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# **NATIVE AFFAIRS.**

**Information contained in Report  
of Director of Native Affairs  
for the Twelve Months ended  
30th June, 1954.**

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## Native Affairs—Annual Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Year ended 30th June, 1954.

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, 1954.

### POPULATION.

The estimated population of aboriginals, half-bloods and Torres Strait Islanders is—  
Aboriginals, 9,579; half-bloods, 7,106; 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 Islanders.	Total.
Palm Island Government Settlement .. .. .	15,510	567	730	..	1,297
Cherbourg Government Settlement .. .. .	26,765	142	885	..	1,027
Woorabinda Government Settlement .. .. .	54,800	375	435	..	810
Cape York Settlement .. .. .	97,620	283	20	150	453
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) .. .. .	616,320	679	13	..	692
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	2,140,800	117	168	..	285
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	1,216,000	543	..	..	543
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	1,600,000	153	..	..	153
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	245,120	333	40	..	373
Monamona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist) .. .. .	4,318	171	114	..	285
Doomadgee Mission (Brethren) .. .. .	57,600	297	51	..	348
Hope Vale (Lutheran) .. .. .	71,000	162	132	..	294
Hammond Island (Catholic) .. .. .	3,660	..	106	..	106
Country Reserves .. .. .	..	5,012	3,897	..	8,909
Torres Strait Islands .. .. .	..	..	..	5,000	5,000
	7,332,503	9,579	7,106	5,150	21,835

It can be expected that the recorded figures of population are reasonably true and accurate, but such can only be determined when the census figures of aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders are available for publication. In common with all citizens of Australia, this census was taken on the 30th June, 1954.

### ADMINISTRATION OF ACTS AND POLICY.

No outstanding difficulty has been experienced in the administration of the Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts and the Torres Strait

Islanders Act, and generally the conduct of both sections of the community has been satisfactory.

### ROYAL VISIT.

As with the white community of Queensland an outstanding feature in the lives of Queensland aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders was the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh to Queensland in March, 1954. Every opportunity was given consistent with the itinerary provided for the Visit for the natives to see and

on occasions meet Her Majesty and His Royal Highness. The itinerary provided for a group of school children from Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement to proceed to Bundaberg to participate in the functions there. It also provided for a large number of Palm Islanders to visit Townsville and there display their arts and crafts, their native dancing, and their general demeanour, for the Royal Couple. The demonstration by the Palm Islanders was outstanding in every aspect, and it is certain that their efforts were much appreciated. Equally outstanding was the demonstration by the Torres Strait Islanders in Cairns. This party of dancers, totalling 45, with their Councillors, proceeded 400 miles from Thursday Island to Cairns on the Queensland Government's vessel m.v. "Melbidir".

It is generally acceded that the display of dancing by these Islanders was unique and exceptional. Their display earned the appreciation of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness and the plaudits of the large crowd assembled. In Cairns, as at Townsville with Palm Island, the Royal Party was particularly interested in the display of arts and crafts by the Torres Strait Islanders and the Palm Island natives and these native people saw the Royal Couple accept presents from their arts and crafts display.

Apart from spectacular incidents associated with the Royal Visit, there remains in the minds of these coloured people who were privileged to meet or see Her Majesty and His Royal Highness a deep appreciation of Her visit and a keener understanding than previously obtained of the connection between the Throne and the Australian Nation of which they are proud to be a part.

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

The contribution to the labour pool by Islanders and aboriginals is virtually as recorded in previous annual reports. The pastoral industry still provides the main source of aboriginal employment, and the pearling and trochus industries are the principal avenues for Torres Strait Islanders. In both of these sections the coloured labour is essential to the continuation of the industries and it is a fair estimate that in the pastoral industry 4,500 aboriginals are employed and in the marine industry 1,000 Islanders are engaged. Apart from these figures, 1,300 aboriginals and Islanders are employed on their home settlements, Church missions and Torres Strait islands. Additional there are approximately 800 engaged in private enterprise as carpenters, plumbers, general artisans, labourers, nurses and domestics, &c. In the overall it is contended that these workers can reasonably hold their own with non-coloured employees otherwise their services would not be

retained. The following table indicates the extent aboriginals and islanders contribute to their own maintenance:—

Gross earnings by aboriginals, excluding Peninsula aboriginals over the year	£340,067
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	£113,320
Value of produce produced on various Government Settlements .. .. .	£46,009
Number of aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders employed as teachers, trainee nurses, artisans, mainly in native administration .. .. .	2,100
Number of men employed in essential industries in Queensland .. .. .	4,500
Number of men in the marine industry	1,300

#### HEALTH.

The general health of the aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders can be regarded as satisfactory. The usual epidemics experienced in any community prevailed with them. The State Government, in co-operation with the Commonwealth Government, is taking every step to combat tuberculosis to which the coloured appear to be more susceptible than the white community. For Torres Strait people Waiben Hospital, with a bed capacity of 77, is functioning satisfactorily, and Aplin Hostel, with a capacity of 40 beds, is likewise operating.

Plans for the erection of a tuberculosis hospital at Cherbourg Settlement are well under way but in the meantime on this settlement, as with the settlements at Palm Island and Woorabinda, the position is being closely observed by visiting or resident medical officers and by State specialists attached to the State Health Department.

It is desired here to record the Department's appreciation of the medical staff and nursing staff of the various hospitals in Queensland for the care and attention which they render to the coloured community. In this category also comes the Cairns Aerial Ambulance whose service to the coloured people in the Peninsula is excellent. Similarly the Queensland Ambulance Transport Organisation must be commended for the efforts and assistance which they render the sick and injured aboriginals and Islanders.

The attached schedules provide 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. They also reveal statistics of births, deaths and marriages in the area.



The Royal Couple Interviewing Palm Island Schoolgirls at Townsville.

PERIOD 1st JUNE, 1953 TO 31st MAY, 1954.

	Births.			Still Births.	Deaths.			Marriages.
	Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.	
Thursday Island Hospital	67	70	137	4	16	17	33	..
Thursday Island	1	2	3	..	..	3	3	12
Badu Island	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Boigu Island	1	2	3	..	..	1	1	..
Coconut Island	2	..	2	..	1	..	1	..
Cowal Creek	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Bamaga	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Red Island Point	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darnley Island	1	1	2	..	2	..	2	..
Dauan Island	..	1	1	..	2	2	4	..
Dowar Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kubin Village	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Naghir Island	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Mabuig Island	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	1
Murray Island	4	5	9	1	2	1	3	1
Rennell Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stephen Island	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saibai Island	8	1	9	1	1	1	2	1
St. Pauls Mission	1	1	2	..	1	2	3	1
Yam Island	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1
Yorke Island	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Hammond Island Mission	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Horn Island	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
At Sea	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
<b>Totals</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>20</b>

## HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 30TH MAY, 1954.

	Saibai.					Badu.					Darnley.				
	Monthly Average in-Patients.			Out-patients Monthly.		Monthly Average in-Patients.			Out-patients Monthly.		Monthly Average in-Patients.			Out-patients Monthly.	
	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.
June	1	1.3	2.3	..	196	2.5	3.5	6	430	192	..	..	..	..	550
July	.5	.5	1	..	158	1.9	1.3	3.2	439	212	1.0	2.0	3.0	..	514
August	..	.5	1	..	207	2	1.6	3.6	458	276	2	1.3	3.3	..	365
September	..	..	..	..	258	2.4	3.6	6	449	286	..	..	..	..	445
October	2	1	3	..	439	1.5	1.48	2.98	397	133	..	.3	.3	..	411
November	1.03	1.1	2.13	..	393	0.3	90.07	0.4	362	129	..	.3	.3	..	589
December	3	1.4	4.4	..	338	0.3	1.1	1.4	111	313	..	.7	.7	..	396
January	..	..	..	..	384	0.1	0.3	0.4	106	322	..	..	..	..	322
February	1	2	3	..	780	4.0	2.9	6.9	234	324	2.5	..	2.5	..	522
March	0.32	..	0.32	..	1,329	1.5	4.7	6.2	240	180	1.54	1.0	2.54	..	457
April	2	1	3	..	956	.33	.33	.66	255	180	..	..	..	..	357
May	..	..	..	..	748	1.0	2.2	3.2	368	126	0.83	2	2.83	..	461
	In-Patients, daily average, 1.67 Out-Patients, number treated, Nil. Out-Patients, number of treatments, 6,016					In-Patients, daily average, 3.4 Out-Patients, number treated, 3,849 Out-Patients, number of treatments, 2,653					In-Patients, daily average, 1.23 Out-Patients, number treated, Nil. Out-Patients, number of treatments, 5,388				

## INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

*Cattle Raising.*—On the three Government settlements and Foleyvale Reserve the follow-

ing cattle are depastured, the value of this livestock as a Departmental asset being £169,382. The figures quoted are as at the 31st March, 1954:—

Settlement.	Beef Cattle.							Dairy Cattle.					Horses.			
	Bulls.	Breeders.	Spayed Cows.	Steers.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Bull cks.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Total.	Dragnet.	Saddle.	Total.
Cherbourg	18	371	129	173	269	..	1	961	..	..	..	..	..	15	20	35
Aboriginal Training Farm	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	94	20	10	128	4	1	5
Woorabinda	43	1,652	329	481	484	..	588	3,577	..	84	..	..	84	41	110	151
Foleyvale	..	5	..	4	3	6	1,343	1,361	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Palm Island	..	..	..	46	..	..	34	80	3	77	34	128	242	22	13	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>2,028</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1,966</b>	<b>5,979</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>226</b>

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

549 bullocks, £19,604.

*Cattle Transfers.*—

From Woorabinda and Cherbourg to Foleyvale—685 head, valued at £6,850.

To view returns from cattle-raising operations in their true perspective to the above figure must be added £18,232, representing the value of cattle killed for local consumption on the settlement. Accordingly, sale returns for the period under review amounted to £37,836.

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.

No major works have been carried out other than the construction of the Cherbourg water supply scheme which it is anticipated will be completed during the ensuing financial year. Concurrent with this project, plans are being finalised and work will soon commence at Cherbourg on the construction of a waste water and sewerage disposal system. Other developmental work of a lesser nature has been carried out on other Settlements and Country Reserves.

CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

*Water Supply.*—The 100,000-gallon concrete reservoir has been completed and reticulation mains have been laid to the Settlement. Excavation of the site for the treatment works has been completed and work is now in hand on this construction.

*Buildings.*—With the construction of the water supply the best of the native labour has been absorbed in this project with the result that the building programme has been seriously handicapped. Despite this, however, native cottages are being erected and such buildings are receiving priority over any others.

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

As the supply of timber on Palm Island is limited a concerted effort has been made in manufacturing cement bricks and together with the timber available the construction of native cottages is being carried out with these materials.

A new Baby Welfare building on Palm Island has now been completed and such activities are now being carried out from that centre. Other developmental work has been carried out in the construction of roads and fences and a new 4-inch pipe-line has been laid from the intake to the reservoir. This larger pipe-line has greatly increased the run-off, thereby making available a greater flow of water into the reservoir.

To facilitate in the control of tick and buffalo fly with cattle, a new spray cattle dip has been constructed with accompanying yards.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

The new sawmill now in operation has improved the production of timber over the last six months, and further improvement will result with the installation of the new and more powerful prime mover. Action is in hand to have a new engine installed at the sawmill to overcome this difficulty.

As is the case with other settlements priority has been given to the construction of native cottages.

Telephone communication from Woorabinda is very poor and to improve this much-needed facility the construction of a completely new line is well under way.

FOLEYVALE.

Developmental work on Foleyvale was seriously handicapped by the particularly wet season, causing widespread flooding over about two-thirds of the area with the usual damage to fences, &c. Apart from repair work caused by flood damage, normal improvements have been carried out, clearing, ringbarking, and the erection of new fences. Agricultural activities are being extended, and at present 400 acres are under wheat.

COUNTRY RESERVES.

*Cooktown Camp.*—On the Aboriginal Reserve at Cooktown five native cottages have been constructed to provide accommodation for permanent residents at Cooktown and also transient natives passing through Cooktown.

*Normanton.*—Two prefabricated steel buildings have been purchased and delivered to Normanton and action is in hand to purchase two more similar buildings to provide accommodation for natives in this area. It is anticipated that the erection of these buildings will be completed in the very near future.

*Townsville.*—Approval has been granted for the necessary finance to purchase three prefabricated buildings which are to be erected at Townsville to provide accommodation for transient natives at this centre. These buildings, when constructed, will relieve the problem of the local Protector of Aboriginals at Townsville, in arranging accommodation for such natives.

CHURCH MISSIONS.

The efforts by the various Church organisations in implementing the policy of protection of aboriginals in Queensland is duly and fully appreciated.

The untiring efforts of the Missions in an endeavour to implement Departmental policy cannot be overlooked and in this regard due recognition must be paid to the difficult circumstances under which the Missions operate. A decade ago Church funds consistent with the requirements of Mission development and the maintenance of the Mission natives were available to a greater extent than applies to-day. Now Mission organisations are finding it more difficult to carry on their work of upliftment of the aboriginals.



Torres Strait Islanders Guard of Honour for Her Majesty and Duke of Edinburgh at Cairns.

It has therefore devolved on the State Government to meet as far as possible these demands and it is generally recognised by Church and State that the Queensland community, as represented by the taxpayers of the State, is being unduly levied for the care and protection of a large section of the aboriginal population of Australia as against the more favoured States whose native population has virtually disappeared.

Church Missions are unanimous in their appreciation of the efforts of the State Government to assist them in their work of national importance and they are likewise unanimous in their hope that to continue such work there will some day be a national appreciation of their efforts by justifiable contributions from the Commonwealth Government.

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

Not including children under 14 years, 110 certificates of exemption were issued during the year. Children are not given separate certificates but are usually named on the mother's certificate.

While some temporary certificates, that is those issued for a trial period, usually six or twelve months, were not renewed, the majority of the exempt persons have justified their own confidence and the Department's trust by obtaining permanent employment, adequately housing their wives and families, and generally fitting in as independent members of the community.

Every ward is at liberty to apply for exemption, the qualifications required being mainly education, industry, and conduct. Where an applicant is uneducated, his seeming ability and initiative is taken into consideration.

**EDUCATION.**

It is now two years since the syllabus followed in Government Settlement schools was amended to embrace all subjects up to Grade VII. instead of the previous standard of Grade IV. Reports submitted by the various Head Teachers indicate that progress has been satisfactory and the pupils are adapting themselves well to the new curriculum. In the next few years it is hoped that a large percentage of the pupils will sit for the Scholarship examination from the Settlement Schools.

School broadcasts and visual education continues to hold the attention of all pupils and this method of education since its introduction to native schools has certainly assisted in the pupils advancement.

*Manual Training and Domestic Science.*— Although not largely followed in outside schools, instruction in both Manual Training and Domestic Science continues to be given in Departmental schools. Cleverness with the hands seems to be inherent in the natives and they readily absorb practical knowledge, and the value of this class of learning cannot be over-estimated and it will continue to be a school subject for native children.

As at the 31st March, 1954, the number of children receiving primary education was 2,547, 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, 1954.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement .. .. .	Cherbourg .. .. .	156	143	299
Settlement .. .. .	Palm Island .. .. .	121	93	214
Settlement .. .. .	Woorabinda .. .. .	100	101	201
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Aurukun .. .. .	54	52	106
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Doomadgee .. .. .	30	27	57
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Lockhart River .. .. .	36	27	63
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mapoon .. .. .	33	41	74
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mitchell River .. .. .	31	38	69
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mona Mona .. .. .	41	30	71
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Hope Vale .. .. .	37	37	74
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mornington Island .. .. .	60	57	117
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Edward River .. .. .	20	13	33
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Weipa .. .. .	18	14	32
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Yarrabah .. .. .	93	98	191
Island Mission .. .. .	St. Paul's (Moa Island) .. .. .	42	41	83
Island Mission .. .. .	St. Michael's R.C. (Palm Island) .. .. .	36	38	74
Island Mission .. .. .	Hammond Island .. .. .	15	13	28
Inland Mission .. .. .	Normanton .. .. .	7	12	19
Reserve .. .. .	Cowal Creek .. .. .	19	21	40
Reserve .. .. .	Bamaga .. .. .	34	24	58
Reserve .. .. .	Red Island Point .. .. .	2	8	10
Torres Strait .. .. .	Island Schools .. .. .	316	318	634
	<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>2,547</b>



*Secondary Education.*—The new syllabus followed in the primary school has not been in operation long enough to show any marked increase in the numbers enrolling for higher education at Colleges under the Departmental Secondary Education scheme. The next five years should give some indication of how the pupils have generally absorbed the instruction of the higher grades, and it is hoped that many more will seek the opportunity of bettering themselves by taking the State Junior and Senior Examinations.

The following table shows the number of pupils attending secondary schools:—

All Souls College, Charters Towers—5 boys.

Mount Carmel College, Charters Towers—3 boys.

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

In addition to the above a young man from the Yarrabah Mission is attending St. Frances (Church of England) Theological College, Brisbane, with a view to entering the Ministry.

Ralph Watson, of Palm Island, who successfully passed his Junior Examination from Mount Carmel College has commenced work with the State Forestry Department as a Forest Learner.

All students are maintaining average progress.

#### 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 £678,491 15s. 2d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw, within reason, against their savings bank accounts.

#### TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1954

	Total.		Savings Bank Balances as at 30th June, 1954.	Commonwealth Stock.	Total Funds.
	Deposits.	Withdrawals.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg .. ..	33,693 7 3	34,852 6 3	2,192 2 0	1,000 0 0	3,192 2 0
Palm Island .. ..	35,137 19 6	37,912 15 8	1,407 5 4	21,000 0 0	22,407 5 4
Woorabinda .. ..	35,489 17 5	33,317 14 9	4,471 13 5	4,000 0 0	8,471 13 5
Various Protectorates ..	235,745 17 7	233,190 15 10	39,805 8 6	423,000 0 0	462,805 8 6
Torres Strait Islands ..	337,994 4 8	312,836 7 1	96,615 5 11	85,000 0 0	181,615 5 11
Total .. ..	678,061 6 5	652,109 19 7	144,491 15 2	534,000 0 0	678,491 15 2

The balance, £678,491 15s. 2d., 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 persons 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 32 and the amounts made available to next-of-kin were £2,139 17s. 7d.

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.

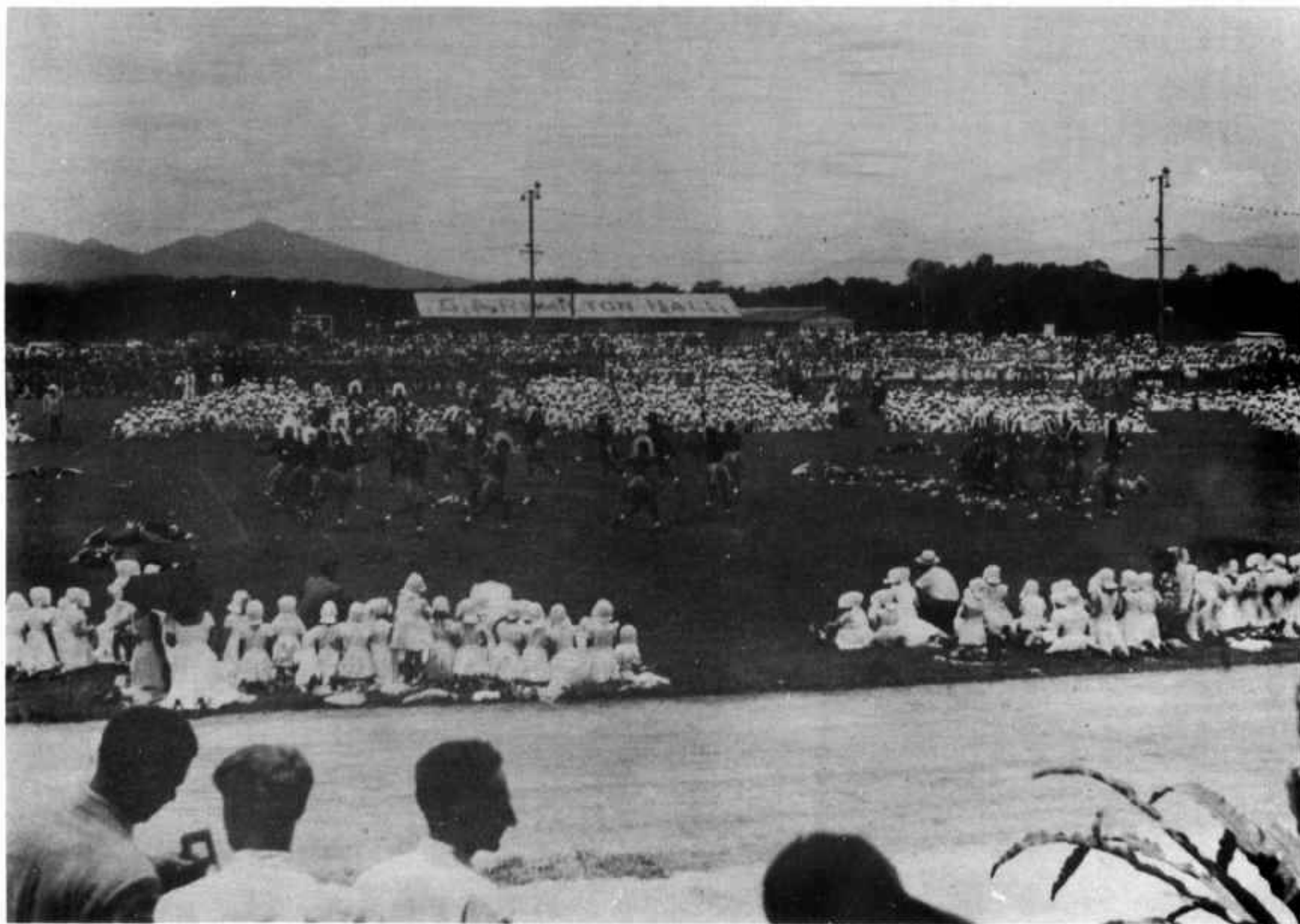
The Commonwealth Government child endowment is paid to aboriginal mothers at the rate prevailing for white mothers. The payment of this endowment has proved of much benefit to aboriginal children in that it allows the mothers to purchase a wider variety of food, better clothing, &c., for the children.

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 .. ..	317
Cherbourg Settlement .. ..	161
Woorabinda Settlement .. ..	99
Palm Island Settlement .. ..	113
Torres Strait Islanders .. ..	812
	<u>1,502</u>

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £81,470 19s. 10d.

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



Island War Dance Performed by Torres Strait Islanders Before Royal Couple at Cairns.

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 .. .. .	2
Woorabinda Settlement .. .. .	43
Cherbourg Settlement .. .. .	110
Palm Island Settlement .. .. .	314
Hope Vale Mission .. .. .	4
Daintree Mission .. .. .	15
Doomadgee Mission .. .. .	85
Monamona Mission .. .. .	168
Mitchell River Mission .. .. .	88
Aurukun Mission .. .. .	176
Mapoon Mission .. .. .	126
Mornington Island Mission .. .. .	175
Weipa Mission .. .. .	53
Yarrabah Mission .. .. .	362
Presbyterian Mission—Thursday Island	35
	1,755

#### 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 duties most capably. It would be impossible for the protection policy to the Department to function smoothly and efficiently were it not for these country Police protectors.

The Superintendents and staffs of the Church Mission 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 ..	Hope Vale Mission
Appendix 8 ..	Doomadgee Mission
Appendix 9 ..	Monamona Mission
Appendix 10 ..	Aurukun Mission
Appendix 11 ..	Edward River Mission
Appendix 12 ..	Hammond Island Mission
Appendix 13 ..	Lockhart River Mission
Appendix 14 ..	Mapoon Mission
Appendix 15 ..	Mitchell River Mission
Appendix 16 ..	Mornington Island Mission
Appendix 17 ..	St. Paul's Mission (Moa Island)
Appendix 18 ..	Weipa Mission

#### APPENDIX 1.

#### PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. R. H. Bartlam.)

#### OFFICIAL VISITORS.

Mr. P. J. Richards, Deputy Director of Native Affairs.

Mr. Keleher, Visiting Justice, Townsville.

Mr. W. T. Davis, Department of Native Affairs.

Mr. Sutherst, Public Service Inspector, Townsville.

Mr. Wenke, Superintendent, Hope Vale Mission.

Captain Cole, Superintendent, Yarrabah Mission.

#### STATISTICS.

Births .. .. .	64
Deaths .. .. .	27
Marriages .. .. .	12

#### HEALTH.

The Palm Island Hospital is staffed with a matron and two white sisters with twelve native nurses and assistants. A doctor, relieved every two months, is made available by the Townsville Hospitals Board. This arrangement is working satisfactorily.

Dentists from Townsville have visited on five occasions, the first being a survey and the other to carry out some of the work required.

An optometrist has made two visits during the year.

The school children's milk distribution scheme has been functioning well. The milk is brought from Townsville in bottles packed in specially made tin-lined boxes and the bottles are packed in ice into these cases. They are kept at a low temperature in the Settlement cold room until required. I consider the effect has been good and the children have benefited from this distribution.

#### HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

The disposal service has been good and routine insecticidal spraying has been regularly carried out against flies and other pests.

A 24 feet by 10 feet building to house the hygiene stores and to carry out the necessary tests has been constructed with cement bricks.

Drainage of storm water and waste through the administration area was completed. This was constructed of concrete pipes of 3 feet diameter made by native workers on the Island and installed in drain from the main avenue to the sea collecting waste water from staff area en route.

#### BABY WELFARE CLINIC.

This section of Settlement activity is functioning well and mothers are being gradually brought to a higher sense of responsibility to their children.

Care of the children under five is the main responsibility of the Clinic and instruction to the mothers and supervision of child care at the Clinic is followed up by extension work in the home.

The new Baby Welfare building is approaching completion and the Baby Welfare Clinic is now installed in one of the buildings. This is a great improvement on the old set up.

The children each year show the results of the careful training and knowledge which the clinic imparts and gives to the mothers and the follow-up system in the homes.

#### EDUCATION.

During the year, the staffing position at the school has improved and at present the school is fully staffed with a head teacher and four assistant teachers. These are assisted by five native monitresses.

A number of children from this Settlement are at Secondary Schools, and this is a pleasing feature of the educational policy of the Department.

Added attention is now paid to handicraft work and this aspect of school work gains considerable interest from the native pupils. Another feature is the increased emphasis on organised sport and physical training and this is paying dividends in the keen interest shown.

There is one child at the School for Blind and Deaf in Brisbane.

The following Palm Island children are enrolled at Secondary Schools:—

All Souls' College—4 boys.

St. Mary's Convent—2 girls.

Mount Carmel College—3 boys.

In addition, three girls are receiving Missionary training at Singleton College, Newcastle, and two girls are training at the Church Army College.

Good reports have been received from all these children as follows:—

#### ALL SOUL'S COLLEGE.

Name.	Class.	No. in Class.	Average.	Place in Class.
			Per cent.	
Phillip Stewart ..	VII.	32	60.3	16
Albie Geia ..	VI.	31	68	17
Anthony Oliffe ..	V.	23	76.6	9
Flen Wallace ..	V.	23	52	21
Percy Bluebob ..	V.	23	67	17

#### MOUNT CARMEL COLLEGE.

##### State Scholarship Examination.

Michael Miller—

	Marks.	} Pass
Maths. .. ..	75	
English .. ..	101	
Social Studies .. ..	60	
Percentage 59		

##### Junior Public Examination.

Ralph Watson—

English C  
Geography C  
Maths. 'A' C

It is with pleasure that I am able to report that following Ralph Watson sitting for his Junior Examination, the Department of Forestry has appointed him as a Forest Learner and he is now with that Department at Gympie.

#### NATIVE HOUSING.

During the year a drive in housing for Settlement people has been made and as a result six cement brick cottages of a similar type to that illustrated and a single men's barracks to house 24 single men have been constructed. Cement foundations for a building to house 20 aged and infirm people has been laid down. Both these buildings include separate eating quarters, and the aged peoples' home, in addition, will provide for a caretaker and his wife who will cook and care for the old people.

Foundations are laid and walls partly erected for four more cement brick cottages. A strongly built but simple construction has been the aim, to give a permanent building easy to keep clean.

A community bathroom and shower room for women has been constructed of cement brick and equipped with shower cubicles and wash bench.

A bathroom of the same material, complete also with four shower cubicles, bath, and wash benches and with a commodious laundry attached has been erected at both the women's and girls' dormitories. A bathroom and cubicles have been erected at the boys' home. A cement brick-making machine is in full production. The making of the bricks and the erection of the buildings are done by native tradesmen under the direction of Settlement staff.

