

(QUEENSLAND)

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## NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Information contained in Report  
of Director of Native Affairs  
for the Twelve Months ended  
30th June, 1953.

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- 6 AUG 1963

1978

## Native Affairs—Annual Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Year ended 30th June, 1953.

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 the 30th June, 1953.

### POPULATION.

The estimated population of aboriginals, half-bloods and Torres Strait Islanders is—Aboriginals, 9,653; half-bloods, 6,864, Torres Strait Islanders, 5,150.

Aboriginals and half-bloods are to the extent of 46 per cent. located on Government Settlements and Church Missions. The areas and approximate population of these Institutions are—

| —  | Area.     | Full-blood. | Half-blood. | Torres Strait<br>Islanders. | Total. |
|--|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------|
|  | Acres.    |             |             |                             |        |
| Palm Island Government Settlement .. .. .          | 15,510    | 671         | 549         | ..                          | 1,220  |
| Cherbourg Government Settlement .. .. .            | 26,765    | 164         | 914         | ..                          | 1,078  |
| Woorabinda Government Settlement .. .. .           | 54,800    | 349         | 398         | ..                          | 747    |
| Cape York Settlement .. .. .                       | 97,620    | 180         | 20          | 150                         | 350    |
| Yarrabah Mission (Church of England) .. .. .       | 39,710    | 148         | 511         | ..                          | 659    |
| Lockhart River Mission (Church of England) .. .. . | 588,400   | 297         | 3           | ..                          | 300    |
| Edward River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .   | 554,880   | 300         | 1           | ..                          | 301    |
| Mitchell River Mission (Church of England) .. .. . | 618,320   | 679         | 13          | ..                          | 692    |
| Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .              | 2,140,300 | 117         | 168         | ..                          | 285    |
| Aurukum Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .             | 1,216,000 | 652         | 8           | ..                          | 660    |
| Weipa Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .               | 1,600,000 | 158         | ..          | ..                          | 158    |
| Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .   | 245,120   | 325         | 36          | ..                          | 361    |
| Monamona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist) .. .. .   | 4,318     | 171         | 114         | ..                          | 285    |
| Doomadgee Mission (Brethren) .. .. .               | 57,600    | 301         | 50          | ..                          | 351    |
| Hope Valley (Lutheran) .. .. .                     | 71,000    | 148         | 125         | ..                          | 273    |
| Hammond Island (Catholic) .. .. .                  | 3,660     | ..          | 85          | ..                          | 85     |
| Country Reserves .. .. .                           | ..        | 4,993       | 3,869       | ..                          | 8,862  |
| Torres Strait Islands .. .. .                      | ..        | ..          | ..          | 5,000                       | 5,000  |
|  | 7,332,503 | 9,653       | 6,864       | 5,150                       | 21,667 |

The remainder—viz., 5,213 full-bloods, 3,707 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.

It can be accepted that the recorded population figures for Government Settlements and Church Missions are correct and accurate. In the absence of a recent census of full-bloods and half-bloods located on country reserves, an estimated population only can be recorded, but it can be taken that these figures are reasonably accurate.

### ADMINISTRATION OF ACTS AND POLICY.

No difficulty has been experienced during the year in the smooth administration and workings of the Aboriginals' Preservation and Protection Act and the Torres Strait Islanders' Act. The aim of the Department is consistent with the policy of the State Government for the gradual improvement in education and industrial uplift of the people.

Housing also comes prominently into the programme, but it must be borne in mind that advancement of this policy can only be consistent with finances available.

The same measure of assistance to the pastoral industry that has marked the record of aboriginals in previous years has been well maintained this year, and to the maximum of labour available, men are made available to this industry, to which they are suitably adapted.

Apart from the pastoral industry, the marine industry is the next largest in the State to provide bulk employment for islanders and aboriginals. Additional to these avenues of employment, aboriginals and half-castes are gainfully employed in the Railway Department, the Main Roads Department and with private enterprise as artisans and labourers. In all these callings, their records as employees can be regarded as reasonably satisfactory and consistent with the remuneration which they receive.

The extent to which islanders and aboriginals contribute to their own maintenance is indicated by the statistics appearing in this report. Prominent amongst them are—

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Gross earnings by aboriginals, excluding Peninsula aboriginals over the year  | £364,737 |
| Gross earnings by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals over the year .. .. .   | £394,000 |
| Savings Bank deposits by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals over the year .. .. .                                  | £315,504 |
| Savings Bank withdrawals by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals over the year .. .. .                               | £322,414 |
| Value of marine produce won by Torres Strait Islanders off their own boats  | £113,380 |
| Value of produce produced on various Government Settlements .. .. .   | £43,842  |
| Number of aboriginal and Island teachers, clerks, trainee nurses, artisans, &c., employed mainly in native administration .. .. . | 1,120    |
| Number of men employed in essential industries in Queensland .. .. .  | 4,500    |
| Number of men in the marine industry  | 1,300    |
| Every aboriginal and Island worker in Queensland is covered by the State Workers' Compensation Acts.                              |          |

#### EMPLOYMENT OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS.

It is an undisputed fact that the Queensland aboriginal still maintains an important position in the labour requirements of the pastoral industry, the reason clearly being that his natural ability makes him an indispensable part of this, Queensland's most important primary

concern. The withdrawal of such labour would greatly militate against the success of pastoral pursuits.

Pastoral and agricultural industries would account for 60 per cent. of the male labour engaged throughout the year, while the remainder accepted positions in various trades and on works as skilled labourers. The number so engaged would approximate 4,500 workers, whose earnings over the period amounted to £364,737.

In the islands of Torres Strait, the Islanders have once again demonstrated their ability as divers by winning marine produce to the value of £113,380. These figures must surely supply the answer to those advocating the introduction of alien labour to the pearling grounds of Queensland and Australia.

#### HEALTH.

The general health of the aboriginal and Torres Strait Island population has been good.

The incidence of tuberculosis in all centres has been closely watched and the Waiben Hospital and Aplin Hostel, established for the treatment of this complaint, are doing an excellent job.

The State Government has watched over closely the incidence of M.T. malaria in Torres Strait, particularly on the islands of Darnley and Murray. As recorded in last year's report, in June, 1952, a serious outbreak occurred at Murray and Darnley Islands, but nothing of any serious consequence occurred this year, due to the precautionary measures taken by the Department of Health.

The absence of serious outbreaks or epidemics is most heartening and it can safely be said that the health of the natives is advancing to better standards year by year. Apart from the medical and hospital facilities available, this can in no small measure be attributed to the Department's long-range programme of hygienic water supplies, sanitation, higher living standards, both in housing and home life, and adequate and well balanced diet.

#### INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

*Cattle Raising.*—On the three Government Settlements and Foleyvale Reserve the following cattle are depastured, the value of this livestock as a Departmental asset being £156,244. The figures quoted are as at the 31st March, 1953:—

| Settlement.                      | Beef Cattle. |           |              |         |          |          |           |        | Dairy Cattle. |       |          |          |        | Horses.  |         |        |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|--------|---------------|-------|----------|----------|--------|----------|---------|--------|
|                                  | Bulls.       | Breeders. | Spayed Cows. | Steers. | Heifers. | Weaners. | Bullocks. | Total. | Bulls.        | Cows. | Heifers. | Weaners. | Total. | Draught. | Saddle. | Total. |
| Cherbourg .. .. .                | 30           | 393       | 198          | 65      | 160      | 8        | ..        | 854    | ..            | ..    | ..       | ..       | ..     | 12       | 48      | 60     |
| Aboriginal Training Farm .. .. . | ..           | ..        | ..           | ..      | ..       | ..       | ..        | ..     | 4             | 80    | 16       | 23       | 123    | 5        | 1       | 6      |
| Woorabinda .. .. .               | 43           | 1,681     | 220          | 383     | 367      | ..       | 541       | 3,235  | ..            | 87    | ..       | ..       | 87     | 42       | 116     | 158    |
| Foleyvale .. .. .                | ..           | 5         | ..           | 3       | ..       | ..       | 1,352     | 1,360  | ..            | 1     | 3        | ..       | 4      | ..       | ..      | ..     |
| Palm Island .. .. .              | ..           | ..        | ..           | 44      | ..       | ..       | 61        | 105    | 3             | 102   | 45       | 76       | 226    | 16       | 9       | 25     |
|                                  | 73           | 2,079     | 418          | 495     | 527      | 8        | 1,954     | 5,554  | 7             | 270   | 64       | 99       | 440    | 75       | 174     | 249    |

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

434 bullocks . . . . . £18,686

*Cattle Transfers.*—

From Woorabinda to Foleyvale—506 steers, valued at £5,060.

To view returns from cattle-raising operations in their true perspective, to the above figure must be added £13,550, representing the value of cattle killed for local consumption on the Settlement. Accordingly, sale returns for the period under review amount to £32,236. The extremely dry conditions which prevailed during the year, although not seriously affecting the herds, did retard their progress.

In keeping with Departmental policy, all cattle sold last year were disposed of by public auction, sales being conducted at Brisbane. Beasts fattened on Foleyvale pastures command a ready market and all yardings are keenly sought.

DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENTS.

With the exception of the Cherbourg water-supply scheme, no major works were undertaken, with the result that efforts were concentrated on lines of general development, overhaul of existing plant, and agricultural improvements.

Reafforestation work on the three Settlements which commenced in 1950 is now making progress and is now out of the preliminary stage. This scheme instituted under the guidance of the Forestry Department will, with relatively good seasons and continued labour, prove of great value in future years.

CHERBOURG.

*Water Supply.*—With the completion of the Woorabinda Settlement scheme during the year, a start has now been made on the installation of a new and complete water-supply and reticulation system for Cherbourg. The installation is being carried out by engineers of the Department of Local Government with native labour at a cost of £30,303. Water will be pumped from the Rock Hole, Barambah Creek, by two submersible units with a pumping capacity of 6,000 gallons per hour into a 100,000-gallon concrete reservoir, which will be capable of supplying a maximum demand of two days. Provision will be made for coagulation, sedimentation, filtration, and chlorination of the supply. On completion, all administrative buildings, staff, and native houses will have the added amenity of reticulated water.

*Buildings.*—Apart from seven native cottages, the main building work undertaken at Cherbourg was the erection of a Maternal and Child Welfare clinic, which will also house the dental surgery. A photograph of the partly-finished building appears in this report, and when completed it will be as modern in furnishings as in design. The native tradesmen employed in its erection are certainly worthy of congratulation and have once again proved their ability as tradesmen.

WOORABINDA.

Over the past two years, the majority of native male labour was utilised on the installation of the new water-supply and reticulation scheme. The completion of this work has now permitted the direction of this labour force to other tasks, and although of lesser degree in magnitude they were nevertheless of equal importance for the general success and upkeep of the Settlement.

A summary of some of the undertakings is as under:—

Improvement of Settlement roads and approaches, including the grading and tabling of 2½ to 3 miles to the main Baralaba-Duaringa road. Ten miles of the roadway to Foleyvale Reserve was similarly treated.

Development of grazing areas necessitating the ringbarking of 2 to 2½ thousand acres of land and suckering where required.

Erection of windmill, tank, and troughing at Middle Dam and fencing to water three paddocks. Commencement of similar work on two other dams.

Erection of approximately ten miles of stock fencing with improvements to existing yards.

Electrical wiring of 17 native cottages and connection to main power line. These homes were built subsequent to the introduction of electric current.

Building of six completely new native homes and repairs to others.

CHURCH MISSIONS.

The various churches controlling Aboriginal Missions in Queensland have continued to labour in the interest and welfare of the people under their control, and to these workers on the established missions, isolated from the general amenities of life, a debt of gratitude is owing.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF "THE ABORIGINALS' PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION ACTS, 1939 TO 1946."

All departmental wards are at liberty to apply for exemption and each request is treated on its merits. Apart from education and industry, the main factor is the native's seeming ability to successfully take his or her place in the community entirely on his own initiative. Trial periods of six to twelve months are considered necessary in some cases and it is pleasing to say that on the whole the percentage of natives who find that they cannot make their own way is indeed small.

During the year, 71 persons successfully applied for exemption and are now entirely free to control and manage their own affairs. Separate certificates are not issued to young children, whose names are included on the mother's certificate, and on taking these into consideration, the number actually exempted from control was 81.

## EDUCATION.

Prior to 1953, aboriginal children attending Settlement schools were educated only up to Grade IV. standard, but this year saw the introduction of a syllabus which caters for scholastic study up to Grade VII.—in fact embraces full primary-school education. It was felt that the improved health and living standards built up over the years have prepared the native child for higher education and the time is now opportune to bring the departmental schools into line with State Government schools. The pupils now have the same advantages as white children, and the benefit of this added learning will be felt and appreciated when secondary education or trade apprenticeship is contemplated.

These extra classes added to the duties of the teaching staff, particularly during the occasions of staff shortages, but reports submitted by the

head teachers of the schools indicate that every effort was made to implement the new programme and that the scholars maintain progress.

*Manual Training and Domestic Science.*—Despite the new syllabus, this type of training has been followed as far as practicable, as it is realised that in these classes, aboriginal boys and girls who are naturally inclined towards this type of study receive their initial training which fits them for more advanced instruction in later life.

As at the 31st March, 1953, the number of children receiving primary education was 2,418, and the following table indicates the enrolment at the various Settlements, Missions, and Torres Strait Island Schools:—

ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.

| Description of School.     | Name.                                    | Enrolment 31st March, 1953. |              |              |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                            |  | Boys.                       | Girls.       | Total.       |
| Settlement .. .. .         | Cherbourg .. .. .                        | 152                         | 157          | 309          |
| Settlement .. .. .         | Palm Island .. .. .                      | 116                         | 93           | 209          |
| Settlement .. .. .         | Woorabinda .. .. .                       | 96                          | 103          | 199          |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Aurukun .. .. .                          | 48                          | 49           | 97           |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Doomadgee .. .. .                        | 24                          | 29           | 53           |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Lockhart River .. .. .                   | 39                          | 30           | 69           |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Mapoon .. .. .                           | 40                          | 30           | 70           |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Mitchell River .. .. .                   | 35                          | 42           | 77           |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Monamona .. .. .                         | 28                          | 27           | 55           |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Hope Vale, Cooktown .. .. .              | 35                          | 35           | 70           |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Mornington Island .. .. .                | 56                          | 57           | 113          |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Edward River .. .. .                     | 16                          | 12           | 28           |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Weipa .. .. .                            | 19                          | 16           | 35           |
| Aboriginal Mission .. .. . | Yarrabah .. .. .                         | 87                          | 83           | 170          |
| Island Mission .. .. .     | St. Paul's, Moa Island .. .. .           | 38                          | 39           | 77           |
| Island Mission .. .. .     | St. Michael's, R.C., Palm Island .. .. . | 32                          | 35           | 67           |
| Island Mission .. .. .     | Hammond Island .. .. .                   | 15                          | 13           | 28           |
| Inland Mission .. .. .     | Normanton .. .. .                        | 5                           | 12           | 17           |
| Reserve .. .. .            | Cowal Creek .. .. .                      | 21                          | 23           | 44           |
| Reserve .. .. .            | Bamaga .. .. .                           | 27                          | 17           | 44           |
| Reserve .. .. .            | Red Island Point .. .. .                 | 2                           | 6            | 8            |
| Torres Strait .. .. .      | Island Schools .. .. .                   | 296                         | 283          | 579          |
|                            | <b>Total .. .. .</b>                     | <b>1,227</b>                | <b>1,191</b> | <b>2,418</b> |

*Secondary Education.*—As the Settlement primary schools are now following a full syllabus, the opportunity exists for more native students to avail themselves of a secondary education and it is hoped that in the coming years the numbers now attending various Church colleges under the Departmental education scheme will greatly increase. At present nine students are enrolled and the colleges they attend are as under:—

All Souls' College, Charters Towers—  
4 boys.

Mt. Carmel College, Charters Towers—  
3 boys.

St. Mary's Convent, Charters Towers—  
2 girls.

A pleasing and interesting report was received from the Principal of Mt. Carmel College concerning student Leonard Miller, and which read as follows:—

## STUDENT'S REPORT.

Primary Division.....Fifth Class.

Master Leonard Miller.

|                       |       |                |                 |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| Christian Doctrine .. | 80    | Writing ..     | 65              |
| Reading ..            | 90    | Arithmetic ..  | 80              |
| Recitation ..         | 75    | Mensuration .. | 100             |
| Dictation ..          | 100   | History ..     | 80              |
| Composition ..        | 75    | Geography ..   | 80              |
| Grammar ..            | 92    | Drawing ..     | 90              |
| Conduct.....          | Fair. | Position.....  | "Dux" of Class. |

## REMARKS.

Progress is most satisfactory. Congratulations Leonard.

Other students maintained good progress as the following table shows their place in class—

## ALL SOUL'S SCHOOL.

| Name.                 | Class. | No. in Class. | Average for Year. | Place in Class. |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| A. Geia .. .. .       | IV.    | 28            | 80                | 11th.           |
| P. E. Stewart .. .. . | VI.    | 27            | 84.2              | 3rd.            |
| A. Oliffe .. .. .     | III.   | 22            | 79.25             | 12th.           |
| P. Bluebob .. .. .    | IV.    | 28            | 69                | 19th.           |

## 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 £563,340 0s. 3d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw within reason against their savings-bank accounts.

## TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1953.

|                          | Total.        |              | Savings Bank<br>Balance as at<br>30th June, 1953. | Commonwealth<br>Stock. | Total Funds. |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|---|------------------------|--------------|
|                          | Deposits.     | Withdrawals. |   |                        |              |
|                          | £ s. d.       | £ s. d.      | £ s. d.   | £ s. d.                | £ s. d.      |
| Cherbourg .. ..          | 32,179 10 0   | 33,938 7 2   | 3,351 1 0   | 1,000 0 0              | 4,351 1 0    |
| Palm Island .. ..        | 37,782 17 8   | 38,800 12 1  | 4,182 1 6   | 21,000 0 0             | 25,182 1 6   |
| Woorabinda .. ..         | 29,831 13 11  | 36,327 2 10  | 2,299 10 9  | 4,000 0 0              | 6,299 10 9   |
| Various Protectorates .. | 214,943 5 3   | 207,122 11 2 | 37,250 6 9  | 363,000 0 0            | 400,250 6 9  |
| Torres Strait Islands .. | 280,584 13 1  | 281,831 16 8 | 42,257 0 3  | 85,000 0 0             | 127,257 0 3  |
| £                        | 595,321 19 11 | 598,020 9 11 | 89,340 0 3  | 474,000 0 0            | 563,340 0 3  |

The balance, £563,340 0s. 3d. 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 the 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 55, and the amounts made available to next-of-kin were £7,782 14s. 9d.

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 exemptions 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 much benefit to aboriginal children, in that it allows the mothers to purchase a wider variety of food, better clothing, &c., for the children.

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 .. ..  | 319          |
| Cherbourg Settlement .. ..   | 163          |
| Woorabinda Settlement .. ..  | 100          |
| Palm Island Settlement .. .. | 107          |
| Torres Strait Islands .. ..  | 807          |
|                              | <u>1,496</u> |

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £78,542 19s. 4d.

When aboriginal children are wholly maintained in Mission and Government Settlement Institutions, the endowment is paid to Institution funds. These funds are utilised solely for the benefit of the children by providing extras in diet, 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.      |
|--|--------------|
| Fantome Island .. ..                           | 3            |
| Woorabinda Settlement .. ..                    | 47           |
| Cherbourg Settlement .. ..                     | 122          |
| Palm Island Settlement .. ..                   | 310          |
| Thursday Island Native Cottage                 | 1            |
| Hope Vale .. ..                                | 4            |
| Daintree Mission .. ..                         | 13           |
| Doomadgee Mission .. ..                        | 88           |
| Monamona Mission .. ..                         | 147          |
| Mitchell River Mission .. ..                   | 87           |
| Aurukun Mission .. ..                          | 169          |
| Mapoon Mission .. ..                           | 116          |
| Mornington Island Mission .. ..                | 157          |
| Weipa Mission .. ..                            | 50           |
| Yarrabah Mission .. ..                         | 357          |
| Presbyterian Mission, Thursday<br>Island .. .. | 9            |
|  | <u>1,680</u> |

## 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 Islands and Peninsula
- Appendix 5 .. Island Industries Board
- Appendix 6 .. Yarrabah Mission
- Appendix 7 .. Doomadgee Mission
- Appendix 8 .. Monamona Mission
- Appendix 9 .. Hope Vale Lutheran Mission Cooktown
- Appendix 10 .. Aurukun Mission
- Appendix 11 .. Mitchell River Mission
- Appendix 12 .. Edward River Mission
- Appendix 13 .. St. Paul's Mission
- Appendix 14 .. Weipa Mission
- Appendix 15 .. Lockhart River Mission

C. O'LEARY, Director.

## APPENDIX 1.

## PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. G. Sturges.)

## OFFICIAL VISITORS.

- Mr. P. J. Richards, Deputy Director of Native Affairs.
- Mr. R. J. J. Hart (the late Visiting Justice).
- Mr. J. P. Lee, Visiting Justice.
- Mr. W. B. Draffin, Inspector, Department of Native Affairs.
- Mr. J. Barrett, Consulting Engineer, Department of Health and Home Affairs.

## STATISTICS.

|           |    |                              |
|-----------|----|------------------------------|
| Marriages | .. | 12                           |
| Births    | .. | 57 (33 females and 24 males) |
| Deaths    | .. | 23 (7 females and 16 males)  |

## RAINFALL.

Fall for the year, 103.53 inches. Of the above total 11.4 inches fell during the period 1st April to the 30th June, 1952; 4.84 inches were registered for the period 1st July to 31st December, 1952; and 87.65 inches for the period 1st January to 31st March, 1953. It will, therefore, be appreciated that severe drought conditions existed during the period of the year when major farming operations are in progress.

## HEALTH.

|                       | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|-----------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Inpatients .. ..      | 323   | 372     | 695    |
| Births .. ..          | 15    | 32      | 47     |
| Stillbirths .. ..     | 1     | ..      | 1      |
| Deaths in hospital .. | 9     | 4       | 13     |

Last September, Dr. Hilyard-Smith resigned as permanent Medical Superintendent and since then the Hospital has been staffed by the resident medical officers of the Townsville General Hospital in rotation, the term of each being of two months' duration. Four have already served their term of office. The Hospital is fortunate in having a white staff comprising a Matron and three Sisters.

Admissions to Hospital during the period April, 1952, to March, 1953—Males, 323; females, 372; total, 695. Discharges—males, 336; females, 373; total, 709.

## BABY WELFARE CLINIC.

Complete co-operation continues to exist between mothers, children, and staff. Transfer of the ante-natal clinic to the Palm Island Hospital has enabled Baby Welfare staff to give a greater measure of individual attention to the education of mothers and children.

Continuous camp inspections ensure improvement in home conditions. The process is slow, but progress is evident.

The Arcon roof structure is being assembled. Foundations for the principles are assembled and being erected. Brickmaking is in progress for the walls.

## HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

This service is being continually improved and expanded and favourable comment in respect to the method of nightsoil disposal has been made by medical officers and other qualified persons. A pneumatic-tyred sanitary wagon was constructed on the Settlement by native labour and brought into service.

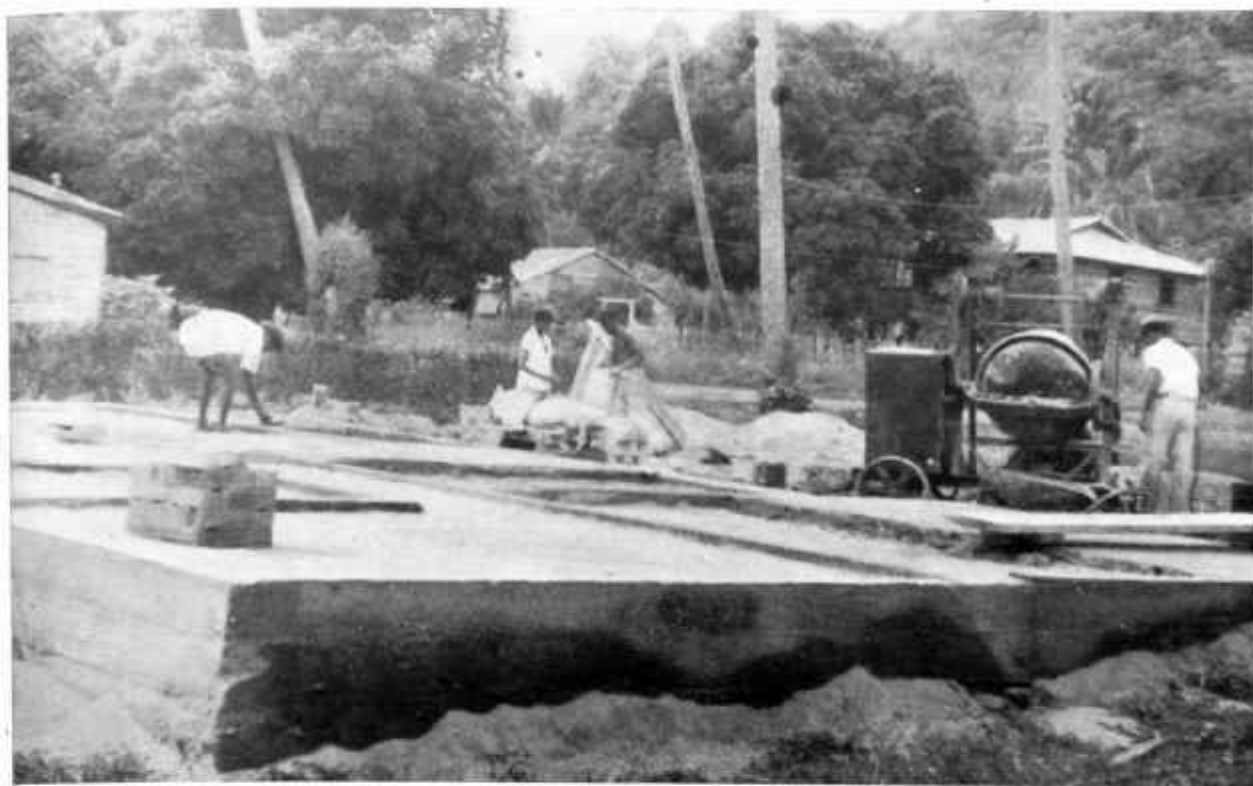
Two pneumatic-tyred wagons are now in use and E.C's are cleaned as follows:—

Hospital—twice daily, including Sundays and holidays.

Dormitories and staff quarters—daily, except Sundays.

School—daily, except Sunday.

Settlement—once or twice per week, according to needs.



Laying Concrete Foundations, Native Cottages, Palm Island.



Completed Concrete Brick Native Cottage, Palm Island.



A pneumatic-tyred garbage wagon has been supplied and a regular garbage disposal system inaugurated. Buildings are sprayed with germicides and insecticides regularly and drainage of low-lying areas is continuing.

#### FIELD LABORATORY.

The Medical Research Institute has set up a temporary field laboratory on the Settlement in an endeavour to establish the source of paratyphoid and other infectious diseases. The laboratory was established following representations made to the Director-General of Health.

#### EDUCATION.

Staffing has again become a problem. However, it is confidently expected that the present difficult position will be overcome in the immediate future.

Departmental policy is to extend to coloured children on the Settlement the same standard of education as that enjoyed by children attending State primary and secondary schools and also Church colleges. In keeping with the Government's policy of extending opportunities of higher education to aboriginal children, a number from this Settlement are enrolled as pupils at Church schools, while five children attend the School for Blind and Deaf, Brisbane.

#### NATIVE HOUSING.

One cottage of concrete-brick construction has been completed and another commenced. With the completion of these buildings, the native workmen will have the necessary knowledge to enable a progressively fast rate of construction to be attained. Housing is the key to many problems of this Settlement and the erection of further houses will be expedited.

#### STAFF HOUSING.

The Assistant Superintendent's quarters were completed, also quarters now occupied by the mechanic. Both buildings were constructed by native labour under the direction of Settlement staff.

#### FLOATING PLANT.

M.V. "Wondi" has been completely overhauled, including hull and propulsion machinery.

Launch "Irex" engine was completely overhauled and hull maintained in a satisfactory condition. Other floating plant has been fully maintained, with the launch "Sylvia" undergoing extensive refit.

A 25-foot cargo flattie has been constructed by native labour under staff supervision. Timber for this job was secured and milled on the Settlement.

#### FARM.

Produce has been limited owing to the severe drought conditions existing during the growing period of the year. The banana acreage has been increased and a pineapple area has been added to that already planted. With the appointment of an experienced farm overseer, farm development is again being directed towards full production.

Farm produce is as follows:—

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Watermelons .. .. .     | 389           |
| Beans .. .. .           | 27 bags       |
| Pumpkins .. .. .        | 269           |
| Silver Beet .. .. .     | 14 sacks      |
| Beetroot .. .. .        | 65 sacks      |
| Radish .. .. .          | 40½ sacks     |
| Cabbage .. .. .         | 1,282 head    |
| Lettuce .. .. .         | 2,734 head    |
| Chinese Cabbage .. .. . | 2,250 head    |
| Carrots .. .. .         | 2 sacks       |
| Peas .. .. .            | 8 sacks       |
| Sweet Bucks .. .. .     | 8 sacks       |
| Spring Onions .. .. .   | 92 sugar bags |
| Turnips .. .. .         | 31 bags       |
| Sweet Potatoes .. .. .  | 9½ bags       |
| French Beans .. .. .    | 3 sugar bags  |
| Oranges .. .. .         | 2 bags        |
| Marrows .. .. .         | 260           |
| Cucumbers .. .. .       | 245           |
| Kohlrabi .. .. .        | 20 bags       |
| Eschallots .. .. .      | 200 bunches   |

125 bags coconuts were forwarded to Woorabinda Settlement and 100 bags to Cherbourg Settlement.

Dairy milk produce amounted to 4,918½ gallons.

The dairy building has been extended and a steam sterilizing unit installed.

#### STOCK.

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Bulls .. .. .            | 3   |
| Cows .. .. .             | 102 |
| Heifers .. .. .          | 45  |
| Weaners .. .. .          | 76  |
| Steers .. .. .           | 44  |
| Working Bullocks .. .. . | 61  |
| Total .. .. .            | 331 |

#### HORSES.

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Draught .. .. . | 16 |
| Saddle .. .. .  | 9  |
| Total .. .. .   | 25 |

#### Pigs.

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Boars .. .. .              | 2  |
| Sows .. .. .               | 8  |
| Weaners and Stores .. .. . | 80 |
| Total .. .. .              | 90 |

109 pigs were killed for rations during this year.

#### SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

The report of this association indicates that it continues to play a major part in the Settlement affairs, and great credit must be given to all who so willingly give support to the association.

Mr. Krause, who has been president of the association from its inception and who by his enthusiasm, courage, and ability has welded the association into such a successful organisation, is deserving of praise and credit.

The welfare association's decision to re-establish the Settlement band has been brought to a successful conclusion, and those men and women who, by their strenuous efforts have raised funds for the purpose of purchasing instruments, are deserving of great praise and encouragement. The Government, by its grant of £500 towards the band fund, has, in no small measure, extended encouragement and the response by the people of the Settlement is evident.

#### BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES.

Both organisations are functioning to the advantage of the young people of the Settlement.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

The demand for labour continues, especially for domestics. Departmental policy is that where a native is employed in a calling covered by an award of the Arbitration Court, wages according to the award are payable.

Native cancutters from this Settlement employed in the Ingham area cut 11,470 tons of cane and earned £5,640.

Seventy-two males and 59 females are employed in the pastoral industry and gross wages amount to £23,920 8s.

In conclusion, I desire to extend my appreciation to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, The Director and Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Head Office staff, and Superintendents and staff of Cherbourg and Woorabinda Settlements and Church Missions, Protectors of Aborigines (Police), the Townsville Hospitals Board, and also staff of the Settlement. Complete co-operation by all has ensured that the administration of this Settlement has been directed towards the interests and welfare of the native residents.

