	4	3	26	627	4	1
Wakemab	Gasa Sam	3	1	2	0	27	573	13	10
Binibin	Jorpetai Wapau	3	1	0	1	27	523	16	9
Darlin	Japanea Hammond	3	0	18	2	18	499	2	0
Wadumo (Tom Mary)	Manasi Toby	1	0	12	0	10	307	0	0
Namaleta	Eesli Sagigi	3	0	6	3	9	178	7	6
Taocy	Lamico Gagai	1	0	2	3	1	70	10	4
Dinghy (M.O.P.) .. .. .	.. .. .	..	0	18	2	26	473	11	4
Dinghy (Trochus) .. .. .	.. .. .	..	11	14	3	1	694	9	10
							£88,076	9	7

Tonnage figures include both M.O.P. and Trochus shell.

APPENDIX 5.

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

(MANAGER, MR. J. WALLER.)

I have pleasure in presenting on behalf of Island Industries Board, Thursday Island, a report on its activities for the year ended 31st March, 1948. The serious change-over from war-time conditions and aftermath were not so noticeable as in the previous year, and the Board has continued in a less spectacular form than was the case in the preceding year. One of the biggest problems confronting the Board has been the difficulty of obtaining staff to meet the expanding needs and the retention of staff once it was secured. Only one member of the Board's staff as at the beginning of 1947 now remains in the Board's employ, indicating the many changes that have taken place.

The full operation of the Board's slipway has necessitated the employment of a storekeeper for that section, whilst the taking over from the Director of Native Affairs and the Protector of Islanders of all shell transactions made it necessary to appoint a storekeeper-clerk in that Department, extra office staff being required to cope with the added work. With two powered boats in operation two white engineers were necessary, and the Board is now employing a shore engineer. Helped by the untiring efforts of the Chairman, Mr. P. Jensen, staff difficulties have been successfully met from time to time.

With the object of offering some amenities for staff the Board obtained a large dwelling

for £1,200, and this is used as quarters for single men employed by the Department, and the Department has extended the same privilege to the single men employed by the Protector of Islanders. The Board also purchased two smaller dwellings which, when they were renovated, were available for married men. Negotiations are at present in progress for the purchase of another dwelling for the use of the manager.

I reported last year that two powered vessels had been purchased, and with both these vessels operating, the problem of maintaining regular supplies to the island stores was overcome. The "Dell," which was not a new vessel when purchased, began to develop engine trouble after twelve months' solid work, and it was found the engine required a major overhaul. The task of obtaining spare parts was difficult, resulting in a lengthy lay-up of the boat. Fortunately, the repairs are almost completed, and the "Dell" will soon be on the run again. During the hold-up advantage was taken to alter the superstructure and have the hull repaired.

Considering the nation-wide shortage of most commodities, the supplies have been forthcoming in most cases in ample quantities, and much thanks for this is due to the Director and his staff, also the State Stores. Twelve months ago the obtaining of many commodities was wellnigh impossible, but inquiries were made through many channels and the findings were passed on to State Stores, who acted on same, thus overcoming many difficulties. Purchases and sales figures for the twelve months under review are incomplete at the time of compiling this report.

but present indications are that last year's figures of £79,754 and £111,434 respectively will be surpassed.

During the holdup the Board had to work hard to overcome its lack of regular supplies from Brisbane. With the aid of small supplies of a few lines from Cairns, and by judicious transferrings of any surpluses at some islands to others where shortage might occur, the position was eased. The fact that not one island reported shortage of essential goods speaks for itself.

The Board's slipway, which had only commenced to function in the early part of 1947, has carried out some excellent work. During the last twelve months 23 vessels were slipped, and whilst many were for minor repairs three of them were practically rebuilt from the keel up, others requiring major overhauls. The work has been of a high standard, the only complaints resulting from faults developing due to the necessity of having to use at times timber that had not had time to season. At one time six vessels were on the slip, but experience proved that two is the convenient number with three as the maximum. At the moment there are four boats still to be slipped for major overhaul and three for minor repairs, but the rest of the fleet of forty-odd can be regarded as being in good working condition.

In the marine section the Board has had to keep a watchful eye on the world market. With trochus price showing a downward trend the Board reversed its previous year's policy and encouraged more fishing of pearlshell. Realising that the high prevailing price for their commodity would drop, the Board secured a contract at a fixed price for a large portion of its yearly output. By this we were able to offer a guaranteed price to the islanders for 1947, and the wisdom of this action was demonstrated by the subsequent drop in the price. Following the non-working of the pearlbeds during the war, pearlshell was obtainable at reasonable depths for a while and the skin divers held their own with those using helmets. With the fast-diminishing shell at these depths skin divers began to find it difficult, and to overcome this the Board purchased sixteen pumping outfits. Eleven have been installed, the other five being held pending arrival of airline hose. The activities of these vessels were watched and the results proved that island-owned boats, given the proper equipment, could produce shell in large quantities, dispelling the opinion held by many that it was necessary to import foreign labour if the shell industry was to be revived. For the beginning of the season the weather has been against the pearling industry, so encouragement was given to the boats to work trochus. Price offering for this commodity has been fair, but sufficient to offer inducement for the boats to operate. For the year, 141 tons of mother-of-pearl and 203 tons of trochus were handled.

The Board endeavoured to revive the mining of wolfram, but it is regretted that despite the promise of a satisfactory price the response has been far from what was anticipated—only 6 cwt. have been brought to the Board's premises. With the price of marine produce so high it is only natural that the islanders would prefer to follow the diving trade; but now the shell price

is showing a down trend it is hoped that the wolfram trade will show signs of revival.

The cyclone which occurred at Thursday Island in January, 1948, did little damage to shore installations, but some damage was done to boats in the harbour. The damage in this direction would have been much greater had it not been for the courage and seamanship of Mr. D. Ward, captain of the Board's vessel, "Reggie P," and his crew. At the height of the disturbance the vessel was got under way and as vessel after vessel broke away from the moorings the "Reggie P" managed to take them into tow and bring them back to safety. The Board justifiably felt proud of its vessel and crew and it was gratifying to know that their efforts were appreciated by the many letters of thanks and congratulations that were received.

During the year we were pleased to receive a visit from the Minister, the Hon. Mr. A. Jones, M.L.A., who was accompanied by the Director, Mr. C. O'Leary. The Minister's visit to some of the islands gave him a direct insight into the Board's activities and would no doubt be of great help to him in his task of the administration of the Torres Strait Islanders Act.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to the other Board members, Mr. P. Jensen and Mr. T. Hickey, to the Director, and his staff for their assistance and advice during the year.

APPENDIX 6.

YARRABAH MISSION.

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

The members of the staff at the end of the year were as follows:—Rev. C. G. Brown (Superintendent), Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Bates (Farms), Mrs. Turner (Child Welfare), Sister M. Stanley, C.A. (Hospital), Mr. J. Owen (Store), Mrs. J. Clarke (Matron), Mr. R. W. Bates (School).