The tradesmen also erected a 20 feet by 10 feet cement brick kiosk which is used in conjunction with the picture show and other entertainments.

Two carpentering gangs are constantly employed in repairing existing native houses.

#### SAWMILL AND LOGGING.

Every effort is being made to utilise the resources of the Island to the utmost in the building of native houses. The timber for the framework of these houses is secured on the Settlement and milled by native workers under supervision.

Pine which grows on the rugged inclines along the southern coastline of the Island is felled and snigged to the rocky beach, then, when weather and tide permit, it is edged into the sea, towed to the waiting launch, and then, as soon as a sizable raft of floating pine logs to the capacity of the towing vessel is collected, it is hauled to the Settlement sawmill for milling. This pine is first-class timber but the difficulty of getting it out, with the hard labour involved in moving the logs out over wet, oyster-coated rocks to the sea, has militated against its proper exploitation. Hard-won timber such as this means that the utmost economy in its use is enforced.

High in the hills are fair stands of bloodwood, maple, milky pine, and some good millable scrub timbers with an occasional red cedar and mahogany.

Each small patch requires new tracks cut to them, as separate mountain spurs lead to the different stands.

Bullock teams are used to haul the logs to ledges where they are rolled down a chute to a lower level and here they are able to be hauled by bullock teams again.

Heavy hardwood logs are also brought from another portion of the Island where they have to be dragged down to the sea by the bullock teams and as they cannot be floated are lashed to the sides of heavy 25-foot boats and towed to the mill beach where they are winched to the breaking down frame.

During the year it is estimated that 470 logs were hauled to the mill for 80,250 super feet of timber.

#### STAFF HOUSING.

Two staff houses are under construction by native labourers. When completed these will make residences available for assistant store-keeper and sawyer.

#### WATER TRANSPORT.

M.V. "Wondi" has done good service during the year, and carries the brunt of the work in handling Settlement loading between Townsville and Palm Island.

The "Irex" was thoroughly overhauled and considerable work was required on the hull below the water line.

The launch "Turtle" has also performed excellently throughout the year.

The "Sylvia" has had structural alterations including a sun deck.

Two heavy cargo flatties were constructed for lightening of cargo from transport vessels to the beach, and also for general heavy work such as bringing logs from other parts of the Island.

Two 22 foot flatties for passenger and general use were constructed and one sent to Fantome Island for general use at that Institution. A 12-foot flattie was made for the "Wondi" and another 25-foot flattie is under construction.

Timber for boat building is procured on the Island and milled at the Settlement mill.

The work is carried out by native boat-builders under staff supervision.

#### RAINFALL.

The season has been a difficult one and could be divided into two distinct portions—two and a-half months wet and nine and a-half months dry.

The rainfall for the year was 7,429 points, and from 1st April to 30th December 1,005 points of rain fell in occasional light showers, while from 30th December to 31st March, the Island received 6,424 points of rain. A cyclone during February brought gale force winds to the Island. The damage was not heavy and was confined to the farm area where the banana and papaw plantations suffered some damage.

#### FARM.

This phase of Settlement activity has been satisfactory, although the long dry period before Christmas made vegetable growing difficult.

Produce for the year is as follows:—

Honey .. .. .	486	lbs.
Milk .. .. .	4,452	gallons
Turnip .. .. .	8	sacks
Cucumbers .. .. .	130	
Marrow .. .. .	150	
Chinese Cabbage .. .. .	830	
Carrots .. .. .	10	sacks
Onions .. .. .	3	sacks
Raddish .. .. .	25	sacks
Lettuce .. .. .	2,012	
Cabbage .. .. .	981	
Tomatoes .. .. .	60	cwt.
Beans .. .. .	9½	sacks
Water Melons .. .. .	330	
Corn .. .. .	8	bags
Eschalote .. .. .	28	cwt.
Pumpkin .. .. .	3	sacks
Papaws .. .. .	516	
Pineapples .. .. .	266	
Bananas .. .. .	20	bunches

Cherbourg and Woorabinda Aboriginal Settlements each received 75 bags of coconuts.

Pork and Meat .. .. .	12,475	lb.
Fish .. .. .	1,155	lb.

The banana plantation has been increased extensively, and over 1,500 suckers have been planted in areas cleared on the scrub slopes.

During the year 12,000 pineapple suckers were planted and these are doing well. Several hundred papaw plants are in various stages of growth. The addition of pineapples, bananas, and papaws to the native diet has been noticeable.

A spray dip yard has been built and the spray plant is in process of being installed.

During the year 4½ acres of saccaline was grown and 1 acre of corn.

The saccaline has been harvested and it is estimated that 50 tons of ensilage resulted. This has been stored in trench silos for this year. It is hoped to have two 50-ton cement tower silos by next season.

This ensilage will keep to carry the stock through the dry summer months.

The calves have been given a supplementary ration during the dry months and this has brought about a considerable reduction in calf mortality.

The dry season at Palm Island is usually severe and such supplementation is necessary for Illawarra type dairy stock.

#### STOCK.

Bulls .. .. .	3
Cows .. .. .	77
Heifers .. .. .	34
Weaners .. .. .	128
Steers .. .. .	46
Working Bullocks .. .. .	34
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>322</b>

#### HORSES.

Draught .. .. .	22
Saddle .. .. .	13
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>35</b>

	Pigs.	
Boars .. .. .	1	
Sows .. .. .	8	
Weaners and Stores .. .. .	81	
Total .. .. .	90	

Eight head of draught horses and five saddle horses were bought during the year and helped to take the weight off the older stock.

#### SCOUTING AND GIRL GUIDES.

While the Girl Guides have not shown much activity during the year the Boy Scouts are still an active unit.

During the year a senior scout attended a Leaders Camp at Magnetic Island and returned with a very good report.

The Boy Scouts visited Townsville during the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

It is hoped to expand the movement when improvements are made to the camping headquarters of the group at Esk Island.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

During the period under review, all requests for male labour have been filled. At present there are 52 men in employment on the mainland under agreement.

It has not been possible to fill all vacancies for female labour as the demand for domestic help exceeds the supply of suitable women. There are 33 domestics employed under agreement on the mainland.

The gross earnings for mainland workers were £17,307.

Seasonable employment figures were high for this year and 98 cancutters were in employment in and around the Ingham district at the one time.

Native cancutters cut 12,088 tons of cane and the earnings of these workers were £8,784.

To assist in the building up of Foleyvale, 39 men were sent to that Reserve during the year.

#### APPRECIATION.

The assistance given by the Minister, Hon. W. M. Moore, M.L.A., the Under Secretary, Mr. McCormack, Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, and the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Mr. Richards, has been appreciated as also has been the co-operation of the Settlement staff.

#### MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

(Acting Medical Officer, Dr. K. P. Wilson.)

Inpatients—males 452, females 487. Total 939.

This year has seen the continuance of the roster system of residents from Townsville General Hospital serving seven-week periods as Acting Medical Superintendent, which has worked very satisfactorily.

The nursing position has fluctuated during the year, at times the matron being the sole white nursing staff. At the moment there is the matron and two white sisters on the staff. The native staff are quite capable in a limited capacity but need constant supervision.

The hospital buildings are in fair condition and are soon to be repainted.

During the year the X-Ray plant was installed and a dark room constructed. The plant has proved a great boon both in casualty diagnosis and in providing diagnostic and follow up chest X-Rays for tuberculosis.

Weekly visits were made to Fantome Island Lazaret for the purpose of treatment and the taking of biopsies.

Taking into account the nursing staff problems and the natural difficulties inherent in this type of hospital the hospital has functioned quite efficiently during the past year.

#### SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. D. Garrett.)

It is with much pleasure that I present to you the Ninth Annual Report of the Social and Welfare Association of Palm Island.

During the 12 months under review the activities of the Association were well maintained.

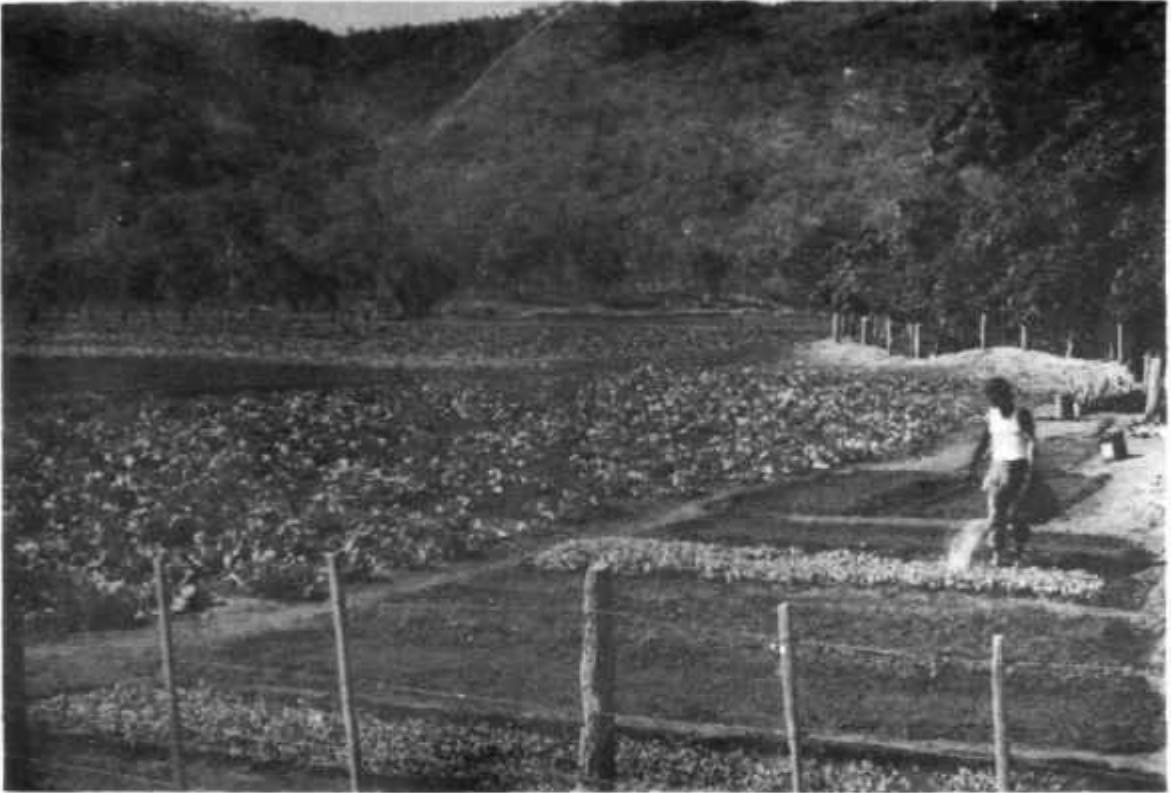
It was with regret that the resignation of Mr. F. A. Krause was accepted. Since the inception of the Association Mr. Krause had held the dual position of president and treasurer, and it was due to his unflagging service that the Association reached such a high peak.

At the re-election of officers it was decided that the positions of president and treasurer be held by two members of the staff, and I had the honour of being elected president, while Mr. E. A. Jennings was elected hon. treasurer. Otherwise, the Constitution of the Association remains as previously.

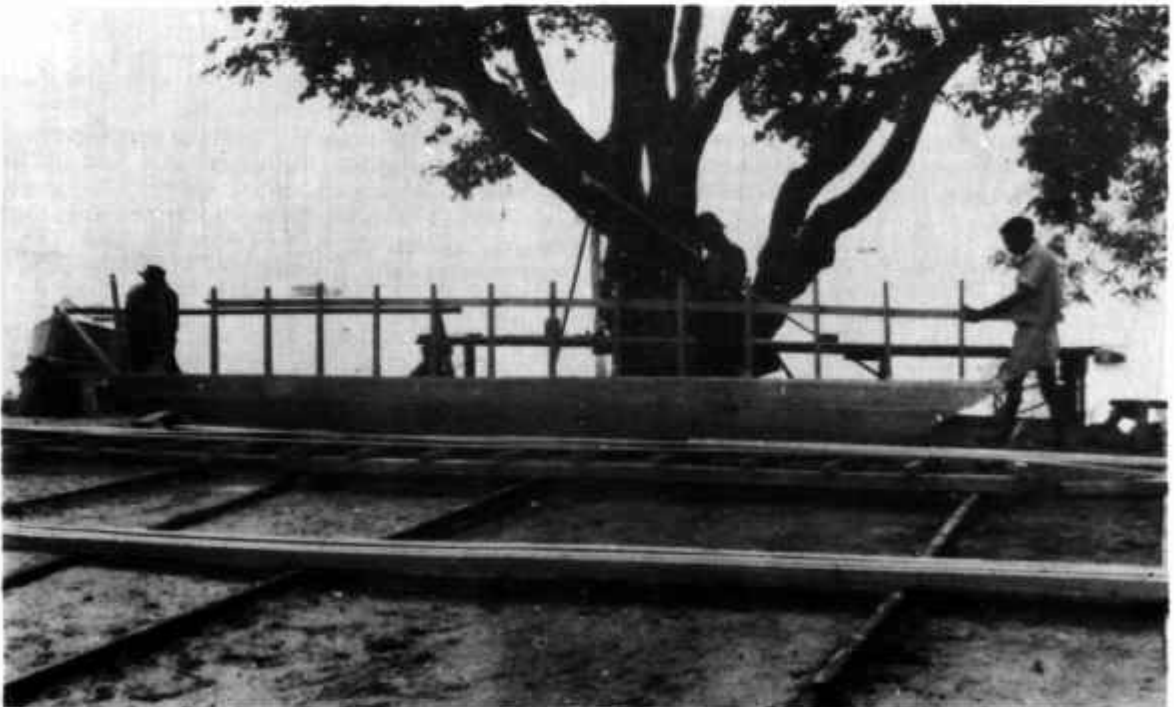
*Arts and Crafts.*—As in previous years, our Arts and Crafts Show proved a great success, drawing many hundreds of visitors from the mainland. The show was opened by Mr. McLay, secretary of the Townsville Show Committee, and the usual show dinner was held when many visitors were present.

*The Brass Band.*—Special mention must be made of the band members, who have practised wholeheartedly, and through their diligence have brought it to its present state of efficiency. By invitation, the band has on two occasions visited the mainland, the first visit being during the Royal Celebrations and the second when they accompanied the footballers to Townsville.

We are proud of the fact that the sum loaned by the Queensland Government to enable us to complete the purchase of the instruments has been repaid in full, and a balance of £75 stands to the credit of the bank account. Full uniforms have been supplied. On many occasions the band has entertained us on the Island.



Vegetable Cultivation, Palm Island.



Boat Building, Palm Island.

## SPORT.

**Boxing.**—Enthusiasm has been well maintained and we are happy to express our appreciation to the National Fitness Council in Townsville who have given our boys the opportunity of boxing on the mainland, while on two occasions a team from the National Fitness Council have visited the Island and fought contests with our boys in their home ring much to the enjoyment of all.

**Football.**—This sport was very well supported, and many trips to the mainland by invitations of the various clubs were enjoyed.

**Tennis.**—Is still very popular and many mixed games were indulged in.

**Women's Sports.**—A large interest is being shown in this branch of activity and new equipment which is being supplied will do much to foster this section of sport.

**Dancing.**—Still remains a popular feature of life on Palm Island. The various teams have on many occasions accompanied the footballers to the mainland and given displays which are always welcomed. On alternate Saturday nights dancers perform for the entertainment of the Islanders.

**Pictures.**—Every Wednesday night, weather permitting, pictures are screened, and these prove the most popular entertainment. Health films are shown when available.

**Fishing.**—Competitions are held on various holidays and prove a great source of interest. Many teams compete, each striving to attain the largest catch both in quantity and size.

**Kiosk.**—A kiosk for the sale of soft drinks, &c., at the picture ground is in the last stages of completion.

Plans for the ensuing year include the building of a gymnasium and recreation hall adjacent to the show ground to measure 30 feet x 40 feet which will also be available for the display of show exhibits. Another project is the roofing of the picture ground. This is a long-needed facility and will enable the holding of various programmes during inclement weather. A wire fence is in course of erection around the theatre ground and a number of bougainvillea plants have been planted which will give a colourful touch and beautify the grounds.

## FINANCES.

The Association is in a sound financial position and has a balance of £2,226 9s. 1d. standing to its credit.

## THE FUTURE.

We look forward with confidence to the future and the steady improvement of the amenities on the Island.

## TOURISTS.

The tourist season will soon be in full swing when each Saturday visitors from the mainland will again enjoy the programme of dancing, boomerang throwing, &c., provided for them. Light refreshments and curios are on sale and provide a source of revenue to the Association.

## CONCLUSION.

In closing, I would like to express our appreciation to the Minister, the Honourable Mr. W. M. Moore, M.L.A., the Director and Deputy Director of Native Affairs and their staffs, also the Superintendent, Mr. R. H. Bartlam, and his staff, of Palm Island for the continued support and help they are at all times pleased to give the Association.

## HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. D. Garrett.)

**Nightsoil Disposal.**—This service has worked throughout the year without difficulty, a daily service being maintained except Sundays. The hospital was serviced in the a.m. and p.m. of each day, Monday to Sunday.

**Sanitary Conveniences.**—There has been a marked improvement. The construction of 50 new latrines and the demolishing of the old communal latrines meant more responsibility being placed upon the particular family using a private latrine and a better standard of hygiene is the result. With the communal type control was lost and a hygiene standard hard to maintain. One native carpenter is employed full time on repairing conveniences, and many of the existing private conveniences were repaired during the year.

**General Hygiene.**—A vast improvement was shown throughout the year. Health films have helped a lot in this way together with continuous explaining of "do's" and "don'ts" resulting in a better understanding of cleanliness. Provision of better facilities has also played a big part in this improvement, especially the completion of three new bath and shower rooms at each dormitory and one building at the Cooktown camp area. The latter has both showering and laundering appointments. The old laundry at the women's dormitory was renovated and the laundry at the small girl's dormitory completely rebuilt.

Wash basins have been added to the shower rooms. These are let into well-made benches, the water supply being brought over the bench for easy access, while the laundries have set-in concrete tubs with the water laid over the tubs and copper.

All tubs and shower cubicles are connected to a grease trap which in turn disperses the grease-free waste by subsurface irrigation.

**Drainage.**—The system of subsurface irrigation with efficient grease traps and the sealing of all waste connections instead of the old open drain method is adopted on this Settlement, and all future drainage will be in this manner.

The hospital drainage was placed underground during the year. The laying of earthenware pipes and all connections was carried out within the hospital area by the Hospital Board, while a large main trap and all underground drainage from the hospital fence was carried out by the hygiene workers.

A stormwater drain extending from the main avenue to the gully just off the main beach was completed. This drain measures 660 feet in length and a diameter (outside) of 3 feet.



Inspections of all drains and grease traps were regularly carried out. Cleaning and spraying of public drains were effected by the hygiene gang.

*New Buildings.*—A new combined hygiene office and store room was completed this year, the overall size of the building being 26 feet long by 11 feet wide. The office section serves for the better keeping of records and allows for hookworm examinations also to be carried out in this section.

The store room section provides for the storing of equipment and supplies and permits the issue of household sprays and other articles to the local inhabitants. The building will further advance the efficiency of hygiene work on Palm Island.

#### OUTER AREAS.

*Pencil Bay.*—This area was inspected regularly. Sanitary conveniences were serviced twice weekly. Water was tested at regular intervals.

*Butler Bay.*—This area has cesspit conveniences, and one new one was constructed during the period under review.

*Casement.*—This area was inspected regularly. Sanitary conveniences were serviced twice weekly, the school being serviced daily—Tuesday mornings to Saturday mornings.

#### BABY WELFARE CENTRE.

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

Children on Register .. ..	238
Clinical Examinations .. ..	12,186
Sent to Medical Officer .. ..	512
Test Feeds .. ..	80
Camp Inspections .. ..	324
First Aid Treatments .. ..	5,611
Children in Daily Residence .. ..	68
Mothers for Instruction .. ..	68

The bill of health for the year 1953-54 for the "under fives" attending the Baby Welfare Centre has been reasonably good, the death rate being 2 per cent. for the year.

There has been a measles epidemic with 99 cases among the infants. A fair percentage was admitted to hospital, but fortunately there were no major complications.

In January, there were 70 cases of influenza among the young children, none with any degree of severity. The heavy rains did not bring the usual crop of "chesty" colds this year, but there were a number of cases of furunculii.

Mothers are continuing to show an increased interest in the preparation of balanced meals, and it is thought that this factor has helped considerably in combating the above epidemics. Some years ago the infants would have easily succumbed to the diseases. Now, with a more balanced diet, a sufficiency of vitamins, and in many cases well-cooked meals, the children have built up a certain resistance.

The biggest innovation in the Section this year has been an economy drive in the making of the older children's clothes at the Centre rather than purchasing them ready-made

through State Stores. This new project will result in a considerable saving to the Department, albeit a big increase in work for the Centre. Baby clothes have always been made at the Centre and expectant mothers are taught and encouraged to make their layettes.

It is hoped that the Centre will be in occupation of the new brick building in the near future which will greatly facilitate the work of the Centre and leave scope for further activities.

Though the home comforts of some families are not modern there is a definite trend to improvement, partly due to consistent camp inspections and also to the fact that fathers are at last being persuaded that home making is not entirely the prerogative of the mother. Many fathers will now bring their children to the Clinic when duties permit, and quite a number have made cupboards, &c., in an effort to improve conditions in the home.

#### PALM ISLAND SCHOOL REPORT.

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

*Staff.*—The staff position was improved during the latter half of last year when a fourth assistant teacher was appointed. It is felt that this is no ordinary school, and more help, if available, would enable greater efficiency to be achieved.

Four native monitresses assist the assistant teachers with their classes, and although not capable of handling some lessons they are very helpful to the teachers.

In classes where an assistant may have 40 or more pupils of varying degrees of proficiency the help of a monitress to take care of one section of the class while the assistant teacher concentrates on another group of pupils can do much to improve the general standard of proficiency of that particular class.

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment at the beginning of the June quarter was 121 boys and 97 girls, making a total of 218 pupils. These are divided into the following grades or classes:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Preparatory .. ..	14	13	27
Grade I. .. ..	15	15	30
Grade II. .. ..	15	12	27
Grade III. .. ..	24	19	43
Grade IV. .. ..	25	16	41
Grade V. .. ..	10	14	24
Grade VI. .. ..	11	8	19
Manual Training (full time) .. ..	7	..	7
	<u>121</u>	<u>97</u>	<u>218</u>

The last entry may need some explanation. These are boys who may have started school at a late age and were unable to complete their academic course in the higher grades before they were due to leave school, so were drafted into a manual training class to gain some industrial form of training during the last year of their attendance at school.

In addition to manual training in woodwork and sheet-metal work, these boys are also engaged in various types of school projects such as coconut leaf plaiting, processing grated coconut, and a little gardening experience,



Palm Island Public Library.



Preparation of Pandanus Leaves for Weaving—Palm Island.

*Organisation.*—This school is so organised as to make the fullest use of the school radio broadcasts, visual education and organised sport. Native handicraft work has recently been reintroduced into our school curriculum and classes are now being taught various forms of pandanus weaving, the plaiting of coconut leaves for constructional use, and the making of palm leaf hats from the young shoots of the coconut trees.

The lunch hour recess has been increased from one hour to one and a-half hours, the extra half hour being taken up in the instruction and supervision of organised sport, all teachers participating in this work. Basketball and vigoro are taught to the older girls while the boys play football and softball. The junior classes engage in rounders and various forms of medicine ball games.

The scheme is working very well and apart from giving the children a better understanding of the rules of the various games they play it is developing a keener appreciation of sport and its accompanying sporting spirit and at the same time bringing about a better understanding between the pupil and his teacher, for on the field of sport the teacher has a chance of studying the other side of his pupils character and tendencies which may not be apparent to him in the class room. It is hoped to not only have intraschool matches but interschool fixtures as well, which should do much to develop sporting prowess and give the child a wider interest.

*Physical Education.*—This also plays an important part in the school and the development of the child and, apart from physical exercises, good use is being made of special health films obtained from the Queensland Health Education Council. These films are also screened for the general public.

*Broadcasts.*—Much use is made of the school radio broadcasts, all classes in the school participating in them. The preparatory grades make the fullest use of the kindergarten session each morning, while the senior grades listen to such subjects as speech training, health and hygiene, social studies, nature study, and singing. When using the singing broadcast, every use is made of the Welfare Association's tape recorder in recording the session and using the recorder to play it back to other classes at more convenient periods. The same is done with social studies and other subjects where it is felt a second listening would be advantageous.

*Visual Education.*—Visual education still plays a very big part in the curriculum of this school and already pleasing results are being achieved. At a recent inspection of the school the District Inspector of Schools told the pupils of my senior grade their compositions were equal to and in some instances even a little better than the best he has seen in similar grades in larger schools on the mainland. This is encouraging and may be largely attributed to the wide range of subjects covered in our visual education section.

In addition to showing films to every class opportunity is taken to give special screenings to the pupils of the nearby provisional school

as well as to the adult population. In this way educational benefit is being received by all members of the community.

*Native Handicrafts.*—When the school was inspected towards the end of last year the Inspector recommended the reintroduction of native handicrafts in lieu of those suggested in the syllabus for mainland schools. This suggestion is now being tried with a view to developing industrial habits and a desire to cultivate an interest in using their leisure time with profit. It is not intended that this should develop into a mass production concern but an instruction class. Many will go no further than what they are required to make in the class while the more ambitious children will turn their experience to better use.

*Projects.*—Besides the projects already mentioned various class projects have been introduced, the one most popular being the collecting of coral and shells and museum specimens. It is hoped at a later stage during the current year to be able to prepare suitable little collections of natural history specimens and send them to selected mainland schools in exchange for specimens that are not indigenous to Palm Island, such as minerals, &c. In this way we hope to expand the social studies in a more practical way.

*Library.*—While an ample supply of good books is now available for use by the senior grades of the school there is an absence of suitable books for the infant classes and junior grades. Last year the Public Library in Brisbane sent two cartons of books on loan for six months, but again there was an absence of books suitable for the younger child just learning to read. If we want our children to become readers after they leave school we must inculcate the taste for good reading into them while they are still very young.

*Queen's Visit.*—Perhaps the highlight in this year's activities was the visit to North Queensland by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. When Her Majesty visited Townsville all the children from this school from Grade II. upwards were taken to Townsville for that momentous occasion. Our children accompanied by the Palm Island Brass Band, and two teams of dancers were given a position in the Sports Reserve where the Queen would pass quite close to them so that they were privileged to see Her Majesty at very close range on several occasions and all had a good look at her.

Two of the little girls made presentations to the Queen and the Duke who seemed highly delighted both with the gifts and the demeanour of our girls as they curtsied before them.

*General Progress.*—Progress has been satisfactory during the year due to a loyal and hard-working staff upon whom fell much of the work since a good deal of my time had to be taken up in duties connected with the Social and Welfare Association of which organisation I was president and treasurer. However, since I have relinquished these positions more time can be devoted to the school and already improvement can be seen in the work done.

**Manual Training.**—All boys from Grade IV. upwards attend manual training classes each week, and while much of the work undertaken by them is of a very elementary nature, there is scope for extending this training. Altogether 53 boys attend these classes which are conducted by a native monitor under my direction.

**Needlecraft.**—Until the end of last year all school sewing was carried on at the Settlement sewing room. Since the end of the school year last December the sewing mistress has resigned and for the first three months of this year no school sewing was done by the senior girls. Arrangements have now been made for this work to again be done at the school under the direction and supervision of the female assistants on the school staff and as equipment becomes available this work is being extended. Some fine samples of needlecraft were exhibited in our Settlement shows and reflect credit in the girls' ability to do delicate work as well as appreciate fine workmanship.

**Milk Issue.**—We are indeed grateful to the Government for including this school in its Free Milk Scheme, and approximately 85 per cent. of the children attending school are eligible and receive their daily issue of milk.

**Conclusion.**—In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and thanks to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director and his staff, the Superintendent, and the local Welfare Association for their interest and assistance in the past.

It is with much confidence I look to the future and sincerely trust we may achieve even better successes.

#### SCOUTING.

(Scout Master, Mr. F. A. Krause.)

Scouting has been proceeding at a steady pace during the past year and at the moment we have two patrols of eight boys each. Further recruitment has not been encouraged as pressure of work as Welfare President prevented me from giving more of my time to scouting.

However, now being free of these extraneous duties, I feel we are ready to receive more boys into the troop and expand our operations. Before we do this, I hope to have a special "Scout Demonstration" on a Saturday afternoon to let the public see what we are doing with the young boys in the hope the parents will permit their boys to become members.