#### BABY WELFARE CLINIC.

(Baby Welfare Officer, Mrs. E. H. Hilyard-Smith.)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Children on Register at 31st March, |        |
| 1953 .. .. .                        | 227    |
| Clinical Examinations .. .. .       | 11,542 |
| Treatments .. .. .                  | 10,830 |

The transfer of the ante-natal clinics, usually held at the Baby Welfare Clinic, to the hospital staff has allowed the clinic staff more time for individual attention to the babies and young children. It has also made possible more detailed tuition of mothercraft, both in child feeding, needlework, and personal and general hygiene.

More frequent camp inspections have had beneficial results generally. House conditions still leave room for improvement. It is felt that the present native housing project will help the work of the clinic to progress immensely.

The prolific rainfall since the New Year has brought the usual crop of minor ailments, including infected insect bites, furunculosis, and otitis media.

We have had, unfortunately, a number of deaths among the young babies due to paratyphoid fever, but at the present time, a general survey is being conducted by a bacteriologist on the Island with satisfactory results.

#### HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. D. Garrett.)

*Sanitation.*—The second pneumatic-tyred sanitary cart was put into operation in April last year. With two sanitary carts now working, a daily service has been maintained throughout the year except on Sundays. The hospital was serviced twice daily throughout the year (Sundays also). The tarring of pans was regularly carried out.

On the whole, the disposal of night-soil and servicing of sanitary conveniences has greatly improved, but more improvement of sanitary conveniences is still to be done.

*Refuse.*—The pneumatic-tyred refuse cart was put into service last year and much improvement has been noticed.

*Drainage.*—Communal kitchens at Fantome Island (four in all) were fitted with sinks, grease traps, and sub-surface irrigation.

On Palm Island, several staff houses were fitted with drainage as mentioned for Fantome Island.

Continual drainage of the swamp in the dairy and farm area was carried out in an effort to control mosquitoes.

*General Hygiene.*—All native houses were regularly sprayed, also outhouses. Dormitory kitchens were sprayed weekly, baby clinic thrice weekly, and hospital once weekly.

*Water.*—Good-quality water was in ample supply most of the year. The supply gradually decreased during the dry season.

*Pencil Bay, Casement, Butler Bay.*—These areas have been maintained throughout the year.

#### PALM ISLAND SCHOOL REPORT.

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

The resignation of two assistant teachers has been keenly felt by the teaching staff, as until they are replaced the extra duties must be carried by each staff member, particularly since the introduction of the new syllabus. It is hoped this position can be rectified at an early date.

The district inspector of schools in his report on his inspection of this school recommended an additional assistant be appointed to the staff.

At present, 37 boys attend the school manual training classes and 27 others in a lower grade do gardening activities, while 51 girls receive tuition in needlecraft at the domestic science sewing room.

The general enrolment at the end of 1952 was 122 boys and 89 girls, a total of 211 pupils, while their average attendance for the whole of last year was 193.4. The enrolment for the first quarter of 1953 was 116 boys and 93 girls, a total of 209 children, while their average attendance was 190.9, the drop in attendance being due to wet weather and illness.

*Visual Education.*—Visual education still plays a very important part in the education of these girls and boys and we are grateful to the Department of Public Instruction for its co-operation. Education films are received regularly, as well as selected filmstrips, and arrangements are in hand to receive regular supplies of health films as well. Our own filmstrip library contains many filmstrips of inestimable value and is used not only for the classes at the school but for screening to adults as well. Quite a number of strips are about trade subjects and these have been shown to carpenters and others as occasion has required.

*Radiogram.*—With the installation of a radiogram in the school, it is now possible to make the fullest possible use of all school radio broadcasts that will help in the training of our aboriginal pupils. The preparatory grade looks forward to its kindergarten session each morning, while the older classes enjoy the regular school broadcasts on health and hygiene, social studies, &c.

For staff reasons, several classes have to be combined for certain broadcasts and the singing session is one of these. To further assist in this lesson, a tape recording is taken and portions of the lesson, or the whole session (if required), can be repeated at the teacher's pleasure. Other broadcasts of importance are similarly treated.

*School Library.*—A well-equipped library is now housed at the school and this has been added to each year. Books suitable for all grades are in this library and each class has an allotted period during the week to spend in the reading room. Records are kept of the books each child reads and so it is possible to get some idea of a child's literary tastes.

Through adequate use of the films, wireless, and library, our children are building up a reserve of knowledge that is evidencing itself in their class work.

*General.*—Steady progress is being maintained and this year we have been able to advance seven pupils to Grade VII, which is a step forward in the education of these children. Hitherto, only those who were sent to church schools on the mainland advanced beyond Grade VI. With adequate trained staff, it should be possible to get the more brilliant pupils through the grades in reasonable time to enable some at least to reach scholarship standard, even if they do not proceed beyond this.

Sport and recreational training receives attention and the children are encouraged to take an active part in all forms of school sport.

When it is possible to work a school project this is done. These are mostly seasonal in nature, and fish curing and smoking, making desiccated cocoanut, bee-keeping, and class-room projects are undertaken.

Children are also encouraged to bring along various specimens to establish a school museum, and coral, shells, marine creatures preserved in formalin, as well as local insect life, and other things of museum value are handled.

We desire to extend our thanks to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and staff, the Settlement Superintendent and our Welfare Association for their co-operation and ready assistance throughout the year.

#### PALM ISLAND CONVENT SCHOOL.

(Priest in Charge, Rev. Father B. Foster.)

The enrolment in the school increased from 60 to 66 during this period. The pupils are divided into three sections, Preparatory and Grade I, Grades II., III., and IV., and a group of senior girls in a domestic science class, with three teachers, Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

The accommodation provided is adequate and the classrooms are suitably equipped with blackboards, books, and working materials.

During the past year, the attendance was good and progress attained. In the domestic science class, the girls are trained in the care of a home. The junior girls attend the sewing class one afternoon a week.

As in previous years, school sports, games, and swimming are encouraged. Music forms a part of the programme, the Christmas cantata being the chief musical event of the year.

The school entered enthusiastically into the competition offered by the annual show and a fair number of prizes were carried off in the various sections.

#### SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

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

It gives me much pleasure to present the eighth annual report of the Palm Island Social and Welfare Association for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1953.

*Organisation.*—Each year, a general election is held on the Island, when all natives aged eighteen years and over are eligible to take part. In the past the election of committee men was mostly done by show of hand, but a progressive step forward was inaugurated for our last annual election. Candidates were nominated and sponsored by three electors and where more than the required number of committee men were nominated, a secret ballot was taken. Nineteen committees were nominated in this way, and when nominations closed it was learned that 17 of these 19 committees had to go to the poll.

Ballot-papers were prepared in the Welfare office and an election day decided upon. The various officers required to conduct a secret ballot were selected from among the native people, while an officer of the administrative staff acted as presiding officer. No less than 17 names appeared on the ballot-sheet for some committees and only 5 were required. It required deep and serious thought on the part of the native to make his choice and it took some time for him to wade through nineteen committees and select the five persons he wanted in each committee. Those who could not read or write were assisted by specially-selected persons, who read the names of the candidates and marked their ballot-papers according to the voter's wishes.

It was a long and tedious job, as was also the counting of the ballot. Yet it was surprising how much thought was given by these natives in casting their votes. The proportion of informal votes was almost negligible. When the Committees were finally balloted for, these then met to select their own Chairman, Secretary and their representative on the Executive Committee.

Executive meetings are held weekly or more often if necessary. Owing to some unaccountable lack of interest by members, the attendance at meetings declined, but I am pleased to say that has now been overcome and good attendances are again being maintained.

*Arts and Crafts Show.*—As in former years, our arts and crafts show has been a great success. Well over 2,000 entries were again received and the school rooms were filled to overflowing with competitive exhibits, an 80-foot verandah having to take the overflow.

The show was officially opened by Mr. Inspector Draffin, of the Department of Native Affairs. The usual show dinner was held and many guests were present.

We are grateful to our sister settlements of Cherbourg and Woorabinda for the exhibits entered and for their general and keen interest.

The school-work section was well contested and the judges had quite an unenviable task in making their awards. The cookery and needle-work sections were also well represented and keener interest was shown in the coral, shell, and Native handicrafts section.

Launches came from Townsville and Lucinda and several hundred visitors from the mainland attended on both days of the show, which was one of the most successful yet held.

However, we were not so successful in the inter-Settlement competition on this occasion and desire to congratulate Cherbourg Settlement on its win last year. Despite this defeat, Palm Island is still leading by over 100 points on the aggregate for the four years' shows, and we hope to give a better account of ourselves at the final show to be held this year in conjunction with the Royal National Show in Brisbane next August.

*Band.*—Next to our show, our effort to re-establish our brass band deserves mention. Through voluntary efforts by the band committee and others interested to gather and sell trochus shell, the band committee was responsible for raising over £500.

Our Welfare executive made a grant of £950 from its general funds to help the band effort. As a full new set of band instruments was to cost over £3,000, an approach was made for a loan from the Government. A loan of £1,250, as well as a grant of £500, was made, and the instruments were purchased. This amount also includes the cost of uniforms, which will be purchased later in the year when it is known what sizes these are to be.

The instruments are expected to arrive within the next few weeks.

*Pictures.*—Probably the most popular of the Association's activities is the holding of the weekly picture show, which has become an integral part of the life of the community.

A varied programme, comprised of Cinesound and Movietone newsreels, shorts on many subjects, a serial, and a feature film, constitutes a night's programme. In addition, educational films from the Education Department are screened each month and arrangements have been completed for the regular screening of special health films.

The filmstrip projector also finds a place in screening filmstrips and colour slides to the public. It is also used to give private screenings on special subjects as required.

*The "Palm Island News".*—The publication of the weekly Palm Island newspaper is now in its seventh year and still enjoys a measure of interest both on the Island and abroad.

An Adana printing press has been installed and small jobs, such as letter-heads to stationery, tickets, and cards of various kinds, are now done on this machine, which is successfully operated by our native clerk and typiste.

*Library.*—Our library is growing, and due to the grant last year of £100 by the Department of Natives Affairs, many new and up-to-date books have been added. A portion of the grant was used to purchase books for the children's section, while some was used to secure more reference books for the adult's library. The library is being well patronised and at present the books are being recatalogued and suitable cards printed for record purposes.

Approximately £30 a year is spent from Welfare funds to get daily newspapers and periodicals for our readers and these are much sought after.

*Tape Recorder.*—Our tape recorder is finding plenty of use both for Welfare purposes and in our school. At our last Townsville show, it was used to play over a commentary accompanying a series of colour slides being shown at frequent intervals to the public visiting our display.

Concert programmes as well as educational matters are frequently recorded and used.

*Stalls.*—One of the main avenues of raising finances is through our Welfare stalls. On picture nights such goods as soft drinks, peanuts, ice cream, and sometimes sweets, &c., are sold.

During the tourist season, coral and shells, articles from pandanus, palm-leaf hats, and other novelties are purchased from the natives and sold to the tourist. This and the stall at the pictures constitute our main source of income.

To help finance the pictures a voluntary contribution is made by those natives in receipt of wages or who have savings bank accounts. This brings in a steady and regular income of approximately £15 per week.

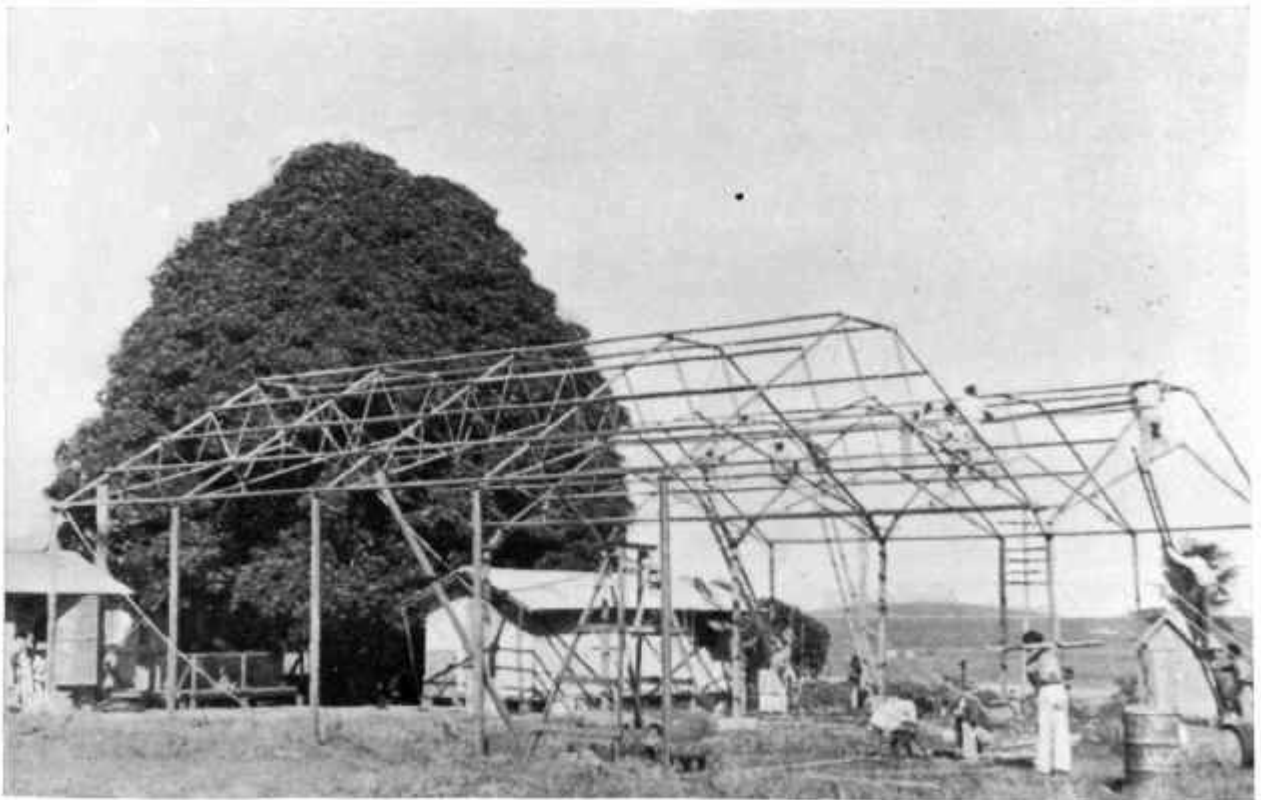
#### SPORT.

*Football.*—Football is still a very popular game, and in addition to playing fixtures on the Island, invitations are received to take a representative team to the mainland. This is a great day for the boys and they are to be complimented on their general conduct and their clean, sportsmanlike play on such occasions. The demand for the Palm Island team to visit the mainland is growing and, although this season has only begun, we have already visited Ingham and an invitation to visit Tully in a few weeks time has been received.

Keen interest is being shown by the Storekeeper (Mr. Mickel) who has consented to coach the team this season. The Ingham match resulted in a victory for Palm Island and hopes are high for a very successful season.



Palm Island Brass Band.



Erection New Child Welfare Clinic, Palm Island.

*Boxing.*—This sport is at present at a temporary halt while renovations are being carried out on the boxing ring, which is being resurfaced. It is hoped when completed that a renewed interest will result.

*Tennis.*—An attempt has been made to reorganise this sport. The fence was repaired and shortly we hope to have the surface in playing condition. New racquets have been purchased.

*Fishing Contests.*—These were held at intervals during the year and an average of about 80 natives took part on each occasion. Good catches were recorded and surplus fish were received and donated to the hospital.

The first of this year's competitions has been held and four competitors were close contestants for the prize for the heaviest fish caught. There was only 1½ lb. difference between the four best fish caught, the winner weighing 23 lb.

*Dancing.*—This form of sport appears to be taking on a new interest. It is usual to take several teams of dancers with the footballers on the trips to the mainland and the Townsville Show Society invited a party of 50 to perform at their show last year. That request has again been renewed for this year's show.

The dancers—spear and boomerang throwers—always command a great applause from the onlookers and are something of a drawcard to the football matches.

Dancing is regularly held on alternate Saturday nights and the public of Palm Island usually attend in good numbers.

*Concert.*—Closely allied to the dancing is the concert party. Each year this committee organises concerts here which are much looked for and enjoyed by the people. A concert party usually visits Fantome Island a couple of times a year to entertain the patients.

The younger members of the community are keen on concert work and a fine party of camp girls trained by Willie Thaiday never fails to get a good round of applause when they appear.

Quite recently we had our own amateur session, when almost 40 performers came forward to sing, recite, play some musical instrument, or put on a novelty event. It was highly successful and it is hoped to conduct similar sessions later in the year.

*Indoor Sport.*—Although not yet fully accomplished, this Association is endeavouring to organise indoor sport, and with this object in view various indoor equipment has been purchased and should soon be available here. This will help the young people to better occupy their leisure time.

#### FINANCES.

The Association is in a sound financial position and has a balance of approximately £1,400 to its credit in the savings bank. This has accumulated over a period of years and does not represent one year's turnover.

#### APPRECIATION.

The president and executive members desire to express their thanks to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. Moore, M.L.A., The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, Mr. Robinson, the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Mr. Richards, our Superintendent, Mr. Sturges, and all others who have taken and shown interest in our welfare. We would also include the business firms with whom we have had business dealings, and who have always been courteous. To the administrative staff and the public who have in any way assisted the organisation we say "Thank you!"

Much has been achieved during the past year and much remains to be done. By co-operation and the support of all, further progress can and will be achieved.

#### SCOUTING.

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

The work of training our native boy scouts still continues and the membership still remains at 24, though there are a few more who are waiting to reach the age when they can join up, while some have replaced others who have dropped out.

Both Mr. Dau and Leslie Foster are doing a course of training to qualify for a wood badge. We are hoping by next year they will have achieved their objective.

Working bees were organised to re-establish Esk Island camp site as our permanent scout camp and much hard work was put in by the boys, assisted by their elders. Through pressure of work, wet weather early this year, and the loss of my own son towards the end of last year, work on Esk Island has been temporarily halted. It is expected to resume again within a few weeks, when the finishing of a thatched hut commenced at the end of last year will be completed.

It is desirable that a hut of solid construction be erected in which equipment may be safely stored between camps, and some form of permanent supply of fresh water installed, such as the erection of a steel or concrete tank of several thousand gallons capacity.

With such facilities available, it will be possible for visiting scouts to be invited to camp with our boys and so give them wider experience as they rub shoulders with their white brother scouts.

We desire to express our sincere thanks for the help given by the Department during the year and we look forward hopefully to a fuller year of activity and training for our scouts.

#### GIRL GUIDE MOVEMENT.

(District Commissioner, Mrs. G. E. Krause.)

The movement has been struggling along under difficulties during the past year pending the appointment of another captain.

Meetings were held as often as practical and keen interest was shown by the girls. There are 18 girls in the company, which is made up of three patrols.

The company went into recess for the school vacation but owing to my own indifferent health has not resumed this year.

It is hoped, with the appointment of a female teacher to the school staff, that she may be keen enough to assist with the guides.

Our thanks are due to the Department for its assistance to our Company in supplying uniforms for the girls.

#### FANTOME ISLAND LAZARET.

*Statistics.*—Number of patients admitted during the year, 8; No. of discharges, 16; Patients remaining at the 30th June, 1953, 60.

*Health.*—The patients continue to respond to treatment and careful nursing, and the following extract taken from a comprehensive report on Fantome Island by a competent medical officer is quoted to emphasise this statement:—

“May I say at once that my general impression of the patients, their medical treatment, housing, hygiene, diet and entertainment was most favourable and that I do not intend to recommend any changes of a major nature. There are many smaller matters to which I will refer in which some changes could be made with benefit to the patients.

“I made a medical examination of every patient at Fantome Island and my general impression was that all patients were in a good state of nutrition and that in all patients, Hansen’s disease had been brought under control to a greater or lesser degree.”

#### DEVELOPMENT.

*Water Supply.*—With the completion during the year of the work of installing two 100,000-gallon pressed-steel tanks, Fantome Island now has a water-supply system capable of supplying water at the rate of 100 gallons per day for 300 persons, and with the exception of severe droughts there is no likelihood of a shortage of this commodity.

*Electric Light.*—Although all materials have been on hand for some considerable time, unforeseen delays have retarded this work. However, the remaining work is well under way and no further setbacks are expected.

#### ARTS AND CRAFTS.

A notable event in the Institution affairs was the staging of an arts and crafts show. The show is probably the only one of its kind in Australia, and the enthusiasm shown by the patients must be seen to be fully appreciated, and the variety and quality of the entries were evidence of the ability of mankind to overcome physical disabilities.

#### APPENDIX 2.

#### CHERBOURG ABORIGINALS SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. H. M. Sidgwick.)

#### STATISTICS.

|                         |          |            |  |
|-------------------------|----------|------------|--|
| <b>Births—</b>          |          |            |  |
| Half-Caste .. ..        | 14 Males | 25 Females |  |
| Full-Blood .. ..        | 8 Males  | 10 Females |  |
|                         | <hr/>    | <hr/>      |  |
|                         | 22 Males | 35 Females |  |
|                         | <hr/>    | <hr/>      |  |
| <b>Total births—57.</b> |          |            |  |

|                         |          |           |  |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|--|
| <b>Deaths—</b>          |          |           |  |
| Half-Caste .. ..        | 11 Males | 6 Females |  |
| Full-Blood .. ..        | 7        | 3 Females |  |
|                         | <hr/>    | <hr/>     |  |
|                         | 18       | 9         |  |
|                         | <hr/>    | <hr/>     |  |
| <b>Total deaths—27.</b> |          |           |  |

|                      |          |            |  |
|----------------------|----------|------------|--|
| <b>Transfers—</b>    |          |            |  |
| To Cherbourg .. ..   | 10 Males | 10 Females |  |
| From Cherbourg .. .. | 24 Males | 12 Females |  |

**Marriages—5.**

**Exemptions—2.**

#### EMPLOYMENT.

Number of persons under Agreement at 30th June, 1953—60.

During the year, all calls for male and female labour have been met and our employees have been supplied to employers for seasonal crops, groups for day and contract employment, harvesting peanuts, maize, onions, and potatoes, also for all station and farm work, fencing, and ringbarking. Female domestics are working in towns, farms, and stations, and also in the metropolitan area.

#### HEALTH.

The hospital, under the control of the Kingaroy Hospitals Board, is staffed by the following:—

Matron—C. L. Rynne.

Visiting Medical Officer—Dr. B. Monz.

Staff—4 sisters and 4 experienced nurses.

Native Staff.—35 males and females.

#### Patients Treated.—

|  |                         |                       |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Patients in hospital 31st March, 1952— | 13 males                | 13 females; total 26. |
| Total admissions for year—             | 729 males, 738 females; | total 1,467.          |
| Discharges for year—                   | 731 males, 733 females; | total 1,464.          |
| Number in hospital 31st March, 1953—   | 11 males, 18 females;   | total 29.             |
| Total patients’ days, 12,192;          | daily average, 33.31.   |                       |
| Total T.B. days, 2,250;                | daily average, 6.12     |                       |

#### Maternity.—

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Patients admitted during year .. | 63  |
| Births .. .. .                   | 58  |
| Stillborn .. .. .                | 1   |
| Deaths .. .. .                   | 4   |
| Patients’ days .. .. .           | 723 |
| Daily average .. .. .            | 2   |

*Dentist.*—

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of visits .. .. .               | 22  |
| Number of patients attended to .. .. . | 309 |
| Number of extractions .. .. .          | 571 |
| Number of fillings .. .. .             | 39  |

Extractions, fillings, and minor dental repairs are attended to by the visiting dentist, Mr. D. Mackay. Full dentures are supplied and fitted at the Brisbane Dental Hospital.

*Child Welfare Clinic.*—Hours—9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Every child is seen once a week and as required. Mothers are instructed under the same system as used in all Government clinics.

It is found that after 18 months, the Cherbourg mothers have responded to tuition and are giving their children better care. The condition of the children brought to clinics would be a credit to any community.

The new clinic building will be completed before the end of the year and will be as up to date and as modern as any in the State.

*Hygiene.*—The hygiene and sanitary gang have been carrying out their duties satisfactorily during the year. During the summer months flies are always a problem, particularly as they appear to be building up an immunity to D.D.T. Experiments are being carried out with other sprays and better methods are being used in combating breeding grounds.

During the year we have been greatly assisted an inspector from the Department of Health and Home Affairs, who, with his advice and practical experience, has been a great help in solving our problems.

*Optometrist.*—The Government Visiting optometrist visits the Settlement every three months attending to all eye troubles.

## SAWMILL.

|                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Number of logs milled .. .. .       | 559                 |
| Number of days worked .. .. .       | 127                 |
| Total number of logs milled .. .. . | 238,958 super. feet |
| Recovery .. .. .                    | 179,004 super. feet |
| Daily average recovery .. .. .      | 1,417 super. feet   |
| Pine logs milled .. .. .            | 27,906 super. feet  |
| Pine recovery .. .. .               | 24,918 super. feet  |

During the year native labour has been used for cutting mill logs. They have satisfactorily kept up the supply. At present we have over three months' cutting in the yard or on the ground.

Mill production has not been good over the year, the mill being closed from the 7th November, 1952, to the 14th February, 1953. During this period, much-needed structural repairs were carried out. The planing machine is once more in operation carrying out all needed planing work. It is hoped, if an electric motor can be made available, to electrify the drive for this machine and remove it to a detached building and instal No. 2 saw bench in the space it now occupies.

A small pumping plant and 5,000-gallon storage tank is being installed to take soft water from Baralabin Creek for the boiler supply. This will do away with water problems and will enable the completion of the installation of the new boiler. The old Colonial boiler will then be reconditioned and used as a spare.

## BUILDING AND CARPENTRY.

Home building has been disorganised by the building of the new child welfare clinic, which has been taking two thirds of the skilled carpenters and available material. This is an L-shaped building set on a brick foundation of 31 squares. It is hoped to complete this building by September.

One carpentry gang of four men is working full time on native cottages, as follows:—

7 native cottages 20 feet x 22 feet; 9 two and three-room cottage extensions; 4 20 feet x 12 feet buildings,

as well as general Settlement building repairs.

## PAINTING.

The painting programme set out has been completed. All administrative buildings, dormitories, and staff homes have been painted inside and out with the exception of two staff houses, partly painted inside, and the office.

A number of native cottages have been painted inside by the householders with paint supplied; this practice will continue.

## WATER SUPPLY.

During the latter half of 1952, only four inches of rain fell in 30 falls, which did little to fill our creeks. It is now 2½ years since Barambah Creek flooded its banks.

In October, plans were made to instal an auxiliary pumping plant to pump water from the rock hole to the mill hole for our domestic supply. For several weeks we had been pumping to the Aboriginal Training farm from this hole, as the source of the farm supply was dry. A sharp storm of 1½ inches in early October gave sufficient run-off to fill the creek till general rain commenced in January.

It is hoped that the new water scheme and storage tanks complete with reticulation will be completed before another twelve months pass. We will then have ample supply for any dry season.

## MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROADS.

During the year we received a new 5-ton truck. We now have two trucks, which are performing splendid service. The jeep has been completely reconditioned. A third truck is undergoing complete overhaul, and when this is completed, we will then have three vehicles in first-class condition.

Service and maintenance troubles come chiefly from the bad condition of the Murgon-Cherbourg road. The Murgon Shire Council grades this road several times in a year, but it requires constant work to keep it in repair, as all the surface requires remetalling which is beyond the capacity of our fleet.

## TRADE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

During the year this workshop has expanded greatly. Production has not been as good as expected but will improve in the future. Great difficulty is being experienced in filling our timber racks and holding the supply long enough to season. A stock pile of at least 30,000 to 40,000 super. feet of seasoned timber is required.



Not included in Mr. Cooper's report and under production are orders for Fantome Island, Thursday Island, and all the joinery for the child welfare clinic.

Boys from the manual training section this year proved satisfactory and the quality of the work turned out would be hard to improve.

#### PASTORAL.

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Rainfall for the first half of the year .. .. .  | 494 points   |
| Rainfall for the second half of the year .. .. . | 1,563 points |
|  | 2,057        |

We had showers in September and October that resulted in a good growth of grass on the settlement property. No surface water was evident till March, when 5½ inches fell during the month.

All stock wintered well and held their condition after the bad season of 1951-52. Only 70 calves were branded. Fifteen herd bulls, 2 to 2½ years old, were purchased during the year. The surplus aged bulls will be disposed of later in the year.

All stock at present are fat. The stock can be expected to winter well, but early spring rain will greatly assist.

Fences have been repaired and plans made for a new line of fencing. A bore is needed in the north-east corner of Bottom Branch Creek paddock. Branch Creek does not hold water and dry stock have to walk about four miles to water. If a bore can be put down it is proposed to fence the paddock and make it into two smaller paddocks.

#### MEAT ISSUE.

During the year, 105 Cherbourg cattle were killed for rations. One hundred and twenty-three cows were purchased locally and killed. Average cost per 100 over the period was 84s., less sale of hides, which averaged 27s. each. The cows purchased are of good quality, bulky animals, averaging over 500 lb. each.

Soup is made during the winter months and issued two days each week.

#### ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

The farm returns show an improvement over other years. More fodder has been grown and stock have done well.

Twenty-seven chains of 6-inch fibro main irrigation piping has been put in, and it is now possible to link two pumps to one line, which will improve the pressure.

Milo and maize have been grown and it is hoped to harvest approximately 300 bags of milo and 400 to 500 bags of maize. Broom millet should show an improved yield over other crops.

Pigs have shown reasonable production. A new boar will be required at a later date.

A number of improvements were carried out during the year.

#### REAFFORESTATION AND IMPROVEMENTS.

During the year a scheme of forestry regeneration was started with the co-operation of the local forestry officer. All useless timber is cleaned out. An average of approximately 100 acres has been fire-proofed. Over the years this will be extended as time and labour permit.

Ringbarking and poisoning are being carried out inside the Cherbourg area, and to date approximately 250 acres have been completed. It is proposed to concentrate with arsenic pentoxide, as ringbarking can only be carried on while the bark will strip clean.

#### SPORT.

During the year our football and cricket teams won a large percentage of matches. Boxing tournaments have been held. Several of our boys are more or less regular contestants at the Brisbane stadium. The Cherbourg Welfare Association has put down a tennis court adjacent to the recreation hall and the natives are showing keen interest.

#### RELIGIOUS TRAINING.

The Church of England and the A.I.M. hold services every Sunday and also during the week. Periodically Catholic services are held in the school building. Three denominations give religious instruction to school children one afternoon each week.

#### CHERBOURG SETTLEMENT SCHOOL.

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

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment for the year varied from 302 during the first quarter to 304 in the last quarter. The mean quarterly enrolment was 304.

*Attendances.*—The attendances for the year were 27,744 boys and 29,359 girls, a total of 57,103. The average daily attendance was 134 boys and 141 girls, a total of 275.

As in previous years, the attendances were affected during the months of May and June by an epidemic of colds and some cases of influenza. During these months, a number of children were hospitalised for varying periods. During the latter portion of September, the month of October, and portion of November, cases of gastro trouble were prevalent. However, as the daily attendance averaged 90 per cent. of enrolment, it may be considered highly satisfactory.