Mr. J. Maddsen (School) left the Mission in January and Rev. R. S. Campbell (Chaplain) at the end of the year.

HEALTH.

Epidemics—Measles, T.B. 1 (treated at Cairns Hospital). V.D.—Gonorrhoea 3 (treated at Cairns Hospital). In-patients at Mission Hospital, 252; outpatients daily average, 10; births, 20; deaths, 15; dental extractions, 93.

A Baby Clinic has been established and a child welfare officer appointed.

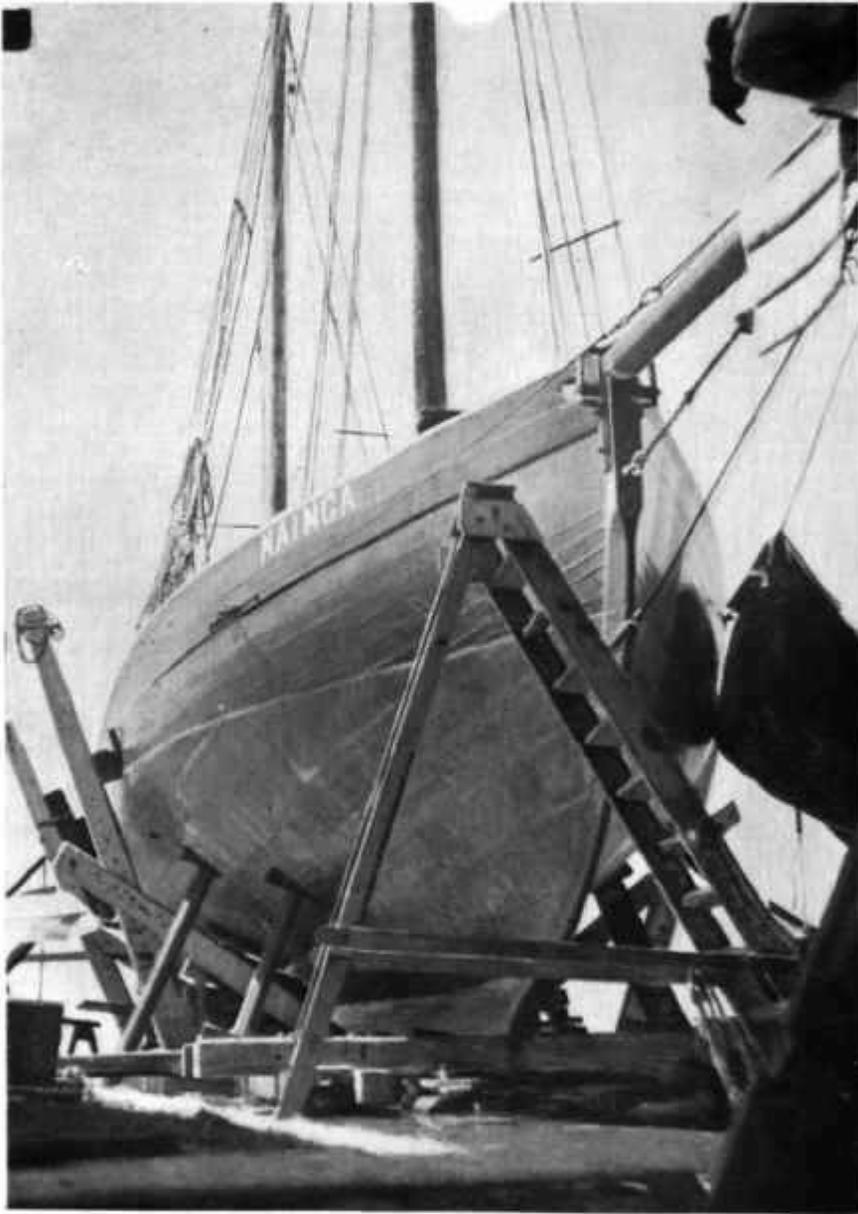
Mass treatment for hookworm was given once during the year. An annual inspection of the sanitary system was made.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE.

This has been satisfactory. One youth was removed to a Government Settlement for misconduct.

EDUCATION.

There are three schools on the Mission. The schools were open 198 days. Average number on the roll was 131, average daily attendance 111.



Island Industries Board Boatslip—Lugger Repairs Completed, Ready for Sea.



Native Stockmen, Mitchell River Mission.



Native Stockmen, Lockhart River Mission.

INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

These include—Workshops (blacksmith, tinsmith, plumber, wheelwright); sawmill (worked 2½ months); logs cut, 95; timber sawn, 17,685 super. feet. Building—The following buildings were erected:—1 church, 1 store, 1 workshop, 1 single men's quarters, 1 barn, 6 native houses. Staff house, matron's quarters, main workshops, and timber shed were roofed with corrugated iron.

FITZROY ISLAND.

Military buildings on the island were bought by the Mission and partially removed.

FARM PRODUCE.

Sweet potatoes, 14 tons 18½ cwt.; pumpkins, 4 tons 8½ cwt.; tomatoes, 17½ cwt.; green vegetable, 6½ cwt.; cucumbers, 1½ cwt.; bananas, 1 ton 13 cwt.; papaws, 2½ cwt.; melons, 6 cwt.; beef, 2,036 lb.; pork, 1,910 lb.; shellgrit, 163 sugar bags.

RELIGIOUS MINISTRATIONS.

Church services are held daily, morning and evening. Sunday School is held regularly. Mothers Union meets monthly. Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, 455. Communions made, 6,384; baptisms, 32; confirmed, 31; marriages, 11; burials, 15.

APPENDIX 7.

LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

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

Mr. H. E. Johnson (Superintendent), Mrs. B. M. Johnson (Hospital Matron), Miss A. Hann (School Teacher), Mr. J. Callope (Cattle Manager).

RELIGION.

I am pleased to report that the Rev. A. E. Biggs has been appointed Chaplain and will commence duty in the very near future. This is very gratifying to all, as the spiritual ministrations of the Church will now be regular and not spasmodic as they have been in the past, owing to the failure of the young priests of the Church to offer for work in isolated places such as the Missions of the Church. Father Biggs is a man of mature years and experience, who during the war years served among the troops in places where there were natives, so will not be a stranger to their ways and customs.

Two visits were paid by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese to the Mission, and 47 candidates were presented for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

HEALTH.

The health of the Mission has been satisfactory. All villages are now on the hillside, away from the beach and swamp. The married women and girls receive instruction in personal hygiene, and expectant mothers attend the hospital regularly and receive instructions in pre-natal and child welfare duties. We have and

are benefiting by the extra work entailed in this work, in the splendid physique and health of the infants and children. School children receive a daily dose of dugong oil and attend the hospital daily, and with regular examinations we are now free of skin diseases, both among the children and adults who live on the Mission.