Esk Island camp site is to be developed, and it is hoped will soon be used more as a camp training reserve than formerly. There it is proposed to erect a scout hall for our Palm Island Scouts and also improve the water supply position. When this camp is fully ready it should prove a welcome rendezvous for mainland scouts to enjoy a weekend camp with our native scouts.

It is pleasing to report that our native A.S.M.—Leslie Foster—has attended a wood-badger course at Magnetic Island during the last Christmas vacation, and his efforts there

were very highly commented upon by the Camp Chief. He is doing a good job with the boys and soon hopes to gain his woodbadger.

The scouts meet each Tuesday night at the local school and frequently their meetings are made more interesting by the screening of special films and slides of interest to them as scouts.

I desire to express our thanks for help given us by the Department and the administration here and we hope to be able to report a fuller year of activity in our next report.

#### APPENDIX 2.

#### CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. G. Sturges.)

#### STATISTICS.

<b>Births—</b>			
Full-blood .. ..	3 Males	19 Females	
Half-blood .. ..	25 Males	25 Females	
	<u>28 Males</u>	<u>44 Females</u>	

Total births—72.

<b>Deaths—</b>			
Full-blood .. ..	6 Males	11 Females	
Half-blood .. ..	6 Males	6 Females	
	<u>12 Males</u>	<u>17 Females</u>	

Total deaths—29.

Marriages—11.

Exemptions—2.

#### HEALTH.

**Hospital.**—The Cherbourg Hospital is under the control of the South Burnett Hospitals Board. Details of the Hospital will be found in the Board's Annual Report.

#### Dentist.—

Number of visits .. ..	21
Extractions .. ..	534
Fillings .. ..	30

**Optometrist.**—The Government visiting optometrist paid two visits during the year. Thirty-two patients received attention.

**Child Welfare Clinic.**—This section is functioning very satisfactorily. Mothers generally respond to advice and attend the clinic regularly with their children. Report by Sister Carew, officer in charge of the clinic is attached.

**Hygiene and Sanitation.**—This very important section is under the capable direction of the hygiene officer, and carried out its duties very efficiently.

Transport for nightsoil disposal has been a problem. However, two chassis have now been received on which will be built fly-proof bodies. These vehicles will be horse drawn. When in operation they will satisfactorily serve the purpose.

## SAWMILL.

Logs milled during the year—

	Logs.	Contents.	Recovery.
			Super ft.
Hardwood .. ..	343	156,544	119,903
Pine .. .. .	43	29,153	27,091
Oak .. .. .	3	723	625
	389	186,402	147,619

giving an average weekly recovery of 2,839 super. feet for all classes of timber. The average weekly recovery of hardwood was 2,304 super. feet and that of pine was 535 super. feet.

Pine and softwoods are used in the trade training workshop and for other special purposes, and the use of these timbers is in view of cost being reduced to a minimum; the low output is therefore explained.

Of the total recovery 5,773 super. feet were sent to the Woorabinda Aboriginal Settlement.

## BUILDINGS.

Five native cottages were erected during the year. In addition to this work existing buildings were maintained in good repair.

## PAINTING.

Three staff houses were painted externally while one staff cottage was painted throughout. Painting of other buildings was carried out as required.

## RAINFALL.

The total rainfall for the year was 24 inches 32 points.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Construction of the new water supply system has been commenced and progress has been most satisfactory. Construction is under the direction of the Department of Local Government. All labour with the exception of the officers of the Department of Local Government comprises native workers on whom Local Government officers report favourably.

The project consists of a 100,000-gallon concrete reservoir, filtration and chlorination plant, and reticulation throughout the Settlement.

When the job is completed each native cottage will be serviced so that kitchen, bathroom, and laundry facilities are available and a suitable service point to enable each cottage to have its own vegetable and flower garden.

The supply will be drawn from the "Rock Hole" in Barambah Creek which contains an estimated 35,000,000 gallons of water. This quantity is available should the creek cease to flow at any period.

## MOTOR VEHICLES.

The Ford V8 truck is near the replacement stage and a new vehicle will be required in the near future. All other vehicles are in good mechanical condition.

## TRADE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

Since its inauguration the trade training workshop has not lacked orders and often the volume of work on hand taxes the capacity of the plant and buildings. In the near future it will be necessary to have an all-round enlargement.

Work turned out is of first-class quality, both with respect to workmanship and materials. The variety of articles manufactured varies from simple laundry trolleys to specialised joinery, office and household furniture.

The officer in charge, Mr. G. Cooper, is an excellent tradesman, as revealed in the quality of the manufactured articles.

Output for the year is as follows:—

107 E.C. cabinets	20 Dressing tables
2 Kitchen cabinets	6 Lowboys
84 Chairs	3 School presses
2 Typiste's tables	1 Press
1 Linen press	31 Switch boxes
4 Cupboards	1 Foodsafe
1 Wardrobe	23 Pairs casements
14 Tables	1,780 feet Skirting
1 Hall table	70 feet Architrave stocks
1 Mirror stand	28 Door jambs
27 School desks	2,350 feet Cover strip
26 Doors	800 feet Half-round mould
5 Kitchen sink cabinets	750 feet Form timber for concrete reservoir
1 Food safe	29 Coffins
1 School bookcase	90 Children's commodes repaired

The workshop caters for all glazing requirements on the Settlement.

Manufactured items have been supplied to Torres Strait Islands, Palm Island, Fantome Island, Woorabinda, Monamona Mission, as well as Cherbourg.

## STOCK.

Seasonal conditions have been generally good. The head stockman, Mr. A. West, is most attentive to his duties, and the attention and care which he gives to the stock is now bearing fruit. However, there are still problems to be overcome, the greatest of which seems to be phosphate deficiency.

Officers of the Department of Agriculture and Stock are co-operating with Settlement Officers, and it is anticipated that a satisfactory solution to this problem will be worked out. Pasture improvement must also receive attention so that the maximum use will be made of the available land. This work includes the control of noxious weeds.

## SCHOOL.

Report by the head teacher, Mr. R. T. Crawford, indicates the training given to native pupils.

The school is inspected by an inspector of the Education Department whose report is favourable both to pupils and teachers.

## SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

Outstanding events during the year were—

- (1) Sports day and fancy dress ball to celebrate the coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- (2) Visit of children to Bundaberg to take part in the welcome extended to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.
- (3) Christmas tree and Christmas celebrations.
- (4) Annual Show at which the inter-settlement exhibits were staged.
- (5) Show ball and dinner at which debutantes from Palm Island and Cherbourg were presented.

Displays by this Settlement were staged in the Australia Day and May Day celebrations conducted at Brisbane.

The Association has established the nucleus of a very fine library, which is being improved continuously.

## APPRECIATION.

In conclusion, appreciation is expressed to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Under Secretary of the Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director of Native Affairs, and the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Settlement staff and to Protectors of the various Protectorates in which Cherbourg natives are working, and to all those who have assisted and contributed to the development of the Settlement and the welfare of the native residents.

## PASTORAL REPORT.

(Head Stockman, Mr. A. West.)

*Seasonal Conditions.*—Generally good. The winter was severe regarding frosts but mild days and sweet pastures carried stock into the spring. Good rains in August, 1953, were followed by a very dry period into the New Year, which had an adverse effect on young stock, old cows, and early calves. Very heavy rains in January and February, 1954, produced a heavy body of feed, but the benefit of this is doubtful because burning off was unreliable. Green Swamp filled and Branch Creek ran for the first time in three years.

*Stock.*—Condition of mature stock is generally very good but that of younger lines 12 to 18 months old is not so good. I have discussed this with the Government Veterinary Officer and a pasture deficiency is suspect. We intend to get together on this very shortly. The bulls purchased in March, 1953, have produced good calves and are working well. Some of the breeders show a definite tendency to barrenness and the possibilities of abortion cannot be ruled out. This is another matter I shall take up with the Government Veterinary Officer. Three old bulls will be ready for market after this season.

Losses for the year were 10 cows, 3 heifers, due mainly to calving and snake bite and two cases of red water. Ninety-nine old cows have

been spayed, leaving a herd of 412 young cows consisting mainly of nines, noughts, and ones. One hundred weaner steers are ready for transfer to Foleyvale.

Eighty-four cows and 11 bullocks were killed for rations at an approximate average weight of 470 lb., of an estimate value of £2,900.

*Improvements.*—I have built a horse paddock for Government working horses only on Bralbion Creek and the usual fence repair work has been carried out. The area of Top Branch Creek paddock, treated with pentoxide, died well, and the body of feed thereon now has to be seen to be believed. Some of the rough country at Bottom Branch Creek was rung. The kill was not good, but the improvement in pasture is again excellent. Some 200 acres of Barkers Creek paddock have been rung recently.

*Noxious Weeds.*—I had the burr under control until the floods. Unfortunately it came worse than ever and although I treated the lot with Hormone the weather was not co-operative and a 100 per cent. kill was not effected before seeding.

## MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

(Sister in Charge, Sister M. Carew.)

Since reopening of the clinic in January, 1954, I have found the majority of mothers most co-operative. One or two are inclined to neglect their children, but no difficulty is felt in having them attend for daily supervision of feeding. All children up to the age of five years attend weekly.

Number of babies attending	..	61
Number of toddlers attending	..	177
		238

Supplies of all milk, foods, medicines, &c., were issued to mothers as required.

## HYGIENE OFFICER'S REPORT.

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

## HEALTH.

*Hansen's Disease.*—During the year Dr. D. W. Johnson made an extensive survey and four cases were transferred to Fantome Island Lazaret.

*Venereal Disease.*—The decline in venereal disease is most encouraging, and during the last few months no new cases have been reported.

*Remarks.*—During November 1953, we, in company with most towns throughout the State, experienced a heavy outbreak of influenza. Owing to a long spell of dry weather, the turbid condition of Barambah Creek, and the breaking down of pumping machinery at the mill, our health problems were many but despite these factors and after discussions with Matron Rynne, of Cherbourg Hospital, I am now happy to report that over the past four months, admissions have been the lowest in five years.

#### SUPPLY AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE WATER.

The new reservoir is progressing satisfactorily, and when this is completely installed many of the problems will be eradicated. A new system of disposal of waste water will then become necessary, and it is understood that a satisfactory scheme is being formulated. New cement lids have been placed over the majority of manholes and new drains installed to the baby clinic, hospital, aboriginal training farm, and several homes.

#### FLY CONTROL.

During the year it was discovered that the fly had apparently become immune to D.D.T. and Gammexane is now being used with successful results.

#### DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE.

The face of the tip has been reduced and material ordered to supply the Settlement with fly-proof garbage tins.

#### MOSQUITO CONTROL.

All tanks, &c., creeks have been treated twice monthly and mosquitoes are practically non-existent.

#### DORMITORIES.

The girls' dormitory has had repairs to the back wall, new iron placed on the roof, and ventilators have been installed in the boys' dormitory. All dormitories have now been fitted with new sinks and draining boards and kitchens have been fly-proofed. New concrete stands are being built for rubbish. A dormitory was opened during the year for aged people.

#### SANITARY.

There is a thrice weekly service and it is working well. A new trough has been made at the depot and all pans are treated with disinfectant or Gammexane before service. It is expected that new rubber tyred waggons will be put into operation this year.

#### SLAUGHTERYARD AND MEAT SUPPLY.

The burial ground has been removed to a point 150 yards from the killing pen. Two new meat carts have been made.

#### E.C.S AND CABINETS.

Twelve new E.C.s have been built, several others repaired and a quantity of cabinets and commodes were supplied by the Trade Training Section.

#### SHOWERS AND LAUNDRIES.

The community and dormitory showers and laundries were all repaired during the year and are now working satisfactorily.

#### SCHOOL REPORT.

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

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment varied from 313 for the June quarter, 1953, to 299 for the March quarter, 1954. The mean quarterly enrolment for the year was 307.7.

*Attendances.*—The total attendances for the year were 28,175½ boys and 27,403½ girls, a total of 55,579. The average daily attendance for the year was 137.44 boys and 133.67 girls, a total of 271.1.

During the months of April and May, 1953, the attendances were affected by colds, and gastro was fairly prevalent. As in previous years, colds generally affected attendances during the months of July and August. During November and December a severe influenza epidemic greatly affected attendance which was reduced to below 50 per cent. towards the end of November. Very wet weather and some showery days during early February, 1954, also had its effect. Taking all these factors into consideration the average daily attendance was very satisfactory throughout the year.

*Conduct.*—Generally the conduct of children at school has been quite satisfactory. Manners are observed at school and the children obedient and reasonably diligent. In some few cases it is obvious that the standard of conduct is lower because of a lack of home control.

*Progress.*—Progress generally may be considered quite satisfactory. The State school syllabus introduced at the beginning of 1952 is working satisfactorily when all factors present are taken into consideration. Children are being admitted at 4½ years of age, as envisaged in the Preparatory Grade section of the State school syllabus, and this has proved a wise course with native children. Their home environment and training is so different from that of the white child outside that the early admission to school life, apart from being desirable from every aspect, is essential. This has been borne out by the excellent progress being made in the Preparatory and I. and II. grades.

The middle school has continued to maintain previous progress but the upper school has shown rather slower progress. In the upper school this has been due mainly to the combination of grades when the changeover to the State school syllabus was made. As previously envisaged, it is intended to increase the school standard to Grade VII. as from the beginning of the school year for 1955.

*Domestic Science.*—This section has operated satisfactorily throughout the year. Reasonably keen enthusiasm has been displayed by pupils and progress has been satisfactory. The enrolment varied from 78 during the first quarter to 74 during the last quarter. The classes, although not as large as last year, are still too large to permit as much individual tuition as is desirable. As previously obtained, tuition has been given in simple cookery, housewifery, laundry work, and needlework. This section assisted with display and entry work for the Settlement Show.

*Manual Training.*—The enrolment in this section varied from 58 in the June quarter to 65 in the March quarter of this year. The course of instruction given follows closely that applying to outside State schools although much smaller repair work has been performed. The section has operated satisfactorily generally throughout the year. Much exercise was prepared for display and entry at Murgon and

**Cherbourg Shows.** The older boys assisted greatly in the preparation of the stand for the Native Affairs' Display at the Brisbane Exhibition.

**Staffing.**—All members of the staff have devoted themselves earnestly and diligently to the duties required of them. They have shown commendable industry and punctuality and have been ever ready to assist, apart from purely teaching duties, in all matters appertaining to the welfare of the school children.

All cleaning operations were performed by the older children. Classrooms and other offices, together with equipment, 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 grades are reasonably housed and have sufficient playing area, but are so far from the main school that they have practically become a separate school in the minds of both children and parents.

**General.**—The school again gained second place in the district schools sports, being defeated by Murgon State and Rural School. The children produced a meritorious effort but went down to the better team on the day.

Films were received regularly from the Department of Public Instruction and our thanks are tendered to them for their assistance.

The school was inspected by the District Inspector of Schools on 6th and 7th October, 1953.

A party of 200 children accompanied by all teachers visited Bundaberg on the occasion of the Royal Visit to that city. All children had an excellent view of Her Majesty.

The last day of the school year was devoted to the usual breaking-up festivities. Children were occupied with various games, &c., during the forenoon and were entertained by the Welfare Association at a special screening of suitable pictures during the afternoon. The usual sweets, ice-creams, fruit, &c., were distributed and all appeared to have had an enjoyable day.

It is desired to again record the ready co-operation of the teaching staff, both white and native, in all matters affecting the school and my 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 all others concerned for their kind and ready assistance to the school throughout the year.

#### SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. E. H. Goodchild.)

I have much pleasure in presenting my report of the activities of your Association for the year ended 20th January, 1954.

When elected your president I made a statement that it would be a year of hard work, I feel sure that much has been accomplished by that hard work.

The year just ended has been a happy, friendly, and prosperous year by the measure of man's hopes; much has been packed into 1953. It was an important year which carried its own mark in human progress. During this year the young Queen was crowned and we at Cherbourg along with thousands of other people celebrated that event and expressed our loyalty to the Throne and Empire.

The year saw the signing of an Armistice in the Korean War; boys from this Settlement served during that conflict.

**Meetings.**—Committee meetings were held monthly, and the average attendance was 10.

**Finance.**—The Treasurer's report will reveal that the Association commenced the year with a credit balance of £611 9s. and completed the year with a credit balance of £268 6s. 8d., which is very creditable after allowing for expenditure of £200 on the show ground and paying £375 on the loan account.

Assets after allowing for depreciation of £1,496 14s. were valued at £14,198 10s.

The loan account with the Department of Native Affairs now stands at £234 2s. 10d.

**Pictures.**—Pictures are the main source of revenue. Screenings have been regular and patrons have enjoyed many good programmes. Probably the outstanding screening of the year was "A Queen is Crowned." This picture gave an insight to what the Monarchy means to the British Empire. All school children were admitted free to this picture. On school breaking-up day the picture "Bambi" was screened for their benefit. The Association has in mind further high-class pictures. The revenue for the year showed an increase of over £200 on the previous year.

**Stall.**—The stall is well patronised and the increase this year was over £241 on the previous year. Our thanks are due to Mrs. Rees and her attendants.

**Show Ground.**—The Association undertook the job of levelling the show and sports ground; this was nearly accomplished but owing to the nature of the soil in that a gravel bed was encountered it was not possible to completely level the ground. The job was done by the Murgon Shire Council under the direction of their Engineer. Some thousands of couch roots have been planted, and should this season be kind, the whole area should be covered. The job of top dressing the ground is now in the Committee's hands and action will soon be taken to have this completed.

**Football.**—The Cherbourg football team played games against Dalby, Jandowae, Brisbane Reserve Grade, Toowoomba Reserve Grade, Gympie, Nambour, Maryborough, Bundaberg, and Lower South Burnett. Although not successful in winning the Core Cup or Corser Shield, the team won the Labour Day



Cup at Toowoomba and the junior team were successful in winning the Hector Robinson Shield against Lower South Burnett. Through the efforts of the President, Mr. E. Rees and the team, the funds of the Association have been considerably enhanced.

*Cricket.*—With the improvements to the sports ground, the Association laid down three turf wickets. This has meant a considerable amount of voluntary labour. Although the wickets are still in the raw state and only partially grassed, a considerable improvement has been noticed in the style of play that a player has to adopt when playing on turf.

The club again affiliated with the Murgon and District Cricket Association and fielded two teams. As the season is only half completed, the teams have met with a fair share of success. Several players have been selected in the Murgon Association teams to take part in the South Burnett Cricket Council games. One player, Roy Fisher, was with the Murgon team that played in Brisbane during Country Week.

*Tennis.*—This is a further sport the Association has fostered on the Settlement. With the opening of the court in July, the game has been enjoyed by both men and women. With more practice and a general improvement in the playing surface, it should not be long before we will be able to invite teams from outside centres so as to give our players more practice to improve the standard of their game. The Committee controlling the tennis consists solely of natives who have Mr. Joe Hegarty as their president and Mrs. Marjorie Edwards as their secretary.

*Show.*—An Annual Show was held in September and was officially opened by Mr. J. A. Heading, President, Royal National Association of Queensland. The show was successful in some ways but a much more concerted effort will have to be made by the people of Cherbourg if this function is to continue as the shop window of the Settlement. The main feature of the exhibit hall was the three Inter-Settlement exhibits which were shown at the Royal National Show.

*Annual Dinner.*—The annual dinner of the Association was held the night preceding the show and visitors from Brisbane, Murgon, Wondai, Palm Island, Woorabinda, and the Settlement staff were guests of the Association at a most pleasant and congenial function.

*Show Ball.*—The annual show ball was held on the first night of the show and debutantes from Cherbourg and Palm Island were presented to Mr. J. A. Heading. The frocking of the debutantes and the colourful frocks of the dancers harmonised with the gaily decorated hall and lighting. After the presentation, the debutantes were given a short address on their responsibility to the community in general.

*Library.*—The library now contains over 2,000 books. During the year the Department granted £100 for the purchase of reference and children's books. This donation was greatly appreciated.

The library is the greatest asset the Association has provided so it is up to one and all to protect it.

*Sports Days.*—During the year two sports days were held—the first to celebrate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. and at night a fancy dress ball was held, the other day being New Year's Day. On each occasion, both young and old entered into the spirit of the competition in a keen and friendly manner.

On New Year's Eve a dance was held in aid of the funds of the Murgon Ambulance, which does so much for this Settlement and we were able to hand the Ambulance the sum of £28.

*Children's Playground.*—Action has been taken by the Department to spend £100 on slippery slides and swings for a children's playground. This will fill a long-felt want for the children and it will provide many happy hours of enjoyment.

*Inter-Settlement Competition.*—Your Association assisted with the preparation of the Cherbourg exhibit for the Jones Shield which was staged in the Royal National Exhibition. We were successful in winning the competition this year, making three wins in all, but the shield was finally won by Palm Island. Congratulations Palm Island.

*Christmas Tree.*—The event of the year that all children look forward to is the visit of Father Christmas. This year the Association again provided toys for all Settlement children.

*Sundry Items.*—Pocket money was provided for all Institution children for the Murgon and Cherbourg Shows.

Many free dances were held during the year.

Parcels have been forwarded to the Cherbourg boys serving in Korea.

*Appreciation.*—The Association desires to express thanks to the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the Superintendent and staff of the Settlement. To Mr. and Mrs. Rees for the work and time they have put into the decorations of the hall and the making of frocks for the debutantes, and special thanks are also offered Mrs. Rees for her work in looking after the stall.

I desire to express my thanks to the Committee for their attention to the business of the Association, to the secretary for his work, and to all those people who assisted with the functions held. I have enjoyed being your president and with much more hard work this Association will obtain its objective to create a keener interest in the general welfare of this Settlement.

#### ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

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

*Dairying Section.*—The production of the Dairying Section has increased, and 9,388 lb. of commercial butter were supplied to the South Burnett Co-operative Dairy Association, the gross return amounting to £1,845 11s. 4d. The Settlement hospital has also been supplied with approximately 1,195 gallons of milk valued at £175. Approximately 1,460 gallons of milk were also distributed to farm employees.

Production, however, will be increased to a greater extent by daily feeding of chaff and grain or ensilage. This can be achieved by the erection of silos, hay sheds, and feed stalls. It is anticipated that this work will be undertaken during the next twelve months and when completed, will prove a great asset on the farm.

*Dairy Cattle.*—The number of dairy cattle on the farm at the end of the month was 128, comprising 94 cows, 20 heifers, 10 weaners, and 4 bulls. The number of cows milked each month was 51. However, this number will be reduced through culling cows which have low production yields and short lactation period. Herd recording has been continued and the majority of the herd has now been tested for three milking periods. The entire herd has also been tested for tuberculosis and was found to be free from this disease.

*Piggery Section.*—The piggery section has shown a reasonable financial return although the numbers have declined to some extent. The returns show that 122 fatteners and 5 backfatteners were sold to the Darling Downs Co-operative Bacon Association, the gross income received amounting to £2,031 18s. 4d. The 25 per cent. bonus which is paid each year on all pigs supplied will make the total income for this section £2,534 18s. 4d. The number of pigs at the end of March was 81, comprising 2 boars, 17 sows, 9 fatteners, 16 stores, and 37 suckers. It is intended to purchase another boar, this animal to be a Canadian-Berk. The extension of three pens was the only improvement effected to the piggery. However, it is intended to make further improvements, such as cementing and draining during the next year.

*Crops.*—The crops grown have shown fair results, and 15 acres of maize was harvested yielding 375 bags. Twenty acres of milo were harvested, the yield being 243 bags. Six acres of pumpkins were cropped and used as pig feed. Lucerne was irrigated and at the end of March approximately 30 tons were stored for future use. During the year the dairy herd was grazed on lucerne, particularly during seasonal shortages of green fodder. Planting of oats for grazing purposes during the winter months was carried out, while poona peas, millet and sudan for summer use were cultivated. A further planting of 8 acres of lucerne will be made to ensure a greater supply of storage fodder for use during the winter or dry periods. Five acres of brown millet were grown and the yield was approximately a half ton.

*Vegetables.*—Growing of vegetables at the farm commenced during November, and the following were supplied to the Settlement:—

Beans .. .. .	570 lb.
Squash .. .. .	6,350 lb.
Carrots .. .. .	75 lb.
Beetroot .. .. .	127 lb.
Lettuce .. .. .	674 heads
Pumpkins (table) .. .. .	65 bags
Cucumbers .. .. .	1,876 lb.
Tomatoes .. .. .	2,728 lb.

Cabbage, cauliflower, and turnips are now growing and will be ready for use at the beginning of June.

*Machinery.*—The tractors have been overhauled and are in good mechanical condition. There is approximately 75 acres of light soil at the farm which can be cleared and should be suitable for growing fodder crops.

*Improvements.*—Approximately 150 acres of useless timber has been poisoned and improvement in the growth of grass is noticeable. Further poisoning is being carried out which will benefit the paddocks considerably.

*Orchard.*—Citrus trees are progressing in growth although some are on the slow side. A reasonable crop of fruit is at present on the trees and will be distributed to the Settlement. Last year the fruit fly was prevalent and quite a lot of the fruit was stung despite spraying operations.

### APPENDIX 3.

#### WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

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

#### HEALTH.

The general health of the population of this Settlement can be said to have maintained a relatively high level. The usual few cases of influenza and the continuance of the Hookworm Campaign being the main health treatment performed. The majority of the cases treated were of a common nature.

Visits of a medical officer were cancelled for a period of six weeks owing to the extreme flood conditions during the early part of the year.

Matron Tomlinson resigned from her position as at the 31st December, 1953, and Matron Geddes has been in charge of the hospital during the latter portion of the period under review.

During the flooded period of this year, Woorabinda hospital was the only hospital available to five white people who were seriously ill and who, owing to the road and rail traffic being suspended, were unable to secure medical attention elsewhere.

The happy position as regards dental treatment that existed last year has not been maintained owing to the Dentist, Mr. Comisky, having met with a severe accident. However, it is now reported that a new Dentist has been appointed and the existing lag in such work will be expedited.

The same high standard of hygiene has been maintained and extended where possible. A comprehensive report by the Officer in Charge of this section is shown elsewhere in this report.

#### Statistics.

Births—				
Males .. .. .	..	..	..	10
Females .. .. .	..	..	..	2
Total .. .. .	..	..	..	12

**Deaths—**

Under 12 months .. .. .	5
Senile decay .. .. .	4
Heart trouble .. .. .	1
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>10</b>

**Marriages .. .. .** 6

**Visitors.**—Mr. James Clark, M.L.A., in the absence of and by arrangement with the Honourable the Minister Mr. W. M. Moore, M.L.A., opened the annual show of 1953.

Mr. and Mrs. Fitzsimmons and Mr. E. Sutherland.

**NATIVE HOUSING.**

During the period under review, the following buildings have been completed:—

Two native cottages, complete with laundry and bathroom.

Six native huts.

Three native huts repaired.

**GARAGE AND TRANSPORT.**

All necessary running repairs were effected to Settlement vehicles.

The motor fleet has been increased by the purchase of one 4-ton truck.

Truck miles covered during the period under review were 38,629 miles. Included in this mileage is that of the three motor trucks used at Foleyvale Reserve. The main haulage jobs being as follows:—

1. Grain sorghum from Foleyvale to Duaringa.
2. Cartage of 100 yards of river gravel from the Mackenzie River to Woorabinda for concrete work.
3. Haulage of house blocks from Woorabinda to Foleyvale.
4. 70,000 super. feet of telephone poles and mill logs.
5. 70 tons loading, ex Peak Downs, Culinaringo, Orion Downs, Fernlees and Capella.

Car miles covered amounted to 3,891, while jeep miles were 3,499 and utility miles 11,538.

Total passengers carried other than Foleyvale workers numbered 800, of which 139 were patients travelling to the Rockhampton Hospital who were transported to the railhead at Duaringa.

**SAWMILL.**

The new plant is now well in operation and is turning out up to 7,000 super. feet of sawn timber per week.

**TELEPHONE.**

The new telephone line extending from Woorabinda to Duaringa is well advanced, clearing work and poles erected covering a distance of 18 miles from the Settlement.

**GENERAL WORK.**

Ringbarking activities covered 2,000 acres while 6 miles of new fencing was erected. Repairs were also effected to flood damaged fences and crossings.

**CONDUCT.**

The behaviour and general conduct can be said to be good.

**FARM.**

During the period under review farm production at the Settlement was adversely affected, not by drought, but by excessive wet weather and flood conditions. During the month of February, a rainfall of 26 inches was experienced, this being the normal average rainfall per annum. Damage was caused to all growing crops and it was not possible to cultivate other land for vegetable crops. On this account vegetables will be very late in maturing.