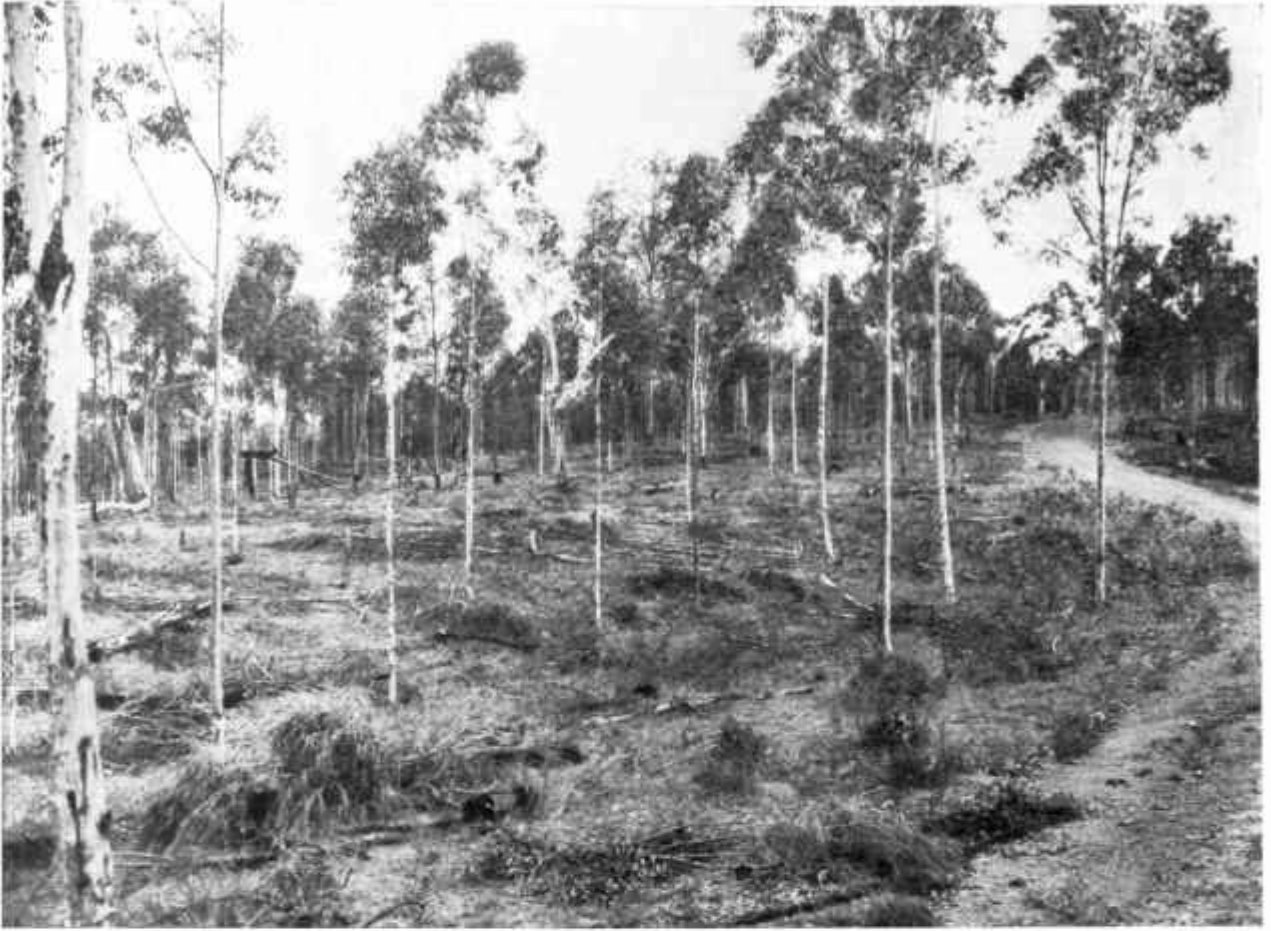
*Holidays.*—Apart from the holidays specified on the school calendar, the school was closed on the following days:—

18th July, 1952, for the district school sports.

22nd August, 1952, for the Cherbourg show.

5th September, 1952, for teachers' seminar held at Murgon State Rural School.

*Conduct.*—The conduct of children at school has been quite satisfactory generally. Manners are well observed at school and the children are reasonably obedient and diligent. Odd cases among the older children seem to indicate a lack of control at home and some undesirable habits become evident at school.



**Reforestation, Cherbourg Settlement.**



**Maternal and Child Welfare Clinic, Cherbourg Settlement.**

*Progress.*—The new State school syllabus was introduced here this year and this necessitated a complete regrading of classes. Some classes were combined, making very large numbers in these grades. Children were admitted to school at a much younger age than previously.

Progress generally may be considered satisfactory. The infant classes made excellent progress; the middle grades made very fair progress, but the older children in the upper grades did not display generally any great interest in increased standards. As the younger children work through the school it is expected that much greater interest will become evident and general standards increased.

It must be realised that new subjects were introduced this year and much difficulty was experienced by older children in their new studies. Greater facilities in the children's homes will be necessary to enable home work to be performed, and greater schoolroom areas will be necessary to prevent overcrowding, if self-reliance is to prevail. To obtain the real benefit of the syllabus introduced the child will need to become self-reliant. The district inspector of schools during his visit of inspection in November expressed pleasure at the attempt being made with the new syllabus and reported the general condition of the school as "Good."

*Domestic Science.*—This section operated reasonably satisfactorily throughout the year. Most children attending this section showed keen enthusiasm. The enrolment for each quarter, with the exception of the last quarter, when the numbers were slightly less, was 64. This included 47 primary school girls of Grades V. and VI. Forty-nine girls of Grades IV. and III. also received needlework tuition in this section of the school. The classes were abnormally large numerically and hence did not permit as much individual work as is desirable. This position could not be satisfactorily overcome this year, but it is expected that classes can be arranged next year to allow of better conditions for both children and teacher. All things considered, progress was satisfactory.

*Manual Training.*—This section operated reasonably satisfactorily throughout the year. The trades section was transferred from this section at the beginning of the year and this section then operated mainly on the lines applying to outside State schools. The enrolment varied between 64 and 58, composed of boys in the primary school grades VI. and V. Tuition was given mainly in the care and use of the various tools and the application of them to exercise work. Much exercise work was prepared for display at Murgon and Cherbourg shows. Small repair work was also executed in this section.

*Staffing.*—Miss J. E. Caswell commenced duty at the beginning of the school year. The staffing position remained stable during the first half of the year. Miss J. K. Bell was transferred to the Education Department and ceased duty on 29th August, 1952. Miss F. M. Clyne resigned as from 12th September, 1952.

The latter part of the year found quite a heavy burden placed on the remaining staff. Replacements will be necessary and staffing kept at full strength if the anticipated progress and advancement is to be made with the new syllabus now in operation.

All teachers, both white and native, have shown commendable industry and punctuality, as well as the earnestness in which they devoted themselves to the duties required of them.

*Cleaning.*—All cleaning operations were performed by the older school children. Class rooms, equipment, and other school offices were cleansed regularly and in a satisfactory manner.

*Accommodation.*—As obtained in previous years, all accommodation in the main school is at a premium. The infant section is comfortably housed and children in these classes are showing keen independent effort, but this section is so far from the main school that it is gradually becoming a separate school in the minds of the children.

*General.*—In the athletic field this school gained second place in the district school sports, Wondai State school defeating us. Teachers gave much of their time to the training of the children and the children gave of their best, going down to the better school on the day.

The primary, domestic science, and manual training sections submitted numerous entries in all available classes at the Cherbourg show and gained practically all the awards in these classes. All sections of the school assisted with the general Settlement display at the Murgon show.

The film projector has operated reasonably satisfactorily throughout the year, but a general overhaul will be necessary during the coming year. Much general knowledge has been gained by the children from this source and this form of education is proving particularly applicable to the new scheme now in operation. Our thanks are extended to the Department of Public Instruction for the regular supply of films.

The usual breaking-up festivities were associated with the completion of the school year. Children were entertained with various games, songs, music, &c., in the morning and at a special screening of pictures by the welfare association during the afternoon. The usual sweets, ice creams, drinks and fruit were distributed and all appeared to find the day enjoyable.

It is desired to record the ready co-operation of the teaching staff, both white and native, in all matters affecting the school and many thanks are extended to them.

Our thanks are extended to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the Settlement Superintendent and his staff, the welfare association, the natives generally, and to all others concerned for their kind and ready assistance throughout the year.

#### CHILD WELFARE CLINIC. (Sister D. K. Sidgwick.)

The clinic is still being carried on at the out-patients' rooms at the hospital. Being in such close contact with the hospital and with the co-operation of the matron, I have been able to get to know the mothers and children with their family histories much more quickly than I would have, had the clinic been situated in a separate building.

Every encouragement is given to mothers to use their endowment in feeding and dressing their children. It is surprising and pleasing to see most of the layettes which are brought to the hospital by these expectant mothers. This practice has been fostered by the matron and hospital staff for some years and has certainly shown results.

When the new clinic building is completed, a sewing machine will be at the disposal of mothers and every assistance will be given to them to help them make their children's clothes which will greatly reduce the cost.

One of the biggest problems is to get mothers to give their children vegetables. The advent of a winter soup-kitchen certainly helps.

Cots, mattresses, and mattress covers are issued as they became available. Mattresses are filled with hay, which is readily available and which can be destroyed in cases of infection and dirt, and the covers boiled. On the whole, mothers are taking better care of their children but, of course, there will always be some who are difficult.

No. of babies up to twelve months on roll .. 57  
No. of toddlers up to five years on roll .. 180

All of these are seen and checked weekly and it is found that the standard of attendance and condition of the children is improving.

Mothers are supplied with the following items as required:—

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Tin milk         | Colliron        |
| Minadex          | Pentavite       |
| Petrolager       | Sugar of milk   |
| Hypol            | Vicks           |
| Milk of magnesia | Feeding bottles |
| Olive oil        | Teats           |
| Farex            | Bottle brushes  |

Pre-natal and ante-natal mothers are also supplied with Actavite and milk.

#### HYGIENE OFFICER'S REPORT.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. J. A. Pascoe.)

Owing to the retirement of Mr. A. G. Anderson in November, 1952, and the subsequent control of hygiene by a trained native for a few months until the present hygiene officer commenced duty in April, this report deals mainly with the months of April and May.

*Infectious Diseases.*—Monthly inspections are carried out whereby all male personnel are required to be medically examined. At the examinations, personnel are rigidly inspected for venereal diseases, infectious sores and scabies, in addition to which on weekly inspections of the camp, both sexes who require medical attention are instructed to report to the hospital for treatment.

*Scabies.*—Five people have been under medical treatment, and as four of these were babies, a check was made as to means of transmission of this disease when it was discovered that one mother had lent her cot and mattress to two other people. The homes of all these people were fumigated with Formalin, clothing was boiled, and blankets and woollens washed in a carbolic solution, but despite these precautions

one child became reinfected. At present a steam chamber is practically completed to enable a more efficient method of combating this disease.

*Aged People.*—As several old men were not being cared for by their relatives, they were placed in a dormitory under the direct supervision of the dormitory matron and have now shown a marked improvement as to health and general cleanliness.

*Sanitary Service.*—This service is carried out three days per week. The depot is clean and tidy, new pans have been ordered, and new washing troughs have been erected. Burial is by the shallow-trench method with the sides, bottom, and surface sprayed daily with D.D.T. and waste oil.

*Rubbish.*—All rubbish is regularly collected and disposed of by controlled tipping method at the rubbish depot.

*Dairy and Piggery.*—These have been inspected twice weekly. They are sprayed on inspection days and sump oil is regularly thrown into the pig holes. Pens have been fitted with concrete feeding points and manure is constantly removed to a dump.

*Slaughtering.*—Approximately seven beasts are killed each week under supervision. Anything of a suspicious or diseased nature is promptly condemned and disposed of. A pump has been repaired at the slaughter yard and an ample supply of water is now available for the cleansing of the beasts and yards, &c. Manure, blood, and offal is now buried in deep trenches and sprayed. All railings and posts at the killing-pen are limewashed at the completion of killing.

*Anti-Fly and Mosquito Campaign.*—This has been fully carried out, but owing to the flies building up a resistance to D.D.T., a regular supply of Gammexane has been ordered to help with the control of the above.

#### SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

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

It is with pleasure I submit this, the eighth annual report of the Cherbourg Social and Welfare Association.

This organisation, controlled by native committees with any required advice and guidance from white officials, has, since its inception, been an invaluable means of giving the people of Cherbourg Settlement the opportunity within this, their own organisation, of demonstrating efficiency and improvements in their own affairs. The past year has been no exception, for affairs generally have functioned smoothly and successfully.

*Meetings.*—Meetings have been regular and at nearly all times well attended. It has been a pleasure to notice the number of non-committee men who have been present at meetings to listen to the discussions.

*Finance.*—The financial report indicates that the association's finances are indeed healthy.

It is a source of satisfaction that there was a credit in the year's trading of £197 after an expenditure of £3,000. Some of the larger amounts in this expenditure were—loan repayments, £525; wages, £409; freight, £303; toys, £251; books, £40; insurance, £42; and fencing, £47.

The treasurer's report shows the following:—

|  |   |        |
|--|---|--------|
| Receipts for the year .. .. .                    | £ | 3,195  |
| Expenditure for the year .. .. .                 |   | 2,998  |
| leaving a credit for the year's trading of £197. |   |        |
| £  |   |        |
| Trading Account, credit total .. .. .            |   | 777    |
| War bond .. .. .                                 |   | 100    |
| Total assets .. .. .                             |   | 14,216 |
| Total liabilities .. .. .                        |   | 609    |

It must be a source of satisfaction that after writing off £1,471 for depreciation that the value of our assets over our liabilities stands at £13,607.

The above figures are an indication that the association's financial responsibilities and dealings are not inconsiderable and our thanks are offered to the treasurer for the discharge of his duties in this regard.

*General.*—Social and sporting activities under the control of the Welfare Officer continue to be important features in the affairs of the association.

*Hall.*—The centre of social activities is Gurrie Gurrie (our hall), which is always kept attractively decorated and well looked after by the Welfare Officer, ably assisted by Charlie Collins.

During the year, the area enclosing the hall was fenced.

*Pictures.*—The picture programmes screened approximately three times weekly continue to be of good and suitable standard and very few complaints were made of theatre staff service.

*Dances.*—Frequent free dances, controlled by the Welfare Officer, are held. A beautiful hall, a faultless floor, and a very capable orchestra, including Jeffrey Doolah, Jack O'Chin, and their boys in colourful orchestral stand, leave little to be desired by those who are fond of this pleasant pastime.

*Other Functions.*—During show festivities, the annual dinner was held. At this dinner we were pleased to welcome the guest of honour, the Under Secretary for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. Robinson, with Mrs. Robinson and the official party. Delegates from Palm Island and Woora-binda Settlements and visitors, notable in public life in the surrounding district, were also welcomed to this, a most pleasant and congenial function.

The debutantes' ball and the concert were two other very notable and successful functions.

The Christmas tree and the New Year's ball proved to be most successful functions celebrating those seasonal festivities.

The Welfare Officer, with the help of Mrs. Rees and assistants, is to be highly complimented for the high standard of decoration, catering arrangements, and other matters generally on all these occasions.

*The Soft Drink Stall.*—This continues to be well patronised. Stall takings were £680, profits from this source estimated to be approximately 31 per cent.

*Sporting.*—In the sporting sphere, our teams had a fair measure of success in their various fixtures.

*Football.*—Our football team, although unsuccessful in Core Cup fixtures, had a fair share of success in other matches. They had the pleasure of playing the curtain raiser when the French footballers played Wide Bay.

The schoolboys' team was encouraged and won the two games in which they played.

Association finances were considerably enhanced by the activities of the footballers.

*Cricket.*—We had one Saturday and two Sunday teams playing in district association fixtures. Our No. 1 team are to be congratulated on winning the premiership and Tobin Shield.

Several of our cricketers were selected for district representative teams, which were successful in winning premierships in A, B, and Reserve grade competitions.

*Boxing.*—No boxing tournaments were held during the year. However, our boxers participated in tournaments held elsewhere.

Interest in this sport seems to have waned. This will only be overcome by the formation of a strong boxing committee, who will provide tuition and attend to stricter supervision of the training of boxers, seeing that all contestants are physically fit and competent, and the boxing ring no place for untrained boxers, whose only interest in the game is to obtain money for, in many cases, very feeble efforts.

*Library.*—The Welfare Officer advises that £220 worth of books were installed in the library during the year. We are indebted to and thank the Department for their grant of £100 for this purpose.

This facility is extensively used and both adult and junior memberships of the library have increased.

*Show Society.*—Due to the highly commendable efforts of Mr. West and the good teamwork of his committee, the sixth annual show was presented in September and was, without doubt, the best annual show we have had to date.

We are indebted to the hard working show officials, visiting commentators, other ring workers, and judges of pavilion sections.

It was, no doubt, a source of satisfaction to the Show Society to know that both as a spectacle and financially their efforts were rewarded with success.

We were fortunate in having one who has always shown a fatherly interest in the affairs of the Association present to officially open our show. The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, Mr. R. H. Robinson, very capably performed this duty in the presence of some representatives of Parliament and many distinguished public and Departmental personages. Knowing that Mr. Robinson was due ere long to retire from his onerous duties, opportunity was taken during his visit to express thanks for the interest taken and efforts made that have proved beneficial to the Association. Wishes for a long, healthy, and happy retirement were expressed and presentation made to Mr. Robinson and his charming wife. I also take

this opportunity in this annual report to place on record the thanks, appreciation, and well wishes of the Cherbourg Welfare Association to one whom we hold in the highest esteem.

*Camera Club.*—During the year the camera club was formed, with Mr. Anderson organising and encouraging those interested in this very pleasant and interesting hobby.

*Tennis.*—During my leave, the committee has proceeded with the installation of a tennis court. This is a very worthy objective and a means of providing a sporting facility wherein women-folk may participate.

*Beautification.*—It is expected that some Settlement beautification scheme will be implemented in the forthcoming year. The Association should do all within its power to foster this project, particularly in the beautification of the area assigned to the Association, together with its street frontages.

*Sundry Items.*—Cherbourg was successful in the inter-Settlement Jones Shield competition again this year, and although winning the Shield on two occasions to one win each by Palm Island and Woorabinda, we are still lagging in aggregate points. Every effort should be made to win the final competition in 1953.

Prize money was made available by the Association to exhibitors whose entries were accepted for the Jones Shield competition.

The Jack Daylight Cup and a shield were presented to the Murgon District Association to foster cricket competition.

The sum of £18 was paid towards expenses of show delegates. Pocket money amounting to £42 was distributed to institutional children attending Cherbourg and Murgon shows.

New records and operating equipment costing approximately £100 were installed in the theatre.

*Appreciation.*—The appreciation of the Association is offered to Departmental heads and officers, together with the Shire Councils and show societies of Murgon and Wondai and all who were helpmates and well wishers of the Association.

I desire to thank the Welfare Officer and his wife for all they have done in the interests of the Association.

To the committee I offer my thanks for their co-operation and attention to the duties for which they were elected.

*Conclusion.*—To the incoming president and committee I offer my well wishes for a successful year. I do suggest that it could do no harm by seeking the opinions of outside experts with considerable experience before finalising any of its future schemes.

To the committee in general I say—"This Association, set up by you for the promotion of your own welfare, deserves closer interest and whenever, the help of all. You should see that all children observe the common rules of cleanliness, discipline, and decency. Encourage closer co-operation with officials in their various sections. The observance of such would in no small way lead to better health, better conduct, and further benefits that will add to your contentment."

## TRADE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

(Overseer, Mr. G. Cooper.)

The workshop has been operating satisfactorily over the year. Three men and four boys are employed at present.

Timber supplies during the year have not been good owing to the fact that the mill did not produce for five months. With the receipt of 10,000 super. feet of silky oak now on order and with normal mill production, this problem should be better, but every effort is being made to increase the supply of timber seasoning in the racks.

*Production.*—Items produced during the year have not been as good as expected. Net value of timber used, plus native wages, exclusive of overhead and overseeing costs, amount to £1,319 7s. This total does not include small jobs taking under four hours to complete. A full list of items manufactured during the year is hereunder:—

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 6 Cupboards                               | 6 Threefold clotheshorses                        |
| 72 Food safes                             | 2 High chairs                                    |
| 46 Tables                                 | 34 Doors   |
| 68 Cots                                   | 19 pair casements                                |
| 3 Stands for stoves                       | The Director of Native Affairs float             |
| 50 Lockers                                | 14 Sets hopper sachs                             |
| 7 Forms                                   | 36 pairs Colonial sachs                          |
| 3 Kitchen dressers                        | 2,000 feet stops                                 |
| 50 E.C. flaps                             | 10 000 feet cover strips                         |
| 1 Bed locker                              | 1,400 feet scotia                                |
| 18 Double-sided blackboards               | 2,014 feet V.J. and T. and G.                    |
| 1 Filing pigeonhole with cupboard         | Repairs to school sashes                         |
| 1 Set shelves                             | Glazing in dormitories and hospital              |
| 3 Wardrobes                               | Repairs to staff houses and Settlement buildings |
| 5 Laundry trollies The "Labour Day" Float | Coffins as required                              |
| 7 Chest of drawers                        |  |

## ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

(Farm Manager, Mr. A. V. Wessling.)

*Dairy.*—During the twelve months there has been a marked improvement financially in dairy returns, the returns for the twelve months being £1,295 4s. 4d. for cream supplied to South Burnett Dairy Association. Four gallons of milk have also been supplied to the hospital daily, which would return approximately 15s. per day, amounting to £260 annually.

The herd has been tested for butterfat over the past twelve months and the average test has been 4.0.

A run for calves has been erected and will prove of benefit for rearing purposes.

One bull was purchased from Palen Creek on 30th July, 1952, and this animal will greatly assist in building up the herd.

*Pigs.*—Sales for the twelve months realised £1,550. The pigs sold to the Darling Downs Bacon Association numbered 103. All the pigs sold were bred and reared at Cherbourg. The piggery was improved by the erection of two runs and it is intended to erect further runs in the near future.



Students, Cherbourg Settlement Primary School.



Cherbourg Settlement Concert Party.

*Agricultural.*—Over the past twelve months, the growing of fodder and grain crops has been the main concentration and at present 18 acres of milo and 15 acres of maize are almost ready to harvest. The yields from these crops should be reasonably good and will be used for pig feed, thus reducing the feed bill.

Following previous successful crops, broom millet was again grown and the present crop is progressing up to expectations.

*Machinery.*—The purchase of a Ferguson spring-tyne cultivator was made and this implement proved very satisfactory in the cleaning of crops.

*Orchard.*—The citrus orchard did not progress as well as could be expected. The crop this year was partly ruined by the fruit fly and although spraying was regularly carried out it did not effectively stop the fly.

### APPENDIX 3.

#### WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. R. W. Naggs.)

*Health.*—The year has been particularly free from serious outbreaks or epidemics and it is pleasing to report that the general health of the community maintained a high level. Apart from a few cases of influenza which occurred amongst new arrivals from Nocundra and Windorah, the majority of complaints treated were of a common nature.

Regular visits to the Settlement were paid by qualified dentists from the Banana Hospitals Board and any lag in dentistry work has now been overtaken.

The hygiene officer's report which appears elsewhere shows that cleanliness is not lacking at Woorabinda, but to the contrary is of a high standard.

Alterations and additions to the hospital buildings have been effected by the Rockhampton Hospitals Board, the main work being the outpatients' department and dental clinic.

#### *Statistics.*—

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Births .. .. .    | 24 |
| Deaths .. .. .    | 12 |
| Marriages .. .. . | 7  |

*Visitors.*—The Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, Mr. W. M. Moore, M.L.A.; Mr. K. McCormack, Private Secretary to the Minister, and Parliamentary Party; Doctor Fullagar, Superintendent, Rockhampton General Hospital; The Honourable the Minister for Education, Mr. G. Devries, M.L.A.; Mr. P. Whyte, M.L.A.; Mr. R. H. Robinson, Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs; Mr. P. J. Richards, Deputy Director of Native Affairs.

*Native Housing.*—Six new cottages were erected and are now housing the more needy families. A number of existing houses were renovated and will comfortably serve their purpose until replacements can be made.

*Garage.*—All repair work is carried out on the Settlement by one white officer in charge of four natives. With a view to mechanical training, a lad of school leaving age was selected and added to the staff.

*Transport.*—The motor fleet has been increased by one 5-ton truck.

Truck miles covered during the period under review were 54,284. The main haulage jobs were—freight from Duaringa to Woorabinda and Foleyvale; 1,794 bags wheat, Foleyvale to rail and Woorabinda; 6,000 bales wheaten hay from Foleyvale to Woorabinda; 1,200 bags pumpkins to rail and Woorabinda; 50 cubic yards river gravel from McKenzie River to Woorabinda for concrete work and haulage of log timber from the bush for sawmill. Foleyvale working gangs were conveyed to and from Woorabinda each fortnight for pay.

Utility miles totalled 11,667 and car miles 6,130.

Total passengers carried other than Foleyvale workers were 1,673. Out of this total, 407 paid £169 12s. 6d. and 1,266 were carried free.

*Sawmill.*—Although all equipment is on hand for the assembly of new mill plant, unforeseen circumstances have detained this work and as only one small bench was operating, the timber output was small. However, the new plant is expected to be in production within a few months.

*Conduct.*—The behaviour and general conduct can be classed as good, as apart from minor domestic offences, only one criminal case was recorded during the year. Regular visits of inspection were paid by the Visiting Justice, whose reports substantiate the good conduct claim.

#### FARM.

While not quite up to expectations, it can be said that the production of vegetables was satisfactory. Any surplus resulting after local requirements is sent to Cherbourg and Palm Island Settlements.

The following crops were grown:—

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 ton sweet potatoes | 5 tons pumpkins        |
| 1 ton turnips        | 109 bushels cucumbers  |
| 24 cwt. carrots      | 118 bushels long beans |
| 21 cwt. beetroot     | 75 head broccoli       |
| 368½ cases tomatoes  | 1 ton radish           |
| 3,738 head cabbage   | 3 tons lucerne         |
| 432 head cauliflower | 3 tons sudan grass     |
| 393 bushels lettuce  | 135 cases citrus fruit |
| 17 tons watermelons  |                        |

16 acres peanuts are growing well and a fair crop is expected.



## PASTORAL.

As at 31st March 1953, the cattle pastured at Woorabinda totalled 4,137, being 2,601 female and 1,536 male. Brandings over the year were male, 386; female, 369. The purchase of 20 herd bulls from Bibbigang Stud, apart from the new blood infusion, should increase next season's drop of calves.

Cattle killed for rations over the 12 months numbered 327 head, the total beef weight being 141,380 lb. Official sales netted £470 7s., and the balance of the meat was issued to the native inmates. In addition 1,140 lb. porkmeat was procured from 6 pigs. Sale of hides returned £472 18s. 7d.

## DAIRY.

Production of milk for the period under review totalled 21,900 gallons. Milk is supplied to natives and hospital free. Officials paid £31 12s. for milk.

Twenty-two head of Illawarra heifers were purchased to build up the dairy herd.

## HYGIENE OFFICER'S REPORT.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. J. Sheppard.)

*Sanitary Depot.*—Night-soil disposal is by trenching in accordance with the night-soil disposal regulations. The soil, being of sandy loam, is particularly suited to this method. An absence of fly larvae, smell, and live flies is a noteworthy feature of the depot. Collection is bi-weekly.

*Garbage—Refuse.*—Disposal of garbage, household slops, and other waste is by burial in deep trenches. The sandy loam, having good depth, lends itself to this method. Collection is bi-weekly.

*Dairy.*—New concreted bails, fly-proof milk room, and standing yard have enabled a high degree of cleanliness and consequently purity of milk supply to be maintained.

The milking staff is well educated in the matter of personal hygiene and cleanliness in all matters, particularly those pertaining to the production of clean and wholesome milk.

*Slaughter Yard.*—Good-quality beef cattle are slaughtered for consumption by the inhabitants of this Settlement. Killings are twice weekly and the meat is cleanly transported from slaughter yard to butcher's shop by a meat cart designed for the purpose. All carcasses are examined both at the yard *in vivo* and at the butcher's shop for evidence of any condition which would make them unfit for consumption. Only a few instances of pathological conditions are found and these are confined to specific organs not affecting the rest of the carcass.

*Sanitation.*—Constant war is maintained against flies, fleas, and cockroaches. A man with a knapsack spray is kept fully employed spraying the various houses and establishments with an insecticide, keeping these insects under control. Mosquitoes make only sporadic attacks on the Settlement, these attacks coinciding with rainfalls.

Free registration of dogs is now in operation. This enables the Settlement to keep control of the dog population.

The general cleanliness of the houses is good. However, constant and unrelaxing supervision is necessary in most instances.

*Water Supply.*—Good clean water is in plentiful supply of which many natives take advantage by establishing their own flower and vegetable plots.

*Infectious Diseases.*—The only outbreak of infectious diseases that occurred was that of measles, which went through the Settlement and lasted about two months.

A campaign against hookworm is at present under way.

The personnel comprising the hygiene gang were inoculated against tetanus.

*Burials.*—The interment of deceased persons is carried out with all due ceremony and respect, the officials of the Aborigines Inland Mission conducting the grave-side service. Coffins are made by native carpenters.

*Welfare.*—Repairs and alterations to native houses and cottages are carried out where required. These are done by native carpenters, who have picked the trade up from working with journeymen and perform remarkably neat and efficient jobs. They are adept at acquiring manual skills.

Insect spray is given gratuitously to those who have their own atomisers. This is to supplement the routine official spraying.

Firewood is supplied to those personnel who are unable to obtain same themselves.

Ample fresh milk is given to families each day from the dairy.

## WOORABINDA SETTLEMENT SCHOOL.

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

*Attendance.*—The number of pupils enrolled at the end of March, 1953, was 199. There were 96 boys and 103 girls. The daily average attendance of children for the year was somewhat affected by measles and other diseases and was as follows:—Boys, 77.6; Girls, 85.4, Total, 163.

Never before has the enrolment been so high and it is increasing. The enrolment includes eleven children of officials, seven boys and four girls.

*Classification of Pupils.*—At the end of the year under review the classification of pupils was as follows:—

| Grades.      | Boys. | Girls. | Total. |
|--------------|-------|--------|--------|
| VI. .. ..    | 5     | 5      | 10     |
| V. .. ..     | 15    | 15     | 30     |
| IV. .. ..    | 13    | 12     | 25     |
| III. .. ..   | 15    | 11     | 26     |
| II. .. ..    | 19    | 18     | 37     |
| I. .. ..     | 12    | 27     | 39     |
| Prep. .. ..  | 17    | 15     | 32     |
| Totals .. .. | 96    | 103    | 199    |

*Staff.*—The staff consists of two white teachers and four coloured monitresses.

Since the resignation of the native teacher of vocational subjects for boys, there has been no replacement.

Applications for appointment as a female teacher and also as a male teacher for the staff of this school have been invited.

*The Curriculum.*—It is the aim of the Department of Native Affairs to have the coloured children master the same syllabus of work as that set for pupils in schools under the control of the Department of Public Instruction. In this school an earnest attempt to fulfil this hope is being made by the two white teachers.

*Settlement Shows.*—This school identifies itself very closely with the spirit of the annual shows, and comprehensive exhibits in dress-making, fancywork, leatherwork, woodwork, and tinsmithing, also primary school work, make displays that are attractive to the general public and gratifying to the pupils, their parents, and the officials whose interests are wrapped up with those of the coloured folk.

*Cultural Amenities.*—Besides the amenities common to all schools this school has a piano, a percussion band, a gramophone, and a projector.

During the latter part of 1952, the teaching of shorthand to the upper grades was begun as the first advanced effort to produce at least a few proficient secretaries for future usefulness in the Welfare Association.

*Visitors.*—The Settlement children, remotely situated as they are from populous centres, greatly appreciate visits from distinguished people. Their preference is in parties led by Ministers of the Crown. The Minister for Health and Home Affairs and later the Minister for Education visited the school during the year.

*Influx of Aborigines from Remote Districts.*—Several families were brought into this Settlement from outback areas to enable the children to obtain primary education. Special arrangements had to be made for their benefit which presented some difficulty.

*Inspection.*—The District Inspector of Schools inspected this school on the 26th and 27th March, 1953.

## SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. J. Sheppard.)

As president of the Woorabinda Social and Welfare Association, it is with pleasure that I submit this, the Eighth Annual Report of activities of this association for the period under review.

Much assistance and co-operation has been given me by all officials and native committee whenever needed.

### SPORTING.

*Football.*—For the period under review our football teams have been very successful having been undefeated for the whole season. Our teams have been training constantly and seem to be in good condition.