Our death rate exceeds the births, but this is natural on a place like Lockhart River, where all old people from the east coast come in to live when they are too old to hunt and fend for themselves.

BUILDINGS.

Twenty-eight new houses were built, as it was considered necessary in the interests of the health of the people to move two villages from the seashore and one from near the swamp to higher ground; this entailed a great deal of labour, but the work has proved worth while, as all villages are now on the hill or hillside and within easy access of each other, thus assisting in the breaking down of old tribal enemy and establishing the community spirit.

CATTLE.

Our stock losses have again been high, owing to the continued drought as reported in my last report, the general state of the country in this section of the State being almost bare of stock food, and conditions were not improved by the prevalence of the buffalo fly, which is a great menace to the stock, and owing to the shortage of water we had to keep the stock near the seafront, where the weakened cattle made a feast for the crocodiles. New fences and yards have been erected on the Sefton country, where the majority of the stock are now running, and as this area is free of crocodiles we look forward to an increase in numbers of both cattle and horses. New cowyard and bails were erected during the year, and a large new stockyard will be completed in a few weeks' time. For a number of years the seed of the wild lucerne, or better known as Townsville lucerne, has been gathered and scattered about the reserve, particularly near headquarters, and mustering yards where an excellent crop is growing. In and around the home paddocks the lucerne is outgrowing the grasses, thus ensuring a plentiful supply of good feed during the dry period of the year, particularly from September to January.

SCHOOL.

School was reopened in July, and the children are showing a marked improvement under the capable hands of Miss A. Hann, who is assisted by two male natives. The number on the roll is now 61, with a daily average of 61, absenteeism being unknown among our children, as they are so keen on school; in fact, a number of infants have had to be sent home.

CONDUCT.

This has been good, and with the return of all but a few of our men to the northern section of the Peninsula from Cairns and hinterland the ill-effects of the lack of control whilst away on work during the war years is greatly diminished, and no serious breach of discipline has occurred.

EMPLOYMENT.

As the price of marine produce has remained stationary, more luggers are operating than previously. The demand for men and boys greatly exceeds the number available, although only those men and boys for whom it is essential remain to carry on the work of the Mission. Further, with all labour for land and sea work being signed on here or at Thursday Island, and all wages paid to the Native Affairs Department on the island, one is able to keep a check on the whereabouts of those under our charge and arrange that they visit the Mission periodically, thereby improving the morale and conduct of the people. No complaints have been received as to breaches of discipline of men or boys in employment.

GENERAL.

Classes in native crafts, mat and basket making, have been conducted by Mrs. Johnson, and a ready sale made of all articles produced. The wisdom in paying child endowment to the parents of the Mission is shown in the keen interest taken and improved living conditions prevailing among those receiving this monetary benefit; also in assisting the parents in being self-reliant and capable of maintaining and managing their own and family affairs.

NATIVE CUSTOMS.

The people are encouraged to retain their tribal customs, particularly as to languages, bush craft, and hunting on the sea. Holidays are granted regularly to allow the parents and children to live in the bush, and hunt, thereby ensuring that the growing generation do not lose the benefits derived from native foods and game, and preventing the all-too-prevalent idea of living on white man's foods to the detriment of dental, general health, and stamina. Regular hunting parties are organised for the catching of turtle and dugong. With the almost complete absence of mines—only 30 being located during the first nine months of the year and none since February—dugong are again very plentiful in these waters, as many as six being caught by one party in a night. Turtle have also been very plentiful. Wild pigs are increasing in numbers, guns being allowed for the hunting of these beasts; but the use of firearms in hunting other wild game and Torres Straits pigeons is forbidden.

With the addition of an average of two bullocks a week being killed, the meat issue has been well above the average. To save waste the people have been taught and encouraged to salt dugong, thus preventing the waste of a valuable food.

APPRECIATION.

From time to time we learn through the press and the radio of the efforts of the Queensland Government to improve the conditions and status of the native inhabitants of the State, and one cannot conclude this report without expressing appreciation on behalf of the natives of the east coast of Cape York Peninsula and myself, of the ever-ready help and assistance, both materially and financially, of the Director of Native Affairs in assisting me in improving the conditions of the natives under my charge to take their rightful place among the white inhabitants of the State.

APPENDIX 8.

EDWARD RIVER MISSION.

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

Steady progress has been made during the past year in the work of civilising the natives of this area. The advance the men have made in house building and agriculture is very encouraging. They take an interest in this type of work and much less supervision is needed. During the past few months making canoes has been in progress with very good results, the craft being large and well designed. Canoes are quite an asset, especially in this country of many tidal rivers and streams, where much fish abound, as well as for fishing in the sea off shore.

The women have become quite proficient in the art of matmaking and basket work, the material used being obtained from the leaves and fibre of the pandanus and cabbage-tree palms.

Conduct on the whole has been good. Practically the only trouble was due to puri puri or sorcery. One removal was carried out as a result. To suppress puri puri is no easy task, and much tact and watchfulness is needed.

As a recreation corroborees, especially those dealing with the past history of the tribes, are very popular. Talks and acting of past events by the old men are very attractive to the younger generation, who listen intently to them. Corroborees, apart from historical ones, are also popular, and consist of a series of pantomimes depicting the comical side of life and are very well got up. The health of the community has been good. No serious epidemics have occurred.

The Superintendent is still without any white assistant, but valuable help is given by the natives themselves. It is to be hoped that white assistance becomes available as the Superintendent has not had a holiday for some years.

Agriculture has been profitable and much food has been grown in the gardens. The coconut plantations are making satisfactory growth. The earlier planted palms are now producing nuts.

Births 9, deaths 2.

I should like to express my appreciation to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their ready co-operation in the advancement of the mission and the welfare of the natives.

APPENDIX 9.

MITCHELL RIVER MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. F. W. CURRINGTON.)
STAFF.

Reverend H. A. Norton (Priest), Miss R. Wall (Head Teacher), Sister E. Roach (Hospital Attendant), R. Barr (Cattle Manager). We also had Mr. W. Whitlow as assistant with us for a short period, but he is at present away on leave.

HEALTH.

Very good. Sister Roach is in charge of the hospital and reports that there have been no epidemics. Coughs and colds very mild. Two cases of V.D. reported and treated. One case



"Francis Pritt 111," Church of England Mission Lugger Unloading at Mitchell River Mission.



Carrying Stores from Landing, Mitchell River Mission.



Native Grass House, Mitchell River Mission.



School Children, Mitchell River Mission.

(suspect) of T.B. seen by flying doctor and is to go to Thursday Island for X-ray. Children under 10 years were given diphtheria injections. Hookworm treatment given to school children and several suspect adults. Out-patients treated, 3,751; in-patients, 51.

RELIGION.