A very promising crop of broom millet was partially ruined through the excessive rain.

Ten acres of peanuts planted after two tons of gypsum had been fed to the soil appear to be making good progress.

Experimental row-planted lucerne of 1½ acres has yielded consistent light crops throughout the period.

The following crops were also grown and distributed:

**Citrus Fruit—**

Oranges .. .. .	250 cases
Mandarines .. .. .	7 cases

**Vegetables—**

Turnips .. .. .	33 cwt.
Carrots .. .. .	24½ cwt.
Sweet Potatoes .. .. .	1 ton
Onions .. .. .	886½ cwt.
Tomatoes .. .. .	114 bush. cases
Beans .. .. .	64½ bushels
Cabbage .. .. .	302½ doz.
Lettuce .. .. .	86 bushels
Pumpkins .. .. .	6 tons
Squash .. .. .	½ ton
Cucumbers .. .. .	480 bushels
Kohlrabi .. .. .	10 tons.

**Dairy Production.**—Milk for this period amounted to 16,425 gallons, such milk is supplied to natives and the hospital free of charge.

Dairy cows on hand total 84 head.

**PASTORAL.**

Livestock at Woorabinda as at the 31st March, 1954, consisted of 43 herd bulls, 1,652 herd cows, 588 bullocks, 480 steers, 484 heifers, 329 spayed cows, and 1 bleeder, making a total of 3,577 head; of this number, 964 were branded during the period.

Killings for this period for rations were 281 spayed cows, 66 bullocks, 17 herd cows, and 12 pigs for a total meat weight of 154,112 lbs.

**WELFARE.**

The Welfare Association for the period under review was almost defunct. However, sporting activities were carried out, being conducted by the officials interested in the various branches of sport.

**EDUCATION.**

Comprehensive report relative to this matter has been furnished by the head teacher.

### WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SCHOOL.

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

*Attendance.*—The number of pupils enrolled at the end of March, 1954, was 201, consisting of 100 boys and 101 girls. The total attendances of pupils for the year ending 31st March, 1954, were as follows:—Boys, 18,363·5; girls, 19,197; total, 37,560·5.

The daily average attendances were as follows:—Boys, 90·5; girls, 94·5; total, 185.

#### *Classification of Pupils.*—

Grades.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Grade VII. .. ..	..	3	3
Grade VI. .. ..	10	10	20
Grade V. .. ..	12	10	22
Grade IV. .. ..	13	11	24
Grade III. .. ..	21	15	36
Grade II. .. ..	13	26	39
Grade I. .. ..	19	17	36
Prep. ... ..	12	9	21
	100	101	201

It will be seen from this classification that there are eight drafts. The highest grade has only three pupils, thus indicating the drift from the school before the Scholarship grade (Grade VIII.) is attained.

It is hoped that next year there will be two or three pupils ready and anxious to tackle the Scholarship examination.

*Material Improvements.*—In April, 1953, conditions downstairs were greatly improved. The palings were removed and weatherboard sheeting, windows, and doors were substituted. The lighting conditions and the ventilation are now as good as architectural circumstances permit.

The improvements carried out in the sanitary buildings have made conditions much better than they were.

*Sporting Materials.*—These materials are in satisfactory supply and are well used. The Departmental response when application is made for sporting equipment is most encouraging and is much appreciated by the staff and the children.

*The Inter-Settlement Competition.*—During the year under review, this display was located at the Brisbane Exhibition. The exhibits from Woorage School were of very high standard.

*Additional Conveniences.*—This school has the following aids in the education of the children:—

Projector	Gramophone
Piano	School library
Percussion band instruments	Circulating library.

### HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

(Hygiene and Welfare Officer, Mr. J. E. Sheppard.)

*Removal and Disposal of Nightsoil.*—The use of a four-wheeled horse-drawn vehicle as practised at Woorage is ideal, the Settlement being compact, and only short trips are necessary to the depot which is situated close to the

Settlement. Four hundred and fifty to five hundred services are supplied to the Settlement weekly. Lavatories at the hospital, dormitories, and public lavatories are serviced seven days per week whilst all other lavatories are serviced at least twice weekly.

A quart of 2 per cent. D.D.T. solution is placed in each sanitary pan before it is placed into service with the result that no fly larvae are ever seen nor any evidence of fly breeding is observed on the arrival of used pans at the Depot. This standard is only maintained by the fact that strict supervision is maintained over the natives to ensure that pansteads are kept flyproof.

Humification of nightsoil is uninhibited by the presence of D.D.T., the use of which does not hinder the growth of grass. The disposal method by means of trenching is very efficient.

*Garbage and Refuse.*—New rubbish bins have been supplied to each household and are serviced at least once weekly. The hospital and dormitories are serviced daily. Rubbish is disposed of by means of the trench method and also sprayed with 5-per-cent. D.D.T.

*Dairy.*—This establishment receives special attention. A man is employed full time at the dairy, his sole duties being everything relating to the cleanliness of such dairy. Milk room staff also maintain their portion in a similar manner.

*Slaughteryards and Meat Shop.*—The slaughteryards receive every consideration, the slaughtering pen being constructed in conformity with Government regulations, all blood disposed of by burial, and offal and foreign matter disposed of by incineration. Construction and method of disposal appear adequate. The quality of cattle killed for human consumption is good. A supplement of soup is also provided to the usual meat ration during the winter months.

*Water Supply.*—Adequate water is supplied by way of reticulation throughout the Settlement. Provision has been made for the supply to be continued in the event of a failure occurring to the electrically operated pumps at present being used.

*Sanitation.*—Special galvanised lids suitable for use by children have now been installed to each panstead in addition to the usual lids. Springs of the rat-trap pattern are being experimented with to act as self-closers of all lids.

Houses, cottages, ground houses, institutions, and outbuildings are regularly sprayed with 5-per-cent. D.D.T. solution and where possible fumigated by way of Gammexane smoke generators. Though these insecticides have long residual effect, this quality is only good as long as the residual coating is uncovered (by dust, soot, &c.) consequently weekly spraying of dormitory kitchens, dairy, slaughteryards is required.

Fly-proof screens are in the course of erection to dormitory kitchens.

Two sedimentation tanks have been constructed for the treatment of sullage from the dormitories and public showers and laundries.

A recently completed hookworm campaign in which every person on the Settlement was tested resulted in all positive cases being treated.

All urinals were renewed in the public lavatories and a concrete wall erected at the school lavatory.

A steam disinfecter has been installed, many people making free voluntary use of this service. Naphthaline is added to boiling water and is sublimated throughout blankets and mattresses.

*Infectious Disease.*—The Settlement has been free from newly acquired cases of venereal disease throughout the period under review; in all instances new cases were incoming natives. These and possible contacts were closely followed up until brought under control. Seven cases including the possibles were treated for the period.

*Welfare.*—Ground houses which are deemed to be no longer weather-proof are demolished and re-erected on new sites. Repairs have been effected to other houses, such repairs being carried out by hygiene staff under supervision.

*Native Hygiene Staff.*—The staff comprising the hygiene personnel are being trained in the principles of hygiene and sanitation and to act as hygiene inspectors. By their combined efforts a high degree of efficiency is obtained.

#### FOLEYVALE RESERVE.

*Pastoral.*—Weather conditions at Foleyvale during the period under review became good after a very hard and trying winter and spring period, culminating in the highest flooding of the Mackenzie River since 1918. In February, the river reached a height of 77 feet 6 inches and inundated 15,000 acres. This flooding killed all pasture over the area and all crops on the farm areas.

All bullocks had to be taken from the flooded area during the flood in February and are now spread all over the surrounding runs, through washed-out fences.

*Cattle Transfers.*—At Cannon Hill, Brisbane, 544 bullocks were sold by public auction, realising £19,604.

Sixty-three bullocks were transferred to Woorabinda for killing purposes during the dry season.

*Piggery.*—Pigs were also washed out of their grazing paddocks, hence they are also spread all over the country. Some losses are expected in the pigs but it is considered that all bullocks are safe.

Pigs sold to Lakes Creek Meat Works, Rockhampton, numbered 87 and returned £710. At Christmas 12 pigs were sent to Woorabinda for native consumption over the festive season.

*Agriculture.*—Crops ruined by the flood waters were as under:—

- 60 acres of pumpkins, in flowering stage.
- 10 acres of cotton, in the boll stage.
- 20 acres of peanuts, nuts beginning to form.
- 10 acres of broom millet, brooms forming.
- 300 acres of grain sorghum, in flowering stage.
- 100 acres of grain sorghum, in early stage of growth.

At the time of writing the land is bare. It is not possible to get machinery on to the land to work.

*Crops Harvested.*—Crops harvested and disposed of during the period under review were—

195 Bags wheat, drought stricken and pinched grain from 52 acres was fed to pigs on Foleyvale.

83 Bales broom millet were sent to the Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institute. This consignment brought favourable comment and realised £330.

1,105 Bags of grain sorghum were harvested, distributed to the other Settlements and fed to the pigs at Foleyvale.

500 Bags of first quality pumpkins were obtained from 11 acres together with approximately 4 tons of immature pumpkins which were used as pig feed. The 500 bags were distributed amongst the other Settlements.

Peanuts were a disappointing crop, only yielding 30 bags, which were distributed to the people at Woorabinda.

With all crops washed out as previously stated all hope of next year being a profitable one must now depend on the wheat crop.

*General Improvements.*—With the appointment of an additional overseer, a new area has been opened up with a view to transferring the piggery from the present site to higher land. Forty acres of scrub land have been grubbed for cultivation at some later date. An area of 14 acres has also been grubbed, fenced, and planted with Rhodes grass for the purpose of harvesting seed.

A 12-foot by 14-foot storeroom has been erected, also a 16-foot by 30-foot with an 8-foot veranda to accommodate 12 workers. A 12-foot by 14-foot kitchen has also been erected on the area described above.

Mr. Grenfell has commenced the erection of two buildings to accommodate increased numbers of native workers required to work the property.

The boundary at Stoney Creek has been fenced to an extent of 2½ miles. One thousand five hundred acres of the Causeway paddock has been ringbarked and suckered out.

The boring plant has been shifted from Woorabinda to this area of Foleyvale with the view of exploiting water-bearing drift beds of this area. An unsuccessful borehole has been sunk to a depth of 90 feet.

On Mr. Hollimans' farm area a further 50 acres of fenced farm land has been grubbed ready for ploughing.

#### APPENDIX 4.

#### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND PENINSULA.

##### MARINE INDUSTRY.

The town of Port Kennedy, Thursday Island, with its population of approximately 2,000 people, depends in the main on the marine industries associated with the Torres Strait area, that is, mother-of-pearl shell, trochus shell, and edible fishing. The basic feature in the life of the Thursday Island community is pearl shell, and from results of that fishing depends the

livelihood of the customers of Island Industries Board. Similarly, private enterprise is affected by the production figures of the pearling boats and by the market price obtained overseas for mother-of-pearl shell.

Without the marine industry Thursday Island would not exist, and without it the 6,000 Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals associated with the industry would be in a particularly parlous position. Approximately 1,300 Islanders and aboriginals are employed in the marine industries, and of this number 600 are engaged on the Torres Strait Islands' fleet, the property of Islanders but managed and directed by the Director of Native Affairs. The balance of the men are engaged on boats owned by firms, companies, and individuals.

There has been, since the termination of hostilities with Japan, an agitation for the introduction of Asiatic labour to supplant Island labour in the pearling industry. Prior to the war, Islanders working under Japanese captains were paid as crew members in the vicinity of £4 per month with keep. Following the termination of hostilities, the Islanders demanded and received a basic wage of £15 per month and keep. That basic wage, determined in conference between the Director of Native Affairs and employers, has been gradually increased to a figure of £17 per month and keep, with bonuses payable as a result of production of a particular vessel. In effect, incentive payments are made to the workers.

It is admitted that pearl shell and trochus shell production, particularly the former, is not now comparable with that obtained by pearling boats prior to World War II., and comparison of such figures gives to the critics of the Torres Strait workers apparent argument in favour of the introduction of Asiatic labour. Against that argument, however, is the fact that many of the boats employed in the industries are not comparable with those on which the Japanese were employed, and in many instances it is safe to say that Asiatic labour would refuse to work on some of the vessels that are now provided by private owners and on which Islanders must accept employment.

A further argument in favour of the Island men as workers in the pearl shell and trochus industries is that owners, with a desire to accumulate a maximum of profit from their ventures, will send their boats south as far as Mackay to gather trochus shell when the price of that commodity is attractive, and by such action their pearl shell production is naturally retarded. Then, at the termination of the trochus season, they will without hesitation ignore the profits made from the trochus industry and charge the Islanders whom they sent south with inability to produce pearl shell. In effect the Islander is required to obey the dictate of the owner to whom he is engaged but he has no say in the refutation of the argument submitted against him as an inferior unit in the production of pearl shell from which avenue he has been restricted for many months.

For the year ended March, 1953, the value of marine produce won by Island-owned vessels was £113,380. For the year ended March, 1954, the value was £119,918, and on present conditions and with a greater efficiency of the

boats controlled by the Director of Native Affairs it is possible to forecast that greater production with greater valuation will apply for the year ending March, 1955.

The remuneration 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 employees and employers. These agreements record the improvements in the remuneration of Islanders and aboriginals as compared with 1953 agreements. The Diver's Agreement for the 1954 season is as hereunder:—

AGREEMENT made this                    day of  
One thousand nine hundred and fifty-four 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 Pearl  
Shell and Beche-de-Mer fishing grounds in Torres  
Strait and vicinity for one purpose of procuring Pearl  
shell 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 1954 ending on the 31st January, 1955, 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  
ground without first obtaining the approval of the  
Sheller's Appeal Board.

(3) The Diver agrees to supply all Mother-of-Pearl  
shell and other Marine Produce obtained by the Diver  
and crew of the vessel during the fishing season of 1954  
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 transportation or wharfage.  
Marine Produce includes all types of shell, shell meat,  
dugong and all kinds of edible fish, and Beche-de-Mer,  
turtle meat and shells.

(4) The owners shall pay to the Diver for the supply  
of live Mother-of-Pearl shell fished clean, chipped, dry  
and ready for packing as per the Schedule set out  
below:—

LAY.

	Up to 12 Tons.	Over 12 Tons and up to 20 Tons.	Over 20 Tons and up to 25 Tons.	Over 25 Tons.
Sound .. ..	£ 285	£ 340	£ 360	£ 380
D. .. ..	225	245	255	265
E. .. ..	150	155	165	175
EE. .. ..	90	95	100	110
Marketable dead shell .. ..	20	20	20	20

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 mother-of-pearl.

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

For Mother-of-Pearl 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 Mother-  
of-Pearl, 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.

(6) No liability for payment of Workers' Compensation and Pay Roll Tax shall accrue against the Diver. 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 Engineer—  
£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:—

- 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.
- 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.
- The Diver agrees to pay the following bonuses to men employed aboard his vessel:—

*Vessels fishing up to 20 tons—*

Two Diver boat .. ..	$\frac{1}{3}$ (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %) net earnings
Three Diver boat .. ..	$\frac{1}{3}$ (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %) net earnings
Four Diver boat .. ..	$\frac{1}{3}$ (50%) net earnings

*Vessels fishing over 20 tons—*

Bonus as above shall apply up to the 20 tons. Bonus shall be 50% of the Diver's lay on all shell won over 20 tons.

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 .. ..	To be equally divided 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

(9) 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, lifelines, dinghy, approved medical kit, three sets Diver's clothing for a two-diver boat, four sets of Diver's clothing for a three-diver boat, and any other gear necessary to carry out working. Any replacement due to 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, 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.

(10) Any Pearl won is 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:—

1s. per cent. to Owners.

Balance to be shared among all men on vessel on the same basis as profits from the Mother-of-Pearl venture.

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

(11) 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.

(12) The Diver agrees to work the vessel without any undue loss of time.

(13) This Agreement may be terminated at any time at the Owners option without giving any reason therefor.

(14) The Owners may make advances on wages due up to 50% 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.

(15) 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 Owner's responsibility, provided that by arrangement with the Director of Native Affairs and Owners, an amount of £100 (One hundred pounds) 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 thereto subscribed their names.

Regulations dated 15th April, 1954, covering remuneration for Trochus workers are as hereunder—

1. These regulations may be cited as "The Islanders Regulations, 1954."

2. "The Islanders Regulations, 1953," 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) The 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 £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:—

In the case of a vessel working not less than four dinghies—

Chief Officer—£6 for each ton in excess of four tons per month.

Each crew member—£3 each for each ton in excess of four tons per month.

In the case of a vessel working less than four dinghies, bonus payments shall be made at the rate of £6 for each ton to the Chief Officer and £3 for each ton to each crew member on all tonnages in excess of—

In the case of a vessel working three dinghies—  
Three tons per month.

In the case of a vessel working two dinghies—  
Two tons per month.

In the case of a vessel working one dinghy—  
One ton per month:

Provided that bonus will not be paid in the event of any vessel not producing the prescribed minimum tonnage 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 for work on its first trip and shall not include any periods lost through engine failure, damage to the vessel other than 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, whichever 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 desertion 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 those 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.

The intention as indicated in last year's annual report was to have this school operating during 1954 but certain legal difficulties have occurred.

The Committee originally established for the functioning of this proposal has handed over to Island Industries Board and the Thursday Island Pearlshellers' Association, the functions and requirements for the establishment of the school, and it is anticipated that such will operate early in 1955.

The new Committee repeats its appreciation of the State Government's offer of financial assistance to the extent of £1,500 per annum when the school commences operations.

#### 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 on 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 on 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 .. .. .	39	7	2
Bamaga Welfare Fund .. .. .	1,354	7	9
Boigu Welfare Fund .. .. .	17	0	1
Coconut Welfare Fund .. .. .	49	4	4
Cowal Creek Welfare Fund .. .. .	13	0	10
Darnley School Library Fund .. .. .	6	14	7
Dauan School Fund .. .. .	4	2	2
Dowar Southern Cross Club .. .. .	62	13	6
Dowar School Welfare Club .. .. .	5	3	2
Horn Island School Fund .. .. .	7	14	9
Mabuiag School Welfare Fund .. .. .	134	6	1
Mabuiag Welfare Fund .. .. .	16	1	3
Murray School Club .. .. .	274	8	2
Murray Welfare Club .. .. .	230	0	10
Saibai Welfare Club .. .. .	7	6	7
Saibai School Fund .. .. .	7	5	5
Stephen School Welfare Fund .. .. .	2	1	8
Yam Welfare Fund .. .. .	18	15	6
Yorke Seagull Club .. .. .	95	15	7
Western Hospital Comforts Funds .. .. .	59	5	11
Eastern Hospital Comforts Funds .. .. .	136	8	0
Torres Strait Circulating Library .. .. .	1,003	8	5
Torres Strait Ex-Service Men's League .. .. .	218	1	1
Thursday Island Bazaar .. .. .	542	17	3

#### EDUCATION.

In the Torres Strait, apart from Mission Schools, which are established at St. Paul's, Moa Island (Anglican), and Hammond Island (Catholic) 19 Department schools provide primary education for approximately 950 children. White teachers are appointed at Badu, Mabuiag, Darnley, Murray, Yorke, and Boigu. Two relieving teachers are also appointed, and at the time of writing one is stationed at Yorke 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.

At a recent meeting of the Thursday Island Bazaar Welfare Association, it was decided to contribute the sum of £200 to assist in the cost of sending selected children of Torres Strait to a secondary school. Reports by the various head teachers are quoted hereunder.

Island Industries Board is likewise interested in this project, and it is anticipated that early in 1955 arrangements will be made for three or four boys to obtain secondary education in the south, a facility which is not available for them on Thursday Island.

#### BADU ISLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. P. R. Frith.)

*Staff.*—The school is well staffed with head teacher and five assistants.

*Enrolment.*—The present enrolment is 42 boys and 43 girls, total 85.

*Remarks.*—During the year, the head teacher was away for nearly seven months on vacation and on duties connected with the arts and crafts display for the Royal visit in Cairns.

One boy from the school, the son of the Western Islands delegate, was chosen to represent the boys of the western half of the Torres Strait Islands to meet Her Majesty the Queen in Cairns.

The arts and crafts display which was erected in the Parramatta Park at Cairns was dismantled and re-erected in the Badu school, and makes a very colourful showing.

The new syllabus has been in use during the past year and has proved highly satisfactory for Mathematics and English. The school studies have had to be amended to suit local conditions.

The Preparatory Grade is very promising. This class is using the Oxford Press Papuan Chart and Learning to Speak Readers. They have proved to be an asset in the teaching of these young Islanders. It is pointed out that the children in this grade have no knowledge of any English language whatsoever before commencing their school life.

The other grades have not maintained their usual progress and the general position throughout these grades is fair.

Monthly examinations have been held in all grades by the class teachers and quarterly examinations have been conducted by the head teacher in all classes.

The daily average attendance has been very good.

The children are extremely healthy and have had no serious illnesses during the year.

The people of Badu had decided to raise funds for the Badu school, which money is to be used to purchase material and equipment not supplied by the Department. This action is much appreciated.

The resident priest, Rev. Father Pilot, visits the school weekly for Bible Instruction lessons.

#### DARNLEY ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. A. L. Loughed.)

1. *Education.*—Further advances have been made during the last year. Enrolment has increased considerably and eight pupils have entered Sixth Grade. A course of Handiwork has been introduced, thus helping to preserve native crafts. The library facilities have been improved by the provision of circulating library books by the Queensland Library Board.

2. *Health.*—The most noticeable progress in health is the decrease of the number of malaria cases on the Island. In the 1951-52 year, 134 cases (45 per cent. of population) contracted malaria. In 1952-53, only four cases were reported, and in 1953-54 no cases at all. This virtual extinction of malaria from the Island is due to the continuous preventive measures being inaugurated. Two deaths occurred during the past 12 months. The general condition of the people's health is very good.

3. *General.*—Practically all able-bodied men have been engaged on pearling and trochus boats. The return of the two locally owned luggers "Loyalty" and "Rebecca" has provided work for many men. Quite a few have done well for themselves by working trochus shell in their dinghies.

The abundance of rain received has enabled the Islanders to increase the area of land devoted to gardening, thus providing them with an increased amount of home-grown food.

#### MABUIAG ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, B. J. McGuire.)

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment for the year varied from 44 to 51. The mean quarterly enrolment was 47.

*Attendance.*—The average daily attendance for the year was 44.36. This reports a decrease of 1.55 on last year.

*Conduct.*—Conduct throughout the year has been quite satisfactory. There were no major breaks of discipline, and the children are obedient and diligent.

*Progress.*—Progress may be considered sound though slow. All grades are showing satisfactory results under the new syllabus. Responses in the junior grades are more ready and children much keener. A sharp interest is being taken by all children in their work. English is still the weaker subject; the language difficulty is ever apparent. It is felt that some advance has been made in this subject particularly in the upper grades. Full and ample stocks of all materials were received this year and a more complete adoption of the arts and crafts, and needlework curricula was undertaken. Children's efforts in powder colours, water colouring, pastels, and modelling are pleasing. Each senior pupil has completed a garment.

*Staff.*—Four of last year's senior grades commenced training this year. All show satisfactory progress. One female assistant and the head teacher complete the staff.

*General.*—Small additions were made to the library throughout the year and children are making public use of all the books. At present

the senior boys are building a frame for the projector screen; this will permit of use of the projector without darkening the complete room.

*Thanks.*—In conclusion, it is desired to extend thanks to the Director of Native Affairs and staff, Island Industries Board, the G.M.O. Police Force and Mabuiag Islanders themselves. Also a special word of thanks to the Radio Staff whose assistance is always appreciated.

#### MURRAY ISLAND.

(Government Teacher, Mr. N. H. Wells.)

1. *Enrolment.*—The enrolment has fluctuated between 100 and 120 throughout the year. This has been due to the constant movements of people between Murray and Dowar Islands. The children are enrolled in eight grades, the senior being Seventh Grade. The overall attendance has been very fair.

2. The highlight of the year has been the provision of a new building to replace the 26-year-old structure formerly used. The new building is a fibro-cement structure with a concrete floor space of 2,400 square feet. It is planned to use modern ideas of colour not only as an aid to coolness but also to avoid the drabness so often associated with school rooms. The work has been carried out by carpenters attached to the Department of Native Affairs and all the timber used has been provided by the sawmill at Bamaga.

3. The school stock position is excellent and the Department has been most generous in this matter. This ensures that the school programme will not be interrupted by shortages and teachers can plan their work well in advance.

4. In the past, pupils have been rather old for their grade classifications, resulting in their leaving school before completing the school curriculum. To avoid this, an effort has been made to promote capable children rapidly and to assist the less brilliant to a more normal classification. Primary Correspondence School papers have been issued to all teachers. These are of great assistance to the island staff and will ensure a continuity of technique and subject matter.

5. One of the most pleasing aspects of the year has been the efforts of the Murray Island School Welfare Committee which has raised over £200 for schools on Murray and Dowar Islands. The Committee's major contribution to the school has been a radiogram, and now that the new school is completed, the committee plans to undertake a programme of improvements.

In conclusion, the year has been one of steady effort rather than spectacular achievement, but staff members feel the standard of previous years has been fully maintained.

#### YORKE ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. J. Watt.)

*Enrolment.*—Boys 21, Girls 22, total 43. Attendance excellent.

*Staff.*—The school is staffed by one Government teacher, one male and one female island teacher, and one monitor island teacher.

*Organisation.*—The Government teacher has arranged a general time-table in such a way that he takes at least two lessons per day with each grade. In this way he breaks new ground every lesson; the island teacher of that class watches, sees the method of teaching, and in the next period of that subject, repeats the lesson, thus learning the method himself and consolidating the work for the children.

*Discipline.*—The children are extremely well behaved, but it is of a passive nature, any attempt to break that passivity is then regarded by the children as licence. The development of an active self-discipline is what is desired but is proving difficult to attain.

*General Standard.*—In mathematics, depending on memory work, the standard is high, work in the senior grades having been taken as far as all four rules dealing with fractions and all types of sums involving money transactions. Mensuration has been started. Difficulty has been found in getting children to realise relative values of weights and measures, but much practical work is now being done. English is of a very low standard, hardly approximating Grade IV. A very good library has now been established by Queensland Public Library country extension service. Much oral work and intensive reading from books is now taking place. Social studies attract the children very much. There is keen delight in hearing about people of the world, their industries and ways of life. The stories of inventors, explorers, artists, and scientists fill them with joy. Their knowledge of this subject, aided by copious illustrations, is growing day by day and proving an inspiration to them in their ways of living and thinking. The children are greedily interested in talks on health and nature study.

*Activities.*—Children are being interested in gardening, using soil improvement as a type of project work. Sport is gradually gaining strength, especially basket ball, and children have started a course of physical education.

*Difficulties.*—Language Barrier—The children's vocabulary is extremely limited. The meanings of words are known, but they cannot arrange their words into sentences to express their thought. This, it is believed, is largely due to the isolation of their mothers. The women who rear the children seldom leave the island, and have little contact with the outside world. Child's Outlook—The children show a great desire to learn but they desire to learn simply by being told what to do. Their memory is good but their power to think for themselves or even a desire to do so is completely absent. This, though intangible, is a real barrier. Syllabus—The children are working from the Queensland syllabus. The mathematics syllabus is quite suitable but the English and social studies require much modification. A teacher, new to the islands, wastes much valuable time sifting out the needs and capabilities of the children.

**Assets.—Teaching Material—**The full co-operation and understanding by the head office with respect to the needs of the children and teachers make the work ever so much easier and acts as an inspiration. A new fibro and wood school is being erected and the clean business-like appearance of the place is an asset indeed. There are ample stocks of kindergarten material and the upper children are equally well catered for. **Island Teachers—**They are a great help in revision and consolidation of work. **William**

**Min,** in particular, is proving efficient, vigorous, and shows an intelligent understanding of the work, but they all suffer from a lack of suitable training.

#### 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 30-6-53.	Number of Accounts 30-6-54.	Balances 30-6-53.	Balances 30-6-54.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Islanders .. .. .	3,978	3,921	80,372 12 0	99,373 11 4
Aboriginals .. .. .	788	749	46,553 8 3	49,525 9 10
Island Fund .. .. .	68	74	17,087 17 3	19,458 12 11
Child Endowment .. .. .	947	963	12,443 10 10	13,257 11 10
	..	..	156,457 8 4	181,615 5 11

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

	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Balance 1-7-53.	Balance 30-6-54.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Torres Strait Islands and Missions .. .. .	5,707	337,994 4 8	312,836 7 1	156,457 8 4	96,615 5 11
		Investments Commonwealth Loan .. .. .			85,000 0 0
					£181,615 5 11

#### NORTHERN PENINSULA RESERVE.

##### *Bamaga and Cowal Creek.*

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

Conditions have been average for the twelve months. The latter part of 1953 was dry with the north-west rains setting in early in January. Fifty-four inches of rain has been registered from January to the end of May which has resulted in a prolific growth of native grasses and herbage. April was the wettest month with 16 inches and 13 working days.