*Cricket.*—This sport continues to be extremely popular. Many good matches have been played and the new concrete wicket is proving very successful. High scores were common, giving spectators much enjoyment.

*Boxing.*—Five bouts against Rockhampton were staged, the win percentages being well in favour of this Settlement. Boxing contests are still held fortnightly and very good bouts have been staged. Boxing contests are arranged for the benefit of visiting sporting teams and are a huge success. Visitors and inmates alike, always enjoy fortnightly boxing bouts.

*Basket Ball.*—The girls still continue to enjoy this very popular sport. Many successful matches have been played giving much pleasure to both the players and the spectators.

*New Year's Day Sports.*—Our New Year's Day rodeo was a huge success. Many good prizes were given for the bulldogging, novice buck jump, melon race, foot running, &c. Although we had an afternoon storm a large excited crowd watched all the events. Many outside visitors attended and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Morning and afternoon teas were available, also soft drinks, lollies, ice creams, sandwiches and hot dogs. We had the usual roll up of volunteers for the stall work.

*Annual Show.*—This year's show was the fourth annual competition between Settlements for the Jones Shield. The show was held at Woorabinda and we were beaten by Cherbourg Settlement by a very narrow margin.

*Talkie Screening.*—Picture night is looked forward to by all and is usually well attended. Pictures are screened each Saturday.

*General Activities.*—Throughout the year, various functions were held regularly. Dances were conducted on Wednesday nights for the children and on Friday nights for the adults. This is a very popular pastime for most of the Settlement. Those who do not dance watch and listen to the music. Several corroborees have been held and well attended.

*Finance.*—The finances of the Association have increased considerably to £1,503 10s. 11d. as at 20th March, 1953. All members of the Association have worked very hard to achieve this figure.

In conclusion, I would like to convey my thanks to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, the Superintendent, Woorabinda Settlement, head office staff, and all officials and native committee for the assistance so readily given.

#### FOLEYVALE RESERVE.

*Pastoral.*—Weather conditions dealt unkindly to Foleyvale, as up to February the rainfall was practically nil, with the result that stocking of the Reserve pastures was kept to a minimum. However, since the advent of good rains and the quick recovery of the grasslands, 1,360 head of cattle were grazing at the time of writing.

During the year, 434 head of bullocks were sold by public auction at Cannon Hill saleyards, Brisbane, and as in previous years bidding was keen. Cattle sold on the 11th September, 1952, realised £8,280 12s. 6d., at an average of £39 16s. 2d. per head, while the sale of the 8th January, 1953, returned £10,405 5s. for an average of £46 0s. 10d.

In addition to the sales, 25 bullocks and 1 cow were transferred to Woorabinda Settlement for killing and home consumption.

*Piggery.*—Pig raising, a comparatively new industry to the Reserve, has proved a successful and profitable venture. The free range system is practised and the last sale of 49 pigs brought £478. A recent purchase of a Canadian Berkshire boar brought the total herd to 67 as at 31st March, 1953.

*Agriculture.*—Owing to frost, 70 acres of wheat had to be cut and utilised as hay. From this cutting, 6,000 bales of hay were procured and fed to milkers and working horses. Better results were experienced with the balance of the wheat crop as 1,794 bags were harvested, the first payment for which amounted to £2,964 9s.

Other crops successfully grown and their disposal were—

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 980 bags Grain Sorghum | Distributed between three Settlements.  |
| 1,200 bags Pumpkins    | .. 300 bags to Thursday Island, 210 bags to Palm Island, 140 bags to Cherbourg. Balance used locally. |

Planting and harvest expectations 1953-4 are—

|                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 12 acres Broom Millet   | .. Good growth, expected harvest good |
| 160 acres Grain Sorghum | .. Should realise 1,100 to 1,200 bags |
| 40 acres Peanuts        | .. Thin crop, fair picking            |
| 11 acres Pumpkins       | .. Excellent crop expected            |

while 300 acres of land were prepared for wheat planting and a further 70 acres of new land was tilled for other crops.

A new 20-furrow Sundercut plough was added to the Reserve's farm machinery.

*General Improvements.*—A considerable acreage was ringbarked, cleared and fenced, and good results were achieved in eradicating whipstick brigalow suckers. The scrub lands cleared are now showing established stands of Rhodes grass. With this clearing work, the carrying capacity of Foleyvale is being steadily increased.

#### APPENDIX 4.

### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND PENINSULA.

#### MARINE INDUSTRY.

The marine industry, that is, the gathering of pearlshell and trochus shell for sale overseas, constitutes in the main the life blood of the town of Thursday Island, and means almost exclusively the livelihood of the Torres Strait people. Without that industry, the town of Thursday Island would be in a parlous condition. It might be safe to say that without it the town would not exist, and the Torres Strait Island people would be in desperate straits. It is, therefore, little wonder that the Torres Strait Islanders, who constitute the large majority of workers in the industry, become particularly concerned when discussions eventuate which might allow encroachment by aliens or alien fleets into the waters of Torres Strait—waters which the Islander claims as his domain, the birthright of his race.

It has consistently been maintained that the Torres Strait Islander with encouragement and efficient training can develop into a skilled worker in the marine industry equal to any other nationality.

Approximately 1,300 Islanders and aborigines are employed in the marine industry. Of this number, 600 are employed on the Torres Strait Island fleet which is owned by Islanders but directed and managed by the Director of Native Affairs. The balance of the men are employed on vessels owned by registered companies or individuals.

It has been consistently recorded that Torres Strait Island divers have produced pearlshell and trochus shell on their boats equal to that produced by any other worker employed under similar conditions. It is difficult, therefore, for the Islander to appreciate the continuous agitation for his supplantment by Asiatic labour.

For the year ended March, 1952, the value of marine produce won by Island-owned vessels was £134,034. For the year ended March, 1953, being the period under review, the total value of produce won was £113,380 3s. 6d. It can be accepted as an established fact that fluctuations in production as between one year and the other cannot be regarded as the fault of the diver and his crews. Weather conditions during the working periods are so changeable that it is impossible to forecast the production in any one year, but it can be safely assumed that for the forthcoming year the amount of pearlshell which will be produced will exceed that of last year. This forecast is based on the continued improved efficiency of the divers and their realisation that their fullest efforts must be given as an indication of their ability to resist the danger of encroachment by alien workers on to their working grounds.

The remunerations paid to divers, tenders, engineers and crews in the pearling industry and the captain and crew of workers in the

trochus industry are provided by Agreements between employers and employees. The Diver's Agreement for the 1953 season is as hereunder—

Agreement made this                    day of  
One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-three  
Between                                    Owners of the vessel  
   hereinafter called the Owners and  
   hereinafter called the Diver.

Whereas the vessel                    is now lying at anchor in the harbour of Thursday Island and the Diver is desirous of taking the vessel to the Queensland Pearlshell and Beche-de-Mer fishing grounds in Torres Strait and vicinity for one purpose of procuring Pearlshell and other Marine Produce which may be desired by the Owners from time to time and supplying same to the Owners during the whole of the fishing season of 1953 ending on the 31st January, 1954, sign off of the crews to be completed by that date.

Now it is hereby agreed between the parties hereto as follows:—

1. The Owners hereby grant permission to the Diver to take charge of the vessel and to proceed in it to the above fishing grounds.

2. The Diver agrees not to take the vessel to any other fishing grounds without the Owner's consent. The Owners agree not to send the vessel to any other grounds without first obtaining the approval of the Shellers' Appeal Board.

(3) The Diver agrees to supply all M.O.P. shell and other Marine Produce obtained by the Diver and Crew of the vessel during the fishing season of 1953 to the Owners and the same shall become and remain the property of the Owners immediately it is obtained by the Diver and Crew and shall be delivered by them to the Owners or their authorised representatives at such place in Thursday Island and at such times as the Owners may direct, provided that no costs shall accrue against the Diver for transport or wharfage. Marine Produce includes all types of shell, shell meat, dugong and all kinds of edible fish, beche-de-mer, turtle meat and shells.

(4) The Owners shall pay to the Diver for the supply of live M.O.P. shell fished from waters regarded as F.A.Q. clean, chipped, dry and ready for packing as per the Schedule set out below:—

| LAY.       |                   |                                  |                  |
|------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| —          | Up to<br>14 Tons. | Over 14 and<br>up to<br>20 Tons. | Over<br>20 Tons. |
| Sound.. .. | £ 285             | £ 340                            | £ 360            |
| D. .. ..   | 225               | 245                              | 255              |
| E. .. ..   | 150               | 155                              | 165              |
| EE. .. ..  | 90                | 95                               | 100              |

In addition to the above lay, the Owners hereby agree to pay an amount of £200 in the event of the vessel fishing 19 tons or over of M.O.P.

No deduction shall be made for loss of weight of shell subsequent to weighing.

For M.O.P. Shell not provided for in this Agreement Lay at Seventy-five (75) per cent. above rates. In the event of any dispute on the grading of M.O.P., the Appeal Board Secretary shall have the right to call in an Adjudicator on the gradings and his decision shall be binding on both Diver and Owners.

(5) The Owners shall be entitled to deduct from the Diver's lay, all advances made by the Owners to or on account of the Diver for rations, wages and bonuses or other payments to 2nd Diver, 3rd Diver, 4th Diver, Tenders, Engineer, and Crew, and other payments or advances made against the Diver's account.

No liability for payment of Workers' Compensation and Pay Roll Tax shall accrue against the Diver.

(6) The Diver shall pay the cost of all fuel used over and above the amount of Two Hundred and Thirty Pounds (£230) in the case of Luggers and Three Hundred and Thirty Pounds (£330) in the case of Power boats.

In the case of engines using power kerosene, the Owners shall allow an amount of One Hundred Pounds (£100) above the rates set out in fuel allowances above.

(7) The Diver agrees with the Owners that he will pay wages to the Crew as follows:—

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 2nd Diver .. ..  | £20 per month |
| 3rd Diver .. ..  | £20 per month |
| 4th Diver .. ..  | £20 per month |
| 1st Tender .. .. | £20 per month |
| 2nd Tender .. .. | £18 per month |
| 3rd Tender .. .. | £18 per month |
| 4th Tender .. .. | £18 per month |
| Engineer .. ..   | £20 per month |
| Crew .. ..       | £17 per month |

Diver's liability for efficient white Engineers—  
£6 per week.

If during the current season a white man is displaced by an Islander, the Islander shall receive £6 per week as above. No employee shall be required to work on Sunday except in the performance of essential work. If clear water is available on a Sunday, then crews must work but they will be given a day off in lieu thereof during next dirty water period.

(8) The Diver agrees to conduct and manage the vessel in the following manner:—

(a) Crews at all times must be aboard their respective vessels, unless given permit to leave by the Stern Tender and all breaches of this Clause should be reported in writing to the Director of Native Affairs and the Shipping Master.

(b) Any crew member who deserts his boat during the season or whose services are terminated through his own fault or because of misconduct, neglect of duty, breach of this Agreement, or at his own request, shall not participate in bonus payments.

(c) The Diver agrees to pay the following bonuses to men employed aboard his vessel:—

|                  |    |   |
|------------------|----|---|
| Two Diver Boat   | .. | $\frac{1}{2}$ (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %) net earnings |
| Three Diver Boat | .. | $\frac{1}{3}$ (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %) net earnings |
| Four Diver Boat  | .. | $\frac{1}{4}$ (50%) net earnings                |

Try Divers with one year's experience or more shall be paid extra bonus at the rate of £2 per ton from the Diver's share and Trainee Divers for the first year shall be paid extra bonus at the rate of £1 per ton by the Owners where the Stern Diver reports that his services during the season have been satisfactory.

For the purpose of this Agreement Trainee Divers are first year Try Divers.

Trainee and Try Divers must be nominated and signed on as such.

Provided that such bonuses do not reduce the Diver's income below £200.

Such bonus to be apportioned as follows:—

Two (2) Diver Boat—

|            |    |    |   |
|------------|----|----|---|
| 2nd Diver  | .. | .. | One quarter of the above                                  |
| 1st Tender | .. | .. | One quarter of the above                                  |
| 2nd Tender | .. | .. | One eighth of the above                                   |
| Engineer   | .. | .. | One eighth of the above                                   |
| 4 Crew     | .. | .. | One quarter of the above to be divided equally among them |

Three (3) Diver Boat—

|            |    |    |                                |
|------------|----|----|--------------------------------|
| 2nd Diver  | .. | .. | 2 shares                       |
| 3rd Diver  | .. | .. | 2 shares                       |
| 1st Tender | .. | .. | 2 shares                       |
| 2nd Tender | .. | .. | 1 share                        |
| 3rd Tender | .. | .. | 1 share                        |
| Engineer   | .. | .. | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ shares         |
| 4 Crew     | .. | .. | 3 shares to be divided equally |

Four (4) Diver Boat—

|            |    |    |                                |
|------------|----|----|--------------------------------|
| 2nd Diver  | .. | .. | 2 shares                       |
| 3rd Diver  | .. | .. | 2 shares                       |
| 4th Diver  | .. | .. | 2 shares                       |
| 1st Tender | .. | .. | 2 shares                       |
| 2nd Tender | .. | .. | 1 share                        |
| 3rd Tender | .. | .. | 1 share                        |
| 4th Tender | .. | .. | 1 share                        |
| Engineer   | .. | .. | 2 shares                       |
| 5 Crew     | .. | .. | 3 shares to be divided equally |

(9) The following grounds are not regarded as F.A.Q:—

East Coast, Darnley Island, Waters on Papuan side of a line drawn from the Merrie England Shoal to Deliverance Island and thence to Boigu Island Reef along the maritime Boundary of Queensland to the 144 degree of longitude.

Waters on the South side of Batavia River in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

(10.) When vessels are being fitted out for work as diving boats, the owners will provide her with masts, spars, rigging, engines and compressors, sails, blocks, ropes, anchors, chains, cooking utensils, helmets and corselets, piping, lifeline, dinghy, approved medical kit, three sets diver's clothing for a two-diver boat and four sets of diver's clothing for a three-diver boat, and any other gear necessary to carry out working. Any replacements due to any of the above wearing out (except diver's clothing) to be supplied, but any replacements due to carelessness on the part of the diver or his crew

to be paid for by the diver, provided that nothing in this section shall refer to the diver's responsibility for replacements or repairs or any work whatsoever required to the engines. In this case engineer's liability for damage shall be assessed by two approved engineers.

(11.) Any pearls won are the property of the Owner and shall be handed to him, but in the case of Islander stern divers, may be handed to the Director of Native Affairs. Pearls must be sold and the proceeds shared as under—

One shilling per cent. to Owners.

Balance to be shared among all men on vessel on the same basis as profits from the M.O.P. ventures.

Pearls won by Islanders shall not be sold without the prior approval of the Director of Native Affairs.

(12.) Nothing contained in this Agreement is to be construed as conferring any title of ownership on the divers in the vessel of any gear or plant thereon.

(13.) The diver agrees to work the vessel without any undue loss of time.

(14.) This agreement may be terminated at any time at the owner's option without giving any reason therefor.

(15.) The owners may make advance on wages due up to 50 per cent. subject to accounts being in credit and with the prior approval, where required, of the Director of Native Affairs. The initial amount to be paid to crews on "sign on" not to exceed £5 per man. Bonus will not be paid until termination of this Agreement.

(16.) At the termination of the Agreement or sooner if the diver leaves the vessel, the vessel may be slipped, cost of necessary repairs caused by ordinary wear and tear to be paid for by the owners. Repairs caused by carelessness to be paid for by the diver.

If on slipping it is shown that no repairs caused by the diver's negligence are needed, the slipping costs shall be the owners' responsibility; provided that by arrangement with the Director of Native Affairs and owners, an amount of one hundred pounds (£100) shall be held in a special Trust Account by the Director of Native Affairs to meet slipping fees where applicable, and repairs through carelessness of the diver. At the termination of the slipping, all unused funds in the trust account shall be returned to the diver. No claim will be recognised after the vessel leaves Thursday Island.

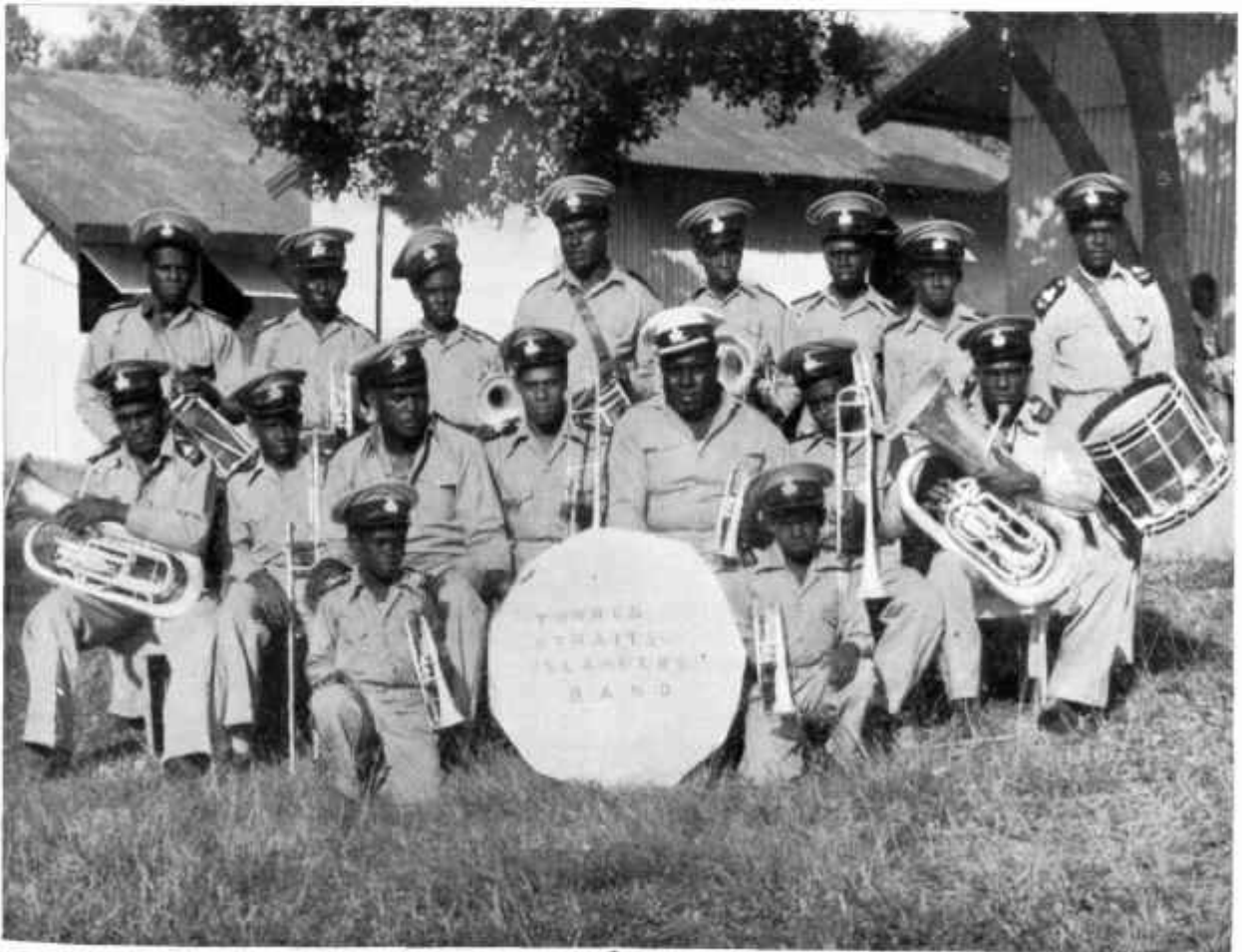
Where the diver is other than a Torres Strait Islander or aboriginal, the owner shall retain the slipping reserve. In the event of no charge being made by the owners against the reserve within a period of six months from the termination of a previous season, all monies held shall be returned to the diver.

*In Witness Whereof* the said owners and diver have hereto subscribed their names.

*N.B. Regulation 74 (1).*—Every employer shall pay all expenses of the employee's conveyance from the place of residence to the place of employment, and on completion of the period of Agreement, the cost of his return to his place of residence, together with an allowance for sustenance at the rate of Nine Shillings (9s.)



Coronation Celebrations, Thursday Island, Torres Strait.



Torres Strait Islanders' Brass Band.

per day while en route. The allowance for sustenance en route shall not apply to any employee travelling by steamer when board is provided for by the passage money.

*Regulation 79.*— When an employee has been recruited from elsewhere than his home he shall be returned on discharge to his home, unless otherwise approved by the Protector for the district in which the said employee resides.

Regulations dated the 4th June, 1953, covering remuneration for Trochus workers are as hereunder:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as "The Islanders Regulations, 1953."

2. "The Islanders Regulations, 1952" made under the provisions of "The Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946" and "The Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946" are hereby repealed.

3. (a) Minimum wages payable to Islanders and aboriginals employed on vessels licensed and working in the trochus shell industry shall be:—

Captain—Islander or aboriginal—Payment on shell won by vessel as follows:—

Up to 4 tons per month—£12 per ton

For each ton in excess of 4 tons and up to 7 tons per month—£15 per ton.

For each ton in excess of 7 tons per month—£20 per ton.

Islander member of crew—£17 per month and food.

Aboriginal member of crew £14 10s. per month and food.

Provided that, prior to engagement only, crews shown to the satisfaction of the Director of Native Affairs to be other than able-bodied or experienced, to have their wages determined by a reduction of up to 20 per cent. of the above rates: Provided further, that in addition to these prescribed minimum wages rates, a bonus payment shall be made to the crew of every vessel. Such bonus rate of payment shall be based on the season's production, as follows, for every vessel engaged in the industry:—

Chief Officer—£5 for each ton in excess of 4 tons per month.

Crew—£2 10s. each for each ton in excess of 4 tons per month.

Provided that bonus will not be paid in the event of any vessel not producing on the average 4 tons per month over the period of working, but in the event of that average being reached over the period of working then full bonus payments shall be made as above.

Period of working shall be calculated as commencing from time of departure of the vessel to work on its first trip and shall not include any periods lost through engine failure, damage to the vessel other than that shown to have been caused by default of the captain or crew, or other causes which prevent the vessel and men from working. The period shall end not more than seven days after the arrival of the vessel in its port on its last trip.

(b) The trochus fishing season for the purpose of these regulations shall be regarded as commencing on the first day of February in any one year or on the date the boat commences work, which ever is the earlier, and expiring on the thirty-first day of January of the succeeding year.

(c) All crews shall be signed on before the Shipping Master at Thursday Island and irrespective of the location of recruitment of crews they shall be discharged at Thursday Island unless otherwise agreed to by the Director of Native Affairs.

(d) The Director of Native Affairs will issue permits to recruit aboriginals on the East Coast of the Peninsula north of Cooktown and on the West Coast of the Peninsula and where such aboriginals are secured, the Director of Native Affairs may permit them to work for a period of 90 days before signing Articles at Thursday Island, conditional that the wages set out in paragraph (a) of this regulation shall operate from the day that the aboriginal joins the vessel.

(e) Aboriginals recruited at Cooktown shall be discharged at Cooktown and wages paid to the Protector of Aboriginals, Cooktown. Aboriginals discharged at Cairns shall be paid wages in the presence of the Protector of Aboriginals, Cairns, or his accredited representative. Aboriginals discharged at ports south of Cairns shall be paid off in the presence of the Protector of Aboriginals in that town or his accredited representative.

(f) Employees engaged in the Thursday Island area shall report to the Director of Native Affairs, and the Shipping Master there, when any member of the crew leaves the vessel in circumstances other than on discharge from Articles, before the Shipping Master. Any failure to advise the Director, in writing, of such absence or desertions will make the employer responsible for payment of wages during the absence of such member of the crew from the vessel.

(g) Employees engaged at ports other than Thursday Island shall similarly advise the Protector of Aboriginals at these ports. Aboriginals engaged at southern ports shall be returned to their home ports on discharge, otherwise their return would be a charge against the employer.

#### PROPOSED TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DIVERS AND TENDERS.

It has long been appreciated that the Torres Strait Islander is born to the sea. His life, his environment, his industrial outlook seldom extends beyond the borders of Torres Strait. He is an expert seaman and sailor. He is an outstanding swimmer in the gathering of trochus shell and there is no reason why he cannot ultimately become outstanding as a diver and tender in the pearling industry. Already he is well on the road to that attainment, but, as with every class of worker, the necessary finish and polish to enable the maximum efficiency is necessary for divers and

tenders. It was with this knowledge that a large public meeting was held in Thursday Island on the 15th January, when it was unanimously decided that—

- (a) An increased efficiency by workers employed in the pearling industry was warranted, and
- (b) A greater measure of protection against accidents, fatal or otherwise amongst the workers was essential.

A Board comprising the following members, representing all the sections of the Thursday Island community, was appointed:—

- Chairman—His Lordship, the Bishop of Carpentaria, representing town citizens.
- Rev. Father T. Dixon, representing town citizens.
- Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs.
- Mr. R. Hockings, representing Pearl-shellers' Association.
- Mr. J. Duffield, representing Pearl-shellers' Association.
- Mr. Tanu Nona, representing Pearling Industry Employees.
- Mr. F. Sabatino, representing Pearling Industry Employees.

The Board was directed to take immediate steps for the inauguration of a training school for divers and tenders to be established on Thursday Island. Briefly, the functions of the school would be to give requisite tuition to men employed as divers and tenders to enable them, over a reasonable period of tuition, to attain a standard of efficiency which would enable a Tutor to issue a certificate of competency indicating their ability to efficiently and satisfactorily carry out their duties.

The Board made representations to the State Government for financial assistance and without hesitation the sum of £1,500 was made available for the school. The Board requested that the State Government submit to the Commonwealth Government a request for a similar amount and that the Commonwealth Government provide from one of its organisations a capable tutor who would be paid from the funds of the Board.

Unfortunately, the School has not opened, in that no response can be obtained from the Commonwealth authorities. It is reasonable to assume that in the absence of that response the Board will endeavour to make its own arrangements to get under way this most commendable institution. Already the Torres Strait Island divers and tenders have expressed their enthusiasm with the proposal and are keenly awaiting its inauguration.

#### WELFARE.

On every Island in Torres Strait, welfare clubs are established to provide entertainment for the people and to create a club spirit amongst the younger element, including the children. Regular concerts, dances and general entertainments are provided in the Islands and the result of such is a greater degree of happiness and contentment. Periodical visits are made to Thursday Island and an annual bazaar is held in Thursday Island to raise funds.

The following are the credit balances in these Welfare Funds controlled by the Director of Native Affairs and operated on by the Native Welfare Committees:—

|  | £     | s. | d. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| Badu School Welfare Fund .. .. .               | 38    | 10 | 2  |
| Bamaga Welfare Fund .. .. .                    | 730   | 16 | 2  |
| Coconut Welfare Fund .. .. .                   | 48    | 1  | 11 |
| Cowal Creek Welfare Fund .. .. .               | 31    | 13 | 4  |
| Darnley School Library Fund .. .. .            | 6     | 11 | 11 |
| Darnley School Welfare Fund .. .. .            | 22    | 9  | 9  |
| Dauan School Welfare Fund .. .. .              | 0     | 11 | 7  |
| Dowar Southern Cross Club .. .. .              | 66    | 14 | 0  |
| Mabuiag School Welfare Fund .. .. .            | 134   | 8  | 9  |
| Mabuiag Welfare Club .. .. .                   | 21    | 16 | 0  |
| Murray Welfare Club .. .. .                    | 444   | 9  | 10 |
| Murray School Welfare Club .. .. .             | 83    | 0  | 8  |
| Murray Widows' Welfare Association .. .. .     | 52    | 9  | 0  |
| Saibai Welfare Club .. .. .                    | 11    | 9  | 4  |
| Yam Welfare Fund .. .. .                       | 35    | 9  | 11 |
| Yam School Welfare Fund .. .. .                | 4     | 11 | 5  |
| Yorke Seagull Club .. .. .                     | 93    | 14 | 2  |
| Western Hospital Comforts Fund .. .. .         | 58    | 0  | 1  |
| Eastern Hospital Comforts Fund .. .. .         | 133   | 8  | 6  |
| Torres Strait Circulating Library Fund .. .. . | 1,000 | 0  | 0  |

#### THURSDAY ISLAND BRASS BAND.

This band, comprising all Torres Strait Islanders, was formed early in 1952, following on funds being made available in the form of a Government Guaranteed Loan. The band gave its first public performance in the main street of Thursday Island on Saturday night, the 27th September, 1952. On Sunday, the 28th September, it gave a recital in the grounds at both the Thursday Island General Hospital and Waiben Hospital and approximately 700 people attended. Since that time the band has given recitals at all important public functions on Thursday Island and led the Coronation Day celebrations parade at Thursday Island.

Many complimentary remarks have been made about the performances, indicating that although only recently formed, the band is performing to a high standard of music. The band was initially established by the efforts of Mr. C. E. Weight, now deceased. Mr. Weight showed a particularly keen interest in the band and each member was taught to read music and those men on sliding instruments have graduated through the valve instruments, indicating the high standard set. In addition to playing from sheet music, the band also renders a number of Island songs which they play by ear.

Since the death of Mr. Weight, a Torres Strait Islander, Charlie Sagigi, has taken on the conductorship of the band and it is maintaining the high standard set by the late bandmaster.

The uniform has been specially selected and tailored to suit tropical conditions and the bandmen wear it with a dignity and grace of experienced players. The majority of its members are youngsters, their ages ranging from 11 years upwards, but they display an enthusiasm which one would find hard to equal in any white community.



## EDUCATION.

In the Torres Strait Islands, apart from Mission Schools which are established at St. Paul's, Moa Island (Anglican), and Hammond Island (Catholic), nineteen Department schools provide primary education for approximately 950 children. White teachers are appointed at Badu, Mabuiag, Darnley and Murray. Two relieving teachers are also appointed and at the time of writing, one is stationed at Yorke Island and the other at Bamaga. On the other Islands native teachers and staff conduct the schools, but the system of movement of relieving teachers makes it possible that for some period during each year, white supervision will prevail at every school.

Hereunder are reports by the various head teachers:—

**BADU ISLAND—MR. P. R. FRITH.** Period 1st July, 1952 to 30th June, 1953.

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment for the year varied from 74 to 89. The quarterly average being 79.

*Attendances.*—The attendances for the year were 6,940 boys and 7,648 girls, a total of 14,588. The daily average for the year was 32.9 boys and 36.2 girls, a total of 69.2 approximately. The school was opened during the above period on 211 occasions.

*Conduct.*—Throughout the year, conduct has been generally satisfactory.

*Staff.*—The school has been amply staffed throughout the term and consists of head teacher, two assistants and four monitors.

*Progress.*—The new syllabus has now been in operation for a complete year. Several adjustments have been made to suit local surroundings and some items omitted. The new syllabus, however, showed its benefit in Preparatory and Grade I. In these two classes after only two months of usage it was quite noticeable the brighter atmosphere and keen responses of the pupils. It was obvious they were finding school a pleasure. Everything to make this class and Grade I. attractive was being and has been done. In Grades II., III. and IV., there has been little or no progress. Grade V. is well above average and several pupils show good promise. English is weak throughout the school. This is due in the main to the fact that both teachers and pupils speak English only during 5½ hours per day and then only Monday to Friday. Even in school, teachers have to use their own language in giving lessons otherwise the children would not understand.

*General.*—An epidiascope has been ordered by the Director of Native Affairs for use in this school and it is hoped same will arrive from England during the latter part of the year.

**MABUIAG ISLAND—MR. B. J. MCGUIRE.** Period ending 30th June, 1953.

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment fluctuated throughout the year from 45 to 55. The mean quarterly enrolment was 51.45.

*Attendance.*—The average daily attendance for the year was 46.91 which represents an increase of 0.96 on the previous year. An outbreak of mumps reduced the attendances slightly throughout the year.

*Conduct.*—The conduct of the school children generally has been quite satisfactory throughout the year. Manners are well observed and the children reasonably obedient and diligent.