It gives me great pleasure to report that we now have Rev. H. A. Norton with us as chaplain. Church services are held daily, morning and evening. Holy Communion is held Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. We have had several visiting chaplains during the year (when we were without a permanent priest), for which we are most thankful.

CONDUCT.

Very good. No removal orders asked for. The older people are instructed to keep order in all villages.

GARDENS.

The crop of sweet potatoes this year is very successful (though we are unable to purchase any wire netting to keep out the wallabies). Total area under cultivation is approximately 12 to 15 acres. The people also in their different villages have taken a keen interest this year in their own little private gardens, which is certainly very good. The vegetable garden also is looking very promising.

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Twelve new cabbage-tree houses built and quite a number repaired. The standard of living has been raised considerably. The old gunyahs are gradually getting less.

INDUSTRIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Cattle continue to do well. A number already have been sold this year, and to date over 1,200 calves have been branded. Twenty foals were branded; 180 bullocks were killed during the year for home consumption. Two tailing yards and one branding yard built on the run and a new dip was installed.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

A new building was erected as private quarters for Miss Wall and Miss Roach. As timber and material are almost impossible to procure at the present, this building was made from bush timber and cabbage-tree. The cabbage-tree covering proves very satisfactory during the hot months of the year.

The 500 yards which has been added to our main landing strip is almost completed, making the total length now 1,560 yards.

During the year the new "Francis Pritt III." was purchased and is now on our run from Thursday Island bringing supplies here regularly.

EMPLOYMENT.

Demand for stock boys extra good, and all boys that are suitable are out on employment. I might mention that a number of our boys have been with their same employer for over ten years, which speaks for itself.

SCHOOL.

Miss R. Wall, B.A., Head Teacher. Assistant native teachers, Leah Minyolk, Venus, Melba, and Doreen.

Miss Wall, Head Teacher reports the following:—Total attendance, 17,953½ days; number of days, 208½; average attendance, 86.1.

During the year there have been 90 children on the roll, so the attendance is excellent. Steady progress has been made in all schoolwork, and the standard is gradually improving. Three children completed Grade IV. standard. Two boys left in April to attend St. Paul's High School, Moa Island. They are the first to leave this Mission in order to go on to higher education. It is hoped that they will return to be teachers here. Teachers constitute our gravest problem. The present policy of using untrained girls is definitely retarding educational development, and with so many children there is little time in which to train them myself.

On 1st September, 1947, an Arts and Crafts Show was held, the exhibits being handicrafts (native and introduced), cooking, and school work. The school section created much interest and was of quite a fair standard. Besides writing and drawing, sewing and knitted articles, mats, fans and bags were displayed by the girls, while the boys showed native weapons.

The show was the first of its kind held here for many years, and it is hoped to make an annual event and gradually to extend the range of articles exhibited so as to encourage in the people more skill and originality.

The children's garden was quite successful but was necessarily limited because of lack of water supply. A good crop of sweet potatoes was raised, fifty young papaw trees and a number of banana suckers were planted out, and the vegetable garden repaid us for our efforts.

PROJECTED IMPROVEMENTS.

We hope very soon to have a new water system for the three native villages, the dormitory and staff quarters. In this the water will be drawn from wells which cannot as easily be polluted as the river.

Another necessity to which we hope to attend very soon is the building of a new church to take the place of the one which was blown down. Since that disaster we have been using the underneath of the school as a church.

Two other things which will be of immense help to us all are an epidiascope and a church organ. We are anticipating, most eagerly, the arrival of both.

RECREATION.

Football, cricket, and general sports organised. The people are encouraged in every way to keep up their native corroborees, fishing, camping, and hunting, and are given time for hunting. The children also go hunting on their own, accompanied by one adult, every Saturday.

APPRECIATION.

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

APPENDIX 10.

MAPOON MISSION.

(SUPERINTENDENT, MR. F. A. CANE.)
STAFF.

Acting Superintendent, J. B. Hartshorn;
Acting Matron, Mrs. J. B. Hartshorn.

Mr. F. A. Cane has taken up work for the Church in Thursday Island, and I took over at a short notice on 10th March this year, so I am afraid that I cannot give a very comprehensive report from personal experience. I will do my best with what I have seen here and from records and will submit a more detailed report next year.

SCHOOL.

Attendance is good. Number on roll, 64; average attendance, 56.3. The lack of a trained white school teacher is a disadvantage. At present Mrs. Hartshorn is supervising the school-work, and the native women and junior teachers are doing good work—considering their own limitations—and they maintain very good discipline with the children. Apart from normal correspondence lessons, the children are taught crocheting, fancy needle work, fan making, and Mrs. Hartshorn has started the girls on knitting. I am taking the boys for freehand drawing, and hope to start classes in elementary carpentry very soon. However, shortage of tools is the immediate problem in this matter.

HEALTH.

This has been generally good, and there are no epidemics to report. The usual cuts and sores have kept the dispensary busy. The children are given a dose of dugong oil every second day, and this oil is available for the older people as they need it. The cold weather is coming on here now and a lot of the people are suffering with colds.

EMPLOYMENT.

Approximately 20 men are engaged in the cattle industry in the Normanton and Croydon areas; 5 are employed on pearling boats from Thursday Island, and 2 are employed at a timber mill on Cape York. Five of our men are employed on our Mission launch and 10 men are employed on Mission cattle work in this area. An average of 7 men per week are employed in our Mission garden.

INDUSTRIAL.

The cows here are milked each day, and at present are yielding enough milk to enable us to give to all families with children and also to give the school children an issue each afternoon. We kill a bullock each week, and most of the meat goes in feeding the school children.

Garden.—The garden looks promising this year. We are already gathering good numbers of sweet potatoes. Fresh banana suckers and pineapples have been obtained and planted out and are coming on well. I have started to enlarge the garden and to cultivate new ground and hope to see some big crops in the near future.

AIRSTRIP.

The airstrip is kept in good serviceable condition, and ready for use by the flying doctor if required.

HANDICRAFTS.

The women are making fans again, and many are busy on crochet and fancywork and some are making feathered flowers.

SOCIAL.

The usual games and recreation have been enjoyed by the people; the arrival of a soccer ball has brought new life to men, women, and children alike. They really enjoy a good game and are very quick and clever. No new homes have been built and few existing homes have been repaired because of lack of suitable materials. Iron is required mainly.

We still have a large majority of young women here, with a scarcity of eligible males, and the suggestion of last year's report is repeated and endorsed—that is, that young single Mapoon men who are away down the Gulf or in Thursday Island working, should return here for a period each year.

DISCIPLINE.

This is very good; the native police and the councillors have been doing a good job and perform their duties well. Police uniforms were again supplied this year.

SPIRITUAL.

Church attendance has been good and this is quite a lively part of Mission activity.

THANKS.