Bamaga township, with a native chairman and two councillors, is improving in civic responsibilities; gardens are taking shape with house ferns and shrubs in front and bananas and pa-paws at the back. These gardens will improve when the whole area can be fenced to keep out the stock. The houses are clean and well looked after. A check is made monthly by the administration and fortnightly by the council and Police. The hygiene is good.

Cowal Creek township has a native chairman and one councillor. The township is kept in a clean condition and small improvements are done by collective endeavour. Most of the houses in this area require improvements and a number of new houses is required. Timber and materials have been made available to householders who are doing the needed repairs. It is hoped that as soon as the building requirements of Thursday Island and other islands ease and skilled carpenters made available, a portion of our mill production can be used to start a building programme in this area.

**Health.**—The general health of the area has been good with no serious outbreaks of epidemics over the twelve months. During April-May, a doctor and sisters from the

Thursday Island hospital visited the Settlement. All children were immunised against diphtheria and whooping-cough. Mantoux tests were taken of all the population. X-rays as required are done at the Thursday Island hospital. Dental inspections were also made of all adults and children. Matron White resigned as from the end of March, she was replaced by Matron Sidgwick. The hospital staff consists of two native nurses and a cook at Bamaga hospital, a native nurse at Cowal Creek and Red Island Point medical aid posts. Cowal Creek and Red Island Point are visited by the matron at least once a week. Sick patients are transported to Bamaga hospital, and if serious, on advice from the Government Medical Officer, are sent forward to Thursday Island on a special boat, if necessary. The matron is on call at all times if required. The medical aid posts are being lined and painted, and improvements carried out at the Hospital.

**Child Welfare.**—Clinics were started in January, 1954, in all areas under the control of Sister Sidgwick, and function on general lines. All children are brought in at least once a week up to school age. Children who have to receive treatment or special drugs come every day, when the issue is given under supervision. At Cowal Creek, all children, including school children, receive a daily milk ration, and all report to the clinic to receive it under supervision. Pentavite, &c., are given as required. Periodical inspection is made of all school children and Dugong Oil is issued to every child each day in all areas.

**Farm.**—Under Farm Overseer, Mr. F. W. White, the farm is improving and we are gaining the experience of what can be grown

satisfactorily in this district. Two types and two distinct classes of crops are produced—(1) Fruit and vegetables for use on the Settlement and for sale on Thursday Island, (2) Field crops to produce fodder for pigs. The first type consists of citrus, bananas, pineapples, pa-paws, sweet potatoes, cucurbits, all types, and mixed vegetables. All these are being produced and have to be irrigated at some period of growth. The second type includes arrowroot, cassava, sugar cane, maize, and sorghum. Of these, sorghum has proved a disappointment. These crops will be grown during the wet and will require little or no irrigation. During the year stock plantings were made of arrowroot, cassava, and sugar cane. From these plantings, we have stock to plant out about 2 acres of each which should not only supply the stock plants required for 1955 but produce a good quantity of pig feed. The citrus orchard of 400 trees was badly infested with red scale last year, but this has now been brought under control and the trees are looking very well. A good crop is hoped for next year. Bananas have been replanted in a new area and are looking well; a quantity of fruit will be available in the next three or four months with the main crop next spring. Total area—2 acres. Pineapples—25,000—growing, cropping to start in September and main crop in December-January. Sample plots of rice were grown, but as a start was not made until the "wet," adequate soil preparation was not done. From the small quantities grown to maturity as a sample it appears that, given a chance, it could become a valuable crop.

Apart from the production by Islanders and aboriginals from their own farm and the issue given from the general farm, it was possible to supply the people of Thursday Island with fruit and vegetables to the value of £880 and pork to the value of £392.

Pigs.	Stock on Hand.
Boars .. .. .	2
Breeding Sows .. .. .	13
Stores and Weaners .. .. .	79
Suckers .. .. .	29

During the year two boars were purchased from Gatton College and mated with the sows brought from Somerset. From this cross a much improved class of pig has been produced, and it is hoped next year, when breeding starts from the sows sired by these boars, a quick-maturing animal can be produced. In the early part of the year, helped by heavy "wet," most of the young stock were badly infested by worms. Sodium fluoride was used as a control and all young stock removed to dry ground. Good results were obtained from pasturing them in yards which were changed every third day. With the supply of feed by way of cassava and arrowroot becoming available from the farm and an increased supply of coconuts from Somerset, feed problems should be better in the future. New areas have been fenced at the piggery area taking in the creek.

Dry runs have been completed on the eastern side, which will contain the new farrowing and fattening pens.

Cattle.	Stock on Hand.
Bulls .. .. .	1
Cows .. .. .	15
Heifers .. .. .	13
Steers .. .. .	8
Bullocks .. .. .	9

The cattle are at present running on an area 5 miles by 3 miles. Enclosed on this area are the Nona and Mosby Creeks which have possibilities for future pasture improvement which will be necessary before larger-scale breeding with a better-class beast is started. From experiments carried out with Para grass, it appears ideal for this area, provided it is grown on creeks or swampy country. By next wet season, it is hoped labour can be made available to extend clearing to these creek areas. Small plots of Para grass have been established to provide stock runners for planting out when the ground is prepared. During the year the east coast to west coast boundary fence was completed.

Horses in this area are subject to a disease locally known as "change hoof." This is a local complaint confined to an area between the Jardine River on the south and Lockerbie Station on the north. It is presumably caused by feeding on a bush or weed and causes the shedding of the hoof, thus immobilising the animal, and occurs any time after the first rain. Any animal contracting this disease either dies or is unworkable until a new hoof grows. Samples of suspect plants have been taken for submission to the Government Analyst.

Horses on hand—	
Draft .. .. .	3
Saddle .. .. .	10

*Water Supply and Irrigation.*—The water scheme for Bamaga township has now been completed and every house has water connected. The weir is complete with the exception of the fitting of one flood gate. Extensions have been made to the existing 3-inch water main feeding the domestic supply tanks and eastern farm irrigation. A new 4-inch irrigation main has been put down on the western and southern sides of the farm area; this completes the irrigation plan.

Pumping plants are completed as follows:—

Three-inch double-stage centrifugal pump and 2-inch D.S.C. pump can be coupled to the 4-inch and 3-inch main, as required. One 6-inch by 6-inch force pump is coupled to the 3-inch main. These plants which all have their own engines will supply all the pressure we want for domestic and irrigation requirements.

The farm area is now enclosed by a 3-inch pipe line on the northern and eastern sides, and a 4-inch pipe line on the western and southern. On completion of the weir gate, they will be closed and water storage computed.



Pumpkin Growing, Bamaqa Settlement, Cape York Peninsula.



Portion of Banana Plantation, Bamaqa Settlement.

*Sawmill.*—During the year the sawmill produced a recovery of 130,000 super. feet assorted timber, two-thirds of which were sent forward to Thursday Island. A series of small breakdowns, mostly with saws and wet weather, did not help the recovery. In February we received a visit from Mr. G. F. Littler, Forestry Office engineer, who is forwarding a report on his findings. Modifications have been made to benches, skids, and mill structure which improve working. The primary and secondary drives require modifications and fittings of an instant clutch to both benches.

Mr. Claude F. Anderson replaced Mr. A. Mitchell as sawyer, and an extract from one of his monthly reports indicates activities of the sawmill which can be accepted as an aggregate indication of produce:—

During the month, the sawmill operated for 13 working days in which 24,055 super. feet of logs were milled to approximately 11,250 super. feet of miscellaneous building sizes. Nine different species of scrubwoods and one of forest hardwood were cut. A sample of each has been kept. Production for the month fell far short of that required owing to the transmission belting from the secondary drive to the No. 1 bench becoming unserviceable.

The native gang has been gainfully employed during the period of non-operations. Log storage skids are now ready to be placed closer to the Canadian bench, and log turnover skids are also in position. Both abovementioned operations will greatly improve the efficiency of this unit. A concrete pillar on which a power winch will be mounted has been set in. This will greatly facilitate the ease of log handling to the Canadian. There are no large logs in the local forest timbers but I have seen several scrub woods of considerably more than 80 inches G.B.H. which are beyond the existing Canadian bench. To handle these, either a smaller top saw is required or the present bench converted to take a 72-inch saw. Having worked both I am of the opinion that the single larger saw is more favourable, particularly where native labour is employed. Flitch storage skids have been placed in their position for the benchman. The present system of roller feed on the No. 1 bench is a fixed speed. It is now too fast for deeper cuts which are unavoidable at times but could still be speeded up considerably for smaller cuts if the required output is to be attained.

Running maintenance only has been necessary on both diesel engines. No. 1 operated for 86 hours, No. 2 the crankcase of which required topping up every three days to maintain correct oil level ran 83 hours. Four drums of fuel and three gallons of oil were consumed by the sawmill engines.

*General.*—We have seven trucks on the road and for very old vehicles working under hard conditions they are giving very good service. When tools and equipment on order come to hand the workshop will be better equipped to handle breakdowns.

Our thanks are due to Mr. G. F. Littler for advice and assistance at the sawmill, and to Mr. S. E. Stephens, Department of Agriculture

and Stock, for advice on the farm, and to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff on Thursday Island for their co-operation at all times.

**PATROL VESSEL Q.G. "MELBIDIR."**

(Master, Captain A. Mellor.)

(Engineer, Mr. W. Richardson.)

During the year the vessel has been actively engaged carrying out regular administrative patrols of the Torres Strait Islands. These voyages included the carrying of cargo for the Island Industries Board's branch stores on the Eastern, Central and Western Islands. Transporting Islanders to and from their home Islands to Thursday Island is an important job for the "Melbidir." Sixty per cent. of Island passengers are medical or maternity cases and old folk visiting their relatives. Doctors and sisters are taken to the Islands for emergency cases. The "Melbidir" is often required to make emergency voyages to bring cases into the Thursday Island General Hospital. Should an epidemic break out or medical survey teams be required to visit Islands or Gulf Missions, the Director of Native Affairs approves of the ship carrying the medical staff. Every assistance is given by the ship's staff and crew. Early in June this year, "Melbidir" carried the Government Medical Officer, Dr. Whittle, and two sisters to Murray, Yorke, Naghir Islands, and to St. Paul's Anglican Mission (Moa Island) to carry out a medical survey. Apart from the large numbers of tuberculosis tests and diphtheria inoculations, over 40 sick Islanders were brought back to Thursday Island General Hospital. Of this number, 30 were from Murray Island.

The vessel's jobs are varied and the routine cargo and passenger transport is often relieved by some other jobs worth mentioning such as carrying stud pigs from Stewart Creek Prison Farm, Townsville, to Red Island Point for Bamaga Aboriginal Settlement, carrying a complete tin-screening plant from Townsville to Cape York Peninsula for the Mines Department, searching for a reported mine on the Aureed Island reefs, and taking in tow the Island Industries Board's vessel "Kebisu" from Moa Island to Thursday Island.

*Royal Visit to Cairns.*—"Melbidir" carried 45 members of the Torres Strait Islanders' dancing party from their home Islands to Thursday Island and then to Cairns. During Royal Visit week in Cairns, the ship was dressed Navy fashion, illuminated at night with multi-coloured electric globes outlining the hull, rigging and funnel. The crew, in white drill tropical uniforms, during the inspection by Her Majesty of the Torres Strait Islanders' arts and crafts, lined the adjacent area.

*Crew.*—The vessel is manned by two white officers (Master and Engineer) and a crew of 14 Islanders. The conduct of the crew has been generally satisfactory and their health has been very good, there being no accidents or illnesses other than minor complaints which did not require medical attention.

*Amenities.*—A radio loudspeaker and extension from the saloon radio speaker has been installed on the forward part of the ship for the entertainment of Island passengers and crew members. Kodacolour screenings are frequently given, not only to passengers and crew, but to parties of Islanders on the various Torres Strait Islands. The crew in their own fashion generally find their own amenities and entertainment at the Islands. After discharging cargo, crew members with fishing spears and goggles visit the reefs for fish and crayfish or take the ship's boats for dugong and turtle.

*Annual Ship's Mileage.*—

	Miles.
Torres Strait Islands ..	3,250
Queensland East Coast ..	2,700
Cape York Peninsula ..	200
Gulf Missions .. ..	180
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>6,330</b>

*Cargo carried on behalf.*—

	Tons.
Island Industries Board ..	875
Department Native Affairs ..	400
Other Government Depart- ments .. ..	25
Islander's Produce .. ..	100
Mission stores .. ..	40
Medical stores .. ..	6
Private stores (authorised) ..	27
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>1,473</b>

*Passengers.*—

Government Officials ..	28
Doctors or Sisters .. ..	11
Missioners .. ..	17
Civilians (authorised) ..	15
Islanders .. ..	867
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>938</b>

*Ship's Specifications.*—Tonnage 200, length 100 feet, beam 24 feet, draught light trim 5 feet forward, 7½ feet aft, loaded 7 feet forward, 8½ feet aft, maximum draught fully loaded 8 feet forward, 9 feet aft. Normal full loading approximately 125 tons deadweight.

*Engines and Auxiliaries.*—Speed 8 knots cruising, 9.5 knots opened up. Two hundred and forty b.h.p. Allen Diesel, single, four-blade left-handed propeller. One 3-cylinder Southern Cross auxiliary 30 b.h.p. drives the 14 kW generator for lighting, batteries, and electric cargo winches. One 2-cylinder Southern Cross drives the 9 kW generator for lighting, batteries, bilge and fire pumps, and auxiliary compressors.

*Accommodation—Passengers and Crew.*—For a small ship the accommodation and amenities are good. For white passengers there is one single cabin and a four-berth cabin. Temporary accommodation can be quickly provided with stretchers for six passengers. Islanders travel as deck passengers forward under a good canvas awning with roll-up side screens,

*Radio and Life Saving Gear.*—The ship is fitted with an efficient wireless set for RT and CW for communication with D.N.A. Base Radio Station, Thursday Island, or the OTC Coastal Wireless Station. A motor boat, one 17-foot lifeboat, two 16-foot dinghies, and 2 Carley floats are carried as well as 8 lifebuoys and 20 lifejackets. Another 30 lifejackets have been requisitioned.

**WIRELESS NETWORK.**

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

(Base Station—Thursday Island.)

**Outstations—**

Hopevale Mission, Cooktown  
Lockhart River Mission  
Bamaga Settlement  
Mapoon Mission  
Weipa Mission  
Aurukun Mission  
Edward River Mission  
Mitchell River Mission  
Morningson Island Mission  
Badu Island  
Boigu Island  
Coconut Island  
Darnley Island  
Murray Island  
Mabuiag Island  
Naghir Island  
St. Paul's Mission, Moa Island  
Saibai Island  
Stephen Island  
Yam Island  
Yorke Island  
M.V. Melbidir  
M.V. Gelam  
M.V. Kebisa  
M.V. Reliance (Presbyterian Mission Launch)

This network now embraces all inhabited Islands of the Torres Strait and all organisations in the Peninsula Area dealing with Native Welfare. The Base Station is in operation from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on week days and for emergency purposes on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, schedules outside these hours are kept to provide communication in cases of medical or other emergencies.

Schedules are so arranged to provide routine contact twice daily with all stations for general traffic, and two further periods are set aside solely for medical reports and doctors diagnoses and treatment of reported cases. Periods are also set aside so that outstations may communicate directly with one another. This helps to break the isolation of the outposts and also allows discussion of local problems and exchange of ideas. Facilities are available for members of Church and other organisations to speak directly with such outposts so that problems may be discussed and settled on the spot.

*Traffic Analysis.*—

Total number of messages per year (inward) .. ..	15,600
Total number of messages per year (outward) .. ..	10,800
Total radio medical messages per year	1,395
Total number of medical cases treated per medium radio medical service	210
Daily average messages (total) ..	90
Daily average words (total) .. ..	3,900



Erection of Coloured Nurses' Quarters and Domestic's Home, Thursday Island.



Besides handling of messages addressed to or originating from Thursday Island itself, telegrams arriving via P.M.G. channels are retransmitted to outpost stations, thus all outpost stations are in telegraphic communication with any registered post office via this radio link.

For seven days per week the Base station is standing by to receive calls for medical assistance. This information is relayed to the Government Medical Officer who then makes use of the radio to diagnose and treat such cases and if necessary arrange for their removal to a hospital either by air or sea. It is often possible to redirect one of the radio equipped vessels already at sea in the vicinity to pick up an urgent case with consequent saving of time.

Owing to the total failure of the submarine cable between Thursday Island and the mainland, telephone communication from Thursday Island is severed. Calls for the Cairns ambulance plane were thus being delayed and direct communication between Thursday Island Base Station and Cairns Ambulance Base Station has been arranged so that requests for the aerial ambulance are in Cairns within minutes.

The direct contact with Cairns has also provided valuable assistance to the Police on several occasions in their work when the Police officers in Thursday Island may speak directly to Police officers in Cairns.

Twice daily weather reports from all outstations are collected and forwarded to the Meteorological Department to assist in preparation of forecasts covering these remote areas. Daily a weather report issued by the Meteorological service is broadcast for the benefit of the pearling fleet.

Movements of all shipping is reported daily so location of all vessels both cargo and those engaged in the marine shelling industry is accurately known.

All outstation equipment both engines and radio gear have been overhauled during the year and serviceability has been maintained at a high level.

Owing to the expansion of the service, the existing Base Station was found to be inadequate. A new building has therefore been constructed and all equipment reinstalled in such a manner to provide increased space for existing equipment and further extension as required. This has enabled speedier handling of traffic.

Maintenance of all radio equipment and film projectors belonging to Thursday Island Hospital Board is maintained. Also pictures are screened weekly at Aplin hostel and the projector belonging to the hostel is overhauled and serviced in the radio workshop. A public address system providing radio and recorded music to each ward has been constructed and installed during the year.

General technical supervision is carried out on all electrical and refrigeration installations and also of motor transport of the Department of Native Affairs and Island Industries Board.

Domestic radio equipment belonging to Torres Strait Islanders is also repaired in the radio workshop.

#### BUILDING PROGRAMME.

##### *Thursday Island, Torres Strait Island and Peninsula.*

The Department controls, under a white foreman, a gang of 12 departmentally trained carpenters, who are responsible for all building work associated with Native Affairs progressive programme. One of the major features of gang's job was the completion of a building, 140 feet by 36 feet, to accommodate 48 and to be used as a coloured nurses and domestics home attached to the Thursday Island hospital.

The Department was given a loan of £13,510 for the building of this job in which timber from Bamaga Settlement sawmill was utilised. The completed cost will be in the vicinity of £10,900, leaving a balance in loan funds of £2,610 which can be made available for furnishing the building.

It is claimed that for efficiency and cheapness no other building has been erected on Thursday Island that can compare with this one.

Amongst other undertakings were—

- Extensions and alterations Bamaga sawmill.
- The erection of a new school at Cowal Creek.
- The erection of a new cottage at Bamaga.
- Erection of D.N.A. building material store at Thursday Island.
- Remodelling and repairs Island Industries retail store.
- Erection of pumping station—Aplin Hostel water system.
- Erection of freezing-cooling building, Aplin Hostel.
- Prefabricated and erection radio station, St. Paul's.
- Rebuilding of, Island Industries Board's staff quarters.
- Prefabricated and erected, branch store, Naghir and Boigu Islands.
- Remodelling D.N.A. workshops, Thursday Island area.
- Prefabricated and erection school building, Yorke Island.
- Prefabricated school building for Murray Island.
- Prefabricated store residence for Island Industries Board.
- Manufacturing doors, &c., for Badu Island.
- Cottages for D.N.A. Carpenters—
  - Philp Ansey
  - Billy Samuel
  - Reg. Sebasio.
- Ten 1,500-gallon water tanks built and some distributed.

During the year approximately 38,000 super. feet of timber from Bamaga Settlement sawmill has been used on the above projects.

## BOATS' CATCHES, YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1954.

Name of Vessel.	M.O.P.		Trochus.		Scrap Metal.	Wolfram.	Total Value
	Weight.	Value.	Weight.	Value.	Value.	Value.	
	T. C. Q. L.	£ s. d.	T. C. Q. L.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Petta Nona ..	26 15 0 2	10,153 3 3	..	..	..	..	10,153 3 3
Relsie Nona ..	23 13 1 28	9,057 1 1	..	..	..	..	9,057 1 1
May Nona ..	22 10 3 10	8,686 9 4	..	..	..	..	8,686 9 4
Sarah Nona ..	16 0 1 28	6,061 8 7	..	..	..	..	6,061 8 7
Mosby ..	12 0 0 17	4,388 15 2	..	..	..	..	4,388 15 2
Cessa ..	11 7 3 4	3,953 4 2	6 14 0 16	406 18 0	..	..	4,360 2 2
Macey ..	10 9 3 27	3,740 14 9	7 19 3 15	484 19 7	..	..	4,225 14 4
Ella ..	3 5 0 25	1,142 17 11	23 7 2 2	2,063 7 9	..	..	3,205 5 8
Uropi ..	8 0 0 26	2,877 5 9	4 10 3 20	275 16 4	..	..	3,153 2 1
Maria ..	0 8 0 11	160 2 7	22 9 0 13	2,429 0 1	..	..	2,589 2 8
Kismet ..	0 11 3 21	223 10 6	17 19 1 23	2,341 7 7	..	..	2,564 18 1
Loyalty ..	..	..	17 1 1 5	2,229 15 10	..	..	2,229 15 10
Caroline ..	0 15 0 15	312 13 3	16 16 1 27	1,752 11 11	..	..	2,065 5 2
Adal ..	..	..	16 3 3 25	1,796 1 10	..	..	1,796 1 10
Nalanga ..	4 13 2 10	1,771 9 6	..	..	..	..	1,771 9 6
S.S. Dona ..	0 0 1 0	5 11 9	16 3 0 22	1,667 11 7	..	..	1,673 3 4
Adiana ..	..	..	10 14 3 6	1,403 7 8	..	..	1,403 7 8
Santa ..	0 1 3 16	37 15 3	12 12 2 15	1,337 2 8	..	..	1,374 17 11
Nancy ..	0 14 3 12	262 3 6	7 16 0 5	1,019 9 10	..	..	1,281 13 4
Binibin ..	0 1 3 22	44 0 5	7 13 2 8	980 1 6	..	..	974 1 11
Yaza ..	1 10 1 27	627 18 9	0 14 2 9	44 4 6	..	..	672 3 3
Cape York ..	..	..	4 10 0 8	588 9 4	..	..	588 9 4
Wadumo ..	0 18 0 12	341 4 3	0 19 0 25	125 11 10	..	..	466 16 1
Zunal ..	..	..	3 5 3 15	430 8 10	..	..	430 8 10
Danie ..	0 0 2 10	12 2 8	..	..	..	..	12 2 8
Dinghy Shell ..	2 10 2 19	1,039 15 11	17 16 1 21	2,101 16 11	..	..	3,141 12 10
Scrap Metal ..	..	..	..	..	358 8 6	..	358 8 6
Wolfram ..	..	..	..	..	..	236 0 0	236 0 0
Total Weights ..	146 10 3 2	..	215 9 1 0	..	..	..	..
Total Value ..	..	54,399 8 4	..	23,423 3 7	358 8 6	236 0 0	78,922 0 5
Price Adjustments ..	..	8,902 14 5	..	12,256 15 10	255 14 4	..	21,415 4 7
Sales Commissions &c. ..	..	63,802 2 9	..	35,684 19 5	614 2 10	236 0 0	100,337 5 0
	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,581 5 11
	..	..	..	..	..	..	119,918 10 11

## 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, to 10th February.

Acting Secretary—Mr. G. A. Bell, from 11th February to 30th June.

It is with a regret that this report must record the death of Mr. J. C. Robertson, on 10th February, 1954. During his period of appointment as secretary and accountant, Mr. Robertson gave excellent service to the Board. On his death his position was temporarily filled by Mr. Bell.

The Island Industries Board is a co-operative organisation aiming at the industrial uplift of the 6,000 Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals for whom it caters. Its immediate policy is the greater development of the Marine Industry in Torres Strait, the closest contact

with its customers on the fifteen islands where it has established branch stores, the sale of marine produce gathered by the Islanders' fleet, the training of divers and tenders in the marine industry and other undertakings consistent with its powers and responsibilities.

It is claimed that the functions allocated to it are fairly and conscientiously exercised by the Board for the advancement of its coloured customers.

The functions of the Board are extensive and provide coverage for every industrial activity of the Torres Strait Islanders.

Here are 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, ship-owner, 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,



Another View of Nurses' and Domestics' Quarters, Thursday Island.

2. Acquire from time to time and at all times 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).

The following facts and figures will indicate the extent of the Board's activities:—

- (a) A turnover of £178,161 from its sixteen retail stores.
- (b) Sales of marine produce totalling £119,782.
- (c) Sales of other products including fruit and vegetables from the State Government settlement on the peninsula amounting to £1,600.

(d) The Board owns and controls an up-to-date slipway on which the 25 luggers and cutters owned by Torres Strait Islanders are regularly repaired. On this slipway, when opportunity offers, the vessels of private pearlers are similarly overhauled.

(e) The Board owns two cargo vessels "Gelem" and "Kebisu" which are used for the conveyance of stores from Thursday Island to the Branch stores in Torres Strait. The Board is particularly proud of the assistance which it renders not only in the conveyance of stores but in the carrying of passengers between the various islands and Thursday Island free of cost. The Board's vessels carry Government officials, medical officers, sisters, and the sick, white and coloured, whenever a request is made for such service. It is fairly claimed by the Board that its vessels render a service to the community which makes for the better health of the people in the area for which it caters.

(f) The Board employs a staff of 16 whites and 76 Islanders. This staff comprises clerical workers, branch store managers and assistants (all Torres Strait Islanders), shipwright, and Island carpenters.

(g) The overall assets of the Board are valued at £180,827.

General trading by Island Industries Board is extensive, as is indicated by the figures for the last three years which are shown hereunder.

	1951-52.	1952-53.	1953-54.
	£	£	£
Stock (end of year)	67,718	73,628	70,281
Sales .. .. .	170,173	186,806	182,052
Purchases .. .. .	120,043	126,108	113,130
Charges (Freight, &c.)	30,091	35,049	36,972
Stock (beginning of year) .. .. .	51,974	67,718	73,628
Gross Profit .. .. .	35,783	31,559	28,603

STATEMENT OF SALES OF PRODUCE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1954.

<i>Mother-of-Pearl-Shell—</i>		£	s.	d.
147 tons 3 cwt. 0 qr. 18 lb. .. .. .	.. .. .	74,893	5	8
<i>Trochus Shell—</i>				
248 tons 8 cwt. 1 qr. 10 lb. .. .. .	.. .. .	44,715	1	2
<i>Grubby Trochus—</i>				
1 ton 16 cwt. 2 qr. 11 lb. .. .. .	.. .. .	74	0	0
<i>Wolfram—</i>				
4 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lb. .. .. .	.. .. .	236	4	1
Total Sales of Produce .. .. .	.. .. .	£119,918	10	11

Hereunder is statement of store transactions for the year 1953-54—

Island.	Turnover.		Cash.		Stock.		Total—Cash and Stock.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Badu .. .. .	14,323	3 6	275	14 1	1,011	11 3	1,887	5 4
Bamaga .. .. .	12,340	8 9	169	16 4	1,171	18 9	1,341	18 9
Boigu .. .. .	4,195	3 8	53	15 4	1,384	18 5	1,438	13 9
Coconut .. .. .	6,469	5 9	123	6 5	850	8 10	973	15 3
Cowal Creek .. .. .	8,024	16 7	107	2 0	858	2 11	965	4 11
Darnley .. .. .	11,639	7 11	202	10 1	2,336	8 5	2,538	18 6
Dauan .. .. .	3,225	7 2	161	10 5	1,425	10 7	1,588	1 0
Kubin .. .. .	4,176	11 9	100	7 10	338	2 2	438	10 0
Mabuiag .. .. .	9,268	3 11	25	13 0	1,966	10 9	1,992	3 9
Murray .. .. .	13,801	1 11	42	4 7	2,495	5 7	2,537	10 3
Naghir .. .. .	1,451	16 3	42	5 11	696	16 2	739	2 1
Saibai .. .. .	8,626	18 10	264	13 3	2,146	5 8	2,410	18 11
Stephen .. .. .	3,106	6 11	380	2 10	1,198	17 8	1,579	0 6
Yam .. .. .	4,944	13 11	199	1 8	1,271	7 4	1,470	9 0
Yorke .. .. .	7,432	14 11	157	16 9	1,285	12 11	1,443	9 8
T. I. Retail .. .. .	35,960	2 10	..	..	4,782	9 8	4,782	9 8
Kennedy .. .. .	25,552	8 2	..	..	29,478	16 10	29,478	16 10
Bulk .. .. .	..	..	..	..	24,617	17 9	24,617	17 9
Butcher Shop .. .. .	3,621	17 6	..	..	25	2 4	25	2 4
£	178,160	10 3	2,306	2 6	79,943	4 0	82,249	6 6

NOTE:—The Butcher's Shop was closed down during the year.