*Progress.*—Progress during the twelve months was pleasing in the Infant and Lower School. The new syllabus is followed with certain modifications to suit local conditions and abilities. Results in the Upper School were mainly static due primarily to the absence of the head teacher in Thursday Island for five months of the school year. Upper School instruction is impracticable without a white teacher, being in the main beyond the scope of the native teachers.

*Accommodation.*—Accommodation is ample for present needs. Teachers and pupils appreciate the cool, airy, classrooms and take a justifiable pride in keeping their individual rooms neat and tidy.

*Film Strip Projector.*—The 35 mm. film strip projector is of tremendous assistance. The strips available do not lend themselves to individual treatment, being as a unit beyond the appreciation of children.

However, all aspects within the scope of the children are dealt with and the development of a broader general knowledge is apparent.

*Luffman Memorial Library.*—Throughout the year the library has been extended. An invaluable addition has been the procurement of Mee's Children's Encyclopedia in ten volumes. Also text-books on Social Studies, English, Arithmetic and Arts and Crafts have been supplied by the Department. These are of immense assistance to the teachers and will gradually develop a more varied presentation in their teaching methods. The set library periods are most popular. The Middle and Upper School are permitted to take one book at a time for home reading. Although this grant was made with some trepidation, it is heartening to find such fears unfounded as all children treat their books with care.

*Voluntary Instruction Periods.*—Two hours per week after school hours is devoted to voluntary instruction by the Head Teacher in manual training. Attendance is for senior boys and although voluntary, most boys attend and are given rudimentary training in woodwork. Throughout the year the boys have, under supervision, inserted plywood lining between the steel frame of the school and built their own work bench. At the time of this report, they are engaged in framing three-ply for mounting models under construction for display in R.N.A. Exhibition.

*Island General.*—Throughout the year, the Council has pressed on with its village planning scheme. Three of the more dilapidated houses were pulled down and new ones erected mainly by communal effort. Also it is pleasing to note that the Islanders have taken to beautifying their house areas by the planting of flowering shrubs and trees. Vegetable cultivation this year has been more extensive than in previous years. This is due in no small measure to the insistence of the Council in having the people cultivate sweet potatoes, &c., close to the houses. The result has been a plentiful supply of cuttings throughout the

year. The addition of three dinghies to the Island has resulted in a constant supply of fresh dugong, turtle and fish. It is apparent that the ample supply of dugong oil does much to keep these people in their high state of health.

MURRAY ISLAND—MR. N. H. WELLS.

Period ending 30th June, 1953.

During the last twelve months the schools on Mer and Dauar have been under the supervision of two Government teachers. Mr. R. Miles assumed control in July, 1952, and was relieved by Mr. N. Wells in February, 1953. Mr. Miles has had considerable experience in the Torres Straits and it was apparent to Mr. Wells on taking up duty that Mr. Miles had interpreted the new syllabus in a very able manner. The children had responded to his admirable approach. Mr. Wells is a newcomer to the Department of Native Affairs but in his work with Islanders he has been greatly assisted, not only by the Director and his office staff, but also by the other Government teachers scattered throughout the Torres Strait. He has tried to continue teaching in the manner begun by his predecessor. In this he has been ably assisted by the native staff of seven teachers who have at all times done everything in their power to aid him. English has been made the major subject and it is hoped that within a few years the standard of speech will be unexcelled in Queensland.

The total enrolment for both Islands is 120 and the school at Dauar with an average enrolment of about twelve, is controlled by George Passi. Mr. Wells visits Dauar once a month for examination and supervision purposes.

During the year the school floor has been repaired and a gramophone and film strip projector have been provided as teaching aids. If everything is taken into consideration, it would appear that in the last twelve months there has been a continuation of the gradual improvement in education standards which has taken place in the Murray Islands throughout the year.

DARNLEY ISLAND—MR. A. L. LOUGHEED.

Period ending 30th June, 1953.

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment of this school has advanced from 65 in July, 1952, to 83 in June, 1953, with the prospect of a greater number at the beginning of the next school year.

*Teachers.*—There are six native teachers on the staff. They are all conscientious and show their great interest in the work. This is accompanied by their eagerness to further their own knowledge outside school hours.

*Government.*—The school at present is composed of seven grades from Preparatory to Grade VI. It is perhaps regrettable that the children who have attained school leaving age are not allowed by their parents to remain until they have completed the syllabus of primary schools. Since my arrival in February, 1953, I have introduced the new syllabus to a very great extent. In most subjects the children receive the same tuition as southern children and do very well.

I was surprised on my arrival to find that in most mechanical work they were on a par with southern children. However, in English expression they are weak but are progressing favourably. The main reason for this is that they speak "Pidgin English" when away from school. It has been found that in some subjects it was necessary to modify certain sections, particularly with regard to social studies. I have made this subject my own responsibility throughout the school, and the geography and history section commences with Darnley Island, proceeds to a study of the Torres Strait Islands, to Australia, and, by means of stories and pictures describing life and features to other parts of the world.

Thus, the children are receiving the same tuition as children in southern schools, with the exceptions mentioned above. They participate in organised games, singing, needlework and certain craftworks.

Since my arrival different aspects have been improved and a small museum is being inaugurated. It is hoped to obtain for the school many suitable pictures illustrating places and conditions in the outside world and to extend the school library.

The parents show a fair amount of interest in the school welfare committee which is in existence. It organises dances, the proceeds going into a School Fund used to provide amenities for the children.

In conclusion, I wish to state that the education being obtained at the Darnley Island School was very far above the standard I had expected on my arrival and a credit to those responsible for its attainments.

YORKE ISLAND.

MR. R. V. MILES, RELIEVING TEACHER.

(Period ended 30th June, 1953.)

When taking over the school at Murray Island at the end of June, 1952, just after the malaria epidemic, it seemed a good time at which to instigate a complete overhaul of curricula and the school building itself. Both were generally in need of repatching. There were six grades in the school and a large infant preparatory section, but the greater majority of pupils seemed to be in the ten to twelve year group concentrating in Grades III. and IV. (In all, the school population, including some 20 children from nearby Dauar Island, was 134.) These children were more carefully graded according to ability and the whole school was launched into the more varied and interesting channels of the new curriculum for Queensland primary schools.

Previously, as Torres Strait schools have had a modified and very dull scale of work to follow, the effect of a more pictorial, more real approach to the everyday world soon began to arouse new interest in all sections of the school, more or less in all subjects. It is fully realised, however, that such a revolution in methods could not possibly have full effect for several years until the native staff could be made quite au fait of the new ideas and approach required of the curriculum. However, with suitable tuition to introduce the "new era" the teachers improved their approach tremendously.

The interior of the school received a series of show boards made of three-ply on which pupils' work appeared each week. Interesting pictures of topical interest were also pinned up. The school committee met in August and decided to invest funds in a new strip film projector which, it is hoped, will help considerably to further the broadening aims of the new curriculum.

In December every child from Grade II upwards was examined and teachers made to issue a written report in standard form on individual pupils to parents. These reports immediately had the desired effect of arousing parents' interest in school doings and the exhibition of pupils' work and school concert held on the last day were a huge success in consequence. Following this, the Mothers' Union gave a children's party and feast at the school on the Tuesday before Christmas. The staff at Murray Island numbered six native teachers in all.

When the newly-appointed permanent teacher took over at Murray Island in mid-February, the relieving teacher was posted to Yorke Island. Here at this much smaller island the same plan of face-lifting both curriculum and building has been put into operation with perhaps not quite such immediate success as at Murray. This mainly has been due to lack of all school supplies which have just come to hand at the time of writing.

Yorke Island is very hot during the N.W. monsoonal season because, no doubt, of its whitish sandy soil. The children, therefore, needed badly some kind of shade house, so a bush timber structure was put up at the rear of the school and covered with a grass and coconut roof and sides. A very necessary porch of the same material cut by the school children was built also on to the rear of the school over the back door.

The average number of pupils at Yorke this year is 34 and there are three native teachers, one of whom is a monitor only.

#### CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

In an effort to improve the standard of education of the Torres Strait Islanders, every effort is being made to encourage them to read suitable newspapers, periodicals and library books of a type which will provide not only an uplift in their mental status, but a recreation for adults and children. With this end in view, Island Industries Board has allocated the sum of £500 for the establishment of a circulating library. As an indication of the interest by the Islanders in this proposal, the sum of £500 was allocated from proceeds of a bazaar held last year at Thursday Island and which function was organised and controlled by the Islanders.

It is expected that during the forthcoming year this library will be operating on a basis which will allow all Islanders, wherever they may be, to participate in its benefits. This £1,000 is mentioned under the heading "Welfare."

#### HEALTH.

As recorded in last year's Annual Report, in June, 1952, a severe outbreak of malignant malaria occurred on Darnley and Murray Islands and to a lesser degree on some of the other Islands. The Department of Health and Home Affairs immediately despatched medical officers and nursing staff to combat this outbreak. It is pleasing to record that the efforts of these officers were successful to such an extent that the outbreak was confined to those Islands mentioned and did not reach Thursday Island or the Australian mainland.

Consequent on this serious menace to health, a watchful eye has been kept on all Islands throughout the year and particularly following the wet season, which terminated in March last. Continuous contact by radio through the Department's network operated and every suspicious case was promptly treated and where necessary patients suspected of malaria were brought to Thursday Island for treatment. The co-operation between the medical staff of the Thursday Island Hospital and the white teachers and coloured teachers on the various Islands was complete to such extent that any suggested outbreak was controlled from the outset and no deaths occurred.

At the end of the monsoonal season, by arrangement with the Department of Health and Home Affairs, Dr. Mackerras arrived and carried out a complete survey of all Islands, instituted preventive measures and generally directed laymen in charge of the Islands on the necessary procedure in the event of an outbreak. This overall supervision of the health of the Torres Strait Islanders is keenly appreciated and has been the subject of many congratulatory comments to the Government.

The control of tuberculosis continues systematically. Apart from the Thursday Island General Hospital, the Waiben Isolation Hospital, established for the treatment of tuberculosis amongst coloured people, is functioning satisfactorily and is proving of great benefit to the Island and Aboriginal populations.

Aplin Hostel established to provide for the care and supervision of patients discharged from Waiben Hospital and prior to their returning home, is likewise functioning satisfactorily and during his recent visit to that hospital, the Deputy Director of Health and Medical Services commented very favourably on the administration and care of the patients.

As a general indication of the health position on the Torres Strait Islands, the following extract from the report by the Government teacher, Mabuig Island, can be regarded as applicable to all islands:—

"Apart from a mild outbreak of mumps and conjunctivitis, no serious epidemics were experienced. The Council is doing much to maintain this high condition. Incinerators and fowl houses are pleasing additions to the dwelling, also prompt Police and Council action in reporting illnesses has enabled the Nurse in Charge to treat patients before an illness has seriously developed. This action is much appreciated by all concerned and

on behalf of the staff, I wish to thank the Director of Native Affairs and staff for their assistance throughout the year. My thanks also go to the Government Medical Officer and his staff, together with the Island Industries Board and boat captains, the Council and Police Force of Mabuig Island, and the Islanders themselves for their splendid co-operation throughout the year.

“This report would be incomplete without reference to the great assistance given us by the Director of Native Affairs’ Radio

System and our thanks go to that organisation for the promptness with which it deals with health enquiries and for the expeditious manner that it arranges for boats to remove sick patients to Thursday Island.”

Schedule 1 provides statistics of the small hospitals established in the Torres Strait area. These hospitals cater for cases not warranting removal to the Thursday Island General Hospital. This schedule also reveals statistics of births, deaths, and marriages in the area.

#### ACCOUNTS.

Particulars of accounts controlled by the Director of Native Affairs in Thursday Island Office as apart from the accounts administered by the Brisbane Office are:—

| —                       | Number of Accounts | Number of Accounts | Balance 31-3-52. |    |    | Balance 31-3-53. |    |    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|----|----|------------------|----|----|
|                         | 31-3-52.           | 31-3-53.           | £                | s. | d. | £                | s. | d. |
| Islanders .. .. .       | 4,021              | 3,978              | 94,514           | 3  | 0  | 80,379           | 9  | 10 |
| Aboriginals .. .. .     | 780                | 788                | 43,146           | 0  | 3  | 48,131           | 3  | 9  |
| Child Endowment .. .. . | 824                | 947                | 13,358           | 19 | 10 | 16,480           | 18 | 11 |
| Island Funds .. .. .    | 65                 | 68                 | 15,245           | 15 | 7  | 14,363           | 3  | 2  |
|                         | 5,690              | 5,781              | 166,264          | 18 | 8  | 159,354          | 15 | 8  |

It will be noted that the credit balance as at the 31st March, 1953, is approximately £7,000 less than the balance at the same date last year. The explanation of this is that Islanders and aboriginals are accepting the opportunity of greater withdrawals against their Savings Bank

Accounts to enable a better standard of living and an improved industrial right.

Particulars of deposits and withdrawals against all Savings Bank Accounts are as hereunder:—

| —  | Number of Accounts. | Deposits.       |       | Withdrawals.    |       | Balance, 1-4-52. |    |    | Balance, 31-3-53. |    |    |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|-------|-----------------|-------|------------------|----|----|-------------------|----|----|
|  |                     | £               | s. d. | £               | s. d. | £                | s. | d. | £                 | s. | d. |
| Torres Strait Islands and Missions .. .. . | 5,781               | 315,504         | 10 4  | 322,414         | 13 4  | 166,264          | 18 | 8  | 74,654            | 15 | 8  |
|  |                     | Investments Com |       | monwealth Loans |       | ..               |    |    | 84,700            | 0  | 0  |
|  |                     |                 |       |                 |       | £                |    |    | 159,354           | 15 | 8  |

#### CAPE YORK SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. G. H. Thomas.)

*Bamaga and Cowal Creek.*—The areas reserved on Cape York Peninsula for Torres Strait Islanders and Mainland Aboriginals total 97,620 acres with total population of approximately 500 people.

The area known as Bamaga was obtained in 1948 for the specific purpose of providing accommodation for those Torres Strait Islanders whose home islands proved inadequate for food-raising and industrial development. Bamaga is the youngest of all Government Settlements and in the planning of it, those mistakes evident on the older settlements have, as far as possible, been removed.

The Peninsula Reserves are fortunate in having permanent running water, which was one of the main factors when the acquisition of the area was being considered.

*Buildings.*—During the year, six new cottages were erected at Bamaga and the small hospital was extended to a capacity of twelve patients. An implement shed was erected and the sawyer’s house was extended to make provision for a married couple.

The school at Cowal Creek has been rebuilt and the Store and Hospital also virtually rebuilt. Work has commenced on the erection of houses at Cowal Creek.

*Sawmill.*—A new sawmill has been built during the year and an 80 h.p. diesel unit was procured. The mill comprises two benches, viz., one breaking-down bench and one running-out bench. Sawmilling operations commenced in May and at present the estimated recovery of sawn timber is 5,000 super. feet per week, which will gradually be increased. This timber will provide buildings for Bamaga and Cowal Creek and also timber for the erection of houses for Torres Strait Islanders on their various islands. Material for departmental buildings is also now being supplied through the mill.

*Farming.*—The appointment of a farm overseer has resulted in a very great improvement to the food production to such extent that cabbages, tomatoes, pineapples, pumpkins, beans, sweet potatoes, and papaws are being retailed through Island Industries Board to white and coloured residents of Thursday Island. Farming is limited until the irrigation now being installed



Vegetables Grown Bamaga Settlement, Cape York Peninsula.

has been completed, but the following acreages give an indication of the extent of work being undertaken:—

- 9 acres pineapples.
- 1½ acres bananas.
- 7 acres citrus (400 trees).
- 7 acres small crops, such as pawpaws, tomatoes, beans, pumpkins, cabbages, sweet potatoes, &c.

A further two acres of farm land has been ploughed and is ready for planting at a later date.

*Stock.*—The stock comprises 56 head of cattle, 13 horses, and 135 pigs. These pigs are being prepared for market and will be sold through Island Industries Board's Butcher Shop, Thursday Island.

#### PATROL VESSEL Q.G. "MELBIDIR."

(Master, Captain A. Mellor, F.R.G.S.).

During the year, the patrol vessel "Melbidir" was actively engaged carrying out regular monthly patrols of the Torres Strait Islands, a patrol to the Gulf Missions and an emergency run from Thursday Island to Cairns and return for stores and rations.

From the 30th March, 1953, to the 30th June, 1953, the ship was on the slips in Brisbane undergoing an extensive overhaul of hull, fittings and engines.

*Staff and Crew.*—The vessel is manned by two white officers and a crew of 14 Islanders. The crew are fine seamen, cheerful and willing at all times. They wear uniforms, take a pride in their appearance and are a credit to the Department.

*Staff Changes.*—Captain Mellor took command on 23rd October, 1952, from Captain G. Kampe who retired owing to ill-health. Mr. A. Harvey, engineer, resigned on 27th February, 1953, and Mr. W. Richardson was appointed engineer on the 29th June, 1953.

*History and Specifications.*—Built in 1941 at Cairns, the vessel was taken over by the U.S. forces as the "General MacArthur" and later sold to the Tasmanian Government where she was renamed "George Bass." On purchase by the Queensland Government in 1948 as a patrol vessel for use in Torres Strait waters by the Department of Native Affairs, the vessel was renamed "Melbidir III."

Staunchly constructed of solid timbers with a light draught, she is ideally suited for patrol and cargo work in Torres Strait and adjacent waters.

Dimensions and draught of the vessel are—Gross tonnage 196, nett tonnage 105, length 102 ft., breadth 24.1 ft., draught, loaded 8½ ft. aft, 7 ft. fwd., light draught 7 ft. aft, 5 ft. fwd. Fully loaded including fuel, water, stores &c., the vessel will carry 180 tons dead weight. Normal full loading is 130 tons (DW).

*Engines.*—The ship is powered by an Allen 240 BHP, 6-cylinder, 4-stroke engine at 550 revs. capable of developing a speed of 9.5 knots. Other engines and their uses are—one "SX" 3-cylinder diesel 30 BHP driving the 14 KW generator for lighting, batteries and cargo

winches. One "SX" 2-cylinder drives a 9 K.W. generator for lighting, batteries, bilge pump and auxiliary compressors. Two electric motors for cargo winches replaced the petrol-kerosene engines, while one single cylinder "SX" engine powers the new designed anchor windlass which has recently been fitted.

The new four-bladed propellor recently fitted has proved very successful. During four runs over a measured mile in the Brisbane River, the vessel's speed was logged at 9.5 knots, an increase of 2.5 knots. The ship is expected to reach 10 knots in final trials.

*Life Saving Gear and Wireless.*—In addition to a motor boat, lifeboat and two cargo skiffs, life-saving equipment includes 2 Carley rafts, 8 lifebuoys and 30 standard life jackets. The ship is fitted with wireless for CW and R/T communication with D.N.A. Radio network at Thursday Island and for emergency and weather calls can work OTC (Coastal) wireless stations.

*Accommodation.*—Quarters for passengers and crew are good and consist of one official cabin, two single cabins for master and engineer and a four-berth cabin for white passengers. Islanders are accommodated in two four- and one eight-berth cabins. In addition to the cabins, good temporary accommodation can be rigged for five white passengers and approximately 20 Islanders.

*Conduct and Health.*—The conduct of the crew has been generally good and no illnesses or accidents were experienced.

The vessel was fumigated in August, 1952, and will again undergo fumigation at an early date.

*Special Tasks.*—A 75-ton wooden diesel-powered vessel, m.v. "Illawarra," broke down in the Gulf en route from Wessel Island to Thursday Island and on call for assistance, the "Melbidir" located her and towed her to port. The Darnley Island lugger "Rebecca" was wrecked on the Aureed Reef having been blown ashore during the December cyclone. The "Melbidir" successfully salvaged the lugger and towed her to Thursday Island. Early this year, the coastal vessel "Elsanna" plying between Brisbane to Thursday Island was taken off the run for slipping and to augment dwindling supplies, the "Melbidir," during March, made a quick round voyage from Thursday Island to Cairns for the needed goods.

*Cargo.*—During the year, regular general cargo has been carried from Thursday Island to all Torres Strait Islands on behalf of the Island Industries Board. A full load of general cargo was also taken to the Gulf Missions of Mapoon, Weipa, Aurukun, Mitchell River and Edward River. Regular runs are made to Red Island Point with stores and back loading with full cargo of firewood for the hospital and Island Industries Board.

Apart from official cargo and authorised loadings on behalf of Missions and white residents, "Melbidir" ships all trochus shell offering at Torres Strait Islands for disposal through the Island Industries Board. Native produce, fruit and goods are always a back loading, being consigned by Islanders to their relatives at Thursday Island. No charge is made for this service. Mail and medical supplies are also carried.

Cargo carried during the year totalled 1,215 tons made up as follows:—

|  | Tons. |
|--|-------|
| Island Industries Board (general) .. ..    | 695   |
| Director of Native Affairs (general) .. .. | 280   |
| Missions (general) .. ..                   | 175   |
| Islanders (general) .. ..                  | 45    |
| Medical (general) .. ..                    | 10    |
| Private (authorised) .. ..                 | 10    |
| Total .. ..                                | 1,215 |

*Passengers.*—The Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, visited Red Island Point on the "Melbidir," whilst on his way on administrative matters to Bamaga and Cowal Creek. The Deputy Protector of Islanders, Mr. P. J. Killoran, made a tour of the Eastern and Western Islands on the ship on administrative matters during the Council elections. Mr. J. McKenna, Wireless Engineer, made frequent trips effecting repairs and installing R/T sets. Dental officers, the Government optician, hospital staff and police officers frequently travel on duty on the ship. The Bishop of Carpentaria (C. of E.) visited Lockhart River Mission while the Bishop of Darwin (R.C.) was taken on a visit to Bamaga Settlement and Cowal Creek Reserve.

Islanders, ex hospital or returning to their home Islands, form the greater part of passengers carried. Expectant mothers travel to Thursday Island for hospitalisation and generally return to their home Islands with their new babies. Old folk and mothers with infants are given cabin accommodation and others made comfortable as deck passengers. Meals are supplied free to all Island passengers. The outward and inward inter-Island voyages are greatly appreciated by the Islanders.

*Passengers carried—*

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Officials .. ..  | 20  |
| Missioners .. .. | 5   |
| Islanders .. ..  | 486 |
|                  | 511 |

*Ship's Mileage.—*

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Torres Strait .. .. | 4,496 |
| Gulf Missions .. .. | 800   |
| East Coast .. ..    | 1,760 |
| Miles .. ..         | 7,056 |

*Appreciation.*—Thanks are extended for the ready assistance and helpful co-operation given by the undermentioned to the "Melbidir," her captain and crew—

Director of Native Affairs and staff and Island Industries Board staff, Thursday Island; the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and staff, Brisbane; for the technical advice and practical help given by Messrs. J. Barrett and R. Calder, mechanical engineers, Health and Home Affairs, during the "Melbidir's" refit especially in regard to their good work on the main engine overhaul and other mechanical equipment; to Mr. A. Harvey, late engineer, and Island crew members for their loyalty and good work as a team which added greatly to the efficiency of "Melbidir," bearing in mind: "A ship is only as good as her crew."

**WIRELESS NETWORK.**

(Engineer-Operator, Mr. J. McKenna.)

Base Station—Thursday Island.

Out-Stations—24, including Departmental vessels "Melbidir," "Gelam" and "Kebisu."

The State Government-owned radio service has contact with all Islands of Torres Strait and all Church Missions on the Peninsula. During the year, the radio service was re-organised, and now, in addition to the twice daily schedule, a special period for medical advice to all out-stations has been inaugurated during which the Government Medical Officer attends to give consultations and necessary advice.

In order to give the maximum service of seven days per week, Sunday is now included in the daily medical session.

At the corresponding period last year, only 19 stations were operating, while at present 24 out-stations are connected with the Mother Station at Thursday Island. New plant was installed at Stephen, Naghir and Boigu Islands, Hope Vale Mission, Cooktown and the m.v. "Kebisu."

At Mornington Island Mission, the wireless plant has been duplicated to safeguard against communication failures as, due to the remoteness of the Mission, a considerable period could elapse before necessary repairs were effected in the case of a breakdown. A second base station transmitter is being installed, and it is hoped that a further transmitter, making three in all, will be available during the coming year. The necessity for three transmitters is to provide a transmitter on each of the allocated frequencies, thus expediting the handling of traffic and to allow maintenance work to be effected without interruption to the radio service.

All transmitters are examined and personally serviced by the radio engineer, and over the past twelve months, all Islands were visited on at least two occasions, while the Gulf Mission sets were examined and serviced.

The efficiency of the radio service is proved by stating that not at any time was any one station off the air more than three days due to faulty equipment or other failures.

Islander operators are trained in the use of their sets and have proved their proficiency by continuously maintaining communication with base when no white personnel have been available.

The following figures will give some indication of the volume of traffic handled by the wireless network and will also reveal the manner in which radio communication has overcome the isolation of the far-flung Islands of Torres Strait and the Gulf Missions and brought them into closer contact with civilisation:—

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Number of words .. ..          | 3,600 |
| Number of daily messages .. .. | 95    |
| Daily medical traffic .. ..    | 6     |

These figures do not include radio medical consultations with the Government Medical Officer at the microphone. It is also mentioned that during the cyclonic or monsoonal season, special sessions to receive weather information

were conducted at the request of the Commonwealth Meteorological Branch. The information supplied through these sessions enables the Bureau to plot the path of the cyclone and issue timely warnings to menaced areas.

Thursday Island base station again proved its worth by being sanctioned to communicate direct with the Cairns Ambulance Brigade for

required aerial ambulance service when telephone trunk lines are out of order.

Plans are under way for the introduction of a radio educational broadcasting service embracing all the islands of the Torres Strait, particularly the smaller Islands which have not the same facilities or advantages of the larger islands.

SCHEDULE 1.  
HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDED 30-6-53.

|                 | Badu Island.               |      |        |                       |             | Saibai Island.             |     |        |                       |             | Darnley Island.            |      |        |                       |             |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-----|--------|-----------------------|-------------|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------------|
|                 | Daily Average In-patients. |      |        | Out-patients Monthly. |             | Daily Average In-patients. |     |        | Out-patients Monthly. |             | Daily Average In-patients. |      |        | Out-patients Monthly. |             |
|                 | M.                         | F.   | Total. | Visits.               | Treatments. | M.                         | F.  | Total. | Visits.               | Treatments. | M.                         | F.   | Total. | Visits.               | Treatments. |
| July, 1952 ..   | 1.5                        | 3.2  | 4.7    | 371                   | 288         | ..                         | ..  | ..     | 316                   | 315         | 2.8                        | 2.16 | 4.96   | 6,000                 | 6,000       |
| August ..       | 3.2                        | 2.2  | 5.4    | 402                   | 240         | ..                         | ..  | ..     | 203                   | 184         | .03                        | .03  | .06    | 107                   | 107         |
| September ..    | 2.7                        | 3.7  | 6.4    | 304                   | 197         | ..                         | ..  | ..     | 217                   | 212         | ..                         | ..   | ..     | 526                   | 526         |
| October ..      | 1.4                        | 1    | 2.4    | 387                   | 279         | ..                         | ..  | ..     | 221                   | 179         | ..                         | ..   | ..     | 449                   | 449         |
| November ..     | 3.3                        | 2.5  | 5.8    | 458                   | 186         | ..                         | ..  | ..     | 239                   | 175         | ..                         | ..   | ..     | 329                   | 145         |
| December ..     | 2                          | .5   | 2.5    | 380                   | 156         | ..                         | ..  | ..     | 235                   | 161         | ..                         | ..   | ..     | 238                   | 238         |
| January, 1953.. | 2.16                       | 2.06 | 4.22   | 516                   | 272         | ..                         | .2  | .2     | 239                   | 222         | ..                         | ..   | ..     | 468                   | 468         |
| February ..     | 1.7                        | 2.6  | 4.3    | 526                   | 368         | 2                          | 2.6 | 4.6    | 185                   | 93          | ..                         | ..   | ..     | 297                   | 276         |
| March ..        | 1.6                        | 2.9  | 4.5    | 366                   | 126         | .4                         | ..  | .4     | 210                   | 196         | .16                        | ..   | .16    | 349                   | 321         |
| April ..        | 1.1                        | 2.2  | 3.3    | 358                   | 164         | ..                         | ..  | ..     | 177                   | 168         | 1.1                        | 1    | 2.1    | 420                   | 420         |
| May ..          | 2.1                        | 2.6  | 4.7    | 416                   | 168         | ..                         | ..  | ..     | 191                   | 84          | ..                         | ..   | ..     | 610                   | 610         |
| June ..         | 2.5                        | 3.5  | 6      | 430                   | 192         | ..                         | ..  | ..     | 124                   | 108         | ..                         | ..   | ..     | 550                   | 550         |
|                 | Monthly Average of—        |      |        |                       |             | Monthly average of—        |     |        |                       |             | Monthly average of—        |      |        |                       |             |
|                 | In-patients ..             |      |        | 4.518                 |             | In-patients ..             |     |        | .43                   |             | In-patients ..             |      |        | .61                   |             |
|                 | Out-patients treated       |      |        | 218                   |             | Out-patients treated       |     |        | 174.7                 |             | Out-patients treated       |      |        | 842.5                 |             |
|                 | Visits to Out-patients ..  |      |        | 409.5                 |             | Visits to Out-patients ..  |     |        | 213.08                |             | Visits to Out-patients ..  |      |        | 861.9                 |             |

SCHEDULE 1—continued.  
PERIOD FROM 1-7-52 TO 30-6-53.

| Place.                      | Births. | Stillbirths. | Deaths. | Marriages. |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------------|---------|------------|
| Thursday Island ..          | 4       | ..           | 4       | 16         |
| Thursday Island Hospital .. | 157     | 2            | 32      | ..         |
| Badu ..                     | ..      | ..           | 1       | ..         |
| Bamaga ..                   | 8       | ..           | 1       | ..         |
| Boigu ..                    | 5       | ..           | 1       | ..         |
| Cocanut ..                  | 5       | ..           | 1       | ..         |
| Cowal Creek ..              | ..      | ..           | ..      | 1          |
| Kubin ..                    | 4       | ..           | 4       | 1          |
| Mabuiag ..                  | ..      | ..           | ..      | ..         |
| Saibai ..                   | 8       | ..           | 5       | ..         |
| Dauan ..                    | ..      | ..           | ..      | ..         |
| Murray ..                   | 15      | ..           | 12      | 4          |
| Dowar ..                    | ..      | ..           | ..      | ..         |
| Darnley ..                  | 11      | 1            | 2       | 1          |
| Naghir ..                   | ..      | ..           | ..      | ..         |
| Stephen ..                  | ..      | ..           | ..      | ..         |
| Rennell ..                  | ..      | ..           | ..      | ..         |
| Yam ..                      | ..      | ..           | ..      | ..         |
| Yorke ..                    | 3       | ..           | 2       | 1          |
| St. Pauls ..                | 2       | ..           | 1       | ..         |
| Horn ..                     | 1       | ..           | ..      | ..         |
| Three Sisters ..            | ..      | ..           | 1       | ..         |
| At Sea ..                   | ..      | ..           | 2       | ..         |
| Total ..                    | 223     | 3            | 69      | 24         |