On behalf of Mr. Cane and myself, I wish to express my thanks to the Department, the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for help shown and given, also the Protector of Islanders, 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.)
HEALTH.

Apart from consumption, the general health has been fairly good. Consumption is a grave danger to the people of this Mission. Every effort is being made to combat the trouble by good feeding, as much milk as possible, and the administering of dugong oil. Unfortunately, by the time the disease is recognised it is too late to do anything much to help the sufferer to get better, as the disease has obtained too firm a hold. Further, those who are diagnosed as having the disease are a menace to the health of the others. It is an impossibility on the Mission to secure complete isolation of the sufferers. Isolation is completely foreign to the native idea, and they cannot be made to understand the danger of infection so that they will willingly co-operate to prevent the trouble spreading to others. It is hoped that soon it may be possible to have all the people X-rayed so that steps can be taken in time to effect a cure or at least to prevent the infection of others. I believe that if consumption can be brought under control the population of this Mission will increase rapidly, as the births far outnumber the deaths.

The Mission had an epidemic of scabies which came up from the bush area. This spread practically through the whole Mission despite every precaution taken, and it was some time before the epidemic was finally got under control.

Each day the dispensary has been open morning and evening for the treatment of the sick, and minor ailments, colds, &c., have been treated. Sores, cuts, and wounds from hunting and fishing have been treated.

Decay of teeth is causing concern. The people are urged to get as much bush food as possible, while in the dormitories the children are given as much garden produce for their meals as can be grown. Many patients have to lose their teeth through extraction, where proper dental treatment could save the teeth. The Department is sympathetic towards a request that a dental patrol should pay a visit to the Gulf Missions.

CONDUCT.

The conduct of the people has been on the whole good. The native councillors, guided by the Superintendent, adjudicate in all trouble, settle quarrels, and keep discipline.

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

There are a number of new houses under construction. Unfortunately bark is the only medium at present to be obtained for roofing and walls. Trial was made of shingles, but it was found that the local timber was not suitable. Through the years the number of bark trees has been cut out round the Mission, and the people have to search further afield for it. Other houses in the village are under repair. The people are encouraged to build houses on blocks with slab floors. The surroundings of the village have been cleared of all undergrowth to keep down mosquitoes and other pests. More lavatories have been built. Formerly, owing to their old beliefs in magic, the people were frightened of using the lavatories, but now they are becoming more reconciled to more hygienic methods. This year the number of gardens was not so great as in other years, but more fruit trees, such as papaws, have been planted in the village.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

A new landing strip of 1,200 yards has been cleared and levelled off. The approaches have been cleared further back, a distance of over half a mile at either end. This new strip and the old one were inspected by an official of the Civil Aviation Department and passed. At the coconut plantation at the mouth of the river, more young plants were put out and the others cleared and weeded. This plantation is now bringing plenty of ripe coconuts, which are used to supplement the children's food.

EMPLOYMENT.

Thirteen boys are working on cattle stations and 12 more went out to work on islanders' boats from Thursday Island. Two boys were sent to Rural School at Palm Island to learn saddlery.

INDUSTRIAL.

Mr. Sydney has been doing good work with the sawmill. The timber for the new school and part of the new dormitory buildings material

has been cut. A team of men went out cutting logs for the mill in the scrubs up the Watson River, and floated them down to the landing with the aid of dug-out canoes and floats. Several new varieties of good hard softwood have been brought in. Many of these are not known except by their native names, but the timber from them seems to be quite good. Two good hardwoods were also used, a kind of Car-been gum and ironwood.

AGRICULTURE.

Good success was obtained with the gardens of sweet potatoes, yams, cassava and pumpkins. The children and workers had a dinner every second day through the whole year on produce grown in the gardens. The vegetable garden (English vegetables) was not a success owing to the dryness of the year. This year a greater success is promised, and already a large quantity of beans and peas have been grown and used. Cabbages and tomatoes are coming on well. As cassava appears to be so nourishing, this year a larger paddock of four acres was planted out, also more potatoes and yams. A new banana patch was also planted. Papaws have done well, and the children are able to have many of this fruit. A trial patch was planted with milo, which is quite popular as a cereal food. Unfortunately the birds also consider it quite good.

Owing to the trouble with consumption, every effort is made to give the children good, nourishing food, and plenty of it. Fresh beef, garden produce as above, also all through the year on an average $\frac{3}{4}$ pint of full milk and cream per day per child. During and after the wet the amount of milk per child is greater. All village children under school age are fed twice a day, and also get milk. Every effort has been made to increase the milk supply, but during the war bulls of a milking strain were unobtainable to keep up the strain of the milkers, which are mainly descended from the purebred Ayrshire cows kindly given to the Mission by the Hon. E. M. Hanlon when Minister for Health and Home Affairs. The Mission is greatly indebted to Mr. Jensen, Protector in Thursday Island, for the very splendid gift of a purebred Jersey bull calf, also to a friend in Thursday Island for the gift of two heifer calves of good milking strain.

PASTURE.

As a result of experiments with pasture grasses and legumes, various grasses and legumes have proved very suitable to this area, notably Para grass, Guinea grass, Rhodes grass, and Molasses grass. Of the legumes we have two varieties of crotalaria and the new stylo. The latter was received from the Plant Introduction Officer of the Department of Science and Industry. Jap millet and milo were also found to do well, but birds caused great havoc with the seeding. A clearing has been started to grow pastures to hand-feed the dairy cattle through the dry season. Townsville lucerne has spread all over the strip, and the milkers graze on it with great relish.

CATTLE.

Last September, Mr. R. J. Davies was appointed by the Church Mission Committee as Cattle Manager for the four Gulf Missions. Mr. Davies is putting in good work and shifted 700 breeders and a number of bulls to a new

area, between the Love and Kirke Rivers. Altogether the Mission herd has about 1,000 breeders; 575 calves were branded to date. Last year 300 head of bullocks were sold. This year another mob of about 300 will soon be put on the road. Ten new bulls were purchased for the beef herd, also a saddle stallion obtained from Dunbar Station. I would like to express my appreciation of the help the Department gave the Mission some years ago, enabling us to start a good beef herd, which is bringing in welcome revenue and also providing work for a number of Mission men.

SCHOOL.

The school has made steady progress through the year. The newer methods of teaching reading, using material familiar to the children in their every-day life, are bearing fruit. Children are further on in their reading at a younger age than previously, and fewer children find great difficulty with it. The older children, through free reading, have been finding aboriginals have a place in Australian literature, through the books of Elizabeth and Mary Durack, Mary Grant Bruce, and Mrs. Langloh Parker. They have become interested in the magazine "Wild Life," and one boy won a prize through a small contribution he made to it.

RECREATION.

The usual ball games, hikes, fishing, swimming, picnics, and camps keep the children healthy and happy. They are in this way able to keep touch with their old hunting skill, bush lore, and bush life. In the village the corroboree is still the favourite pastime, and the people are encouraged to keep their own dances which portray themes familiar to their own life.