The turnover for the previous year was £180,175 8s. 11d.

#### ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD SLIPWAY.

This Slipway has three cradles and all through the year they are occupied.

From 1st April, 1953, to 31st March, 1954, vessels ranging from 30 feet to 60 feet in length have been slipped. The gross tonnage of major and minor repair work amounted to 514 tons. Among the repairs that were carried out were the replacement of defective main keels, the fitting of new strakes and main decks, the caulking of seams, the copper sheathing of hulls, and the installation of beds and shaft logs for mechanical power. All jobs were carried out entirely by Torres Strait Islanders.

These natives are husky chaps with intelligence and are always willing to tackle ship repair work. Sixteen adults and three youths are constantly employed, some of them having served for eight years. One of the employees acts as leading hand and is responsible to the white shipwright officer in charge. They receive award wages for their work and each belongs to an industrial union.

The youths are mainly employed on dinghy construction and repairs. During the year 12 new dinghies, clinker type, were built, and 10 repaired.

The shipyard is equipped with modern machinery such as a band saw, circular saws, thicknessing machine, band saw brazer and sharpener, hand forge, emery grinder, winch for hauling slip cradles, gulleting machine, and sanding machine. All this machinery is operated by electricity and fitted with the best safety switches. It is all used by the native employees and all cutting tools are sharpened by them and kept well oiled.

Once a week classes are held in working hours to teach them the theoretical side of ship building. Sections of vessels which are undergoing repairs are drawn to scale on a drawing board. Instruments and drawing paper are supplied by the shipyard.

The work done by these natives includes rigging and wire splicing. Various splices in wire rope have been done such as lock splices for slings, standard rigging splices, and short and long splices. Masts 50 feet in length and 8 inches in diameter have been lifted out by the shipyards derrick and overhauled for dry rot and mastbands replaced if required.

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

The Island Industries Board shipyard is the biggest in Torres Straits. In maintaining all native owned pearling and trochus vessels as well as mission ketches, it is providing a valuable service to both the Torres Straits Islanders and the white community, while the policy of training islanders as shipwrights is one which will pay increasing dividends as the years go by.

The following vessels were slipped during the year:—

	Gross Tonnage.
Ketch "Rebecca" .. .. .	25
Ketch "Cessa" .. .. .	22
Yawl "Florence" .. .. .	7
Launch "Penquin" .. .. .	20
Ketch S.S. "Dona" .. .. .	25
Ketch "Ella" .. .. .	23
Launch "Sarah Nona" .. .. .	20
Ketch "Ella" .. .. .	23
Launch "Waiben" .. .. .	15
Cutter "Zunal" .. .. .	7
Ketch "May Nona" .. .. .	25
M.V. Gelam .. .. .	30
Cutter "Mary Lochart" .. .. .	7
Ketch "Mosby" .. .. .	25
Ketch "Stephen Davies" .. .. .	30
Launch "Sarah Nona" .. .. .	20
Ketch "Naianga" .. .. .	30
Ketch "Torres Herald" .. .. .	23
Ketch "May Nona" .. .. .	25
Ketch "Petta" .. .. .	25
Ketch "Mosby" .. .. .	25
Ketch "Caroline" .. .. .	12
Ketch "Macey" .. .. .	25
Ketch "Adiana" .. .. .	25

### MARINE PRODUCE.

As indicated previously one of the essential features of the Island Industries Board's responsibility is the sale of marine produce, viz., pearl shell and trochus shell.

It is common knowledge that the market for both of these commodities is inclined to fluctuate and the Board, on behalf of its clients, has over the years consistently sought to market this produce to the best advantage. To ensure that the most remunerative and consistent return would be secured, the Board approached the Australian Trade Commissioner, New York, and the Queensland Agent-General, London, through the Commonwealth Government and the Queensland State Government for a three-years' agreement covering the fishing seasons 1954, 1955, and 1956. The terms stipulated by the Board for such an agreement were:

- (a) A price not less than that which the Board obtained for the 1953 season,
- (b) In the event of the world market price increasing, the Board to obtain the advantage of that increase, and
- (c) In the event of a fall in price, the Board to be protected under the agreement for the original price as negotiated.

In all its discussions the Board was adamant that these terms would not be departed from. It had no intention of selling its shell on the basis of delivery to any company for sale on commission. It was aware of the threat to the marine produce market by foreign vessels, and in the interests of the Torres Strait Islanders, it was determined that a three-year contract, based on the foregoing terms, would, if at all possible, be entered into.

Discussions with overseas buyers finally resulted in only one firm accepting the Board's terms and therefore the Board ultimately agreed to supply its shell to this firm, Messrs. Otto Gerda Company, New York.

### APPENDIX 6.

#### YARRABAH MISSION, VIA CAIRNS.

Superintendent, Captain H. E. Cole, C.A. (appointed Superintendent September, 1953, took up duty on 1st February, 1954, as arranged.)

#### STAFF.

The Reverend F. W. Hipkin.  
 Mrs. F. W. Hipkin (School)  
 Mr. G. G. Gretton (Store)  
 Mr. J. W. Prichard (Assistant Store 4-3-54)  
 Mr. N. W. Brown (Farm)  
 Mr. R. James (Workshop)  
 Miss E. V. Odom, (Office)  
 Miss J. N. Baldock (Office)  
 Miss F. Phipps (Headmistress School)  
 Miss I. H. Sanders (Girls' Dormitory)  
 Sister M. C. Stanley, C.A. (under Cairns Hospital Board)  
 Captain Allan Polgen, C.A. (Personal assistant to the Superintendent)

Major L. V. Wakefield and Mrs. Wakefield resigned owing to doctors orders on the 31st October, 1953. During the Major's superintendency the Mission was strengthened with planned developmental projects. The increasing clerical work with the Department of Native Affairs and the increased population can be faced with the more orderly office routine. The personal management by Mrs. Wakefield of the Curios Department has established an industry in which the women can share to the economic benefit of all. The Church of Australia and the Diocese of North Queensland in particular owe a debt of gratitude to Major and Mrs. Wakefield and we wish them every happiness and health as they live a retired life in Cairns.

The interim period before Captain H. E. Cole arrived was gratefully supervised by Fr. F. W. Hipkin and Mr. H. Moxham during his vacation from St. Francis' College.

#### Statistics.—

Births .. .. .	28
Marriages .. .. .	4
Deaths .. .. .	4

*Health.*—Hospital site retained in old Boys' Dormitory area. No change contemplated at present.

The health is excellent for a population of 659 people. A doctor from Cairns Base Hospital visits Yarrabah each fortnight.

*Hansen's Disease.*—One man was detained and transferred to Fantome Island Leprosarium (actually not a new case).

*Dental.*—A Government travelling dentist visited the Mission in March and will return again in the winter of 1954. All patients examined at St. Luke's Hospital and treated at Cairns Base Hospital.

*Optometrist.*—A Government visiting optometrist visits for periodical checks.

*Hookworm.*—A complete survey was made in February, 1954, with very satisfactory results. The low percentage of infected people was most encouraging to the experts. Two per cent. of the population was found to be infected and given treatment.

*Religion.*—The Saturday night preparation is usually well attended and special efforts are made by the population to attend Holy Communion en masse on festal occasions. Lay readers taking Sunday services in out-centres reported good congregations. Headmen have daily prayers each morning with workers on parade.

*Church Army Trainees.*—Arthur Malcolm, ex Yarrabah on 28th December, 1952, has made such good progress in his training in the Church Army College and in field work that it is anticipated he will enter college next year for his final year.

Florence Livingstone, ex Yarrabah on 29th December, 1953, is doing splendid work in her preliminary training at "The Home for Little Children," Lochinvar, New South Wales. This home is in the charge of two Church Army sisters.

Martin Murgha went to St. Francis College, Milton, Brisbane, early in May, 1954, and is fitting in well with the College life there.

*Youth Groups.*—The Church of England Boys' Society (leader Mr. N. V. Brown) and the Heralds of the King (Sister M. C. Stanley, C.A.): These leaders have moulded two excellent teams of boys and girls into disciplined and active youth groups. Their presence at the Parramatta Park Oval on the occasion of the Queen's Visit gained appreciative comment and gave an excellent Christian witness to the crowds in Cairns.

A team of 14 young people took part in the Diocesan Youth Festival in Townsville and displayed marked ability to enter into athletic and social activities.

*Education.*—There are 76 boys and 80 girls on the roll at St. Alban's School. The average attendance is 67 girls and 62 boys. The small Oombunghi school has a roll of 12 boys and 3 girls, average attendance is 9 boys and 2 girls. During the year much attention has been given to cultural activity. Singing and folk-dancing are a regular feature of the work. Girls have sewing and cooking classes.

*Arts and Crafts.*—Craft work is encouraged but often interrupted by the desire of those who do the work to go crabbing and oystering. Much hard work is done in gaining loya cane and pandanus, &c., as basic materials.

The mats used by the city of Townsville on the official dais on the occasion of the visit of Her Majesty the Queen to Townsville were made by the women at Yarrabah.

*Recreation Hall.*—Through the Bishop of North Queensland, the Right Reverend Ian Shevill, we have been given a £1,000 legacy for the erection of a recreation hall. As the timber will be provided on the spot from our mill, the size of the building will be substantial and the equipment satisfactory.

*Sanitation.*—A new sanitary depot has been constructed, and when two fixtures for washing and tarring pans have been added, the depot will be complete. This includes a cart shed, lock-up store room, and concrete wash floor with drainage away to absorption trench.

A man has received three weeks' experience at Gordonvale depot under the kind permission of the Mulgrave Shire and he is now in charge of sanitation. We are most grateful for this outside assistance.

*Water Supply.*—This has been completed to head station with 2½-inch galvanised iron pipeline for Reeves Creek intake. This is tapped into the existing reticulation system at five points to prevent burst pipes and to equalise pressure to all homes at head station. Old pipes will be recovered, cleaned, and used to complete reticulation to new houses and sanitary depot.

*Farms.*—Mourighan, Dijinghi, Long Scrub, and Oombunghi continue to extend in area and produce vegetables for issue to all inhabitants. Only surplus is sent to Cairns markets. After local requirements are met, pineapples are sent

to Cairns cannery and this helps offset the high cost of mechanisation of equipment and of fertilisers. There is urgent need for irrigation equipment to protect crops during rainless periods.

More barbed wire is necessary for extending protection to vegetable areas, for fencing grass land for the establishment of dairy areas, and to hold stock in specified areas throughout the year.

Farm produce as issued to inhabitants during the year ended February, 1954, prices are average and estimates to the nearest pound:—

	£	s.	d.
43 cases bananas, 1s. lb. (appx. price) ..	172	0	0
3,445 lb. white turnips, 6d. lb. .. ..	86	0	0
2 tons pumpkins, 4d. lb. .. ..	75	0	0
600 lb. swede turnips, 6d. lb. .. ..	15	0	0
2,820 lb. cabbages, 1s. lb. .. ..	141	0	0
930 doz. cucumbers, 6d. each .. ..	279	0	0
2,380 lb. beans, 1s. 4d. lb. .. ..	159	0	0
290 lb. tomatoes, 1s. lb. .. ..	15	0	0
1,850 lb. carrots, 10d. lb. .. ..	77	0	0
36 bags sweet potatoes, 25s. bag .. ..	45	0	0
12 bags cassava, 10s. bag .. ..	6	0	0
7½ tons water melons, 2½d. lb. .. ..	175	0	0
8 bags maize, £2 bag .. ..	16	0	0
Total issue free .. ..	£1,261	0	0

Surplus produce sold on Cairns market:—

	£	s.	d.
12 sugar bags carrots .. ..	20	0	0
4 bags beans .. ..	14	0	0
72 bags maize .. ..	154	0	0
583 cases pineapples .. ..	450	0	0
Total sold .. ..	£638	0	0
Total produced—£1,899.			

*Employment.*—All men were fully employed on developmental projects. A total of 20 men and women are signed on under agreement and work outside the Mission.

Seasonal work in the cane fields is undertaken as required.

Natives on Agreement as at 31st March, 1954—  
13 men, 7 women.

Wages collected for Savings Bank—  
Accounts for 12 months ended 31st March,  
1954—£6,326 8s.

Credits to A.P.F.—£902 5s. 7d.

*Discipline.*—The drink traffic has been cut to a minimum. Moral issues are interwoven with the willingness of individuals to practise their Christian faith and by self control. Every effort is made by the staff to develop this as a part of the inhabitants' self reliance and good citizenship.

*Appreciation.*—Appreciation is expressed to the Director of Native Affairs and Staff, the Church in Australia, the A.B.M., particularly the Diocese of North Queensland and to the friends who provided avenues of advice and support to assist the staff carry on their work at Yarrabah throughout the year.

## APPENDIX 7.

HOPE VALE LUTHERAN MISSION,  
COOKTOWN.

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

## STAFF MEMBERS.

Mr. Gordon Rose—School Teacher.  
Mr. Donald Ruthenberg—Farm Overseer.  
Mr. Robert Hensel—Stockman.  
Miss Violet Tanzer—Nursing Sister.

During the year under review, Mr. C. A. Hartwig, sawmiller and carpenter, Mrs. O. Hartwig, school teacher, and Miss Ruth Rohde, nursing sister, who rendered valuable service to the Mission, reluctantly relinquished their duties at Hope Vale on account of ill-health. Whilst the position of nurse has been filled by Miss V. Tanzer, another school teacher, a carpenter and sawmiller are urgently required.

Because of a depleted staff the short term voluntary services of Mr. G. R. Kleinig of Leeton, New South Wales and Mr. H. W. Radke and Mr. W. Kopp, both of Beenleigh, were much appreciated.

## Statistics—

Births	..	..	..	..	13
Death	..	..	..	..	1
Marriage	..	..	..	..	1

*Health.*—The health of the inmates of the Mission has been reasonably good. However, despite the abundance of tropical fruits and vegetables used to supplement the usual weekly native rations, the Mission plans to produce a larger amount of eggs, milk, meat, and whole-meal bread.

The following is the number of patients who received medical attention:—

Month.	Out-patients.	Inpatients.	Cooktown Inpatients.	Dental.	Hookworm.
<b>1953—</b>					
April .. .. .	320	..	2	28	28
May .. .. .	280	..	..	..	..
June .. .. .	240	2	1	..	..
July .. .. .	243	4	3	60	59
August .. .. .	213	3	..	..	..
September .. .. .	363	4	4	..	..
October .. .. .	351	3	..	..	..
November .. .. .	411	9	1	260	..
December .. .. .	254	7	..	..	..
<b>1954—</b>					
January .. .. .	352	3	..	..	..
February .. .. .	320	4	2	..	9
March .. .. .	493	4	5	44	3
<b>Totals</b> .. .. .	<b>3,840</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>99</b>

*Education.*—Attendances at school have been good. Although a fair standard of knowledge has been maintained in history and geography, much concentration and effort is needed on English and Mathematics. Written English appears to be the most difficult subject for pupils to grasp. This is probably due to the fact that most children speak their tribal language in their homes.

The head teacher, Mr. Gordon Rose, is assisted by three specially trained native monitresses.

*Building.*—Due to the lack of a permanent sawmiller and carpenter and an inadequate saw-bench, the erection of urgently needed permanent dwellings for aboriginal families and staff members was greatly retarded. Buildings erected were as follows:—

- 1 Machinery shed.
- 1 Native cottage.
- 5 Temporary native cottages.

At the time of writing the sawmill is being enlarged so that a larger amount of timber can be milled. A four-sider planing machine, presented by Mr. G. R. Kleinig, is to be installed also.

*Stock.*—At present the Mission has a total of 74 head of black poll and poll cross cattle. In recent months the executive members of the Mission Board, together with the Department of Native Affairs, submitted an application to

the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs for financial assistance. Cabinet has approved of a loan amounting to £4,950, of which £2,000 has been allotted to the purchase of cattle. Already 20 Illawarra Shorthorn heifers and a stud bull from Mr. Marquardt of Wondai have been secured. Negotiations are now underway to purchase some 70 head of Devon heifers and several  $\frac{1}{2}$  Zebu blood bulls.

The mission is deeply grateful to the Queensland Government and charitable members of the Church for the establishment of the dairy herd and beef industry.

*Fishing Industry.*—Last November, after the Mission launch "Joallan" received extensive repairs, it was taken out of dock for a trial run. Due to an accident, the boat was wrecked on rocks 3 miles from Cooktown harbour, off Mount Saunders. Investigations were made and a claim for £1,000 insurance was met.

*Agriculture.*—The 1953 peanut crop yielded 25 tons. This year with an increased acreage the Mission anticipates harvesting in the vicinity of 40 tons. The early planted peanuts have been disappointing in that the large bushes apparently forced by favourable rains and heat, produce a poor yield of nuts. Later plantings just harvested promise an average return of 18 bags per acre. Some 15 acres of maize planted promises a return of 1 ton per acre. Forty acres of cotton planted has germinated well. It is still too early in the season to forecast the return.



During December, 136 cases of pineapples were forwarded to the Cannery at Cairns but owing to heavy rain in January and the bad state of the road to Cooktown 120 cases were consumed at the Mission.

The following is a record of acreage under crop and plantation:—

Mission.	Natives.
50 acres peanuts	70 acres peanuts
15 acres maize	1 acre maize
20 acres cotton	20 acres cotton
3 acres maniochs	1 acre maniochs
3 acres sweet potatoes	4 acres sweet potatoes
4 acres pineapples	3 acres pineapples
3 acres bananas	12 acres bananas
3 acres papaws	8 acres papaws
1 acre onions	5 acres miscellaneous fruits
2 acres vegetables	
<hr/> 104 acres	<hr/> 124 acres

An area of 10 acres was prepared for the planting of milo but as the seed ordered arrived too late for planting, the area prepared remains fallow.

Inmates are encouraged to cultivate their own gardens and 124 acres planted by some 40 individual families are entirely their own work. The sale of any produce is banked to the credit of the natives concerned.

*Conduct.*—The conduct and behaviour of inmates has been peaceful and harmonious. On two occasions some discontent was manifested among single men in the community. Inquiries made showed that the lack of eligible single women and girls was the real reason for the upsets as it was difficult for the men, who were matrimonially inclined, to secure a wife. In an endeavour to assist, the Department of Health and Home Affairs approved of a scheme to permit groups of eight men at a time to visit Palm Island Settlement in the hopes of overcoming the difficulty.

*Spiritual.*—Divine services, Bible study, Sunday school, ladies guild and choir singing are regularly conducted and faithfully attended.

*Appreciation.*—The members of the Hope Vale Mission Board, the Superintendent and his staff, as well as natives at Hope Vale herewith extend sincere thanks and gratitude to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, the Director of Native Affairs and the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and their Staff for their keen interest and valuable assistance given to the aboriginals and Mission during the past year.

## APPENDIX 8.

### DOOMADGEE MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. Talbot.)

#### Staff.—

John Talbot—Superintendent (on furlough from 14th December, 1953 to 9th June, 1954).  
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Hockey.  
Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Weeks.  
Miss Pearl Roberts.  
Miss Ruth Parry (relieving Sister Black).  
Miss Isa Black (on furlough since 16th August, 1953).

#### Statistics.—

Births—17.

Marriages—2.

Deaths—9.

#### Transfers—

1 male to Urandangie.

2 females to Palm Island.

Family of 5 to Einaasleigh.

1 Male to Mornington Island.

1 Male to Burketown.

1 Female to Woorabinda.

Exemption from the Act—1.

*Health.*—An epidemic of measles with symptoms of scarlet fever began in September and did not cease until January. In many instances, particularly in infants, it was followed by gastro enteritis and was a major setback to the general health standard. Adults were weakened and infants still show signs of the severity of the epidemic. Over 200 cases of measles were treated. Severe cases only could be accommodated at our hospital. The children's dormitories became temporary sick wards and adults were attended and treated twice daily in their village shelters.

#### Other sicknesses treated—

Asthma .. .. .	1
Pyelitis .. .. .	2
Nephritis .. .. .	2
Tonsillitis .. .. .	1
Osteo-Media .. .. .	1
Gastro .. .. .	24
Septicaemia .. .. .	1
Chorea .. .. .	1
Rheumatism .. .. .	1
Fractured Collar bone .. .. .	1
Fractured shoulder .. .. .	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	3
Osteo Arthritis and Cardiac .. .. .	1
Infections .. .. .	2
Ludwigs' Angina .. .. .	1
Mentally Unsound .. .. .	1
Epileptic .. .. .	1
Skin Sores .. .. .	10

*Dental.*—Itinerant dentist from Cloncurry conducted two four-day clinics here performing sundry extractions and fillings.

*Visits by Flying Doctor.*—Seventeen visits were made altogether; 13 of these visits were regular four-weekly medical clinics. The other four visits were for urgent medical attention—three for natives and one for Missionary, Mr. T. Weeks.

*Social.*—Picnics, bush walks, fishing, outdoor sports, and games arranged as frequently as possible were always enjoyed.

*Education.*—Due to the measles epidemic the school was closed at the end of September and remained closed for the rest of the year, as apart from measles, repeated outbreaks of gastro trouble amongst younger children necessitated this action. Again in the absence on furlough of Nursing Sister Black, Mrs. J. Weeks (school teacher), who is a qualified nursing sister, was fully occupied in a nursing

capacity. Mrs. Hockey hopes to reopen school at an early date, and later to be assisted by a qualified teacher, at present serving the Education Department of New South Wales.

The training of girls in domestic duties and boys in stock and mechanical work continued.

*Religion.*—During the year, morning and evening devotions are held daily and there is good reason to believe that the lives of young and old are affected for the better as a result. The eagerness shown by natives on return from employment on stations to attend the meetings is an indication how much they are enjoyed and valued.

#### INDUSTRIAL.

*Agriculture.*—Good supplies of vegetables were maintained throughout the winter months of 1953 and up to December. However, the setting in of the monsoonal rains spoilt most crops, an exception being sweet potatoes when planted at this time make good, fast growth. We have at last built up the sweet potato acreage to near pre-drought area.

Vegetables growing from seed sown in February, 1954, and repeated in April, both suffered grasshopper ravages as in March, 1953, and it seems we will be hard pressed for supplies of green vegetables this coming winter.

Citrus trees bore very well and the people enjoyed good quantities of mandarins and lemons.

Bananas cropped well and provided a variety of food.

*Pastoral.*—Seasonal conditions have been fair and the pasture looks good at present. More fencing has been done—chiefly repairs.

Two new cattle yards were completed on the run situated some distance from the home yards. A mechanical post borer is greatly assisting this work.

A number of new riding and pack saddles have been purchased to replace worn out gear and repairs were effected to others.

#### Livestock—

Cattle on hand at 1st April, 1953 .. .. .	1,324	
Less natural estimated loss	119	
	<hr/>	1,205
Add brandings for the year	357	
	<hr/>	1,562
Deduct killings for Mission consumption .. ..		62
		<hr/>
Cattle on hand at 31st March, 1954 .. .. .		1,500
		<hr/>
Horses—		
Mission owned at 1st April, 1953 .. .. .	74	
Deduct losses .. .. .	7	
	<hr/>	67
Add brandings .. .. .	3	
	<hr/>	70
Native owned at 1st April, 1953 .. .. .	34	
Deduct losses .. .. .	4	
	<hr/>	30
Add brandings .. .. .	3	
	<hr/>	33
Horses on hand at 31st March, 1954 .. .. .		103
		<hr/>

#### BUILDINGS.

Existing buildings were maintained in good repair. Work on the extension of the bulk store to provide a new retail store and an administrative office progressed sufficiently to permit occupation. Stock fixtures have yet to be installed.

*New School Building.*—The 70 by 50 Arneo steel framework has been erected. Fibro cement roofing has been placed on approximately three-quarters of the roof area. Roofing to cover the remainder has now arrived per ship at Burketown, but we are informed that a large proportion of it is again hopelessly broken in the crates. The replacement has involved a cost of £100 which may prove fruitless. Flooring is to be of paved cement and windows of the louver type.

A school teacher's residence is being erected at one end of the structure. The builder, who was engaged in construction of the building, was taken seriously ill and had to leave the job, but we trust that another builder may soon be available to complete it.

Other urgent building requirements are many more native cottages for the young married couples in particular and a cubieled dormitory suitable for accommodation of single young women over 16 years.

The recent epidemics suffered, in which our hospital accommodation was quite inadequate, shows that our building programme of five years ago envisaging considerable additions and alterations to the hospital was sound. That applies also to all other projects in the building plans prepared at that time and submitted to the Department.

#### AERODROME.

Licence was granted by the Civil Aviation Department and, on Monday, the 14th September, 1953, T.A.A. made the first landing on our 'drome, this inaugurating a twice-weekly air service in their Gulf run. The plane travels to the Mission from Cloncurry on Mondays, via Normanton and Burketown, and on Tuesday from Cloncurry en route to Burketown and Normanton, returning to Cloncurry each day.

Constant maintenance work on the landing strips is necessary due to the ever-growing antbed, grass and scrub.

#### NATIVE LABOUR.

Demand for native labour from early 1954 was greater than we have previously known, and all able-bodied men are either out at employment or booked to go out at this time. However, the demand for labour in the cattle industry fell off quickly from July onwards.

As in early 1953, chartered planes this year were used to convey large numbers of natives from the Mission direct to stations on which they were to be employed.

#### GENERAL.

As previously mentioned, the Mission's nursing sister was obliged to seek sick leave in August last and as yet is unable to obtain a medical clearance to return to duty. Sister Black's early return is eagerly awaited.

Exhausted health also compelled Mr. Talbot to leave in December, and he was absent for six months. In his absence Mr. Allan Hockey undertook the responsibilities of the Superintendent.

Mr. J. T. Weeks was taken very ill with a gastric ulcer some weeks ago, and as a result, his retirement from the Mission Staff, with Mrs. Weeks, has only been delayed pending Mr. Talbot's return from furlough. Mr. Weeks, amongst other things, has had charge of the garden work and maintenance of machinery, &c. Mrs. Weeks was conducting the school and throughout the severe period of sickness, capably undertook nursing duties. They will be a regrettable loss to the work of the Mission.

Miss G. Crouch is a new worker from Melbourne with specific qualifications.

A qualified school teacher from New South Wales is expected to arrive within the next six months.

Visitors to the Mission have included friends from Brisbane, Sydney, and Old Bonalbo, New South Wales. Mr. E. L. Gates, who has been actively interested in the work of the Mission since its inception, accompanied Mr. Talbot, who drove from Melbourne by utility truck and caravan. Mr. Gates is staying for a couple of weeks and is obtaining first-hand information of the Mission work with a view to soliciting the interest of men with qualifications most suitable to assist the Mission in its efforts.

#### APPRECIATION.

We are deeply appreciative of the assistance and complete co-operation of the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director and the Staff of the Brisbane Office.

For the prefabricated steel framework and cement roofing of school buildings, so long awaited, we are very grateful indeed.

Again we would place on record our warmest praise and thanks to the Flying Doctor Service for the service they have rendered to the Mission in the past year. It has been one of the most trying years in the Mission's history as regards sickness, and we have had at times recourse per radio two or three times a day to the doctor for advice.

No less than 17 'plane flights to the Mission have been made by the doctor during the year. The Flying Doctor Service radio, besides handling our telegram traffic, proves invaluable in arranging employment of natives on stations and attending to their various needs.

#### APPENDIX 9.

##### MONAMONA MISSION REPORT.

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

##### STAFF.

Mr. M. O. Blyde, Accountant and Secretary  
Mrs. M. O. Blyde, Matron (Honorary)  
Mr. G. J. Dawson, Head Teacher  
Miss W. M. Gillam, Infant Teacher  
Miss J. B. Laverton, Junior Teacher (Native)  
Mr. F. H. Cherry, Engineer  
Mr. R. L. Cherry, Sawmiller  
Mrs. F. H. Cherry, Sewing Room and Clothing (Honorary)

#### EDUCATION.

The children, we believe, are now achieving the standard required of European children. The school is functioning well, being installed in the new building. If a good library could be provided our education would be greatly advanced. Present enrolment—71.