## SCHEDULE 2.

## BOAT CATCHES, YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1953.

| Name of Vessel.  | M.O.P.     | Value.  |    |       | Trochus. | Value. |         |    | Wolfram. | Value. |      |          | Value Total Production. |    |
|--|------------|---------|----|-------|----------|--------|---------|----|----------|--------|------|----------|-------------------------|----|
|  |            | T.      | C. | Q. L. |          | £      | s.      | d. |          | T.     | C.   | Q. L.    |                         | £  |
| Petta Nona   | 23 14 0 4  | 9,693   | 0  | 4     | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 9,693    | 0                       | 4  |
| Relsie Nona  | 21 15 2 21 | 9,179   | 18 | 8     | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 9,179    | 18                      | 8  |
| May Nona   | 17 13 1 20 | 7,580   | 7  | 11    | 8 18     | 2 17   | 1,208   | 17 | 7        | ..     | ..   | 8,789    | 5                       | 6  |
| Sarah Nona   | 15 5 0 21  | 6,411   | 18 | 2     | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 6,411    | 18                      | 2  |
| Mosby  | 12 18 2 4  | 5,156   | 12 | 7     | 3 12     | 2 11   | 491     | 4  | 11       | ..     | ..   | 5,647    | 17                      | 6  |
| Macey  | 12 16 2 7  | 5,071   | 16 | 2     | 8 15     | 2 16   | 1,188   | 10 | 4        | ..     | ..   | 6,260    | 6                       | 6  |
| Cessa  | 10 1 2 14  | 3,882   | 14 | 2     | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 3,882    | 14                      | 2  |
| Naianga  | 8 17 1 16  | 3,853   | 12 | 6     | 5 8      | 1 8    | 732     | 19 | 6        | ..     | ..   | 4,586    | 12                      | 0  |
| Nancy  | 7 15 0 22  | 3,304   | 13 | 10    | 0 19     | 1 17   | 131     | 5  | 9        | ..     | ..   | 3,435    | 19                      | 7  |
| Uropi  | 4 15 0 20  | 2,061   | 17 | 1     | 4 10     | 3 20   | 615     | 5  | 8        | ..     | ..   | 2,677    | 2                       | 9  |
| Sanla  | 3 11 0 27  | 1,566   | 11 | 5     | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 1,566    | 11                      | 5  |
| Kismet   | 3 10 2 27  | 1,513   | 16 | 6     | 8 14     | 0 23   | 908     | 2  | 6        | ..     | ..   | 2,426    | 19                      | 0  |
| Caroline   | 3 4 0 0    | 1,250   | 2  | 6     | 8 19     | 2 15   | 1,215   | 10 | 6        | ..     | ..   | 2,465    | 12                      | 11 |
| Maria  | 3 1 2 13   | 1,419   | 12 | 4     | 29 15    | 1 0    | 4,027   | 17 | 2        | ..     | ..   | 5,447    | 9                       | 6  |
| Yaza   | 3 1 0 17   | 1,025   | 7  | 3     | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 1,025    | 7                       | 3  |
| S.S. Dona  | 2 14 3 21  | 1,211   | 10 | 6     | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 1,211    | 10                      | 6  |
| Ella   | 2 4 0 21   | 814     | 9  | 6     | 1 2      | 0 10   | 149     | 9  | 5        | ..     | ..   | 963      | 18                      | 11 |
| Cape York  | 1 17 2 27  | 791     | 18 | 2     | 0 19     | 2 21   | 133     | 4  | 4        | ..     | ..   | 925      | 0                       | 6  |
| Rebecca  | 1 12 3 26  | 759     | 10 | 0     | 5 8      | 1 20   | 733     | 14 | 0        | ..     | ..   | 1,493    | 4                       | 0  |
| Zunal  | 1 8 1 15   | 600     | 10 | 3     | 0 13     | 0 15   | 88      | 17 | 6        | ..     | ..   | 689      | 7                       | 9  |
| Wadumo   | 1 3 3 2    | 516     | 4  | 10    | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 516      | 4                       | 10 |
| Binibin  | 0 7 3 20   | 162     | 0  | 4     | 1 0      | 3 17   | 141     | 8  | 8        | ..     | ..   | 303      | 9                       | 0  |
| Danie  | 0 5 3 9    | 119     | 10 | 6     | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 119      | 10                      | 6  |
| Adai   | 0 4 0 11   | 85      | 12 | 4     | 4 11     | 2 17   | 620     | 3  | 6        | ..     | ..   | 705      | 15                      | 10 |
| Millard  | 0 3 1 15   | 65      | 15 | 4     | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | 65       | 15                      | 4  |
| Adiana   | ..         | ..      | .. | ..    | 14 4     | 3 16   | 1,927   | 15 | 6        | ..     | ..   | 1,927    | 15                      | 6  |
| Dinghy   | 6 0 3 15   | 2,448   | 14 | 4     | 9 10     | 1 25   | 1,288   | 17 | 4        | ..     | ..   | 3,737    | 11                      | 8  |
| Wolfram  | ..         | ..      | .. | ..    | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | 1 11   | 0 23 | 2,646    | 11                      | 0  |
| Adjustments to boats on account sales charges and commission | 170 5 2 23 | 70,552  | 15 | 5     | 115 5    | 3 16   | 15,603  | 4  | 2        | 1 11   | 0 23 | 2,646    | 11                      | 0  |
| ..   | ..         | 17,555  | 11 | 9     | ..       | ..     | 6,885   | 19 | 6        | ..     | ..   | 136      | 1                       | 8  |
| ..   | ..         | £88,108 | 7  | 2     | ..       | ..     | £22,489 | 3  | 8        | ..     | ..   | £2,782   | 12                      | 8  |
| ..   | ..         | ..      | .. | ..    | ..       | ..     | ..      | .. | ..       | ..     | ..   | £113,830 | 3                       | 6  |

## APPENDIX 5.

## ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

(Acting Manager, Mr. C. O'Leary,  
Director of Native Affairs.)

## CONSTITUTION.

Island Industries Board is a Corporation created under "The Torres Strait Islanders' Act of 1939." During the year under review, Board members were—

Chairman—Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs.

Members—Mr. P. J. Killoran; Mr. J. C. Dillon.

Secretary—Mr. J. C. Robertson.

Co-operation and co-operative effort in the industrial life of the Torres Strait Island race was not particularly difficult to implement on scientific lines in that co-operation in all walks of life and industry is one of the outstanding traits of these 6,000 people who occupy 20 habitable islands in Torres Strait between Cape York (the most northern point of Queensland) and the southern coast of Papua.

As with most coloured races, co-operative effort in food production, home building, village development, fishing and all phases of industrial pursuits are second nature to the Islanders, and with a knowledge of this psychology, the Queensland Government, as part of its protection and up-liftment policy, determined an encouragement of the development of the people on progressive co-operative lines.

As far back as 1900, Torres Strait Islanders worked their canoes, dinghies and small cutters in the production of marine produce, viz., pearlshell, beche-de-mer and trochus shell in a small way. Through missionary organisations they disposed of such marketable produce on a system which allowed an equal division of the return amongst all workers employed. This unorganised system of co-operation was gradually developed until 1930 when the Queensland Government acquired the business of Papuan Industries Limited, which, as a trading concern, was then furthering the co-operative efforts in Torres Strait. With this acquisition and with the passing of "The Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939" by Queensland Parliament, co-operation in work and effort was definitely established by the Government. The Act provided for the establishment of the corporation known as Island Industries Board. The functions of that Board are extensive and provide coverage for every industrial activity of the Torres Strait Islanders.

Here are the Board's functions—

1. Carry on the business, trade or occupation, as the case may be, of banker, blacksmith, builder, carpenter, commission agent, common carrier (whether by land or water), dealer (wholesale or retail), engineer, exporter, factor, farmer, fisherman (including fishing for pearlshell, trochus shell and beche-de-mer), forwarding agent, freight contractor, general merchant, grazier, importer, iron-worker, joiner, labour agent, lighterman, manufacturer, mine-owner, money-lender, plumber, shipping agent,

ship's chandler, shipbroker, shipbuilder, shipowner, shopkeeper, stevedore, storekeeper, timber merchant, tinsmith, trustee, warehouseman, wharfinger, or any other trade or business incidental or ancillary to any such business, trade or occupation as aforesaid or which in the opinion of the Board can be effectually carried on in connection with any such business, trade or occupation.

2. Acquire from time to time and at all times and either by construction, purchase, lease or otherwise, all such buildings, premises, plant, machinery, equipment and stock as may in the opinion of the Board be necessary or desirable for the carrying on by the Board of any such business, trade or occupation as aforesaid.

3. Acquire and distribute information relating to or as to the best manner of carrying on any such business, trade or occupation as aforesaid and undertake the education, instruction and training of Islanders or other persons in any such business, trade or occupation and for that purpose establish, maintain and conduct all such schools and classes as the Board may deem necessary; and enter into contracts of apprenticeship with any such person as aforesaid.

4. For the purpose of carrying on any such business, trade or occupation as aforesaid, have and exercise all such powers, authorities and discretions and do all such acts and things as a private person carrying on business in Queensland might have or exercise or do.

5. Cause investigations to be made and from time to time report and make recommendations to the Director, upon all or any of the following matters:—

- (a) Any question relating to any trade, commerce, or business carried on by or in which Islanders are interested or engaged;
- (b) Markets for goods produced or manufactured by Islanders, and trade with other countries in, and the method of marketing such goods;
- (c) Generally as to how the trade, industries and commerce of Islanders can be best encouraged, developed and protected.

6. Finance any such business, trade or occupation as aforesaid and for that purpose raise money on loan from the Governor in Council, the Treasurer, the Director, the Corporation of the Bureau of Rural Development, or any bank or financial institution or person, and mortgage or assign property of the Board (including contracts between the Board and Islanders or other persons relating to or arising out of any such business, trade or occupation as aforesaid).

7. In accordance with its constitution, the Island Industries Board, controls—

- (a) Eighteen retail stores and one bulk store. The turnover through these stores for the year was £191,564.

(b) A Marine Produce Store, where pearl-shell and trochus shell won by Islanders are received for sale. Wolfram and scrap metal are also received and sold through this store during the year, as well as produce from Bamaga Settlement. The sales of these products realised £113,962.

(c) A slipway on which the 25 luggers and cutters owned by Torres Strait Islanders are repaired and dinghies built for the luggers and for private sale.

(d) Two cargo boats, "Gelam" and "Kebisu." The "Neptune" was sold during the year and the engine of the "Cormorant" was overhauled in Brisbane and installed in the "Kebisu" by Board's officers in Thursday Island. The old engine of the "Kebisu" was sold by tender and the gear box and generator from the "Kebisu's" old engine have been forwarded to Brisbane for disposal by State Stores Board.

(e) The Board employs a staff of 17 whites and 82 Islanders. This staff comprises clerical workers, branch store managers and assistants (all Torres Strait Islanders), shipwright and Island carpenters.

(f) The overall assets of the Board are valued at £169,515.

General trading by Island Industries Board is extensive, as is indicated by the following figures for the year under review. These comparative figures indicate a steady growth in the Board's activities.

|                                   | 1950-51 | 1951-52 | 1952-53 |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                                   | £       | £       | £       |
| Stock (End of Year)               | 51,974  | 67,718  | 73,628  |
| Sales .. .. .                     | 145,444 | 170,173 | 186,806 |
| Purchases .. .. .                 | 98,886  | 120,043 | 126,108 |
| Charges (Freight, Insurance, &c.) | 28,907  | 30,091  | 35,049  |
| Stock (Beginning of Year)         | 50,457  | 51,974  | 67,718  |
| Gross Profit .. .. .              | 19,168  | 35,783  | 31,559  |

Statement of Sales of Produce for Year ended 31-3-53.

|  | £ s. d.           |    |    |
|--|-------------------|----|----|
| Mother-of-Pearl Shell—161 Tons 11 cwt.<br>2 qr. 23 lb. . . . .     | 83,598            | 14 | 4  |
| Plus additional payment by Otto<br>Gerdau on Account Sales .. .. . | 4,509             | 12 | 10 |
|  | 88,108            | 7  | 2  |
|  | Tons Cwt. Qr. Lb. |    |    |
| Trochus Shell .. 131 15 3 0 ..                                     | 22,450            | 9  | 5  |
| Grubby Trochus .. 4 19 1 19 ..                                     | 38                | 14 | 3  |
|  | 22,489            | 3  | 8  |
| Wolfram .. .. . 1 11 1 19 ..                                       | 2,782             | 12 | 8  |
| Scrap Metal .. .. . 3 8 0 20 ..                                    | 582               | 0  | 5  |

Total Sales of Produce—£113,962 3s. 11d.

Hereunder is statement of Store transactions for the year—

| Islands.  | Turnover. |              | Cash. |       | Stock. |       | Total Cash and Stock. |       |
|---|-----------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
|   | £         | s. d.        | £     | s. d. | £      | s. d. | £                     | s. d. |
| Badu .. .. .  | 16,430    | 5 4          | 97    | 0 5   | 2,597  | 16 11 | 2,694                 | 17 4  |
| Bamaga .. .. .  | 14,085    | 17 5         | 25    | 5 10  | 2,374  | 7 4   | 2,399                 | 13 2  |
| Boigu .. .. .   | 3,581     | 7 2          | 249   | 16 4  | 1,008  | 1 6   | 1,257                 | 17 10 |
| Bulk Store .. .. .  |           |              |       |       | 29,823 | 17 9  | 29,823                | 17 9  |
| Butcher Shop .. .. .  | 4,511     | 5 7          |       |       | 19     | 8 9   | 19                    | 8 9   |
| Coconut .. .. .   | 5,699     | 16 0         | 31    | 16 1  | 781    | 16 3  | 813                   | 12 4  |
| Cowal Creek .. .. .   | 6,814     | 13 9         | 18    | 12 10 | 878    | 0 6   | 896                   | 13 4  |
| Darnley .. .. .   | 9,575     | 5 5          | 136   | 13 4  | 1,998  | 11 2  | 2,135                 | 4 6   |
| Dauan .. .. .   | 3,434     | 4 10         | 97    | 8 10  | 778    | 15 5  | 876                   | 4 3   |
| Kennedy Store .. .. .   | 26,841    | 1 0          |       |       | 29,805 | 5 5   | 29,805                | 5 5   |
| Kubin .. .. .   | 6,853     | 16 8         | 77    | 15 6  | 1,571  | 16 9  | 1,649                 | 12 3  |
| Mabuiaig .. .. .  | 8,172     | 13 11        | 128   | 19 11 | 2,072  | 12 3  | 2,201                 | 12 2  |
| Murray .. .. .  | 14,724    | 0 10         | 207   | 11 11 | 4,479  | 9 5   | 4,687                 | 1 4   |
| Naghir .. .. .  | 2,356     | 11 0         | 73    | 1 1   | 693    | 0 0   | 766                   | 1 1   |
| Saibai .. .. .  | 8,913     | 8 4          | 49    | 12 4  | 1,774  | 6 9   | 1,823                 | 19 1  |
| Stephen .. .. .   | 3,153     | 7 9          | 355   | 7 1   | 1,407  | 10 8  | 1,762                 | 17 9  |
| Thursday Island .. .. .   | 45,066    | 19 11        |       |       | 3,179  | 12 9  | 3,179                 | 12 9  |
| Yam .. .. .   | 4,922     | 12 4         | 134   | 10 9  | 1,245  | 13 10 | 1,380                 | 4 7   |
| Yorke .. .. .   | 6,427     | 0 8          | 39    | 0 10  | 1,517  | 1 9   | 1,556                 | 2 7   |
|   | £         | 191,564 7 11 | 1,722 | 13 1  | 88,007 | 5 2   | 89,729                | 18 3  |
| Less inter-branch transfers not actually part of turnover .. .. . |           | 11,388 19 0  |       |       |        |       |                       |       |
|   | £         | 180,175 8 11 |       |       |        |       |                       |       |

NOTE.—Rennell Store was closed down during the year.

#### ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD SLIPWAY.

From 1st April, 1952, to 31st March, 1953, this slipway had 388 gross tons of major and minor ship repair work. During that period vessels from 30 ft. in length to 60 ft. have been slipped. Repairs carried out included the replacing of defective or damaged main keels, new strakes, main decks, caulking seams and copper sheath hulls, installing mechanical power.

Last December a ketch named "Naianga" was so badly damaged during an unexpected "blow" that she sank after being hit by several other vessels. This ship was raised and slipped, and a new keel, new counter stern, frames and strakes on the bilges and new decks fitted. This work and jobs to other vessels were carried out entirely by Torres Strait Islanders.

These natives are husky chaps with intelligence and are willing at all times to tackle ship repair work. Sixteen of these natives and six youths have been constantly employed. Some of them have served seven years. Two act as leading hands and one is responsible to the white shipwright officer in charge. The youths are mainly on dinghy construction and repairs. Eight new dinghies including two motor launches have been constructed and 25 defective dinghies have been repaired. The natives are receiving wages for their labour equivalent to the rate payable to a white shipwright, and each man belongs to an Industrial Union.

The shipyard is equipped with up-to-date machinery, such as band saws, circular saws, thickness machine, drilling machine, band saw brazer, band saw sharpener, hand forge, emery grinder, and winch for hauling slip cradles. All this machinery is operated by electricity, each machine being fitted with the best safety switches. The natives use any of this equipment

where required to ensure a quick job. All cutting tools are sharpened by them and kept well oiled when not in use.

Twice a week classes are held in working hours to teach the natives the theoretical side of ship building. Various sections of vessels, which are undergoing repairs, are drawn to scale on the drawing boards. Instruments and drawing paper are supplied by the shipyard.

Vessels are slipped at this shipyard only on high water spring tides. Six months of the year these tides change from daylight to night tides which occur at about midnight (winter months). When a vessel is being slipped and her keel is in doubt, the native shipwrights make no hesitation in swimming under the bilges with face glasses and under-water electric torches to make an examination, before she settles on the cradle.

There are three cradles and practically all through the year they are occupied by vessels. Slipping charges, including labour, are made in respect of each vessel occupying a cradle.

Rigging and wire splicing is done by the natives when required. Various splices in wire rope have been done, such as lock splices for slings, standard rigging splices, and short and long splices. Masts, fifty feet in length, have been lifted out by the shipyard's derrick, the trucks lifted off and the top of the mast examined for dry rot.

The shipyard is equipped with a ship's chandlery store and timber rack, where all materials, timber, &c., are drawn for various jobs.

Island Industries Board shipyard is the biggest in Torres Strait with Torres Strait native shipwrights employed maintaining all native-owned pearling and trochus ketches and cutters, also Commonwealth lighthouse tender stationed at Thursday Island, Church of England Mission ketches and several privately owned launches and ketches.

The following vessels were slipped during the year:—

|                               | Gross Tonnage. |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| M.V. "Gelam" .. .. .          | 30             |
| M.V. "Swingle" .. .. .        | 30             |
| Ketch "Thoran" .. .. .        | 22             |
| Ketch "May Nona" .. .. .      | 25             |
| M.V. "Kebisu" .. .. .         | 30             |
| Ketch "Uropi" .. .. .         | 25             |
| Launch "Atlas" .. .. .        | 10             |
| M.V. "Swingle" .. .. .        | 30             |
| Ketch "Torres Herald" .. .. . | 23             |
| Ketch "Naianga" .. .. .       | 26             |
| Ketch "May Nona" .. .. .      | 25             |
| Launch "Sarah Nona" .. .. .   | 20             |
| Ketch "Petta" .. .. .         | 25             |
| Ketch "Relsie Nona" .. .. .   | 22             |
| Ketch "Uropi" .. .. .         | 25             |
| Ketch "Nancy" .. .. .         | 20             |

#### MARINE PRODUCE.

Apart from its functions as a storekeeper, the Board accepts the responsibility of disposing of all marine produce won by the Torres Strait Islanders' Fleet, controlled and managed by the Director of Native Affairs. Therefore, the Board acts as selling agent for the Director of Native Affairs and as such, is required to satisfy him that the best market is obtained for the Islanders' produce. In keeping with this responsibility, the Board has regular contact with local and overseas buyers in America, England, and the Continent. The Board claims that the price which it received for this year's marine produce, viz., mother-of-pearl shell and trochus shell, compares favourably with any local producers and by reason of its success in this direction it holds the confidence and appreciation of the Island workers.

Hereunder are contracts entered into by the Board with the Otto Gerdau Company of New York for the disposal of pearl-shell and trochus-shell for the 1953 season:—

#### PEARL-SHELL AGREEMENT.

THIS AGREEMENT made the Twenty-first day of May, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-three between THE ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD, a corporation duly constituted under the provisions of "The Torres Strait Islanders' Acts, 1939 to 1946" (hereinafter called "the Vendor") of the one part and OTTO GERDAU Co., of Wall street, New York (hereinafter called "the Purchaser") of the other part.

WHEREBY it is agreed as follows:—

1. The Vendor shall sell and the Purchaser shall purchase all the Mother-of-Pearl Shell produced, purchased, handled or otherwise controlled by the Vendor during the season ending 31st January, 1954, PROVIDED THAT the Vendor shall have the right and be at liberty to dispose of any such Mother-of-Pearl Shell which it is reasonably satisfied will be utilised for manufacturing purposes in Australia.

2. The price to be paid by the Purchaser to the Vendor for the said Mother-of-Pearl Shell shall be as follows:—

|                              |              |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Grades AA., A., B. and C. .. | £745 per ton |
| Grade D. .. .. .             | £515 per ton |
| Grade E. .. .. .             | £325 per ton |
| Grade EE. .. .. .            | £265 per ton |

This price shall include the cost of grading and packing as customarily carried out by the Vendor.

3. Payment for the said shell shall be made by the Purchaser to the Vendor as follows:—

The Purchaser shall forthwith on the execution of this Agreement establish a confirmed irrevocable part payment Letter of Credit in the sum of One hundred thousand pounds (£100,000) Australian, in the National Bank of Australasia Limited, Thursday Island, and also in such further amounts as the Vendor may require him to establish from time to time for the purposes of this Agreement. Such further amounts shall be so established within seven days after notice by telegram from the Vendor to the Purchaser or his agent. Such Letter of Credit shall be payable to the Vendor as follows:—

The F.O.B. price of any such shell shipped by the Vendor on production to such Bank of the Bill of Lading Shipping Receipt and the Certificate of origin in respect of such shell.

4. The Purchaser shall, under no circumstances, have the right to cancel this Agreement without the permission of the Vendor.

#### TROCHUS-SHELL AGREEMENT.

THIS AGREEMENT made the Twenty-first day of May, One thousand nine hundred and fifty-three between THE ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD, a corporation duly constituted under the provisions of "The Torres Strait Islanders' Acts, 1939 to 1946" (hereinafter called the Vendor) of the one part and OTTO GERDAU Co. of Wall Street, New York (hereinafter called the Purchaser) of the other part.

WHEREBY it is agreed as follows:—

1. The Vendor shall sell and the Purchaser shall purchase all the Trochus Shell produced, purchased, handled or otherwise controlled by the Vendor during the season ending 31st January, 1954, PROVIDED THAT the Vendor shall have the right and be at liberty to dispose of any such Trochus Shell which it is reasonably satisfied will be utilised for manufacturing purposes in Australia.

2. The price to be paid by the Purchaser to the Vendor for the said Trochus Shell shall be as follows:—

Grades I. and II.—£172 10s. per ton.

This price shall include the cost of grading and packing as customarily carried out by the Vendor.

3. Payment for the said shell shall be made by the Purchaser to the Vendor as follows:—

The Purchaser shall forthwith on the execution of this Agreement establish a confirmed irrevocable part payment Letter of Credit in the sum of thirty thousand pounds (£30,000) Australian in the National Bank of Australasia Ltd., Thursday Island and also in such further amounts as the Vendor may require him to establish from time to time for the purposes of this Agreement. Such further amounts shall be so established within seven days after notice by telegram from the Vendor to the Purchaser or his agent. Such Letter of Credit shall be payable to the Vendor as follows:—

The F.O.B. price of any such shell shipped by the Vendor on production to such Bank of the Bill of Lading Shipping Receipt and the certificate of origin in respect of such Shell.

4. The Purchaser shall under no circumstances have the right to cancel this Agreement without the permission of the Vendor.

#### APPENDIX 6.

##### YARRABAH MISSION.

(Superintendent, Major L. V. Wakefield.)

##### STAFF.

Rev. F. W. Hipkin  
 Mr. G. Gretton (Store)  
 Mr. N. Brown (Farms)  
 Mr. P. Lepine (Office and Store)  
 Mr. R. James (Workshop)  
 Mrs. L. V. Wakefield  
 Miss E. V. Odom  
 Sister M. Stanley (C.A.) (Hospital—under Cairns Hospitals Board)  
 Miss F. Phipps (School)  
 Miss I. Sanders (Girls' Dormitory)  
 Miss P. Duncan (School)  
 Miss J. N. Baldoek (arrived February 12th, 1953—Office)  
 Mrs. Hipkin (On School staff from 27th, January, 1953.)

##### Statistics.

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Births .. .. .    | 29 |
| Marriages .. .. . | 10 |
| Deaths .. .. .    | 5  |

*Health.*—The general health of the community has been good.

Four tuberculosis cases were admitted to the Cairns Base Hospital during the year. Three remain there as inmates.

A Doctor from Cairns Base Hospital has visited the Mission weekly.

*Dental.*—All patients have been treated at the Dental Clinic, Cairns Base Hospital.

*Religion.*—The Church life is very healthy and the attendances at the Eucharist, as well as at Evensong, are very satisfactory. The Eucharist is celebrated during the week both at Head Station and in the Settlements and at Head Station Evensong is conducted nightly and a special service of preparation for Communion is held Saturdays.

Prayers are said daily with the men in all the stations before work commences. Religious instruction is given in the school on three days a week and there is a well-attended Sunday School conducted by members of the staff. Boys' and girls' organisations linked with the Church have weekly meetings and are most successful.

*Education.*—The school staff consists of Miss F. Phipps, B.Sc., head teacher, assisted by the chaplain, the Rev. F. W. Hipkin, Miss Pearl Duncan, who was trained in Sydney, Mrs. Hipkin, who has had experience with small children and who commenced as from 27th January, 1953, and one man, two women and a girl trainee from the settlement.

There are 170 children on the roll at present. Attendance is good. We began 1953 with one boy and two girls in Grade VI

The chaplain takes religious instruction and English expression in Grades III. to VI. These lessons are enjoyed by the children.

The children are original and creative in their play materials. At present they are making aeroplanes and windmills from coconut leaves. They like to draw—the boys favour ships and the girls draw houses and flowers.

There are fifteen children at Oombunghi Settlement under Roslyn Choikee.

*Arts and Crafts.*—Craft work in the way of baskets, mats, feather sprays, &c., is carried out by the female inhabitants. This work enables them to augment their incomes.

*Sanitation.*—Improvements to this service continue to be effected. A special grant for this purpose has been made available by the Director of Native Affairs during the year to provide materials which have been ordered for us through the State Stores Board.

*Sawmill.*—The second-hand breaking down saw purchased by the Government has been repaired and the new layout of the sawmill is being carried out. It is expected to have the mill in operation in the next few months. This will be of great assistance in obtaining materials for improving housing accommodation.

*Water Supply.*—The Government has made funds available for the provision of 2½-inch piping to construct a new main, and orders for the supply of same and fittings have been placed with the State Stores Board. It is hoped the pipes will be available before the close of the financial year.

*Farms.*—Progress on the farms this year has been fairly satisfactory but has been hindered by varying weather conditions—dry latter part of 1952, extremely wet first three months 1953 (90 inches).

*Mourighan.*—Fair crop of maize, water melons, pumpkins and bananas have been harvested. The use of fertilizer has revolutionised the productivity of these areas. Fences have been repaired and a new area of about two acres cleared and fenced. This area has been planted with bananas and pawpaws.

*Dijinghi.*—Pineapples at this Settlement are growing well. A good crop was harvested off about one third of the two acres planted last December and the whole area should produce a good crop next summer.

The area has been extended by about 5,000 plants obtained from our existing plant material.

The bananas are producing satisfactorily and a further 1½ acres have been planted. Good crops were obtained from very small areas of turnips, carrots, marrows, English potatoes, cucumbers, and onions.

An area of about 3½ acres has been cleared and fenced and is being used for vegetables until needed for extension of pineapples.

*Long Scrub.*—Another three acres have been cleared and brought under cultivation. Fences have been repaired and crops can now be grown without interference from stock. Satisfactory crops were obtained from areas of sweet potato, cassava, pumpkins, beans, turnips, carrots, and water melons.

*Oombunghi.*—A good stand of molasses grass has been established on an area of three acres. Satisfactory crops of maize, sweet potatoes and pumpkins have been obtained from the rest of the area under cultivation. It is proposed to establish a Guinea grass pasture in this area for grazing.

*Farm produce for year.*—

|       |                        |
|-------|------------------------|
| 6     | ton pineapples.        |
| 396   | lb. pawpaws.           |
| 1,198 | bunches bananas.       |
| 12½   | ton watermelons.       |
| 2½    | ton pumpkins.          |
| 23½   | ton sweet potatoes.    |
| ½     | ton marrows.           |
| 7     | ton maize.             |
| 3     | ton cassava.           |
| 2,107 | lb. beans.             |
| 3,190 | lb. white turnips.     |
| 567   | dozen cucumbers.       |
| 1,107 | lb. tomatoes.          |
| 460   | lb. swede turnips.     |
| 780   | lb. carrots.           |
| 5     | cwt. onions.           |
| 8     | cwt. English potatoes. |

*Stock.*—Muster, 1st January, 1953—71 horses; 126 cattle.

*Employment.*—The Settlement provides full employment for all adult male workers. On the 31st March, 21 males and 13 females were employed on agreement.

Seasonal work in the cane industry is obtained for such men as are required.

Wages collected for Savings Bank accounts for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1953, totalled £6,429 17s. 2d. Credits to Aboriginals' Provident Fund amounted to £896 11s. 6d.

In conclusion I would express my appreciation for the assistance and advice so freely given by Mr. C. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs and all officers of his Department throughout the year.

APPENDIX 7.

DOOMADGEE MISSION.

(Acting Superintendent, Mr. J. Talbot.)

STAFF.

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Miss Isa Black       | —Certificated Sister and Acting Mission Matron.            |
| Mr. Allen Hockey.    |  |
| Mrs. Eunice Hockey   | —On furlough since 17th November, 1952 till June, 1953.    |
| Mr. Edmund Jennings. |  |
| Miss Pearl Roberts   | —On furlough since 17th November, 1952 till June, 1953.    |
| Mr. Thomas Weeks.    |  |
| Mrs. Joy Weeks.      |  |
| Miss Ruth Perry      | —Joined staff 17th March, 1952, for few months assistance. |

*Statistics.*—

|           |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Births    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15 |
| Deaths    | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5  |
| Marriages | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6  |

*Health.*—The health of the people in general appears to be good.

*Medical.*—

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| In-patients of hospital,  | 24 (including 12 maternity cases). |
| Out-patients daily average,   | 3.                                 |
| Daily Mothercraft and attention to infants and very young children. |                                    |
| Epidemics   | —Nil.                              |
| Epileptics  | —1.                                |
| Mastoiditis   | —2.                                |
| Fibrositis  | —1.                                |
| Cramps  | —1.                                |
| Mumps   | —1.                                |
| Severe burn   | —1.                                |
| Scald   | —1.                                |
| Convulsions   | —2.                                |
| Gastritis   | —2.                                |
| Muscular Rheumatics   | —1.                                |
| Infections  | —5.                                |
| Skin Sores  | —20.                               |
| Skin Rash   | —16.                               |
| Pterygium of eye  | —1.                                |
| Fractured arms  | —2.                                |
| Fractured legs  | —1.                                |
| Fractured Collar Bone   | —1.                                |
| Fractured Knee Cartilage  | —1.                                |
| Minor complaints of eyes  | —5.                                |
| Minor complaints of ears  | —5.                                |
| Severe eye injury   | —1.                                |

*Natives sent to Hospital at Cloncurry for Treatment*—

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 2 cases Mastoiditis | —Both cases sent to Cloncurry twice. One case sent on to Townsville Specialist on two occasions and the other sent on to Townsville Specialist second occasion. |
| 1 Maternity case    | —Child was stillborn and mother died there of shock.  |
| 1 eye injury        | —Boy sent on to Townsville and eye amputated.   |
| 1 wrist fracture    | —Man sent for X-ray after 9 months in plaster. Now alright.   |

*Accidents to Mission Natives while away in Employment*—

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Broken legs        | —2 cases. Both sent to Cloncurry Hospital. |
| Broken arms        | —2 cases. One sent to Cloncurry Hospital.  |
| Broken Collar Bone | —1 case. Sent to Cloncurry Hospital.       |

*Dental.*—A number of extractions were effected during the year in addition to those at the Dental Clinic.