RELIGION.

Church services and morning prayers are well attended, and the people show interest and attention. Classes of instruction are held to prepare candidates for full Communion. At Communion services the people bring offerings in kind as bush food, fish, fruit, roots, &c., and this is valued as to its worth. The equivalent monetary value is sent south with a request from the people that it be used to send parcels of food to Britain. One man, after looking at an illustrated magazine and seeing the vast crowds depicted in the cities, said, "My word those fellows got no chance hunting, big mob like that, more better we send them help from our hunting. If we got no store tucker we lucky, we can get tucker in bush." During the period under review in this report over £12 was forwarded.

PATROL.

Unfortunately, owing to shortage of staff and lack of transport, distant patrol work to the Kendall and Holyroyd has not been possible this year. However, contact has been maintained by the faithful work of a native Christian couple, who are supplied with simple medicines and tobacco for distribution amongst the people in the bush.

THANKS.

The Mission wishes to express its appreciation for the help given by so many good friends, especially to Mr. Sydney, who has again expressed his willingness to stay on and help

while staff is short, to the flying doctors (Drs. Thomas and Anderson), to the sisters at Dunbar, to the Director and Protector and their respective staffs for their unfailing interest, sympathetic understanding and helpful suggestions, to the church committee and the ladies of the church.

APPENDIX 12.

WEIPA MISSION.

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

(ACTING SUPERINTENDENT, MR. D. S. BELCHER.)
STAFF.

Until December numbered three: Superintendent, Mr. J. S. Winn; Matron, Mrs. J. S. Winn; Teacher, Miss Margaret Winn. Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Belcher took charge temporarily and the Superintendent and family then proceeded on leave. Miss Margaret Winn returned to the Mission in early April.

SCHOOL.

School roll numbers:—Girls 22, boys 12, total 34. School was open for 183 days. Average daily attendance 32.

The seven classes range from kindergarten to Grade VI. The staff consists of one white teacher, with a native woman and girl as assistants.

Steady progress has been maintained in all branches. Owing to the absence for four months of the head teacher on furlough, the native woman carried on with satisfactory results, no ground being lost. The native teachers take a gratifying interest in their work.

A full range of scholarship textbooks have been purchased in preparation for next year, when it is hoped the senior class of 6 girls will be sufficiently advanced to sit for the State scholarship examination. A comprehensive curriculum has been adhered to, and this year a series of mothercraft lectures has been added. The lending and free reading libraries continue to be popular, and have been augmented considerably by friends from the south. Subscriptions to nature and geographical magazines have been especially appreciated. The pupils have also begun correspondence with children in various Australian States and in other countries of the Empire. These are proving helpful in increasing their general knowledge and powers of description and expression.

Domestic science subjects are catered for for girls who have reached school leaving age. New kindergarten equipment was purchased from Kindercraft Centre in Brisbane with a monetary gift from the pupils of Brisbane Girls' High School, who also forwarded cases of toys to restock the playroom. These are proving valuable acquisitions.

HEALTH.

Only fair. T.B. seems to be making serious inroads into the health of the people. Of 22 adults examined in April by Dr. Anderson of the Flying Doctor Service, several were found to be definite T.B. cases, while several more were marked as suspicious. To date, 3 men and 1 woman have been sent to Thursday Island for

further X-Ray investigation. Isolation for established cases is impossible to carry out on the Mission station, and there is need for a vigorous campaign against the disease. Meanwhile, healthy adults and children are open to infection. Hookworm prophylaxis has been carried out, and teeth extractions as usual.

Four cases were evacuated to Cloncurry for hospitalisation by Flying Doctor Service, and one mental case was removed to Palm Island for observation.

CONDUCT.

Generally satisfactory.

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Progress has been made on a house-building project and further material has come to hand. At present, work is held up because of lack of staff and disrepair of sawmill equipment. The situation will be improved upon the return of the Superintendent and two of the Mission men, who have, by arrangement with the Director of Native Affairs, gone to Brisbane to receive training in sawmill and plumbing work.

INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

Stock.—A muster has been recently made under the direction of a newly appointed cattle manager, whose supervision covers four Mission stations. Exact figures are not to hand. Cordwood is cut and marketed in Thursday Island.

Area under Cultivation.—Fifteen acres are under cultivation. As well a small fold has been fenced and planted in the vicinity of a swamp as an experiment in "dry season" gardening. The people have cultivated their own plots with good success.

Nature of Produce.—Sweet potatoes, beans, tomatoes, papaws, bananas, pineapples, pumpkins, and water melons, with a small quantity of peanuts.

EMPLOYMENT.

There is a demand for stockmen which cannot be met. Two men have gained employment on a fruit farm in the Cooktown area, and several in Thursday Island as labourers or domestic workers. Failure of employers to facilitate the return of stockmen often after several years of employment, prejudices the sending of additional men to new positions.

RELIGION.

A daily service is held and Sunday School. The Sacraments have been administered regularly.

APPRECIATION.

Appreciation is felt for the help given both by the many organisations of our Church, and individuals, in helping the work of the Mission. Also to the Flying Doctor Service, Cloncurry, and those Missions who have often stood by to relay medical calls through Dunbar Nursing Home; to the Director of Native Affairs and his representatives in Thursday Island we express thanks for help and co-operation given.

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APPENDIX 13.

MORNINGTON ISLAND MISSION.

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

It is my pleasure to submit herewith, report for the year 1947.

STAFF.

Superintendent, James B. McCarthy; Matron, Eliz. D. McCarthy; Assistants (from January to September, 1947), Mr. D. Belcher, Mrs. D. Belcher.

SCHOOL.

(a) Mission Matron as Supervisor; assisted by white lady assistant up to September.

Native Staff.—Three half-caste teachers and 2 full-blood teachers.

(b) *Children on Roll.*—Mornington Island—Boys 29, girls 38, total 67. Bentinck Island—Boys 7, girls 9, total 16. Grand total 83.

(c) The school curriculum includes the following subjects:—

For the girls: Domestic science, needle and crochet work, knitting, and part-time agriculture.

For boys: Dairy and cattle work; agriculture.

Physical culture for boys and girls.

HEALTH.

Good. No serious epidemics. Four thousand three hundred and five out-patient treatments, 9 in-patients.

Immunisations: Whooping cough, second and third injections. January and February, diphtheria injection.

Operation, performed at Mission: 1 appendicectomy (Dr. Anderson).

Dental work: 2 extractions, 3 fillings.

Visits by Flying Medical Officer, 8.

Two patients removed to Cloncurry Hospital for further treatment. One was a native man, badly mauled by a shark.

Visits by dentists, 1.

CONDUCT OF INMATES.