#### SCHOOL.

During the year a very fine recreation hall and school has been completed. This dual purpose, two-storey building has filled a real need. Downstairs, is the recreation hall, 80 feet by 40 feet, complete with piano, 16-mm. sound projector and 35-mm. slide projector. It is planned to equip the building with library and further recreational facilities as time and finance permit, e.g., tennis court, table tennis, &c. Upstairs are three very fine classrooms. Two are being used at present to amply seat the present enrolment. All parts of the building are served with an A.W.A. public address system with radio and three-speed record player attachments.

#### SAWMILL.

The sawmill has been further improved with new skids and electric docking saw. A larger steam engine is planned to provide sufficient power to run a second bench. Some sawn timber has been sold during the year.

#### POWER HOUSE.

The power house has been improved by the addition of a 40-h.p. Southern Cross diesel engine and a 25-K.V.A. 240-V. A.C. alternator. It is planned to leave 110-V. D.C. through all native dwellings and have the workshops, European dwellings, Church, and school served with 240-V. A.C. power.

#### WORKSHOP.

The workshop has been improved by installing a small 240-V. alternator, which gives power for electrical tools, and by providing new oxy-acetylene welding plant.

#### MACHINERY AND TRUCKS.

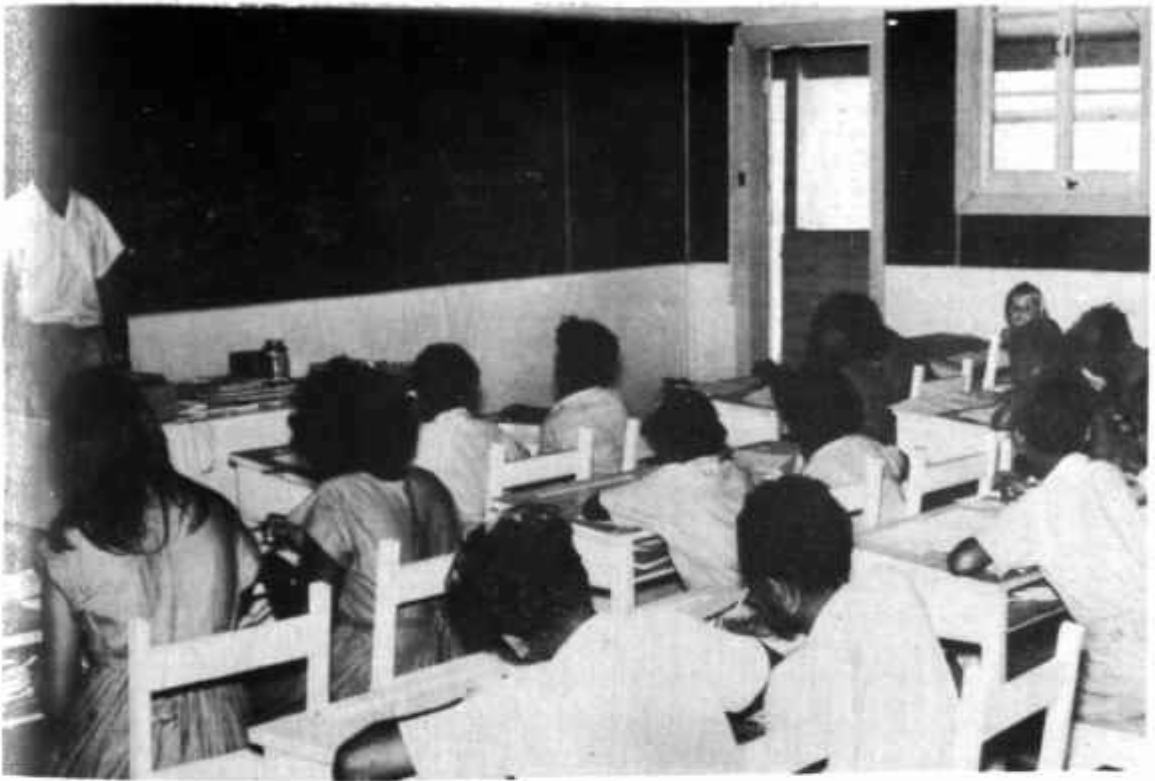
During the year a second-hand K6 International truck was purchased. An ample supply of logs to the mill is now assured. The old diesel 40 Caterpillar tractor and truck have given very good service and earned much of the needed money to keep the Mission running.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Unfortunately, the land around the Mission is very unsatisfactory for agriculture. Persistent effort and care has produced farm produce. A start has been made to clear further land at Kyber farm where the land is much better. About 15 acres of scrub was felled this year. A further 5 acres of pines were planted and about 5 acres of land completely cleared for a produce garden.

#### HEALTH.

*Outpatients.*—An average of 30 patients have been treated each day at the outpatients' clinic. Most of the minor work such as cuts, sores, and bruises, has been done by two trainee girls under the supervision of the matron.



Classroom, Monamona Mission.



Child Study, Monamona Mission.

Each day some 19 Hansen's disease suspects and arrested cure patients receive attention. The arresting of the progress of the disease has been quite remarkable and it is expected that there will be very few or no further positive cases on the Mission.

With the treatment of Hansen's disease it is felt that mention should be made of the very fine work of the Superintendent of the Mareeba District Hospital and his staff. All of the suspect patients have now received initial treatment and are home again receiving carry on treatment. The Commonwealth Health laboratory has also given excellent co-operation in taking the blood counts each month.

During the period there was an epidemic of influenza. One hundred and thirty patients were treated and there were no complications.

Hookworm control has been very efficient and there are now only three or four recurring patients. These are mainly those who have been working out and have not had the regular check up at the Mission.

*Baby Clinic.*—The baby clinic operated each Wednesday afternoon has functioned very smoothly and efficiently during the year. All babies have made quite good progress. The only death was a little boy who had an accident to his eye and passed away under anaesthetic in the Cairns Base Hospital. Most mothers have co-operated quite well in bringing their babies to the clinic. Babies have received regular issues of fruit juices, according to the fruit in season, and milk.

#### RELIGION.

Attendance at Church service has averaged about 150. This has been reasonably good as quite a large percentage do not make any profession of religion at all. Other services, such as Sabbath school, Young People's meeting, Vespers and Prayer meeting, have had quite fair attendances. Generally speaking, there is a very good interest in religious things. This however, as yet, has not produced lasting results. There are, as a result of many years' labour, some very fine Christian people resident here.

The past year has been quite a satisfactory one. While progress has not been ideal yet all things considered the year has been a good one. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, who have rendered every assistance to our Mission during the past year.

#### APPENDIX 10.

##### AURUKUN MISSION.

###### STAFF.

- Mr. W. F. MacKenzie, Superintendent.
- Mrs. F. W. MacKenzie, Matron and Head Teacher.
- Mr. L. E. Little, Cattle.
- Mrs. L. E. Little, Assistant Matron.

Our staff was depleted this year by Mr. B. J. Hill, who was in charge of the agriculture and dairy work, and Miss A. Simpson, our nurse, leaving to get married and take up life again in the south. The good work done by these two is greatly appreciated; they are greatly missed and we wish them all happiness in their future lives.

*Health.*—There was an epidemic of measles in November and December which only affected the children below 11 years of age. The last epidemic was in 1944, when almost every one on the reserve suffered. Altogether, this time there were just over 100 cases. None was serious but two small boys who failed to make good recoveries were flown to Cairns Base Hospital by the aerial ambulance for further treatment. There were the usual visits to Thursday Island Hospital for routine tuberculosis check-ups. The weekly weighing of all babies and children up to 2½ years of age continues and is a wonderful check on the health of both babies and mothers. There is a noticeable difference in the haemoglobin counts of the school children who are housed in dormitories and of the younger children resident in the village with their parents. The former show a much higher average, indicating that a number of the village people do not avail themselves of the toilet facilities provided, thus infecting with hookworm the area of the village they live in. However, some of the more progressive people have built their own lavatories and we hope that gradually healthier practices may prevail.

*School.*—The school was open 177 days. For most of the year there were 106 children on the roll. There were four native women teachers and six girl teachers. A noticeable difference was made this year in the fluency with which the older children write English. The older children were very interested in the souvenir of the Queen's visit given by the Commonwealth Government, and through its pages followed for weeks her journey across the world and up and down Australia with the aid of maps and many pictures.

*Cattle.*—For this period the brandings were 400. Seven miles of three-wire fencing was erected to make paddocks for the easier handling of cattle. A yard of 60 panels was also completed. Horse-breaking, saddle repairs, and mustering have kept the teams busy. Negotiations are in hand for the sale of 400 bullocks.

*Cultivation.*—This wet season was an excellent one for agriculture. Early storms started in November and rains went on steadily, but not too heavily, till near the end of April. Seventy inches were recorded for this period. A new paddock of 5 acres was double ploughed and planted with sweet potatoes and cassava. New varieties of seed potatoes were obtained from the Department of Agriculture and Stock at Rockhampton. The vines are very healthy and a good crop is hoped for. A paddock of 4 acres was planted with sorghum which is now being gathered. This crop is very satisfactory, and when threshed should provide a substantial help to breakfast food for the children. Two further acres of sorghum were planted, and the grain in the milky stage was put into the silo for the dairy cows. Cowpeas, beans, and pigeon peas were planted. The children like to eat the cowpeas raw, so they are able to indulge their fancy as much as they like. About 60 papaw plants were put in prepared places and are doing well, so that with these and mangoes and coconuts as well as bananas which are doing well and in bearing, the children do well for fruit. Pumpkins were grown and used for the children's meals also tomatoes and other vegetables.

*Dairy.*—The dairy was brought up to first-class standard by Mr. Hill before he left. Milkers were culled, and weekly averages of milk production, and lactation periods noted and kept for future reference for further culling. The great benefit of this care was shown when the fresh cows came in during the wet. From October to April the average monthly yield from 25 cows, one milking daily, was 660 gallons. The two dry months brought the average down, but their figures are taken to give an over-all picture of the work of this department. There has been sufficient milk to give each school child and the younger children a drink of milk at least once a day—during the “wet” twice a day. About 8 tons of hay were cut with the autoscythe and 2 tons of silage. Two paddocks were harrowed at first storms to break up the roots and soften the ground. Superphosphate was broadcast and the result has been very gratifying. The main bulk of the hay was from these two paddocks.

*Village.*—The people are encouraged to keep the village clean, the rank undergrowth was cleared, and the grass cut. More mangoes, coconuts, and pawpaws and custard apples were planted by the people. Several have quite extensive gardens. One man cleared a good patch near the Landing. He was given wire for fencing and planted bananas, coconuts, cassava, and sweet potatoes. Ten new houses were built and others repaired. The matter of sanitation is carefully watched. Lavatories with the pan system are installed. More progressive ones have built their own lavatories. Every effort is made to combat the scourge of hook-worm, and adults and children receive mass treatment.

*Diet and Hunting.*—As the area is very rich in native food, all able-bodied people are encouraged to hunt and fish. Surplus food is traded at the store for flour, tea, sugar, and tobacco. This surplus food is given to the children to ensure they get plenty of fish, crabs, oysters, shellfish, yams, &c.

*Discipline.*—During the year an unfortunate lapse of discipline occurred amongst some of the young men fomented by a few irresponsible hotheads. The matter was placed before the Director who came to the Mission to investigate the matter thoroughly. The ringleaders were removed and the tension eased at once. The atmosphere has been much happier, and the village councillors and policemen expressed their relief. Other less serious lapses have been dealt with by the Mission Council consisting of the councillors, police, and presided over by the Superintendent.

*Church Services.*—The usual early morning weekly services and Sunday services were held throughout the year. The people show great interest and 20 young people have come forward to join the church. The people brought in a large quantity of bush food to help the starving people of the world. This food was valued and the money sent to the headquarters of the appeal. Two visits were made to the Kendall and Holroyd. Several days were spent with the people who are still cared for by Archiewald, and who commands their love and respect in a wonderful way. A young Christian couple from the Mission volunteered to go down to help her.

*Lighting.*—The lighting plant is a great boon. Our cold room has been out of commission for a while, but arrangements are in hand by the Director's Department to have it put in order.

*Births.*—During the period covered by this report there were 15 births—6 boys and 9 girls.

*Deaths.*—Three deaths, one a baby girl who died in hospital as the result of a growth which penetrated the brain, one old man from senile decay, and a middle aged woman from, presumably, heart trouble.

There are in addition some 20 young men working outside and a number of bush people whom I did not see this year. The estimated population would be about 600.

*Appreciation.*—We wish to thank the many friends of the Mission who have helped us during the year, the Director and his staff, both in Thursday Island and in Brisbane, the Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Medical Superintendent and staff at Thursday Island and Cairns Hospitals, the Cairns Aerial Ambulance and the bush pilots. Our thanks go similarly to the Mission committee and to the Mission Department staff. We wish to thank the many friends in the guilds for their never-failing support, and this year especially for the wonderful Christmas boxes that were sent to the Mission for the people.

## APPENDIX 11.

### EDWARD RIVER MISSION.

#### STAFF.

Superintendent, J. W. Chapman.  
Chaplain, Rev. W. Rechnitz.  
School Teacher, Mr. Hooper-Colsey.

#### Statistics.—

Births	..	..	..	..	10
Deaths	..	..	..	..	2
Marrriages	..	..	..	..	1 (tribal)

*School.*—After being closed for some months the school was reopened upon the arrival of Mr. Hooper-Colsey as teacher. Thirty-two children are enrolled, attendances have been satisfactory although the attendance of some semi-nomadic children has been irregular.

*Health.*—During the year the general health of the people has been good. There have been no serious epidemics. The Mission was not able to have a visit from the medical officer during the year, but treatment for haemoglobin trouble was continued. During the year treatment was given for scabies, ringworm, yaws, and minor ailments. A visit from Miss Tredennick, dentist, and assistant Mr. P. Hayes was much appreciated as many natives were in need of dental attention, but only extractions could be carried out during the visit. There were 196 extractions. I am hoping that a trained nurse will soon be appointed. A furnished residence was made available last year. A hospital building is also needed.

*Conduct* has been good, and a much more friendly atmosphere exists among all sections of the community since the removal of one man who was responsible for much unrest.

*Building*.—A residence for the Chaplain was erected, also a building for a dispensary. Fifteen native houses were also erected. These buildings were built from local material, the frame work of local bush timber covered with palm-leaf. A great deal of work was needed to erect as all timber, &c., had to be carried some distance by man-power—we have no other means of transport.

*Agriculture*.—Garden produce harvested consisted of sweet potatoes, cassava, yams, arrow-root, taro, as well as vegetable garden produce, pawpaws, custard apples, bananas, and coconuts were also harvested.

*Cattle*.—So far we have not been able to have a herd of cattle for the benefit of the Mission. The reserve contains some hundreds of square miles of good cattle country capable of running a large herd which would be a valuable asset to the Mission not only as a food supply but as a source of employment and income as well.

*Recreation*.—The most popular recreation continues to be native corroborees. Football and basket ball have been introduced by the school teacher, Mr. Hooper-Colsey, and are becoming popular.

*General*.—The past year has been one of steady progress, especially the erection of houses for the people, but more remains to be done before all married people are properly housed. It is hoped to have more land planted with food crops during the coming year, but to do this a rotary hoe is needed; at present all agricultural work has to be performed by hand with hoes—a slow process.

*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 12.

### HAMMOND ISLAND MISSION.

#### STAFF.

Rev. O. McDermott, Priest in Charge.

Rev. J. Raymond, Assistant Priest.

Two Sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in charge of the school and women's welfare work.

Rev. Father Dixon, who has been in charge of the Mission during the past four years, has been transferred to the aboriginal Mission of Santa Teresa, Alice Springs, which ministers to the natives of the East Aranda tribes, and his place has been taken by Rev. Father McDermott, who has been interested in the Hammond Island Mission since he founded it 25 years ago.

The past year has witnessed a gradual growth in the mission residents, who now number 106. This number will increase as building accommodation becomes available.

*School*.—Thirty-eight pupils are now enrolled. Besides the subjects of the usual curriculum the sisters teach their pupils domestic science, needlework, music, singing, and correct deportment. The good manners and the friendly disposition of the children make many favourable impressions on visitors to the mission. Because of ill-health the sisters have not been able to carry on their usual mission work for some months. During their absence Father Raymond, assisted by a senior half-caste girl, has successfully added school-teaching to his many other duties. Mrs. Francis Dorante rendered valuable aid in supervising the sewing and domestic crafts of the children. The sisters will be back at their posts early in July.

The *Welfare Work* of the mission has been carried out by the priests and sisters, who arrange concerts and entertainments, supervise organised recreations, and encourage the people to take pride in their homes and gardens.

The *Health* of the inhabitants of the mission during the year under review has on the whole been good. Minor illnesses are treated by the Mission staff; more serious conditions are promptly sent to Thursday Island General Hospital which is of easy access.

Unfortunately some parents are reluctant to accept sound advice re their children's health or to avail themselves of the medical facilities so easily available to them. This attitude resulted in the death of one infant from malnutrition during the year whilst a few other children may be classed as anaemic. The island provides facilities for ample food for all; the fishing grounds are good, the soil is suitable for gardens, there is an abundance of excellent water for home consumption and gardens, dugong and turtle are caught and distributed on a community basis. The Mission operates a non-profit-making store which provides essential commodities at favourable prices.

*Building Operations*.—The most spectacular building effort has been the completion of the commodious stone church designed by Father Dixon and built by him and the men of the Mission who at times were ably assisted by well-wishers from Thursday Island. Chief amongst the voluntary workers from Thursday Island was the late Edwin Clark.

Improvements have been made to the staff quarters of the priests and sisters, to the school, and several homes. Two new homes are in the course of erection and other homes will be commenced as soon as labour and materials are available. The homes of Hislo Sabatino, Francis Dorante, and Mrs. Johanna Sabatino have set a very good standard which other home builders will strive to emulate.

Maintenance of mission buildings, boats, jetty, and homes has kept the small number of permanent residents rather busy.

*Employment*.—The majority of the able-bodied men are engaged in the pearlshell industry and work satisfactorily. Francis Sabatino, whose boat is manned almost completely by Hammond Island men, was one of the Thursday Island fleet's most successful

divers last season. Those not engaged in marine industry are employed in Thursday Island as carpenters, shipwrights, and labourers. These return to the Mission each evening. The women and children of the Mission devote much of their spare time to fishing and gardening. The absence of the men for the greater part of the year in outside employment throws a big strain on the priest in charge and our full-time mission helper, Francis Dorante, in the coping with the building and maintenance projects.

*Communications.*—In a long-drawn-out effort to establish telephone communication with Thursday Island much time, money, and labour has been spent by the Mission in bringing ashore at a suitable location the underwater cable used by the Army. Before operations on it were commenced this cable was tested by the P.M.G. Dept. and passed as efficient, but when it was eventually brought ashore it was again tested and found to be useless because of an under-water fault that had developed. Some other form of speedy communication will now have to be devised.

*Discipline.*—The conduct of the people of the Mission has on the whole been satisfactory. No serious offences against discipline or civil law have been recorded. The attendance of the children at school and of all at religious services has been all that could be expected. A good spirit of mutual help and co-operation animates the majority of the people of the Mission.

*Conclusion.*—The Mission would like to express its appreciation of the valued assistance rendered it by Mr. O'Leary and the officers of his Department, who have at all times been most courteous and helpful. Also, our thanks are due to the staff of Thursday Island Hospitals for the skilful care of our sick and to Sister McMahan of the children's clinic for her keen interest in the youngsters.

*Statistics.*—

Births .. .. .	4
Deaths .. .. .	1
School children .. .. .	38

APPENDIX 13.

LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, John A. Warby.)

STAFF.

Priest, Rev. N. J. Eley.  
 School Teacher, Miss A. Hann.  
 Agriculturist, R. L. Ewin.  
 Engineer, G. Pidsley.  
 Bookkeeper, Mrs. J. A. Warby.  
 Cattle Manager, J. Callope.  
 Carpenter, W. Namok.

The past year has seen many changes on the Mission, not the least of these being the staff.

Mr. C. P. Taylor and Sister Doris Brown were married in June, 1953, and left the Mission in December. Mr. Pidsley then took over as Engineer, but the position of medical sister is still vacant although it is understood that this should shortly be filled. Miss Hann has been ably carrying out medical duties meanwhile.

Mr. R. L. Ewin arrived in February and commenced duties as Agriculturist. Mrs. J. A. Warby took over office duties on 1st July, 1953.

*Visitors.*—The Lord Bishop of Carpentaria visited the Mission three times and carried out confirmation. In December he was accompanied by Archdeacon Robertson, Chairman of Australian Board of Missions, and the Rev. A. Clint, Director of Co-operatives Australian Board of Missions. Rev. Clint is also with us at present.

*Employment.*—The general policy re employment has been to find suitable mission work for all male adults. This has been done in a number of ways; men are employed by the Mission in cattle work; others on the "Cape Grey" and "Yola" gathering trochus on a 50/50 share basis; still others are constructing a new village and various other buildings.

No men are employed on boats operating from Thursday Island although there is a good demand for them.

Home employment has resulted in great benefits both to the people and to the Mission. Home and church life are definitely improved as husbands are no longer absent most of the year. Not only this, however, while present on the Mission their time is well occupied with work which they can see to be worthwhile. In other years the Mission has been emasculated by the wholesale outside employment of male labour. Full home employment seems to have aroused a dormant spirit of self-respect and enthusiasm as our men turn their labours to the benefit of the Mission and themselves.

*Building.*—The new village continues to grow, and there will soon be a further six houses completed. These will be roofed with iron supplied by the Department of Native Affairs. The completed village is expected to consist of about 70 houses, a community centre for recreation, games and dancing, a store and a church.

The store measures 80 feet by 20 feet and is floored with concrete. It is roofed and walled with bark, but the roof framework was supplied by the Department of Native Affairs, who also loaned a carpenter to supervise construction. Part of this building is also used as a shell store.

A new system was adopted with the opening of the store. Whereas previously all store transactions were on a credit basis now all are strictly cash. This is proving most satisfactory and enables the people to gain a better idea of the value of money and what it will buy. Other advantages are that it is less work for the staff and provides the Mission with a quicker turnover. The aim is to make the store more like a retail store than a bulk store.

A school children's kitchen should be functioning in the near future. This kitchen is designed to provide regular worthwhile meals to all school children and should be of lasting benefit in raising the standard of health among the children many of whom now eat irregular, scanty, and poorly prepared meals. Nancy Powloo has been trained at Aplin Hostel to take charge of this kitchen.



A new teacher's house has been supplied by the Department of Native Affairs and erected under the supervision of a Torres Strait Island carpenter.

A new chaplain's house is in the course of erection and is now practically completed.

*Marine.*—The ketch "Yola" was purchased during the year, thus making three boats based on the Mission. "Mary Lockhart" continues to carry cargo while both "Yola" and "Cape Grey" are used in gathering trochus shell. The management of the trochus boats has been handed over to the Councillors. This is done to train them 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 this new responsibility.

The Director of Co-operatives for the Australian Board of Missions, the Rev. A. Clint, is at present on the Mission furthering the ground work of education necessary to prepare the people for their own co-operative society.

A slipway is in course of construction and will be in use in the near future. This will enable repairs being made to all boats as required without recourse to sending boats to Thursday Island.

*Cattle.*—One hundred and eighty head were branded and 125 were slaughtered for mission use. Work has commenced on a large paddock on the Lockhart River flats which 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.

*Agriculture.*—A large new garden has been established on the banks of the Cutta Creek, and a spray irrigation system will be erected in the near future. The produce from this new venture will greatly benefit the health of the people.

Cutta Creek has been damned and appears to be holding well. The water supply is improved with the erection of a pumping system plant run by a diesel engine, which pumps 800 gallons an hour to the mission over a distance of two miles. This pipe line is 1½ in. and 2 in. pipe and work is now under way to replace it with a 3 in. line which will improve the flow.

This creek water is a most welcome addition to the supply from the wells, but it is intended to improve it further. One well is in process of being dug to replace the main well which collapsed during the last dry season in November.

*Chaplain's Report.*—Since the last annual report was presented the most outstanding event in the year of Church work has been the building of a church.

The church is a fine building, the result of the combined efforts of the mission—staff, men, women, old people, and children, all made some contribution—so that it has become not merely

a building of bark and timber but a memorial to a spirit of comradeship, self-help, and self-confidence which grew from its building.

The building is 60 feet long by 55 feet wide at the transepts and 35 feet wide in the nave; it is built entirely of bush materials cut and hauled in by the people with, of course, the aid of a truck. The framework is of magnificent bloodwood and messmate timber; the roof is of messmate bark overlaid with paper bark and the walls are of messmark bark. The floor had to be built up to a depth of 4 feet 6 inches in some parts, and this was done by carting rocks from the seashore—over 200 tons of them. The stones were covered with dirt, and finally sand; the latter is being removed at present and the floor is being sprayed with Emoleum which provides an excellent and durable surface.

The church was dedicated in memory of St. James the Apostle by the Lord Bishop of Carpentaria on St. James Day, 25th July, 1953.

The provision of a proper church building has allowed development in other directions. On the spiritual side, two native men are now being trained as lay-readers and one, who is only 15 years old, hopes to pursue a vocation to the priesthood. He will be given every help and encouragement in this hope, without being "pushed." It will be a tremendous moral and spiritual uplift for aboriginal people everywhere if this boy can realise his ambition.

On the more material side, we were able to hold an election for Church councillors who are responsible for the material welfare of the Church, and for reminding the people of their spiritual obligations. These four councillors have taken their responsibilities very seriously and with great dignity, and during their first year have laid a sound foundation for future councillors.

With the election of councillors a further development was the introduction of a monetary collection during Sunday services. This was made possible first and foremost by the introduction of a cash system at the Mission store about two months previously. The people were shown that they had a financial responsibility towards the Church in their spiritual care, and they have responded remarkably well. Nobody is obliged to contribute to the collections—they do so quite voluntarily—and it means that more than enough has been given during the year to cover current expenses including the wages of a verger.

Another noteworthy event this year was a special church collection towards the cost of a new aerial ambulance for the Cairns ambulance service. In October, 1953, the Cairns aerial ambulance crashed into the sea carrying to their deaths the pilot and the patient who was a Lockhart Mission boy. The mission people decided that their memorial to this boy should be a gift towards the cost of a new plane. It was decided to give the collection for one Sunday to this cause; when the collection was counted the result was astounding, £108 13s. having been given that day. This serves to illustrate that the people of the mission are capable of looking beyond their immediate surroundings and immediate needs and of giving help to outside causes.

The regular routine of Church services and school instruction have been carried on regularly during the year. During the absence of the Chaplain on sick leave services were conducted by the Superintendent, School Teacher, and Carpenter.

The latest development in Church life has been the introduction of a modified version of Sunday school. This is as yet in its infancy but is hoped it will develop into a real power in the spiritual and moral development of the children, and thus in the future of the mission.

#### Medical Report.—

Births .. .. .	9
Deaths .. .. .	4
Outpatients—daily attendance ..	20

During the year there have been two epidemics—measles and influenza—also a number of fever, pneumonia, and gastric cases. There have been the usual sores, bad ears, aches, and pains.

Several times during the year groups of patients went to Thursday Island for medical examinations and X-rays.

Pre-school children are given milk and colliron daily. Mothers have milk, pentavite, and ferri sulphate tablets, while school children have ferri phosph. Porridge and milk is also provided for those who require it.

Infant welfare is conducted fortnightly, when a regular check is made of the babies' weights. In April this year Dr. Whittle and two sisters from Thursday Island hospital inaugurated a medical survey of the people at Lockhart. Sister Menner followed this up in April, and in May Dr. Meredith and Sister Spencer completed the survey. This has been most beneficial to all concerned, and the interest and work of the medical parties has been greatly appreciated.

#### School report.—

Number of pupils on roll .. ..	67
Average attendance .. .. .	66.6
School was opened 199 days.	

There are seven grades, ranging from the beginners to Grade 6. Owing to lack of space and teaching staff the kindergarten work has had to go into recess until such times as the kindergarten room is built. Seven grades crowded into the one room makes the work for teachers and pupils extremely difficult.

For the past six months I have had the supervision of the medical work as well. This has resulted in a great deal of broken time in the school and it has prevented the new syllabus coming into operation. The aim of the new syllabus is to introduce more practical work, discussions and responsibility of the individual.

*Manual Work.*—This work amongst the boys is seriously handicapped as no one is available to take them regularly. The boys have planted out a number of mango trees.

The girls are taught dressmaking, fancywork, knitting, and basket making.