Dental Clinic conducted at Mission 18th and 19th March, 1953. Work done—32 extractions ordinary, 6 extractions surgical, 9 fillings.

*Visits by Flying Doctor based at Cloncurry*—5.—The last of these five visits is intended to be the first of a four-weekly Medical Clinic, which the Flying Doctor Service is extending to the Mission, and which must prove very beneficial.

*Hygiene.*—Everything possible is being done to teach and to see that rules for cleanliness are carried out. Results amongst most of the young and dormitory inmates are gratifying but leaves much to be desired amongst the people in the native village. It must be remembered that very many of these people are little removed in social thought from their old tribal mind. Some still prefer a humpy to a house to live in and to use their fingers instead of a knife and fork to eat with.

*Social.*—For the school children there are organised games and sports every Wednesday. When the young men are home from employment, there are also sports and games on Saturday afternoons in which all the younger ones join and also a few of the older.

For senior dormitory girls, weekly social evenings are arranged and held in one or other of the staff cottages. Bush walks and bush hunting and fishing for the dormitory inmates are the most enjoyable forms of recreation. The village people of course spend nearly all their time thus.

A number of riverside picnics were arranged and much enjoyed by all. On one occasion all the dormitory girls and a few of the village women with several women members of the Mission staff supervising, camped out for a week at a favourite site.

Around about Christmas time there were many get-togethers for the pleasure and enjoyment of old and young who all gathered in the Mission compound. On Christmas Day, at a special Christmas gathering, presents were distributed to every man, woman, and child on the Reserve.

*Education.*—School was conducted for the greater part of the year. There were 53 school children and the average attendance was 53. Total attendances for the year were 9,152.

Girls are trained in all domestic duties. Boys are encouraged to learn mechanical and various other forms of work, but almost without exception, their one ambition is to become stockmen, despite the risks and thrills. A Mission boy somehow seems to be able to ride the very first time he is in the saddle.

*Religious.*—Besides the usual daily and weekly meetings held in the Mission compound, special meetings were conducted in the native village with most encouraging results. Besides these, native Christian men arranged and conducted meetings in the village on their own and nightly there would be family and group gatherings singing sacred songs and hymns, praying and seeking knowledge from the Word of God. Many native men—young and old—came into happy experience of knowing Jesus Christ as Saviour.

#### INDUSTRIAL.

*Agriculture.*—For seven or eight months of the year we have had a fairly steady supply of fresh vegetables from the garden. Pumpkins did particularly well but besides these there were often quantities of roots and greens for all the people who cared to go to the issuing store for them.

A green manure crop was grown over four acres of garden during the few weeks of rainy weather in January and February and conveniently ploughed-in in readiness for 1953 winter crops. The first sowings of vegetables in March were eaten up by grasshoppers and caterpillars, but subsequent sowings are now showing promise.

The area under Sweet Potatoes is gradually improving.

*Horticulture.*—Citrus trees bore very well but we were unable to spray adequately against fruit fly pest and therefore did not harvest the quantity anticipated. Banana plantations, so badly damaged by drought and rats in previous years, have not recovered completely, and comparatively few small bunches have been harvested.

*Grazing—Cattle.*—Although it was a very dry and hard year for cattle generally, our cattle held condition very well, and so far as we are able to judge, our losses were negligible. With a motor road now running right through the Reserve from North to South, we had hoped to be able to rebuild burnt yards and get an early start with mustering in 1953, but we found that practically every bush-yard had been burnt down, so mustering of cattle, except on river frontage, has been almost impossible. The motor road through the Reserve was opened through virgin bush for 35 miles. The work was accomplished by a team of visiting friends with forestry experience. Many miles of fencing, burnt down by bush fires, have been either renewed or repaired, except the fencing of a separate paddock in the south-west corner of the Reserve.

The home stock-yard has been completely rebuilt, complete with drafting pens, crush and killing pen with gallows. One outside yard is nearly complete in an important area and others are planned. These bush or "brumby" yards are to be built in fully cleared areas using stout barked posts and heavy fencing wire in place of rails. We are awaiting the arrival of a mechanical post borer to assist us in this work.

Owing to our not being able to get saddles repaired when required, a number got quite beyond repair and we have had to purchase a number of new saddles and packs.

#### Livestock.—

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| Cattle on hand at 1st April, 1952 .. ..       | 1,279 |       |
| Less natural estimated loss .. ..             | 64    |       |
|   | <hr/> | 1,215 |
| Add brandings for the year .. ..              | 179   |       |
|   | <hr/> | 1,394 |
| Deduct killings for Mission consumption .. .. | 70    |       |
|   | <hr/> | 1,324 |
| Cattle on hand at 31st March, 1953 .. ..      |       | 1,324 |
| <hr/>   |       |       |
| Horses—                                       |       |       |
| Mission owned at 1st April, 1952 .. ..        | 70    |       |
| Deduct losses 10 percent .. ..                | 7     |       |
|   | <hr/> | 63    |
| Add new brandings .. ..                       | 11    |       |
|   | <hr/> | 74    |
| Native owned at 1st April, 1952 .. ..         | 25    |       |
| Deduct losses .. ..                           | 3     |       |
|   | <hr/> | 22    |
| Add additions brought in .. ..                | 12    |       |
|   | <hr/> | 34    |
|   | <hr/> | 108   |
| <hr/>   |       |       |
| Goats on hand at 1st April, 1952 .. ..        | 54    |       |
| Natural losses 8, killings 3 .. ..            | 11    |       |
|   | <hr/> | 43    |
| Add new kids .. ..                            | 13    |       |
| Goats on hand at 31st March, 1953 .. ..       |       | 56    |
|   | <hr/> |       |

## BUILDINGS.

*Native Accommodation.*—The permanent buildings have been kept in repair. Some temporary structures were erected for accommodation of extra people home during the few weeks wet weather.

*Staff Cottages.*—Store, workshop, garage, and dormitories have been maintained as effectively as possible.

*Power House.*—The main power house has now been fitted with doors and louvre type windows. Both power houses await installation of electric power plant.

## AERODROME.

Main strip 4,200 ft. by 300 ft. Cross strip 3,200 ft. by 300 ft. Area completely cleared of tree suckers and constantly appearing ant beds, and grass mown over whole area. Centre of main strip has been graded but nothing more in the way of dragging or grading can now be done until just before the next rainy season.

Conical markers as required by Civil Aviation Department have been purchased and now border the 'drome at prescribed spacings. Signal area as required has also been arranged and the name "Doomadgee" set out in 10-ft. white letters. Complete fencing of the aerodrome is in hand and will shortly be completed. We now expect a provisional license to be granted by the Civil Aviation Department and then a license granted to Trans-Australia Airlines to make Doomadgee Mission a bi-weekly landing port in their Gulf air service.

## LABOUR.

Owing to the severe drought conditions which prevailed over the greater part of the country, native labour requirements on cattle stations fell off very early in the year. From July onwards men were continually being dispensed with and returned to the Mission. Practically all of these men remained unemployed until the cattle industry opened up following the good rains of February and March with keen demand for Mission stockmen.

As there was no mail motor service operating through the Mission from December to the 20th March, we had to get natives away to employment by other means. Some stations not too far distant came and collected their men in horse-drawn vehicles. Eighteen men left in specially chartered planes. Our own little Land Rover truck, taking five or six natives per trip, conveyed most of the remaining men and women to Burketown, there to be conveyed to stations by regularly operated air or motor services. Conveying small numbers under bad road conditions was uneconomical, but most of the people had been unemployed for so many months and their services were so urgently required that it was considered well worth the effort.

At the time of writing, there is only one able-bodied stockman on the Mission. He, with a lad of 16 years, is assisting in the cattle work of the Mission. The three remaining men are either old or infirm.

Men in station employment—96. Women in domestic station employment—15.

## TIMBER MILLING.

Our sawmill was reconstructed and with the assistance of the forestry friends who visited us in July, 1952, timber was felled and milled providing us with approximately 700 super feet of very useful building timber. We hope to have the same friends with us again next July when a greater quantity of timber is expected to be milled.

## PLANT AND ROLLING STOCK.

Considerable maintenance work has been carried out on machinery, engines, tractors and motor vehicles. A new Land Rover has been purchased. This was brought up to us by road in December last.

## RAINFALL AND RIVER.

From 1st April, 1952, to the 31st March, 1953, 21 inches 75 points of rain fell. Of this total, fifteen inches fell in January, February and March, 1953.

The Nicholson River, which had not flowed since May, 1952, began to flow again on the 8th January following heavy rains in the Northern Territory head waters, and within seven days had risen 32 feet at the Mission in a record high flood. The strength of the flood washed out the foundations of our pumping plant house. This entailed a considerable amount of repair work before the plant, which had been hauled out and above flood level, could be re-installed.

## GENERAL.

The retirement from the work of the Mission of its past Superintendent, Mr. Melville G. Read, owing to his ill health and effects of back injury suffered in 1951, has been a great loss to the work and is keenly felt by all connected with it.

Mr. J. Talbot, who has been filling the office of Superintendent since Mr. Read left in March, 1952, was away from the Mission for six weeks towards the end of 1952 when he visited Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne on business for the Mission.

In connection with the now established itinerant dental service at the Mission, we had on two occasions the pleasure of entertaining the Superintendent of the Brisbane Dental Hospital, Mr. A. J. Hoole. Almost all of the dental equipment recommended by Mr. Hoole has now come to hand and already a clinic has been conducted.

In July, 1952, we were visited by six Christian men interested in the work of the Mission. They were all from New South Wales, four of whom were experienced in forestry and timber work. They remained with us five weeks and accomplished a tremendous amount of valuable work on the Reserve. In the little time they were here they endeared themselves to the people who are looking forward to a further visit shortly.



## APPRECIATION.

We desire to express our appreciation to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and staff of the Department at the Brisbane Office for the ready assistance and co-operation extended to the work of the Mission in the year under review.

Appreciation is expressed to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs for the establishing and equipping of a Branch Dental Clinic at this Mission.

The great service rendered to us by the Flying Doctor Service through its Cloncurry base is a matter of constant praise and thankfulness. The service rendered during the year under review has been wonderful and now they are extending to us the benefits of a four-weekly medical clinic which will operate in addition to other specially necessary visits.

To the Matrons and staffs of the Cloncurry and Burketown Hospitals, who have shown exceeding kindness and done all possible professionally for Mission natives who have been sent to them or might be passing through those towns, we would show this mark of appreciation.

## APPENDIX 8.

## MONAMONA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. W. E. Zanotti.)

*General.*—During the period under review, the Mission passed through very difficult times. A very strong reconstruction programme was under way when it was learned that the loan moneys were not available as expected. This meant that the buildings being constructed had to be left completely and the developmental agricultural programme modified greatly.

As living was the first requirement, outside contracts were taken. Quite a few men kept their families entirely and the Mission was forced to sell about one hundred thousand feet of timber. The proceeds of this were handled very carefully and used as outlined later in this report. Everyone entered into the very difficult time with good spirit and the period was passed satisfactorily.

*Statistics*—

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Births .. .. .    | 17 |
| Deaths .. .. .    | 1  |
| Marriages .. .. . | 1  |

*Health.*—The general health of all inmates has been excellent. There were no serious epidemics. One T.B. patient has spent the entire period in the Mareeba District Hospital. The latest report indicates that she is in the process of being cured. No cases of venereal disease were reported. A very thorough check was made on Hookworm and on the latest survey only seven of the total population were infected with any worm at all. Hookworm is almost a rarity. The treatment of Hansen's disease is progressing satisfactorily, the success of the campaign being due to the co-operation between the resident medical staff and Superintendent and the medical staff at the Mareeba District Hospital. The Flying Dentist has not been able to visit us much during the period

but all cases needing dental attention have been cared for by the Cairns Dental Clinic. The Clinic has rendered yeomen service during the year and it is felt that special tribute should be paid to them in this report.

The Baby Clinic commenced to function during this period and all mothers co-operated well by bringing their babies for the weekly check. Only one child was lost during the year. This was due to pneumonia, the infant being brought for attention too late. Regular twice daily supplies of milk and fruit juice were supplied to all children under two.

The Dispensary cared for all minor cuts and sores and several purges against pediculae and local itches, &c., were held. In these the total population took part in a full warm disinfectant bath, blankets were fumigated and houses sprayed out with D.D.T. Each campaign was very successful and entered into in the spirit of zest and fun. No one had to be compelled to participate.

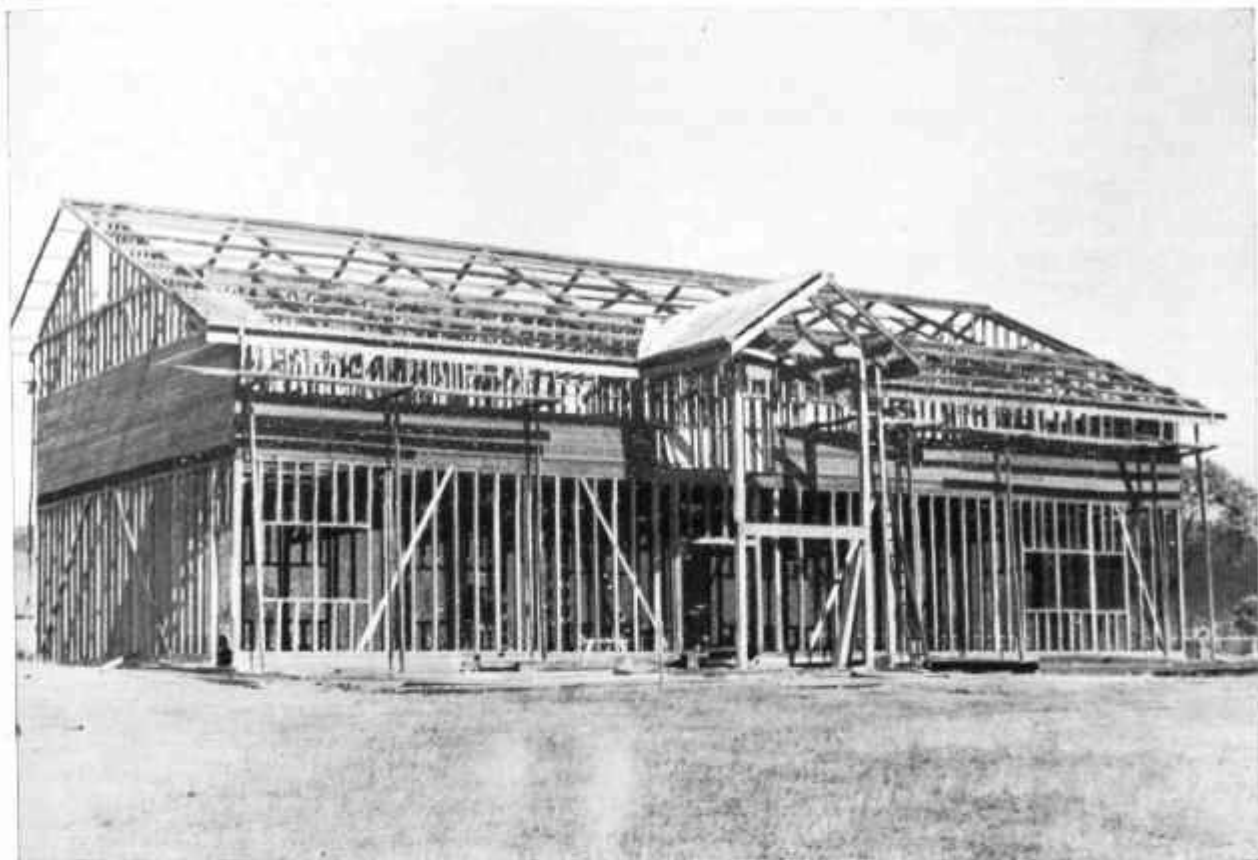
Careful disposal of nightsoil was carried out twice weekly. However, a very urgent need in this direction is new pans and cabinets.

*Conduct and Discipline.*—Conduct and discipline on the whole has been excellent. Two boys were removed from the Settlement but their offences were entirely local and looked upon with disdain by the people in general. There has not been one instance of drink having been brought on to the Mission, or any Mission boy having been drunk during the period. Gambling has been checked and it can be stated with confidence that there has been no gambling on the Station during the last six months. Work has generally improved but it still has a long way to go to meet general European standards. The amount accomplished by the average aboriginal here when left to himself is about one third of that accomplished by a European.

*Education.*—During 1952, one European teacher with native assistants cared for the school that had an average enrolment of 68. A strong educational programme was envisaged for 1953, and a lady teacher for the infants was added to the staff. The new school was commenced, the work being supervised by the male teacher and the actual building being done by the natives. This very commodious two-storeyed recreation hall and school of some sixty-four squares is being attempted with only £1,000 in hand and should be completed by August, 1953. Special mention should be made of the work of Mr. Dawson, the head teacher, who kept going right through the school holidays to get the project working.

*Agriculture.*—Only a limited programme was carried on. The usual wet season crops were planted and harvested. One acre of pineapples came into bearing and another was planted. Citrus trees are bearing well and the garden produced needed vegetables. The dairy herd kept the Mission in milk and the cattle provided one bullock a week for killing:

*Religion.*—Regular services were attended well. Morning and evening worship was conducted in the dormitories, prayer meeting opening Sabbath worship and three services each



Erection New School and Recreation Hall, Monamona Mission.



Sawbench, Doonadges Mission Mill.

Sabbath in the Church. Through this very strong spiritual programme many disciplinary problems were overcome and the general tone of the place kept good.

*Recreation.*—The current sports were participated in each week-end. Games for the young people were held under floodlight every second Saturday night. Early in 1953 a 16 m.m. sound projector was added to our equipment by the efforts of the Welfare Association and has proved very popular.

*Band.*—During this period about £700 worth of new silver instruments were added to the band that now has only five or six old brass instruments. It has functioned very well during the year being in great demand for public functions.

## APPENDIX 9.

## HOPE VALE LUTHERAN MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. V. F. H. Wenke.)

## STAFF.

Mr. Gordon Rose (Store Manager).  
Mr. C. A. Hartwig (Carpenter).  
Mrs. O. E. Hartwig (School Teacher).  
Miss Ruth Rohde (Nursing Sister).  
Mr. Robert Hensel (Stockman).

*Statistics.*—

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Births .. .. .    | 9 |
| Deaths .. .. .    | 2 |
| Marriages .. .. . | 1 |

During the year under review, an area of 41,950 acres, formerly unoccupied in the Parish of Hann, was declared Aboriginal Reserve territory. The old Cape Bedford Mission Reserve, consisting of some 215,250 acres most of which is barren, is still retained by the Mission. These two areas constitute a total of 257,200 acres.

*Health.*—The health of the natives has been good during the past year. This is mainly due to the fact that all natives receive a large variety of tropical fruits to supplement their usual weekly food ration.

Only two deaths occurred during the 12 months and these were the result of senile decay.

The following is a tabulated list of patients who received treatment:—

| Month.            | Outpatients. | Patients seen by Doctor. | Bed-patients. | Hookworm Patients. | Dental Patients. |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1952—             |              |                          |               |                    |                  |
| April .. .. .     | 287          | ..                       | ..            | 45                 | ..               |
| May .. .. .       | 251          | ..                       | ..            | 30                 | ..               |
| June .. .. .      | 301          | 6                        | ..            | 29                 | 25               |
| July .. .. .      | 270          | 2                        | 1             | 25                 | ..               |
| August .. .. .    | 207          | 3                        | 1             | 28                 | ..               |
| September .. .. . | 300          | 8                        | 3             | 25                 | ..               |
| October .. .. .   | 255          | 3                        | 4             | ..                 | ..               |
| November .. .. .  | 311          | 5                        | ..            | 20                 | ..               |
| December .. .. .  | 340          | 3                        | 2             | ..                 | ..               |
| 1953—             |              |                          |               |                    |                  |
| January .. .. .   | 401          | 3                        | 2             | ..                 | ..               |
| February .. .. .  | 320          | 2                        | 3             | 14                 | ..               |
| March .. .. .     | 118          | 2                        | ..            | ..                 | 28               |
|                   | 3,361        | 37                       | 16            | 216                | 53               |

*Radio.*—In December last, a radio transmitter was installed by Mr. J. McKenna, radio engineer of Thursday Island. The set is proving to be of great service to the inmates of the Mission. Both natives and staff members are grateful to the Director of Native Affairs who made this amenity available without cost to the Mission.

*Education.*—The following is a record of classes and pupils:—

| Class.               | Boys. | Girls. | Total. |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Grade IV. .. .. .    | 3     | 3      | 6      |
| Grade III. .. .. .   | 6     | 6      | 12     |
| Grade II. .. .. .    | 1     | 1      | 2      |
| Grade I. .. .. .     | 5     | 3      | 8      |
| Prep. 4 .. .. .      | 1     | 3      | 4      |
| Prep. 2 .. .. .      | 2     | 4      | 6      |
| Prep. 1A .. .. .     | 7     | 7      | 14     |
| Prep. 1B .. .. .     | 8     | 5      | 13     |
| Kindergarten .. .. . | 2     | 3      | 5      |
| 9 Classes .. .. .    | 35    | 35     | 70     |

School has been conducted in the usual way with parade and flag salute each morning. All subjects have been taken. Boys as well as girls are taught sewing. Three native monitors assist the head teacher with the teaching of pupils in the lower grades. Pupils have shown great interest in gardening.

*Building.*—During the year the following buildings were erected:—

- 1 staff residence.
- 4 native cottages.
- 1 harness shed.
- 1 stock yard.

*Stock.*—Due to lack of finance to procure fencing materials and stock for breeding purposes this industry could not be undertaken and pursued as desired. However, a commission consisting of members of the Mission Board recently inspected certain areas on the Reserve and were favourably impressed. Materials to fence in an area of 8,000 acres have been procured and 40 young horses purchased for mustering. A cattle purchasing fund has been opened and already £200 has come to hand for the purchase of heifers. It is keenly desired that a small beginning be made in the coming year. The number of steers and cows owned by the Mission at present is 73 head.

On the Mission there are 20 privately-owned pigstys. The total number of pigs is 172.

*Fishing Industry.*—At the beginning of this year, 7 tons of Trochus shell and 56 gallons of Dugong oil were marketed. Frequently our boat crew were able to supply the Mission with considerable quantities of fish.

For the past two months the "Joallan" has been undergoing extensive repairs under the supervision of Mr. L. G. Thus.

*Agriculture.*—Despite a severe drought during the 1952 planting season, the Mission produced some 14 tons of peanuts for the market which exceeded the yields and totals of the local and well established farmers in the district. This year, although germination of seed was below 30 per cent., which necessitated a second planting, a total of 26 tons of peanuts for market is anticipated. Approximately 10 tons of this amount was grown by native families on their own allotments. The agricultural work, which the greater number of native families are doing under their own initiative, is most encouraging. The following areas were planted during the past year:—

| Mission.               | Natives.               |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 50 acres Peanuts       | 30 acres Peanuts       |
| 10 acres Maize         | 2 acres Maize          |
| 10 acres Cotton        | 2½ acres Cotton        |
| 3 acres Maniocs        | 2 acres Maniocs        |
| 5 acres Sweet Potatoes | 2 acres Sweet Potatoes |
| 3 acres Pineapples     | 3 acres Pineapples     |
| 3 acres Bananas        | 10 acres Bananas       |
| 3 acres Pawpaws        | 7 acres Pawpaws        |
| 1 acre Beans           | 5 acres Miscellaneous  |
| ½ acre Onions          | fruits                 |
| ½ acre Milo            |                        |
| 2 acres Miscellaneous  |                        |
| fruits                 |                        |
| <hr/> 91 acres         | <hr/> 63½ acres        |

In addition to the above, 18 acres of new land was prepared for the planting of cotton. Due to poor germination of seed, this area has been reploughed and left as fallow in readiness for the planting of crop for the next season.

At present 30 acres of new land is being cleared for the coming season whilst the natives too are busy clearing 30 acres for their own crops.

The acquisition of farm equipment during the past few months will greatly assist the future farming pursuits. The following is a list of machinery received:—

- 1 Heavy 4-furrow stump jump plough.
- 1 Heavy single-furrow road plough.
- 3 Heavy stump jump harrows.
- 1 Wagon fitted with rubber tyres.
- 1 Spring cart fitted with rubber tyres.
- 12 Iron swingle bars and 12 pairs traco chains.
- 1 Corn sheller.
- 1 Tandem disc.

The following is a list of machinery expected to arrive during the next few months:—

- 1 Peanut thrasher.
- 1 Small grain thrasher.
- 1 Combine 16 hoe.
- 1 Chaff-cutter, 3 blades.

The payment of freight charges on the above articles by the Department of Native Affairs is sincerely appreciated and is of great help to mechanise our agricultural activities.

*Conduct.*—During the year two natives were expelled from the Mission on account of misconduct. Apart from this, the behaviour of the natives has been exceptionally good. The natives are contented and becoming proud of their surroundings and opportunities offered to them.

*Spiritual.*—Divine services and devotional exercises are held regularly and faithfully attended by all the able-bodied. Weekly Bible Study lessons have been introduced at which natives are encouraged to present their questions and problems for discussion. Keen interest is always displayed at these meetings.

*Visitors.*—Although no officials of the Department of Native Affairs have visited our Station during the year, a number of Board members and Mission supporters have done so. Worthy of mention is the visit of Rev. M. Lohe, Rev. A. R. Reuther, secretary and treasurer of the Mission Board, and Mr. J. Bejelke Petersen, M.L.A., the Chairman of the Board. Their impressions and comments on the work achieved and of prospects and possibilities of further development of the Mission speaks well for the future.

*Appreciation.*—The members of the Mission Board, members of the Staff, as well as all the natives at Hope Vale sincerely thank the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary and the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Mr. P. J. Richards and their staff members for their ever-ready and willing help and advice received during the past year.

#### APPENDIX 10.

#### AURUKUN MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. W. F. MacKenzie.)

#### STAFF.

- Mrs. Mackenzie, Matron and Head Teacher.
- Mr. L. E. Little, Cattle.
- Mrs. Little, Assistant Matron.
- Miss Alice Simpson, Nurse.
- Mr. B. J. Hill, Agriculture and Dairy.

During the wet season, Rev. D. L. and Mrs. Belcher relieved the Superintendent and Matron who were on leave. The good work done by them is greatly appreciated and we wish them every success as they go to take up further work as Superintendent and Matron at Mornington Island.

*Health.*—The general health of the people has been good and there have been no severe epidemics. The Dispensary is open daily for treatment and on an average about twelve people are treated daily for minor complaints. Patients who have suffered from T.B. have been sent back to hospital for a periodic check-up, and it is gratifying to be able to say that, owing to the care and treatment given, their general health has improved, showing that the campaign against T.B. started by the Government and Dr. Barnes and staff in the various hospitals in Thursday Island is bearing fruit.

This year has been a record for strange accidents. A young woman and her ten month old baby were clawed out of a canoe by a crocodile. An old man who was paddling the canoe jumped out and forced the crocodile to let go by gouging its eyes with his fingers. The woman and baby were brought to the Mission and later, to save her life as peritonitis had set in, the Government Medical Officer at Thursday Island, who was advising us by wireless, called the Cairns Aerial Ambulance plane. Soon the injured woman was in hospital and her life was saved. A young man was caught by a crocodile in a salt arm near the Mission, but escaped with a severe mauling, by gouging

its eyes and inserting a spear down its gullet as it opened its jaws. An old woman at the Kendall River was also seized but was rescued by a man who attacked the crocodile in the same way as in the previous two cases. A man was struck by a falling spear thrown at a bird. The spear transfixed his upper arm and entered his side. He was sent to hospital as the wound was troubling his lung, but under care and attention, he made a good recovery. A small boy severed the tendon in his heel when he dropped a tomahawk on it, and has returned from hospital with the full use of his leg.

*Statistics.*—

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Births .. .. .    | 6 |
| Deaths .. .. .    | 6 |
| Marriages .. .. . | 2 |

*Cultivation.*—Owing to an extraordinary wet season, full use of the growing period could not be made. In December one acre was harrowed and planted with sorghum. One and a half acres were planted with cassava. During January, a record of 32 inches of rain fell and in February, 21 inches also fell. As a result the ground was so water-logged that it was impossible to do any further ploughing or harrowing. In March, half an acre of potatoes (sweet), one acre of peanuts, one acre of cowpeas and two acres of pigeon peas were planted and survived. Many other crops were tried but were beaten by the heavy rain or else failed to germinate. Some made growth, but not enough to be worth while. The season was a disappointing one as the previous wet was one of the lightest on record and all crops failed to mature. This was a disappointment as it was hoped this year to make amends, but conditions were too bad. The seed, being carried over for two years, had lost its fertility, owing to the lack of proper storage conditions. The three crops that will prove best this year are cassava, cowpeas and pigeon peas. While the ground was too boggy and wet for working, about six acres were put down in permanent pasture by planting roots of grass with a sharp stick. The types of grass planted were guinea grass (*panicum maximum*), para grass, slender panic and elephant grass. During the year, compost heaps were built up and over ten tons will be ready for putting over the cultivation paddocks later on. Bananas have done well and many bunches were cut and shared amongst the children, also papaws, mangoes and coconuts.

*Cattle.*—The cattle have done well under the care of Mr. Little. Major problems to be overcome are tick, buffalo-fly, crocodiles, dingoes and wild pigs. During the year, the Mission was supplied with one killer for beef each week. One hundred and fifteen stores were sold. Four hundred calves were branded. A 10 feet double geared windmill was erected with piping and troughing. Seven thousand yards of fencing were put up and men kept working on splitting posts and digging post holes for further paddocks. An ex-Army Ford V8 truck was obtained for carting posts, yard timber and all gear to further sites and also for general work in mustering camps. Stockmen were kept busy with mustering and branding.

*Dairy.*—The dairy work was under the care of Mr. Hill, Diploma of Animal Husbandry. An average of 24 cows are being milked and

during the wet season and shortly afterwards, 25 gallons of milk were obtained daily. The native grasses soon became rank and lost their nutriment, so the work of improving pasture was carried on. An area of 40 acres was fenced and subdivided for use, partly as pasture paddocks, and the rest for gardens. A temporary silo of old ormanoid over wire-netting was erected till such time as cement can be obtained for a permanent silo. Seven tons of silage mainly from sorghum was put down. Owing to the heavy rains, not much grass hay could be made but two tons was finally cured and put under a temporary roof. These reserves will be used during the year to help keep the dairy cows in milk production. A separator was donated by friends. This enabled a trial to be made of rearing calves on the bucket. The extra cream was served to the children on their porridge. A young Illawarra bull was kindly donated by Mr. Skerman of Ripley Park Stud near Dalby. The Director of Native Affairs kindly undertook to have this valuable animal transported to the Mission.

*Village.*—Nine new houses were built in the village. The people have been encouraged to plant more fruit trees around their houses. More supervision by the village police has been given to keeping the village clean. The matter of sanitation, always a difficulty with primitive people on account of their beliefs and taboos, has received greater care to ensure cleanliness. More instruction has been given on the danger of hookworm infection and mass treatment of preventive medicine given.

*Diet and Hunting.*—The people are encouraged to hunt for their food, as there is an abundance of good bush tucker on the Reserve. Surplus food in the shape of fish, shell fish, crabs and roots are bought by the Mission to supplement the children's food so that a more balanced diet is assured.

*Discipline.*—Minor lapses of discipline are dealt with by the native Councillors, guided by the Superintendent. With regard to more serious cases, one man from the bush recently ran off with a Mission woman but was speared by the tribal father of the woman near Coen and taken by the Police to hospital.