Steady improvement. Native councillors and police have done excellent work. Two men removed for discipline to Palm Island. People show a readiness to engage in any work offering by the Mission and are amenable to instruction.

SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

People tilling their own gardens in the native camp. Seeds for this purpose provided by the Mission. An incubator has been purchased by the Mission, and gifts of chicks have been made to those persons providing suitable enclosures to house same. This is a new venture with the people and is being entered into with great enthusiasm.

INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

Other works engaged in were new wells dug and timbered in, in the camp area.

Hospital completed with exception of windows, which will soon be delivered. Mission school painted; cabin built on launch; launches beached and cleaned; markers erected on airstrip and airstrip kept in order.

Garden Crops.—Four tons pumpkins, 1 ton tomatoes, $\frac{1}{2}$ ton cucumbers, 1 ton sweet potatoes, large quantities of beans, squash, marrows, and water melons.

Extensive repairs to garden fences.

Cattle work carried on. Approximately 53 head killed for native rations.

Women.—Crochet and fancy needle work. Crochet work gained first prize at the Cherbourg Aboriginal Show. One hundred and twenty garments completed by women for their personal use during the weekly sewing class. Women also engaged in part-time agricultural work. Six hundred and ninety garments made during the year for Mission children. This includes infant garments for new births.

Buildings.—Cookhouse shifted to new site and extended. Meathouse and workshop completed. It was found necessary to pull down the boys' dormitory because of white ants and rot. This building is now under course of reconstruction; new timbers being purchased.

LABOUR.

On agreement to cattle station: Males, 16; married couple with their two children.

On boats: Males, 5.

Transfers—Returned from mainland employment:—Two females, 1 child. One married couple from Mapoon at Mission. Position head stockman. One female transferred to Weipa Mission; two males transferred to Palm Island.

BENTINCK ISLAND.

Transferred to Mornington from Allan Island, July, 1947	5
Transferred to Mornington from Sweers Island, August, 1947	42
Transferred to Mornington from Bentinck Island, December, 1947	1
	—
	48
Two deaths as shown elsewhere	2
	—
	46

The above is the number of Bentinck Islanders under the supervision of the Mission.

The five natives brought from Allan Island have settled in remarkably well, and have been employed in the Mission. The 42 natives from Sweers Island were in very bad health, suffering from malnutrition. Some showed traces of T.B. so were separated as much as possible from the Mornington Island people.

In response to a request made by the Superintendent, Dr. Spalding was sent in December to conduct a medical inspection of these natives and those remaining on Bentinck Island. Doctor Spalding's report has already been sent to the Department. These natives have been clothed and cared for and received medical attention, and have responded very well indeed. They are being taught to build canoes, and their primitive spears are being replaced with iron-tipped spears, with the result that their ability to hunt has increased.

They are proving law-abiding and industrious to a degree. There has been, of course, a little friction among themselves, but they have at all times submitted to the authority of the Superintendent.

Their health is steadily improving and they show no desire whatever to return to their own island.

The children of school age have been admitted to the dormitories and are mixing with the Mornington children on equal terms.

They are attending special school classes, arranged by the Mission Matron, and have shown remarkable intelligence and progress.

We wish to thank the Department for their particular help given to us among this very backward and difficult people.

LAUNCH.

It is with deep regret that we have to advise that the launch that was purchased last year, and mentioned in the last annual report, ran aground on a reef when returning from the medical inspection of Bentinck Island, and has become a total loss. It is indeed a great loss to the Mission and handicaps our work to a very great extent; but we are thankful that there was no loss of life.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

Morning prayers are held every morning and are always well attended. Bible study and Scripture memory work are always keenly followed.

In addition, there are two services held in the Mission Church every Sunday, and a Sunday School for the younger children. Hymn singing and the learning of new hymns gives the people delight.

Mornington natives have developed a sense of responsibility towards the Bentinck people, and are ever ready to act as interpreters when these natives attend religious services.

THANKS.

We wish to place on record our thanks for and appreciation of the assistance and help from the Director and all members of the staff of the Native Affairs Department. Appreciation is also expressed to the Aerial Medical Service, the flying doctor, and all who have helped our work in many ways during the year.

APPENDIX 14.

MONAMONA MISSION.

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

HEALTH.

During this year the health of the people has been good, but for colds and a little gastritis. We are pleased to have now the monthly visits of a medical practitioner. During this year all the children have been immunised against diphtheria. A complete check has been made and special efforts are on foot to eradicate the hook-worm disease. Six persons have been transferred to Fantome during the year. Two of the three deaths were from senile decay, and the other was the young girl who was in hospital at the time of our last report with heart trouble. Much of the dental care, also such things as influenza, colds, coughs, sores, cuts and wounds are cared for in our own dispensary by a trained nurse and experienced helpers.



Bulk Store, Doomadgee Mission.

CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE.

Conduct on the whole has been very good. All cases of discipline are dealt with by a native council, and the work of our native constabulary is excellent.

EDUCATION.

Forty boys and 37 girls comprise the attendance of the school. This was open for 184 days during the year with an average attendance of 72. The general conduct and deportment is very good. Six grades are taught, also music, singing, woodwork, needlework, and other useful handicrafts.

A parents, teachers and friends association has been formed. Its object is to raise funds to provide equipment, tools, &c., for the handicrafts of the school and other similar needs.

BUILDINGS.

Our building programme still continues. During the year a new house for the Superintendent has been built and a cottage for the preceptor of the school girls' dormitory. Another building for the offices, sewing-room, and store is very near completion.

A new concrete tank has been built, of 35,000 gallons capacity, and the old tank enlarged. An irrigation system is in process of installation to the gardens. This will overcome the difficulties experienced during the dry season, also making provision for a good water supply in all the homes.

Next on the programme will be a new school building and a teacher's residence.

AGRICULTURE.

The area at present under cultivation is about 8 acres. These produce sweet potatoes, cassava, pumpkins, papaws, pineapples, bananas, tomatoes, and vegetables of all kinds. When the irrigation system is complete, we plan to extend the acreage under cultivation.

RELIGION.

Religious services are held regularly as before, and are well attended and entered into heartily by nearly all.

RECREATION.

A native sports committee has been formed and equipment has been provided, and seasonal sports continue to be engaged in regularly. Full-day picnics are also held at regular intervals.

APPENDIX 15.

DOOMADGEE MISSION.

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

Superintendent, Melville G. Read; assistants, Mrs. M. G. Read, Mr. Thomas Bartlett, Mr. Douglas Potter, Sister Black (medical).

Mr. Potter was away south on furlough from October till February, inclusive. Progress has also been retarded through the indifference of health of the Superintendent during the first six months of the period.

HEALTH.