*Conclusion.*—On behalf of Lockhart River Mission I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Australian Board of Missions, the Department of Native Affairs, the Thursday Island Hospital, and all organisations and individuals for their assistance and co-operation.

## APPENDIX 14.

### MAPOON MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. G. W. Holmes,  
B.A., Dip. Ed.)

#### STAFF.

Mrs. Holmes.  
Miss M. Cochrane.  
Mr. J. Mackie.

The staff was increased by the arrival of Miss Cochrane in August to take over the school and medical work, and Mr. Mackie, in September, to take charge of store, certain of the office work, and children's work. This lightened the burden of Mr. and Mrs. Holmes and made for greater efficiency.

*Activities.*—Religious services remain the centre of Mission life; these have been increased by a Sunday school for the smaller children under Miss Cochrane. A weekly hymn singing is held, a men's choir has been formed and meet weekly, but is practically disbanded as men have gone out to work.

#### Statistics.—

Births .. .. .	8 female 3 male
Deaths .. .. .	2 both aged women
Marriage .. .. .	1

*Industry.*—The sale of shell necklaces has greatly increased and as we are obtaining a better price these have proved a valuable source of income and women have concentrated on them.

A larger number of men have engaged in stock work in the Gulf area rather than boat work.

Crocodile hunting has provided a limited income at various times. After four seasons hunting it seems the crocodiles are either scarce or cunning though night hunting was introduced during the year and it is a better method.

A limited number of men are employed at the Mission on routine work; some of these are engaged on stock work. We are unable to do other than guess we have about 1,000 head of cattle. The need here is for white supervision. New regulations re privately owned horses came into force in June and these are now under control. The Mission purchased clean-skin foals and horses of non-resident owners making a useful increase in the number of work horses.

*Dairy.*—We have received a jersey bred bull from Aurukun for building up our milkers. A beginning was made with a goat herd. We received a pure Saanen buck from Charters Towers and a doe from Longreach. We have several scrub nannies, and a promise of more part-bred Saanens from Mr. Gray from Umbacumba, Groote Island.

*Poultry.*—These are not worked for economic ends now. We only have enough for home use. Ducks have increased to about 80 from four given us by Mr. Gray. Some of these were sold to purchase 1,000 day-old New Hampshire chickens which are now beginning to lay. Ducks and fat roosters have been sold in Thursday Island or bartered for kind.

**Coconuts.**—Mapoon is noted for its coconuts. We have an idea that they contribute to the health of the children and their teeth. We have been able to sell them in Thursday Island this year, receiving often goods in exchange for them. Coconuts have been sent to the Agency, Thursday Island, Mornington Island, Bamaga, Umbacumba (Groote Island), Groote Island Church of England Mission, Mitchell River Mission, and passing boats have taken them aboard. Besides human consumption they are used here for food for poultry and pigs.

**Garden.**—We have tried most winter vegetables and were very successful with tomatoes which cropped heavily. Bananas have been well established after a lapse of many years. Papaws have done well, but alas a well meaning native knocked over by mistake many of them while young. The garden was watered by hose from a power pump but the water supply is not adequate.

**Fishtrap.**—Fish abound here and for convenience we build a trap at the Mission rather than some distance away. The estimated catch on the night after completion was 1,000 fish of all varieties. We have not had so many again, which is well. Fish have proved of immense value to all.

**Bush foods.**—Mapoon and hereabouts is a very good hunting ground for the natives who either depend upon it entirely or need to supplement their stores rations. We have found in the blood count that those on bush tucker had the highest count. In the sea they get fish, dugong, turtle, shellfish of several kinds; on land, wallabies and smaller animals, and all kinds of birds and ducks, geese, &c., from the nearby swamps also wild pigs, yams, berries, and native fruits of all kinds.

**Boats.**—With the continued lay-up of "Reliance" we were served by the "Janet Thompson" and "Remus". The "Remus" under Harry Brown as skipper, did sterling work, often in spite of mechanical defects.

The "Melbidir" came down in December with some cargo and Mrs. Holmes and baby Roslyn. This kindness of the D.N.A.'s was much appreciated.

A product of Mapoon workshop during the year was a polished communion table, a memorial of the late Rev. J. N. Hey, an 18-foot launch for general running about work, an 18-foot barge for loading, &c., and several dinghies for the men or tenders for boats.

**Thanks.**—Again we are conscious of many who have assisted us during the year, and especially thank Mr. O'Leary for his interest, and assistance as well as members of his staff, also the G.M.O. and hospital staffs. The thanks of Mapoon people and staff are given to these.

#### HEALTH.

Haemoglobin tests to the community revealed a high percentage of anaemia cases. Hookworm medicine was given to everybody, also the school children, at regular intervals received ferri ammon. cit. and cod liver oil. Thirty or more cases of scabies and impetigo made worse by the swarms of flies were treated daily.

With the assistance of the teachers every child (school and pre-school age) was treated for a week and since then we have only had rare cases.

"Running stomach" is always prevalent here but the number of cases appear to be dwindling of late. About six cases of ringworm are dealt with every month when the monthly "all over" check-up of the school children is made with the help of the teachers.

An epidemic of 'flu overtook the village but only one serious pneumonia case resulted from it. We also had one measles case (recent from Thursday Island, but the case stayed at one.

Out-patients average 10 daily for minor ailments, abscesses and boils, sutures, dislodging various objects from ears and eyes, the mango season sores, tonsillitis, ringworm, and one case of granuloma. Several teeth were extracted.

In-patients for the year numbered 40, covering a variety of complaints such as—2 erysipelis, 1 shingles, 1 severe jelly-fish burn, 2 sutures (young children), 5 cardiacs, 1 lung haemorrhage, 1 death adder bite, 4 large abscesses, 1 after-birth infection, 1 stroke right side, 1 baby swallowing kerosene, 4 pneumonia, 5 gastro with complications, 1 diabetic sore, 1 spinal complaint, 1 child with tetanus symptoms, 1 large burn, 1 concussion, 1 large ulcer, and other miscellaneous complaints requiring watchful and constant treatment.

#### MAPOON MISSION SCHOOL.

The school is comprised of 74 pupils with classes ranging from Grade IV. to Prep. I. and seven assistant native teachers. The Mission regrets the loss of Laura Scott, who has moved to Thursday Island with her family. Laura was a half-caste teacher who for several years carried on ably as head teacher in the absence of a Missionary assistant here.

During recent months the children have had access to a new school library comprised of books mainly donated by interested Church friends in the southern States.

The younger classes also are privileged to have the use of lovely toys &c. for their half-hour playroom session once a week. Quite a number of these were constructed by the Superintendent and two of the natives. Some of them prove quite helpful in the teaching of number work.

Just prior to Christmas the school children produced a Christmas pageant. Some of the dresses worn were made by the school girls taking dressmaking lessons. At present the children are being trained maypole and folk dancing.

The children with their teachers have made some valiant attempts to create a garden. Some of their efforts have been well repaid—others just leave no trace but the old seashore sand.

It is encouraging to note the pride the teachers and children are taking in their lessons and round the school.

The sending home of school examination reports for mum's signature appears to have aroused some of the would be lazy scholars.

## APPENDIX 15.

## MITCHELL RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent—Mr. F. W. Currington.)

## STAFF.

Mr. A. J. Warman ;  
 Mr. J. Ross Edwards ;  
 Miss S. M. Card (Head Teacher) ;  
 Sister J. Squibb (in Charge of Hospital) ;  
 Mrs. M. H. Warman (Girls Dormitory Matron) ;  
 and  
 Mr. K. Hodson (Cattle Manager).

## Statistics.—

Births .. .. .	14
Deaths .. .. .	4
Marriages .. .. .	2

*Religion.*—Religious services are held regularly by the lay missionaries, and religious instruction is given in the school.

*Employment.*—There has been the usual demand for native stockmen during the past year, and these have been met as far as possible with the limited number of men available for outside work.

*Industrial Improvements.*—Work has been carried on as usual among the cattle and our brandings are well up to standard. The Edward River Mission has been supplied with killers, also all Mission workers receive their daily ration of meat. General repairs have been carried out on yards and fences. Negotiations are under way for a further sale of Mitchell River Mission bullocks.

*Agriculture.*—All gardens are doing well and are carrying good crops of vegetables and tropical fruits, which add greatly to the native diet. This applies to both village and staff gardens.

*Improvements* are being continually carried out, both in staff quarters and native villages. A new house has been erected for the Superintendent, and several other buildings are in process of erection. The 110-volt power house and refrigeration system installed last year by the Department of Health and Home Affairs is giving sterling service. Several new village houses have been erected, and these now have raised floors about 2 feet 6 inches above the ground.

Work is continually being carried out on the air-strip to keep it up to D.C.A. specifications.

*Conduct.*—General native conduct on the Mission has been quite satisfactory.

*School.*—We have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Miss S. M. Card as head teacher, who gives the following report:—Staff—Leah, Venus, Kathleen, Lorna, Frances, Nancy, and Suzanne. Kathleen and Frances left to be married. Jessie is helping as Suzanne has to go to Thursday Island again this year. Attendance—Total enrolment 76, children who left during the year 13, new pupils 7. Total attendances, 10,265. School days, 168. Average attendance, 61.2.

*General.*—Once again the year has been one of many interruptions caused by changes in staff. We are grateful to Leah, who has given many years to the teaching of her own people. Towards the end of the school year the matron's departure and the sudden death of Sister Webster created a serious situation in the work of the Mission. Leah took charge of the school to free Miss Mussett for dispensary work. Pupils were helped to give care and attention to the school gardens. Fences have been repaired to keep the stock out of them. At the end of the year the examination results were not as high as the standard at midyear owing to the unsettled conditions under which they were held. The new year opened with a special service in the Church, followed at the school by an act of loyalty to Her Majesty on the occasion of her arrival in Australia. The interest in the Queen shown by their enjoyment of broadcasts, weekly news pictures, and film strips referring to her.

The keenness of the children for their lessons speaks well of the good work done in the school over many years. The young teachers gain commendable results and an effort is made to give them every possible help in their work.

The children are divided into four Houses, having as their motto, "Work Hard—Play Hard—Pray Hard". The pupils walk into their daily morning service in their House groups. Their first competitive effort was a long games period. Much should be done to develop this side of school life, as this provides an outlet for their boundless activity.

A House handicraft exhibition was held during the visit of the Bishop of Carpentaria, at which the parents assisted. Parents have also shown their interest by attending a weekly film-strip evening programme.

Every good school endeavours to teach the things which will mould the characters of its pupils that they will live as good citizens. This is being done at morning services and scripture lessons and also by example of the staff of the Mission.

*Health.*—A result of the high percentage of anaemia, &c., the Hookworm Control, Cairns, was approached and they are making it possible for a complete hookworm survey of all aborigines on the Mission to be carried out at a later date—some time in May.

Yaws and ringworm still appear prevalent. Respective treatments carried out.

Routine visits of the Flying Doctor are greatly appreciated, as is also the radio service.

The Flying Dentist has paid several visits during the year which have proved extremely helpful.

Two natives help in the hospital, and it is hoped to start suitable lectures for these girls shortly. A new temporary hospital consisting of two wards each accommodating three beds was completed late in 1953. Quarters for the nurse are attached. Baby clinic and distribution of milk and oatmeal for all children under five years is carried out weekly and attendance is very good. Ante-natal clinic is conducted weekly.

*Anaemia.*—All school children, pre-school children, babies, and their mothers were tested for anaemia at the end of February and the majority found to be below 80 per cent. Iron tablets were given and marked improvement shown.

*Girls' Dormitory.*—There are 39 school girls and 10 dormitory girls at the moment. All girls are happy at their work which, on the whole, they do well.

A large garden has been cultivated and we are looking forward to a good crop of fruit and vegetables this year.

A wardrobe room has been fitted up and each girl has three dresses, two for school and one for Church. These are washed and mended every day. Ringworm has been a scourge but it is clearing up now. Dormitory combs are kept in a strong solution of Dettol.

On the whole the health of the girls is good, and a feeling of contentment prevails around the dormitory.

We hope to start a Brownie pack in the very near future, and later on if this proves a success, to have a Guide company.

*Appreciation.*—In furtherance to this report I would like placed on record the wonderful service we have received from the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, who are always willing to help up in any way they can. Without them many things would not have been possible.

#### APPENDIX 16.

#### MORNINGTON ISLAND MISSION.

##### STAFF.

Superintendent, Rev. D. L. Bolcher.  
 Matron, Mrs. D. L. Bolcher.  
 Hospital, Sister A. O'D. Creagh.  
 Stock and Agriculture, Mr. J. Gillanders.  
 Head Teacher, Mrs. J. Gillanders, B.A.

Births .. .. 15  
 Deaths .. .. 18 (11 during epidemic)

*Religion.*—Daily services are held and the Sacraments administered. Eight teen-age boys and girl were baptised and six infants. A mid-weekly choir practice night has been introduced with success.

Edward Namie, who is blind, felt called of God to minister to the aged people, and has done a remarkably practical work in this respect. Besides conducting services he has established a cookhouse for the benefit of these old people and his wife cares for their clothes.

*Health.*—In September-October there was an epidemic of measles followed by bacillary dysentery. Two-thirds of the population were affected, and between 12th November and 3rd December 11 children, all under four years, died. No deaths occurred among school children who were fed at the Mission. In the opinion of Dr. Johnson, Deputy Director of Health, the main factor in these deaths was anaemia caused by inadequate diet and hookworm. Blood trans-

fusion work was commenced by Dr. Gordon Shaw, of the Flying Doctor Service, and this was carried on by a transfusion team headed by Dr. Johnson.

By tests made all the children on the Station were found to be infested with hookworm despite regular treatment. The primitive habits of the Bentinck Islanders living in the village probably keep the incidence of hookworm at a high level though improved sanitation should reduce this.

There is too much carbohydrate and too little vitamin C in the diet and to remedy this and overcome anaemia a course of vitamin and iron tablets was given to all children, and the under-four-years group were fed from the Mission directly instead of rations being issued directly to the mothers as before. The whole matter of diet is connected with the problem of arable land and water supply; this will be dealt with separately.

There has been marked improvement in the incidence of eye disease because of improved hygiene, despite the epidemic referred to. Dr. Marks, an eye specialist, visited the Mission and inspected the children.

The Flying Doctor includes this Mission in a monthly clinic trip, quite apart from special calls, and this work is of great value enabling conditions which might become acute to be treated and, if necessary, arrangements made for removal to hospital.

Sister Creagh has done splendid work during a particularly trying year.

*Dental Clinic.*—This has been established on the Mission with the equipment supplied by the Department of Health and Home Affairs. We have had one visit from Mr. K. Versace, the itinerant dentist at Cloncurry. He found dental health generally to be very good. Although regular visits were to be made, there has been none since the initial one in June.

*Sanitation.*—Standard E.C. cabinets have been purchased and installed by the native people and improvements made in the disposal of nightsoil. Plans for over-all improvement by the re-erection of cement-floored bathing and lavatory facilities await a decision concerning the site of the Mission and water supply.

*Water Supply.*—The difficulty is inadequate supply. Unless there is a good wet season the water shortage occurs later in the season, and even in normal seasons sufficient water is not available for domestic use and irrigation at the critical time. Several attempts have been made to locate good ground-water and a bore has been sunk unsuccessfully. It is hoped that by the end of the dry season of 1954 thorough tests will have been made by qualified persons to determine whether there is enough water available to justify the continuance of the Mission on the island. Therefore the execution of all permanent works awaits this decision; it may be that a better site on the island than the present one will be found.

*Agriculture.*—Because of the water problem and poor quality and area of land available for cultivation garden produce is almost nil. A method of intensive cultivation whereby the soil is built up with compost and manure is being studied.

*Cattle and Dairy.*—Lack of fencing hinders control—one or two beasts are killed weekly for Mission use. The prospects of improving the cattle are good, though the difficulties against marketing are great because of isolation; however, more beef than is available at present can be used for domestic consumption. Cattle are light in weight and inbred and there is need of new blood. About 10 gallons of milk daily are produced during the wet season but this quantity dwindles as the dry season comes. A young half-Jersey bull has been given to us by Aurukun Mission to help build up a dairy herd. The total number of cattle is 1,200.

*Industrial.*—Cold room and deep freezing equipment awaits installation. This will improve the fresh meat holding capacity and may enable a fishing industry to be established with markets on the mainland, by air freight.

New erections and installation.—

1 large bush-timber, corrugated galvanised iron workshop.

1 3-h.p. water pump plant.

1 small annexe to hospital.

Conversion of old dormitory to children's dining-room.

4 chains of garden fencing.

Subdivision of old school building into clothing store, kindergarten, sewing-room, and matron's office.

*Village.*—There has been activity on the part of the people in erecting better dwellings. Corrugated galvanised iron has been made available for sale to those with means and free issues to others. Small cooking stoves have been purchased by some and there is a desire on the part of our people for a better standard of living gained by their own effort. A community hut for the aged has been erected; this gave shelter during the wet weather and has meant the abolition of nondescript humpies.

Following medical opinion of the sandy village site as being a bad hookworm area, and with diminishing living space in the village, the people have suggested moving the village back to the nearby ironstone plateau, which is lightly timbered and hard underfoot.

*Air Service and Strip.*—A fortnightly mail and passenger service connects the station with the Cloncurry-Gulf Service. A cross airstrip is being constructed to conform with Civil Aviation requirements.

*Bentinck Islanders.*—These people have settled down on Mornington Island, their children being noticeably intelligent in school. One man and a lad have gone to mainland station employment this year, being the first of their people here to do so.

*Employment.*—Thirty men and three women are employed in mainland jobs. Lads are encouraged to go to suitable stations in order to learn stock work. An average of six men are employed as crew on the m.v. "Cora" which carries all our stores from Thursday Island.

*Education.*—There are 120 children in school and kindergarten. Because of lack of space the school is now held in the church building, and the old school house has been used for other purposes. We hope to get a new school building soon. The standard of work is poor, this is because we have no full-time and trained white school teacher. A half-caste teacher does well

under the circumstances, assisted by one young man and several girls. It falls to the assistant's wife to supervise the school but as she has home and family responsibilities she is unable to give full time to the school, which it requires. Four girls have reached the standard of Grade V, whereas previously they left school at Grade IV, but this work is done without much teacher help.

*Dormitory.*—With improvements in village housing the children now live with their parents and the dormitories are used only for the Bentinck girls, whose parents have not yet advanced beyond small humpies for shelter. We plan to build adequate shelters for these people. For some time the children have been cared for by their parents, at special times such as the need for dispersal during drought and the period of transition from a semi-nomadic life to a settled village life is completed. The continued separation of the children from their parents robs both of family life and responsibility. Each mission has its own problem in this respect but the step taken here is proving successful after nearly a year.

*General.*—Members of the Presbyterian Missions Committee visited the station in April and matters arising from Dr. Johnson's report studied. Recommendations concerning water supply and general development as outlined in this report are a result of a conference between these representatives and the Mission staff.

*Appreciation.*—Doctors G. Shaw and A. Halloran of the Flying Doctor Service, Doctors D. Johnson and P. Hutton, Nurses L. Drew and C. Rust, Sisters B. Hilford and D. Bailey, of New Zealand, the Director of Native Affairs, and the Department of Health and Home Affairs, all who helped during the epidemic and in other ways.

## APPENDIX 17.

### ST. PAUL'S MISSION, MOA ISLAND.

(Chaplain, the Ven. Archdeacon C. G. Brown, B.A.)

#### STAFF.

Headmaster, Mr. P. H. MacFarlane, B.A.

Assistant Teacher, Miss. E. L. Mussett.

M.A.P., Mrs. H. M. Wynter.

Native Staff, three Teachers.

One Nurse and two General Work.

*The Village.*—The sudden drop in the price of wolfram towards the end of 1953 has meant that home building plans have been delayed but several houses have been completed and progress made with others in course of construction.

Wolfram mining came to a standstill in December and most of the able-bodied men have gone out on diving boats this year, mainly for trochus shell.

*Local Government.*—The annual election took place in January when the five councillors who held office last year were re-elected and the same chairman was again appointed. The division of work and responsibility among the councillors is continuing to work satisfactorily.



Wolfram Mining, St. Pauls Mission, Moea Island.

## WEIPA MISSION.

## STAFF.

Superintendent, J. S. Winn.  
 Matron, Mrs. J. S. Winn.  
 Assistant, Miss Marjorie Cochrane.  
 Assistant, Mr. P. Fletcher.  
 Assistant, Mrs. P. Fletcher.

**Church.**—Further progress has been made with the church tower which has now reached about half of the proposed height. Mainly as a result of work done by the people themselves and of some handsome gifts the interior furnishings have been greatly improved.

At the beginning of March St. Paul's Theological College returned to St. Paul's Mission from Thursday Island and the Principal the Venerable Archdeacon C. G. Brown became Chaplain of St. Paul's Mission.

There are seven students at the Theological College, and three deacons are receiving further training here.

One Deacon, the Reverend Seriba Sagigi, was raised to the priesthood and is now stationed at Yorke Island.

**Buildings.**—In addition to work on the church two new school rooms 20 feet square have been erected and other Mission buildings repaired and painted.

A new store is now in course of erection in order to make provision for increased stock and turnover.

**Health.**—The Government Medical Officer and two sisters from Thursday Island made in March the first of three visits to do a thorough health survey and to give immunisation injections. This medical care is much appreciated by the people.

The dentist who recently stayed for five weeks at the Mission found much work to do.

A measles epidemic affected many of the children last year but general health has been good. Many minor cases of sickness, sores, &c., have been treated at the local dispensary and more serious cases have been taken to Thursday Island hospital. There have been seven births and three deaths (two infants).

**School.**—School progress for the year has been quite satisfactory. Emphasis has been on the development of clear thinking and reasoned judgments—two weak aspects of the islanders, make-up.

Two new classrooms have been built and when a third is added the eight classes will be well housed in four convenient units with library and craft space as well.

In January, 1954, Miss E. Mussett, late of Mitchell River Mission, joined the staff which once again consists of two white teachers and three native teachers. There are 82 pupils, including several from other islands.

One of our pupils, Dorothea Savika, has been enrolled at St. Gabriel's Church of England Girls' School, Charters Towers, where she has settled in quite happily. She will sit for the Scholarship this year. In her first term examination she secured an average of 70 per cent., a commendable result in view of the considerable social adjustment required of her.

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.

During the 12 months under review the Presbyterian Church of Queensland lost the services of the Rev. James McPhail, who resigned his position as Administrator for Foreign and Aboriginal Missions. Our association with him during his term of office was most co-operative and friendly, his resignation was received by us with regret. We take this opportunity of recording our appreciation of his services.

The appointment of the Rev. James Sweet as the new Administrator for Aboriginal Missions renews our hopes and we look forward to long and faithful service and much progress under his leadership. We assure him of our utmost co-operation.

Our thanks to Miss Marjorie Cochrane, who was transferred to Mapoon Mission at the end of June, 1953. When Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher, the new assistants, arrived here at Weipa on 22nd June, 1953, Miss Cochrane had been with us eight months. Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher settled in wonderfully well and we were more than satisfied with our new co-workers; they arrived in good time to take over the responsibility of the Mission during our furlough December-March, when his application for the dual task of Home Missionary and Aboriginal Mission Agent at Thursday Island was accepted by the Church Committee, Brisbane. His appointment taking effect on Mr. and Mrs. Winn's return from leave. This appointment was wise in the interest of the overall work of the Mission, but leaves greatly increased burdens in the interim on the Superintendent and his wife.

Another note of sorrow to all stations was the news that the services of Mr. Bill Norgate, the skipper of the Mission boat "Reliance", would not be available to us for some considerable time, through ill-health. The sincere wish of each and all on the Stations is for complete recovery and a renewal of happy association with us in the work again.

Mr. G. Stockman was appointed as successor to Mr. Norgate as skipper of the "Reliance", and in him we find a happy helpful worker.

**Religion.**—Sunday and daily services have been maintained throughout the year with good average attendance.

*Statistics.*—

Communicants on Roll on 31st March, 1954	..	79
Marriages	.. .. .	4
Baptisms	.. .. .	2
Births	.. .. .	4
Deaths	.. .. .	5



**Medical.**—We find that our Mission boats, per their crew members and people returning from Thursday Island, are responsible for most epidemic forms of sickness that beset us. Coughs, colds, and measles were the most troublesome of our complaints, and on such occasions the staff situation is quite inadequate.

Health statistics for the year show the number of outpatients treated:—

Daily average .. .. .	15
In-patients .. .. .	72
Patients sent to Thursday Island for periodical check-up .. .. .	10
Patients sent to Thursday Island for other complaints .. .. .	7

**School.**—Mrs. Fletcher took over the school from Miss Cochrane, with the aid of native teachers, Ina Hall, Theresa Motton, and Florence Mark. The school curriculum was faithfully carried out.

During the last quarter the school was closed by reason of an epidemic of measles.

Attendance:—

Number of days school open	214
Number of pupils .. .. .	33

**Employment**—Outside.—Temporary employment was available to a number of men doing short terms on trochus boats and to a few at Bamaga under the D.N.A. Department. Two only were working out on cattle stations, one returning to the Mission after long absence.

Three were employed as crewmen on our own Mission boats.

**Inside.**—Employment on a rotary basis around the Mission—stockmen, milkmen, building, milling, gardening and airstrip clearing. Others deriving income from manufacture of aboriginal curios, firesticks, woomeras, spears, crochet, basket making. Cordwood and posts were sent to Thursday Island for sale every opportunity.

**Agriculture.**—An extension of banana and papaw areas was made this year and trees have made a good strike, all looking healthy. Sweet potatoes yielded a good crop and beans were prolific. Other sowings were below average but sufficient in season to add variety to the children's diet.

Area under lucerne increasing yearly.

Rainfall for the period under review 64 inches 9 points.

**Stock.**—This branch of our work is the most unsatisfactory, lacking experienced white supervision, and with saddlery deteriorating results were poor. It is utterly impossible to feel satisfied that the utmost is being done by the native stockmen on whom we have to rely, nor is it possible for the Superintendent to leave the Station unattended for the period necessary to muster all our country. He can at least add a few more grey hairs to his head. No additional fencing was done but repairs to existing lines carried out.

**Aerodrome.**—These are kept up to the standard necessary to maintain our 'drome license. Improvements are gradual. Visits have been made by the 'drome inspector from the Civil Aviation Department, the Cairns ambulance plane and bush pilots.

**Industrial.**—Last year's report indicated that truck, jinker, and sawmill were of tremendous value to the Station, sad to relate that all three are this year out of commission and their loss further illustrates the tremendous value they were. All real progressive work was tied up in this equipment and it is most unfortunate that there is no immediate prospect of replacing this equipment. The effect of this will be a steady depreciation of other properties through having no facilities for maintenance repairs, curtailing also industrial training for the native workmen. Completion of other works are held up for lack of finance.

**Conduct.**—No complaints. A few disheartening incidents, but generally differences are settled satisfactorily.

**Social.**—The ever-increasing cost of stores and the static state of remuneration available to the people is increasing the problems of our modern Mission day life. Stores are procurable and available but by the time the No. 1 priority (tobacco) is bought other lines of food have to be done without, and that is a phase that should concern all. No doubt shells, fish, and seasonal bush foods are available to the village, but the balanced diet the store provides is seriously curtailed. Clothing becomes more difficult for them to buy thereby creating a truculent atmosphere not in accordance with policies which dream of progress, absorption, and assimilation.

Seasonal events do provide a measure of contentment, and all gifts provided by the organisations of our church are doubly welcomed these days, building up a moral and spiritual strength in both people and Missionary. High days and holidays always provide their quota of interest in sport and amusements, with native canoes thrown in for extra measure.

The refrigerating plant and electric lighting system have provided another year's trouble-free service for which we are really thankful. The benefits of such amenities cannot be rated too highly.

Visitors numbered 35; included doctors, ambulance bearers, pilots, Civil Aviation representatives, Mr. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, Mr. Murray, Harbour Master from Thursday Island, and members of the Missionary staff from other stations, all of whom it was a pleasure to receive and accommodate.

**Appreciation.**—We express our appreciation and indebtedness to the many friends in Church organisations who contribute to the great extent to the material, physical, financial, and spiritual need of the people. To our Administrator and his staff within the church office. The Government Medical Officer, Thursday Island, and to all members of his hospital staff. To the Cairns Ambulance staff and those pilots who so willingly came to our help when required. To the members of the D.N.A. Wireless staff for their patient, helpful service. To the Director of Native Affairs and his staff whose co-operation asked, and given in an ever-increasing measure has provided invaluable to the work of our Missions.

With such service continuing we look forward to another year of progress.

**Native Affairs - Information contained in Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Twelve months ended 30th June 1954**

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aboriginals

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