*Building.*—The Mission house, which was in bad repair, was completely renovated and enlarged by Mr. Sydney who retired from active Mission work early this year. Over a period of 26 years, he has been on each of the four Presbyterian Missions in the Gulf and the work done by Mr. Sydney will long stand as a monument to his skill and painstaking efforts. We sincerely regret that his health was the cause of his resignation and we hope that soon he will be quite fit again. He is greatly missed and we take this opportunity of recording our appreciation of his skill, his charm and friendliness which helped us all in difficult days. The Mission house is a memorial to an old friend of the Mission, Mrs. Hortense Wyper, and we thank Mr. Sydney for making it such a worthy memorial. In the village, the people are encouraged to build their houses on stumps for health reasons, and timber for the floors is cut by the Mission sawmill.

*School.*—There were 95 children at school for most of the year, 46 boys and 49 girls. Five married Mission women assisted in the teaching and also four older girls who had not long left school themselves. A greater number of boys and girls advanced to the top of the school before leaving, as each year the school advances generally in the standard of reading attained. A considerable quantity of number material was made by Mrs. Little and the older children to assist in the teaching of numbers in the lower forms. During the head teacher's absence on leave, the school was ably supervised by sister Simpson. The highlight of the year was the appearance in the school of the six books for First Australians. The experimental sheets from which the Primers were made were at last honourably discarded after being used in the kindergarten and primary forms for years.

*Church Service.*—The usual morning services were held each day and also on Sunday. These were well attended and interest shown in the services, especially in that part where one of the chief dialects of the district was used in worship. The people make offerings at communion services and donate part of the result of their hunting or produce from their own gardens. In this manner they learn to appreciate more fully the value of their gifts. This food is bought by the Mission and the value donated to whatever worthy cause the people wish, but mainly it is used towards the keep of our Native Missionary in the bush, Archiewald, who still faithfully carries on her work since the death of her husband, Uki. A memorial plaque was placed in the Church to mark the 20 years faithful service given by Uki amongst the people of the Kendall and Holroyd. In November, a visit was paid to Archiewald at the Kendall where she had gathered over a hundred adults and thirteen children. Several interesting days were spent camped with the people and it was very gratifying to see the respect and love in which she is held by these people.

*Lighting.*—The 23rd August was a red letter day for Aurukun Mission. During the evening, the electric lights were switched on by one of the Councillors and the whole Mission was lighted for the first time. The people went wild with delight. Boys and girls poured out of their dormitories and rushed down to mingle with the cheering crowd in the village. Soon a corroboree was in full swing and those of us who watched realised that here was a stone-age ceremony enacted, not by the dimness of camp fire light as from time immemorial, but under the brilliant illumination of one of civilised man's more recent amenities. In addition to the lighting plant there is a fine cold room and fish cabinet where meat and fish can be kept fresh, thus contributing a great asset to a better diet for the children, sick, old pensioners and working people. This achievement was the result of careful planning and work on the part of the staffs of the Department of Health and Home Affairs and the Department of Native Affairs in assembling and forwarding the necessary engines, generators and materials to the Mission; also the work by Mr. Bruce Hill in preparing engine beds and erecting the ready cut housing shed.

*Appreciation.*—Finally, our grateful thanks are due to all the many friends of the Mission and we wish to thank especially the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, both in Thursday Island and Brisbane, the Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Doctor and staff of the hospital, the Cairns Aerial Ambulance, the Mission Committee and the ladies of the Church Guilds for all that has been done to help and encourage the people of Aurukun Mission. Through this help given so generously every year, we hope to rise to greater heights in the name of God and Humanity that these people shall be able more and more to achieve a worthy place in the history of the world.

## APPENDIX 11.

## MITCHELL RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. F. W. Currington.)

## STAFF.

Rev. E. Wingfield (Chaplain).  
Miss B. Mussett (Head Teacher).  
Sister J. Chapman (Health Matron in Charge Hospital).  
Miss M. Butcher (Girls' Dormitory Matron).

*Statistics.*—

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Births .. .. .    | 8 |
| Deaths .. .. .    | 8 |
| Marriages .. .. . | 3 |

*Employment.*—Over the past year, there has been the usual considerable demand for native stock boys. These demands have been met as far as possible with the limited number of boys available for outside work.

*Industrial Improvements.*—Work has been going on as usual among the cattle but in spite of droughts and other setbacks in the last twelve months, we have still been able to keep our brandings well within the usual margin. The Edward River Mission has been supplied with killers, also all Mission workers on this Mission receive their daily ration of meat. General repairs have been carried out. Negotiations are now going on for a further sale of Mitchell River Mission bullocks.

*Agriculture.*—All gardens are looking well after the rain and are carrying good healthy crops of various kinds of vegetables as well as tropical fruit trees, bananas, pawpaws, &c., producing a good supply which adds to the natives' diet. This applies to both village and also staff gardens under my supervision.

*General.*—Improvements are being continually carried out, both in the staff quarters and the native villages over the period in question. A new staff house has been erected for an assistant, and further timber has been supplied for other improvements. A new 110-volt power house together with refrigeration has been installed by the Department of Health and Home Affairs for which we are very grateful as this is a considerable improvement. A cattle store was erected on a new site, this being more convenient for the cattle manager in his work. Several new village houses have been built and repaired.

Work is being continually carried out on the aerodrome to keep it up to DLCLAL specifications.



**New Dormitory for Boys, Weipa Mission.**



**Native Cottage and Gardens, Hope Vale Mission, Cooktown.**

*Conduct.*—General native conduct of the Mission has been quite satisfactory.

*School.*—We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Miss B. Mussett as head teacher who gives the following report:—

*Staff.*—Leah, Venus, Bobina, Doreen and Kathleen. Venus has left for Thursday Island. Bobina and Doreen are both married and have given up teaching.

*Attendance.*—Total enrolments—78. Children who left during the year—6. New pupils—11. Total attendance—13,130. School days—174. Average attendance—75.4.

*General.*—The continuity of the school work has been interrupted by the changes of staff since the departure of Mrs. H. Wynter (Miss R. Wall). Miss G. Ashby filled the vacancy until the children went on camp holidays in June. After their return (August) the Chaplain took charge of the school and did an excellent job, despite shortage of staff and of supplies, in keeping the work going until February of this year when I arrived. The value of trained native teachers cannot be over-emphasised and any extra instruction of suitable girls would be well worth while.

Stimulated by the growth of village gardens, the school children have resumed work in the school plot.

The toilet facilities have been greatly improved in keeping with the rising standard of the villagers.

Despite the broken time, school work is up to average standard and the forthcoming examinations should show pleasing results.

#### HEALTH.

(Temporary Sister, J. M. Chapman.)

*Out-Patients.*—The regular attendance of out-patients continues. The treatment of more serious cases is a constant problem and a need for a reasonably equipped hospital cannot be over-emphasised.

*Clinic.*—The weekly clinic for infants and young children has been continued and is well attended.

*Diet.*—A diet deficiency predisposes many of the illnesses of pre-school children. The mothers are instructed and encouraged towards improving their diet. Quite a number of village gardens have been started during recent months, with a steady increase in requests for seeds and plants. It is hoped that as these people are deviating from their native foods, they will now supplement their inadequate diet with fresh fruit and vegetables.

*Yaws.*—There is a vast improvement in the number of cases and security of this disease during the past twelve months.

*Hookworm Disease.*—This seems to be the most serious disability of the younger children. It is hoped with the gradual improvement in hygiene and sanitation that the incidence of this disease will be greatly reduced. I am very pleased to be able to report the willingness of a large number of the people to co-operate in this matter.

*Flying Doctor Service.*—The frequent visits of the Cloncurry Flying Doctor are a great asset to the medical work and appreciated by all.

*Dental Service.*—This service was commenced early last year, but owing to staff shortage, further visits have been delayed many months. We anticipate the resumption of this appreciable service in the very near future.

*Girls' Dormitory.*—There are 42 school girls and 7 dormitory girls, three of whom have married in recent months. On the whole, there is a general improvement in the physical condition and behaviour of the girls, also in their attitude towards their daily tasks, although there is yet much to be desired. Thanks to the prompt action of the Diocesan Secretary, cooking utensils have been improved. The kitchen also has been greatly improved by the addition of a good bench with lower shelf for the storage of kitchen utensils.

The children's diet has been improved by the addition of milk and we hope in the near future to be able to give more vegetables as there is now the school garden. Also the dormitory garden is now fenced around which we hope will keep out the cattle.

A dormitory is also necessary for the boys.

*Appreciation.*—I would like placed on record the wonderful service we have received from Mr. O'Leary, the Director of Native Affairs, and his staff for the assistance so readily given at all times, particularly in regard to the installation of lighting and refrigeration as well as many other benefits which otherwise would not have been possible.

#### APPENDIX 12.

##### EDWARD RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. W. Chapman.)

##### STAFF.

Chaplain School Teacher—Rev. C. Brown.

##### Statistics.—

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Births .. .. .    | 2          |
| Deaths .. .. .    | 1          |
| Marriages .. .. . | 2 (Tribal) |

*Religious Services.*—These are taken regularly by the Chaplain, the Rev. C. Brown, who also conducts the school.

*School.*—Thirty-two children are enrolled. Attendances have been satisfactory.

*Health.*—During the year, the general health of the people has been good. There have been no serious epidemics. Dr. Barnes' visit in April to ascertain haemoglobin trouble was followed by a visit from Dr. Spencer and Sister Manna in November to continue the tests. It was found that many natives had deficiency of haemoglobin content. Treatment for this deficiency has been carried out and still continues. Dr. Spencer also gave treatment for hookworm. Persons needing re-examination for tuberculosis were taken to Thursday Island for a check-up. All returned able to lead normal lives.



I greatly appreciate the medical work done for the natives and the interest taken in them by Dr. Barnes and Dr. Spencer.

*Conduct.*—On the whole, good, but some trouble was occasioned by one individual over puri puri or magic practices. Prompt action by the Director of Native Affairs in removing the offender saved serious trouble.

*Building.*—Several new houses were erected and many repaired. A new fire-proof store building was provided and erected by the Department of Native Affairs. Quarters for a matron and nurse were erected. It is hoped to have a hospital building erected at a later date.

*Agriculture.*—Owing to a very unfavourable season, the yield of garden produce was limited, but quantities of pawpaws, bananas, sweet potatoes and beans were harvested.

*Cattle.*—So far we have not been able to have a herd of cattle for the benefit of the Mission. The reserve contains an area of good cattle country, capable of running three or four thousand head of cattle. It is very necessary to have a meat supply for the natives.

*Recreation.*—The most popular recreation continues to be native corroborees. A gramophone and records provided by friends in Brisbane are much appreciated.

*General.*—The past year has been one of steady progress, despite the set back caused by two previous cyclones, one of them in January, 1951, and the other in January, 1952. The latter one was most damaging as far as the buildings were concerned, and although a lot has been done to restore the ruined homes, much more remains to be done before all the homes are restored.

*Appreciation.*—I greatly appreciate the interest taken and help given to this Mission at all times by the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for the welfare and advancement of the natives.

#### APPENDIX 13.

#### ST. PAUL'S MISSION, MOA ISLAND.

(Chaplain, Rev. H. M. Wynter.)

##### STAFF.

Headmaster—Mr. P. H. MacFarlane, B.A.

M.A.P.—Mrs. H. M. Wynter.

Three native teachers and one native mission staff.

*The Village.*—During the year, seven houses have been completed and five others are in the course of erection. These are well built of wood and iron, each with several rooms, also verandahs and some have glass louvres. Money earned from wolfram mining helped to make possible the building of these homes. The difficulty of obtaining building material has been a constant handicap.

Another noticeable feature this year has been the colourful gardens around a number of homes. Interest has been fostered by a garden competition.

An Arbor Day was held in February when 70 coconut trees were planted, in addition to which ornamental trees have been planted around the church and some of the homes.

A contingent of 50 men went to Thursday Island and won the dancing competition which is open to all Islanders and is held annually in the Cathedral grounds. This is the second year in succession that St. Paul's men have won the cup.

The majority of men were mining wolfram in 1952, but the drop in price, together with the call of the sea, resulted in most of them going back to diving when the 1953 season began. Three skippers have gone from St. Paul's, together with most of the crew for three boats. Some men have gone to work on other boats. The skippers on the three Mission boats and most members of the crews are men from here.

Some of the younger men have entered into a scheme in which they make an allotment of a considerable proportion of their earnings to a fund to buy materials for home building. The older men have undertaken to help in the work of building.

*Local Government.*—The annual election was held in January, when all adults voted for five Councillors by ballot. The Chairman is appointed by the Bishop and the four other Councillors are those who receive the highest number of votes. The Councillors, at their first meeting and on their own initiative, divided the work into five departments, each Councillor being primarily responsible for one. This step is an advance in the way of democratic government. A good team spirit prevails and public meetings are being held regularly to give an opportunity for everyone to voice his opinion. The division of labour and responsibility avoids unnecessary burdens on any one person, as Councillors receive no payment for services they give to the community. The source of the happy and co-operative spirit which exists is to be found in faithful worship and Christian observance, for the Church is the focal point of life on the Mission.

*Church.*—St. Paul's is the centre of Mission work in the Torres Strait and where the native clergy receive post-college training. The number of deacons has been increased by one this year and Rev. Boggo Pilot, one of the native priests, has gone to Brisbane for further study and to gain experience of Church life in other parts. He is in residence at the provincial college of St. Francis and, in addition to study, does work in a neighbouring parish. There are few things so important for the people of the Torres Strait as the building up of an effective native ministry.

*School.*—This year, the pupils have been grouped in three houses named after James Cook, William Bligh and Matthew Flinders, the three great explorers who had much to do with discoveries in Torres Strait. The house system, applied to class work, sport and conduct, is having a beneficial effect on the tone of the school and helps develop qualities of leadership in the captains.

Practical experience in weighing, buying and selling, is given to the senior pupils during school hours, in the Mission store, an activity which the children greatly enjoy. Social studies, projects, lectures and school concerts are other steps towards self-reliance and social confidence. The school choir has learnt a number of three-part and four-part songs for unaccompanied singing. Island children have a natural talent for harmony which produces fine results when trained.

In February, the school lost the services of Mr. and Mrs. Graves who had been here for two years. At present there are two white teachers and three native teachers for the seven grades in the school.

The average attendance for 1952 was 75.6 or 90 per cent. of enrolment. The number enrolled at the end of March, 1953, was 82. With families coming from other Islands to mine wolfram at Moa, we have quite a number of temporary students coming and going, which is not very satisfactory educationally.

Satisfactory progress has been maintained in the normal school subjects. However, it is apparent that Torres Strait people are not vitally interested in education. It may be that because there has been no history of conquest and oppression, they have no great incentive to raise themselves, in practice, to a state of independence and self-reliance. In theory they find higher education desirable but do not seem prepared to apply themselves to, or make any sacrifices for its achievement.

*Buildings.*—Further progress has been made with the church building and repairs have been done to others, especially the school. A start has been made with the concrete foundations for a proposed community hall and a new jail house is in course of erection.

*Store.*—A Mission store has been opened during the year for the sale of essential foodstuffs and other commodities at the cheapest price possible. The margin added to cost price covers only the small and unavoidable expense of running the store. The people appreciate the saving and convenience which is thus provided.

*Gardens.*—Melon and pumpkin seeds were planted twice but owing to excessive rain neither sowing produced a good crop. Pine-apples planted last year have fruited well. Citrus trees are growing slowly and more bananas have been planted. There have been good crops of sweet potatoes, yams and cassava in private gardens.

*Health.*—There have been no epidemics during the year and the general health of the people has been good. Minor ailments are treated daily and eight cases requiring further medical attention have been sent to Thursday Island hospital during the last six months. We greatly appreciate the work of the Doctors, Matron and staff of this hospital whose ready help and advice leaves nothing to be desired.

An optician visited the Mission in August and tested everyone's eyes. A number who needed spectacles have since received them. The number of births during the year has been nine and there have been two deaths.

We are thankful to the Australian Board of Missions and to the Department of Native Affairs for the help that both have given to the Mission throughout the year.

#### APPENDIX 14.

#### WEIPA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. S. Winn.)

##### STAFF.

Matron—Mrs. J. S. Winn.

Assistants—Mr. Royce Little.

Mrs. R. Little (resigned December, 1952).

Miss Marjorie Cochrane.

The Queensland Presbyterian Church at its Assembly meetings in May, 1952, appointed the Rev. J. McPhail as Administrator of the Queensland Presbyterian Aboriginal Missions. Under his direction, with the co-operation of the Committee, we look forward to a period of progress.

Mr. Royce Little had many capabilities which were a tremendous help on the Mission Station. Engines were kept in running order and the cattle industry greatly benefited from his cattle experience. I appreciate the two years service he so graciously gave. Mrs. Little, better known to our many friends as Margaret Winn, completed nine years of service, years in which she had built up experience in all phases of the Aboriginal Mission work that made her presence here invaluable, beloved of parents and children. Mrs. Little possessed a natural talent for teaching and under her direction remarkable progress was made in educational standards. The Mission takes this opportunity of placing on record their sincere appreciation of the splendid work done by Margaret, and pray much blessing to Mr. and Mrs. Royce Little and their daughter, Frances Anne, in their new sphere.

An urgent appeal for female help was made by the Superintendent to fill the gap at Weipa Mission while Mrs. Winn and Mrs. Little were inmates of the Thursday Island hospital. The Church Committee were able to contact Miss Marjorie Cochrane, who was doing a nursing course at the Maryborough Hospital, with a view to taking up Aboriginal Mission work. Miss Cochrane answered the call at very short notice and her services were most timely and helpful.

Mrs. Winn returned to Weipa Mission and duty and activities resumed their smoothness.

*Religion.*—Sunday and daily services have been maintained throughout the year with an average attendance of 70.

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Communicants on the roll number | 79 |
| Marriages on the roll number .. | 1  |
| Baptisms on the roll number ..  | 4  |

##### Statistics.—

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Births .. .. . | 6 |
| Deaths .. .. . | 3 |

*Health.*—The health of both villagers and dormitory children has been quite good this past year with only the common minor ailments, sutures, teeth extractions, &c. Other than a couple of outbreaks of colds, the usual mango season sores and now and again a few cases of scabies, soon eradicated by Benzyl Benzoate, no epidemics have occurred.

Outpatients—average 13 daily.

Inpatients—23.

Patients sent to Thursday Island for X-ray—2.

Patients sent to Thursday Island for other treatment—4.

Weipa patients in Thursday Island hospital at 31st March—2.

Inpatients during the year were—

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Pneumonia and Pleurisy ..   | 11 |
| Illness during pregnancy .. | 2  |
| Fever .. .. .               | 1  |
| Accident .. .. .            | 1  |
| Mental .. .. .              | 1  |
| Miscellaneous .. .. .       | 7  |

*School.*—Teacher. Mrs. R. Little, resigned December, 1952; Miss M. Cochrane commenced 17th October, 1952; Ina Hall (a capable Native Assistant) and two pupil teachers.

Attendance—

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| Number of days open ..   | 213  |
| Average attendance .. .. | 33.9 |
| Number of pupils .. ..   | 35   |

The children were again encouraged by Somerville House annual gifts towards school materials and toys and the magazines "Wild Life" and "Child Education" donated by two interested subscribers.

On the 19th December the pupils provided a display of work and a programme of choral items as well as dramatization.

Interest in painting and sewing is very encouraging. Special mention was accorded to Aileen Motten, Mary Hall and Annie George in the "Courier-Mail" painting competition. Aileen received high commendation the previous year for her work which the Director of the Art Gallery sent to Queensland House, London.

*Domestic Science.*—Mrs. Winn reports satisfactory progress—only one full time pupil as compared with nine last year. Last year's pupils now reside with parents in the village, six of whom continue on with the domestic duties and are now on the pay roll. Senior school girls are trained daily in the performance of their duties—cooking, baking, laundry, machine and hand sewing, &c., as per previous report.

*Employment.*—Outside—Temporary employment only was available to a number of men, fifteen doing short terms on boats engaged in trochus and beche-de-mer, one married couple engaged still in domestic employment, two married men are employed on Stations, working cattle and sheep.

Inside—Employment on a rotary basis around the Mission includes milking, building, gardening, milling, cattle, fencing, air strip, clearing. Some derive income from woomeras and firesticks. The women have worked at crochet and created a new avenue of industry, basket making. A considerable quantity of hardwood poles and cord-wood has been cut and brought to supply market at Thursday Island. This awaits transport. Only the

"Janet Thompson" is suitable for such cargo. Any industry in bulky lines is naturally curtailed as trips are too infrequent.

*Agriculture.*—Crops are mostly seasonal and as a result benefits are of short duration. Vegetable lines—beans, sweet potatoes, cassava, average fair crop. Pawpaws, mangoes, bananas, limes, custard apples, pineapples, tropical passion fruits in season gave variety to children's diet.

*Pasture.*—The process of scattering lucerne seed gathered from existing plots is showing good results, the area under lucerne gradually extending and killing ranker growth of unwanted grass.

The rainfall for the year ending 31st March, 1953, was 88½ inches.

*Stock.*—Several weeks were spent mustering stock on the Reserve. Results were better than previous musters but yet not up to expectations. Time necessary to improve upon our mustering figures cannot be given. Other tasks, many and varied, require constant attention, and with the staff position as it is, we have no alternative but to accept the position, disappointing as it may be.

*Fencing.*—A further two mile of fencing and a stock yard has been erected, between Manus Creek and the Embley River, thus giving a good holding area enclosing fresh water. This yard lies more or less central to our cattle area. Repairing fences where trees have fallen across the line require time and attention.

*Aerodrome.*—Our two landing strips are kept in good order and improvements made to meet the requirements of the Civil Aviation Department. C.A.D. Officers make an annual inspection when improvements are noted and approved, and licence renewed. Improvements made—strips have been widened; marker cones set down; new wind sock mast erected; concrete marking circle laid down; the name "Weipa" painted on both sides of the school roof; fence posts whitewashed, where necessary, along the side of the landing strips.

Four 'planes landed during the period under review.

*Industrial.*—Truck, jinker and sawmill are of tremendous value to our Mission efforts. Native workmen have proved quite capable in running the Bench and considerable quantities of logs have been hauled and cut. Maintenance repairs to existing buildings used up large quantities of timber milled. Three at least of our boys show remarkable aptitude for carpentry. One is most useful at soldering tanks, guttering &c., another makes quite a good show as a painter. Stockmen, dairymen and gardeners all play a very necessary part and contribute to the general welfare of the Mission.

*Conduct.*—No complaints. On the whole good. As in former years all differences have been amicably resolved.

*Social.*—Stores suitable and necessary are available to the people from the Mission's selling stores. Although the Mission motor vessel "Reliance" has not been in service for the greater part of the year, we have managed, with difficulty, to keep up our supplies.



Construction of Cold Room, Aurukun Mission.

Seasonal events provide entertainment that gives contentment to all. Gifts from many sources and suitable for all occasions help the missionaries in their service to the people. Christmas provision pleased all. Birthdays, marriages, and baptisms found dresses and gifts, appropriate to the occasion.

Sports days were amply provided for. Any occasion is a reasonable enough excuse for a native dance.

The electric light proves a great boon around the Mission for all outdoor or indoor functions.

*Visitors.*—Forty-eight visitors were received throughout the year. They included doctors, nursing sister, airmen, aerodrome inspectors, members of the staffs of the Departments of Health and Home Affairs, and Director of Native Affairs, dental clinic personnel and crocodile hunters, all of whom were welcome and contributed to the general interest among our people.

*Appreciation.*—We express our appreciation and indebtedness to the many friends in Church organisations who contribute to a great extent to the material, physical, financial and spiritual need of the people, to the staff of the Church Office, the Government Medical Officer at Thursday Island, and to his staff at the District and Waiben Hospitals, to the wireless operators for their patient, helpful service, and the Director of Native Affairs and his staff. With such service continuing we look forward to another year of progress.

#### APPENDIX 15.

#### LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. A. Warby.)

##### STAFF.

Rev. N. J. Eley, Chaplain.  
Mr. P. C. Taylor, Engineer.  
Mrs. D. Taylor, Sister.  
Miss. A. Hann, School Teacher.  
William Namok, Carpenter.  
Joe Callope, Cattle Manager.

The year has seen a number of staff changes. Mr. H. E. Batiste, who was assisting temporarily, resigned in September. His assistance during a difficult period was much appreciated.

Rev. S. Ambar was transferred to Darnley Island and in his place Rev. N. J. Eley joined the staff in October.

Mr. P. C. Taylor arrived in January and was evacuated to Thursday Island hospital in March. Fortunately, he has recently returned and resumed duties after a serious illness.

Sister D. Brown and Mr. P. C. Taylor were married during the year, this being the first wedding among the staff to be celebrated on the Mission.

*Visitors.*—The Lord Bishop of the Diocese visited the Mission on two occasions during the past year.

Mr. S. Thompson, Microscopist in Charge of Hookworm Control, Cairns, visited the Mission and carried out a most thorough and satisfactory hookworm control campaign. This involved examination of every person on the Reserve, treatment of infested personnel, a second examination of treated patients and a

further treatment when necessary. Treatment is still being carried out in some cases, but generally speaking the campaign was highly satisfactory.

The foreman carpenter of Thursday Island hospital, Mr. M. Ellinore, visited the Mission and inspected the hospital. Improvements, additions and extensive repairs have been recommended.

Mr. J. Arnold, District Inspector of Aerodromes, landed on the beach in a small plane and inspected and recommended a new site for an airstrip.

*Building.*—The new village is progressing steadily. Eleven houses are now occupied and work is proceeding on the next seven houses. The completed village will comprise 65 houses. The sizes of these range from 300 square feet for a childless couple to 600 square feet for families of five children. All are well ventilated and airy and are floored with sawn timber. Shower rooms are erected in conjunction with lavatories. The men engaged in this work have improved greatly in ability and confidence during the year.

The Department of Native Affairs supplied the framework and cement for a new store and loaned a Torres Strait Island carpenter to supervise the erection of this. The store, which has a concrete floor, is now completed with bark walls and roof measures 80 feet by 20 feet, and is a decided acquisition to the Mission.

The framework of the school children's kitchen was also erected under the supervision of the Director of Native Affairs' carpenter.

All staff buildings and the school have been painted and repaired through the year.

*Water Supply.*—A new windmill has been erected and water is now laid on to the station buildings and slaughter yards. A new 2,000-gallon tank was erected in the old village and water is pumped to this from a second windmill.

The water supply has still not reached the required standard. In view of this, work has commenced on a dam across Cutta Creek about two miles distant from the Mission. There is a very good permanent water supply, and it is intended to pump water from here to supplement the wells.

*Marine.*—"Mary Lockhart," the 30-ft. Mission cutter continued to carry cargo from Portland Roads. She was occasionally assisted by "Cape Grey" when loadings were extra heavy, but "Cape Grey" was mainly used in obtaining trochus shell during the year.

The management of "Cape Grey" in regard to trochus has been handed over to the Councillors. This is done so as to train the Councillors to manage trochus boats entirely on their own in the years to come. Though making mistakes, it is pleasing to record that the Councillors are showing initiative and imagination under this stimulus and that they are responding very well to their new responsibility. The amount of shell won has been satisfactory and this has been disposed of at a good price.

During the season, "Cape Grey" was slipped at the Mission and repaired under the supervision of William Namok. This afforded further experience and training for our men who are becoming increasingly efficient at this type of work.

*Cattle.*—One hundred and ten bullocks were delivered to Batavia Downs Station. One hundred and eighty head were branded and one hundred and two were slaughtered for Mission use. Also work has commenced on a large paddock on the Lockhart River flats which, it is expected, will greatly assist cattle work in the future. A new harness shed has been built and a large concrete floored milking shed has been constructed.

*Gardens.*—This year the gardens were particularly large and the yield in sweet potatoes was especially good. Pumpkins, water-melons and marrows were also grown extensively with gratifying results.

Two plantings each of 400 pawpaws, however, proved to be complete failures due to the lack of water.

#### RELIGION.

Church activities have been carried on during the past year under the usual routine. The outline of services has been—Sunday: Holy Communion, morning prayer and evening prayer—Week days: Holy Communion on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saints' Days, morning and evening prayers daily.

*Baptism.*—These are merely the dry bones of the spiritual work of the Mission. Life is breathed into these dry bones by the Holy Spirit through many agencies. All people living on the Mission have now embraced the Christian faith and been baptised and almost all those eligible have been confirmed (the exceptions are the very old people). All babies born on the Mission are now brought to the Church for baptism at the age of three weeks, the Sacrament being administered at morning prayers on Sundays.

*Confirmation.*—Confirmation classes for both adults and children were held throughout the year culminating in the Sacrament of Confirmation early in March when five boys, seven girls and six men were presented to the Lord Bishop of Carpentaria. The newly confirmed then underwent a rigorous course of preparation for their first Communion which they received on Easter Day. These people, through the teaching they received and through personal interviews and Confession have come to a fuller realisation of God's Will for them and they are now taking their part fully in Church life on the Mission.

*Teaching and Worship.*—The teaching of Christianity on the Mission is pushed forward at every point by the whole staff and in the

Church life itself all possible means are used to help the people in their understanding of the Christian way of life. Worship is the keynote of all services and all the senses are brought into play so that the people worship truly with body and soul. In the school each class receives two half-hour lessons per week from the Chaplain.

In addition, every Thursday afternoon the Chaplain spends three-quarters of an hour with the Server's Guild comprising a group of senior school boys who have been confirmed. These boys are privileged to serve in the sanctuary, giving assistance at Holy Communion. Their weekly meetings and their duties in the sanctuary afford them greater opportunity to advance in the Christian way of life.

*Choir.*—Every Wednesday night, choir practice is held when hymns and chants for the following Sunday are practised. The musical side is somewhat hampered by the lack of a musical instrument for accompaniment but a small harmonium has been given to the Church and is expected to arrive in June. This will be a great boon.

*Marriages.*—Marriages are now celebrated with a Nuptial Eucharist which marks a further step in the conversion of the people to Christianity. All possible solemnity and dignity is brought into the marriage service in order to impress the people with the importance of the occasion and the indissolubility of marriage.

*Church Attendance.*—Attendance at the Church services on the Mission is in no way compulsory or obligatory, but the attendance at the Holy Communion and other services has shown a definite increase over the year which seems to indicate that people are being won to Christ.

*Chaplains.*—During the year there was a change of Chaplains, but as the retiring Chaplain did not leave until the new one arrived, there was no break in the continuity of religious instruction and worship.

*Conclusion.*—We look forward to being able to report further definite progress and improvement next year.

Vital statistics for the year are as follows:—

|                     |       |                        |
|---------------------|-------|------------------------|
| Holy Communion      | 138   | Celebrations.          |
|                     | 2,548 | Communicants.          |
| Baptisms .. ..      | 17    |                        |
| Confirmations .. .. | 2     | Confirmations.         |
|                     | 5     | Girls, 7 Boys, 17 Men. |
| Marriages .. ..     | 8     |                        |
| Funerals .. ..      | 6     |                        |

#### SCHOOL.

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Number of pupils on roll .. | 64        |
| Average attendance .. ..    | 63        |
| School was opened .. ..     | 208 days. |

There are seven grades ranging from Kindergarten to Grade V.

Progress has been handicapped by a number of school children having to go to Thursday Island at regular intervals for medical treatment or children having holidays during the school term.

*Manual Work.*—The girls are taught dress-making, fancy-work, knitting, mat and basket making with pandanus leaf, and they occasionally help at one of the staff houses. Cooking, washing, ironing and care of the home are taught later when the girl leaves school.

It is only recently that a staff member has been available to take the boys for manual work. They are to be taught gardening, the care and use of tools, and carpentry.

*Health.*—

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Births .. .. . | 7 |
| Deaths .. .. . | 6 |

Last October a complete survey by the Hookworm Control Board was carried out and those found to be suffering from Hookworm were treated. Health generally has been good.

*Village Work.*—Progress has been made in the past twelve months.

*Appreciation.*—To the Director of Native Affairs and his Department; to the staff of the D.N.A. wireless; to the Doctors and staff of Thursday Island General Hospital and to the Cairns Aerial Ambulance and to all who have assisted the Mission throughout the year, we place on record our gratitude and sincere thanks.