Hospital.—Dispensary in charge of Sister Black. The following cases have been dealt with during the past period:—

Births.—18th September, 1947: Abe, to Stumpy George S.240 and Ludie George L.289

Deaths.—Four. Polly, 17th May, 1947, senile decay; Jacky, 28th July, 1947, senile decay; Maggie, 11th October, 1947, senile decay; Leslie, Doomadgee, 22nd July, 1947; child, 7 months. Cause, nephritis.

Medical Visits.—Four. Dr. Thomas, 3 calls for native cases; Dr. Anderson, 1 call for native case.

Immunisation.—Diphtheria: 44 children.

Transferred to Cloncurry Hospital.—One V.D. case, hereditary. Now discharged.

Epidemics.—Nil.

Pulmonary.—Nil.

Accidents.—Two cases foot burns by ammonia, 1 case foot burn by bitumen, 1 case dog bite. All discharged.

General.—Four cases swollen glands, 1 case infected ear, 12 cases skin diseases; usual variety of minor cuts, &c. General health of natives good.

Dental.—Twenty-four extractions.

EDUCATION.

School Staff.—Mrs. Read, part time, assisted by 6 native teachers. Purpose being to bring children up to 4th Grade standard. Progress quite good.

Number of days school open ..	213
Total attendances	15,772
Average attendances	74
Average attendances—Boys, 26, girls 48.	

Classes range from kindergarten to Grade 5, with just one H.C. girl in the latter class.

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

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Labour Demand.—Labour for cattle stations has been in great demand; 62 natives have been employed during the year.

Pastoral.—Rains during last spring and summer were rather poor, with only two showers over 1 inch. Cattle are in quite fair condition nevertheless. Early showers provided feed for the spring; and late rains, though light, provided good feed, which is standing up well to date. Shortage of native labour (we have tried to supply as much for the district as possible) has somewhat restricted our own activities, but the young native boys working under their head stockman, a full-blood named Paddy Walden, have done fairly well considering all conditions. No white help employed on this work excepting while branding, &c., at the home yard.

Number of livestock—

Horses—

Owned by Mission	74
Owned by natives	20
Goats	125
Poultry	16
Cattle (31st March)	659

Cattle on 31st June, 1947, 569 head.

Less 10 per cent. written off to cover loss through natural causes, 514 head.

Killed during nine months' period, 63 head.

Killers purchased, 3.

Branding during nine months' period, 205 head.

Total, 659 head.

The increase of 90 head for the nine months must be considered good for the season experienced.

Fencing.—No new fencing erected. Repair work entailing the use of approximately 100 new posts effected.

Stock Yards.—Three yards repaired after fires had passed through, but no new yards erected.

Agriculture.—Area, over 30 acres cleared and fenced. Area under cultivation, 3 acres. Harvest approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ ton.

Plant.—A Farmall tractor equipped with a single mouldboard plough, two-furrow disc plough, four-row cultivator, bedding attachments and grass mower has been doing good work and is showing itself to be just the right machine for our type of work.

Lister Diesel Engine.—This engine, purchased last year, has not yet been put into use on the pumping plant. A heavy log pier, 170 feet long with piles up to 11 feet high, has been built to allow of the engine being moved up and down with flood levels. We delayed erecting the engine on its foundations till after the floods had subsided, and further delays have come about through our waiting for expected fittings for the new and bigger delivery mains. We would not have waited so long had we not been expecting these fittings each month. Our original intention was to run the new power unit with the old 4-inch delivery, but we are now holding off with the erection of the new plant until we have all pipes and fittings on hand. Most of the required material, which includes 370 feet of 6-inch fibro pipe for the new delivery line, is now reported as being on the way. Incidentally, we are also acquiring a further 170 feet of 4-inch fibro pipe for the spray irrigation system, and a new 4-inch centrifugal pump.

Thornycroft Engine.—40-50 h.p. This engine was also delivered here towards the end of last year. Given as a gift to the work it was reconditioned completely at a cost of approximately £85 and is a good job. At present we are using it as a pumping engine, so boosting up the old system, but later it will be used for timber milling as the Fordson tractor previously used for that work was not powerful enough for big logs.

Irrigation Channel.—At present we are building up a raised irrigation channel, which will be 5 feet above ground level at its beginning and

run to ground level at a distance of approximately 16 chains length. This will be used to flood irrigate pineapples, bananas, &c., already planted, and be sufficient for citrus trees we hope to plant as they can be procured. We have 50 young trees in the nursery at present but hope to get more later. The channel will be lined part way with 44-gallon drums, cut in halves lengthwise, and the remaining length will be lined with concrete slabs.

Produce Sold.—Nil.

Cleared or Ringbarked.—None for agricultural purposes, though we have been clearing for extensions to the airstrips in order to give planes greater clearance over the banana plantation.

Timber Milled.—Nil. We will probably have to get the mill going again before the end of the year as timber will be required for construction works which should be put in hand shortly. The Thornycroft engine mentioned above will be used for this work.

BUILDING DEVELOPMENT.

Cottage.—Staff accommodation: Three rooms 14 feet by 12 feet with 9 feet verandas all round, and detached kitchen 12 feet by 10 feet all-steel frame, galvanised-iron covering and concrete flooring. This accommodation has been completed and in use for some time.

Hospital Dispensary and Ward.—Sisters' quarters dispensary, 15 feet by 9 feet; ward, 15 feet by 18 feet, sisters quarters, 15 feet by 12 feet; side and front verandas, 9 feet. All-steel frame, corrugated galvanised-iron covering and concrete flooring. This accommodation is proving to be a great blessing in the work.

Unattached Women's Quarters.—Two buildings, each containing three rooms in line, viz., 30 feet by 10 feet. Rooms 10 feet by 10 feet, concrete floors and walls, galvanised-iron roofing. One building completed and the second almost so; has been put to use when needed. Completion of the latter has been delayed owing to scarcity of certain fittings and pressure of work.

Bathrooms.—Two constructed of steel frame, galvanised-iron covering and concrete flooring. One for boys' dormitory and one for the dispensary.

We still hold considerable stocks of building steel and other materials, but have not yet been able to put other necessary building work in hand owing to staff shortages.

Buildings erected during the period ending on 30th June, 1947, have provided much-needed conveniences, and the large garage and workshops especially have proved great time-savers.

Building Plans.—Those now considered most urgently needed are kitchens for use of dormitory inmates, extensions to the present garage and workshop buildings to accommodate the additional agricultural machinery, equipment, &c., and covering for the sawmill, kitchens (wash-house, &c.), will be 22 feet by 20 feet steel frame, galvanised-iron covering and concrete flooring. First extension to garage and workshop 20 feet by 40 feet and the second extension 50 feet by 20 feet, both of steel and galvanised iron, and without flooring. These



New Boys' Dormitory, Doomadgee Mission.



Doomadgee Farmall Tractor presented by Queensland Government.

Native Affairs - Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Twelve months ended 30th June 1948

Corporate Author: Queensland Dept. of Health and Home Affairs

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