



1955.

QUEENSLAND.

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# REPORT

UPON THE

## OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

Native Affairs, "Eventide" (Sandgate), "Eventide" (Charters Towers), "Eventide" (Rockhampton), Institution for Inebriates (Marburg), and Queensland Industrial Institution for the Blind (South Brisbane).

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PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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

Department of Health and Home Affairs,  
Brisbane, 6th July, 1955.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit, for presentation to Parliament, the following information regarding the operations of the undermentioned Sub-Departments of this Department.

K. J. McCORMACK,  
Under Secretary.

NATIVE AFFAIRS (Director, C. O'Leary).

"EVENTIDE," SANDGATE (Acting Manager, R. W. Magill).

"EVENTIDE," CHARTERS TOWERS (Acting Manager, F. W. Slattery).

"EVENTIDE," ROCKHAMPTON (Manager, A. V. Solomon).

INSTITUTION FOR INEBRIATES, MARBURG (Superintendent, K. W. Moffat).

QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, SOUTH BRISBANE (Manager, E. P. Kelleher).

## Native Affairs—Annual Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Year ended 30th June, 1955.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the Annual Report under "*The Aborigines Preservation and Protection Acts, 1939 to 1946*," and "*The Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946*," for the year ended 30th June, 1955.

### POPULATION.

The estimated population of aboriginals, half-bloods and Torres Strait Islanders is—aboriginals, 9,762; half-bloods, 7,039; Torres Strait Islanders, 5,551.

The majority of Torres Strait Islanders live on Torres Strait reserves established under "*The Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939*." There are, however, approximately 800 Torres Strait Islanders (numbers included in the above figure) living in the Cairns, Innisfail, Ingham, Halifax,

and Hughenden districts. These men with their wives and families have, of their own volition left their home islands to seek employment in the canefields, the Railway Department's service and other vocations to which they have been attracted.

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 reserves are:—

	Area.	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Torres Strait Islanders.	Total.
Palm Island Government Settlement .. .. .	15,510	572	794	..	1,366
Cherbourg Government Settlement .. .. .	26,765	155	868	..	1,023
Woorabinda Government Settlement .. .. .	54,800	481	306	..	787
Cape York Settlement .. .. .	97,620	180	..	307	487
Yarrabah Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	39,710	149	570	..	719
Lockhart River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	588,400	300	4	..	304
Edward River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	554,880	265	1	..	266
Mitchell River Mission (Church of England) .. .. .	616,320	698	23	..	721
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	2,140,800	119	172	..	291
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	1,218,000	600	..	..	600
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	1,600,000	151	1	..	152
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian) .. .. .	245,120	353	44	..	397
Monamona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist) .. .. .	4,318	198	126	..	324
Doomadgee Mission (Brethren) .. .. .	260,480	298	51	..	349
Hope Vale (Lutheran) .. .. .	257,200	181	143	..	324
Hammond Island (Catholic) .. .. .	3,660	..	..	98	98
Country Reserves .. .. .	..	5,062	3,936	..	8,998
Torres Strait Islands .. .. .	..	..	..	5,146	5,146
	7,721,583	9,762	7,039	5,551	22,352

At the 30th June, 1954, in common with all citizens of Australia, census of aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders was taken. However, that census cannot reveal the true position of the

population figures as applicable to any particular area shown in the foregoing table. This position is brought about by the fact that an individual was recorded as resident of the area

in which he lived on the 30th June. Therefore islanders and aboriginals residing in areas outside of their home location must of necessity be included in the census figures of the area in which they were at the 30th June. No complete figures to indicate a true population relative to the reserves as shown in the foregoing table are available. Consequently, despite the census, it is possible only to estimate the population of the various reserves, based on local knowledge of the existent location of habitation of absentees from the reserves.

It can be accepted that the figures quoted are a fair indication of the coloured population subject to the relative Acts controlling them.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF ACTS AND POLICY.

Generally, it can be accepted that the Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals, subject to the Acts under which they live and work, have consistently been well conducted. As in any community offences occur, but not to such extent as would warrant adverse criticism of the coloured peoples.

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

During the year under review the employment figures of Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals have not materially altered from those applicable in previous years. The pastoral industry continues to be the main source of aboriginal employment and the pearling and trochus industries constitute the principal avenues for employment of Torres Strait Islanders. Regarding the latter however, the number of islanders engaged in the marine industries was reduced from 1,000, as recorded last year, to approximately 850. This difference is brought about by the exodus of many Torres Strait Islanders to southern centres for shore employment as against marine work. This reduction in islanders employed on the pearling and trochus boats is mainly felt in the Thursday Island area, where sufficient labour is not available to fully man the vessels engaged in that industry. Representations by the State Government to the Commonwealth Government for competent Papuan labour to make up the shortage in the crews of the pearling and trochus vessels have not been successful. The result is that the Queensland marine industry is severely hampered by a shortage of competent crew labour.

It can be fairly estimated that in the pastoral industry, 4,500 aboriginals are employed. Additional to the above-quoted figures 1,300 aboriginals and islanders are engaged on their home settlements, church missions and Torres Strait Islands. There are also in the vicinity of 900 engaged in private enterprise as carpenters, plumbers, general artisans, labourers, nurses, and domestics, &c. The services which these people give to the community are generally recognised as essential to the success of the various callings in which they are employed. This applies particularly to the pastoral industry where aboriginal stockmen and their women folk are recognised as essential to the successful running of many pastoral properties,

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

Gross earnings by aboriginals, excluding Peninsula aboriginals over the year	£501,637
Gross earnings by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals over the year .. .. .	£438,000
Savings Bank deposits by aboriginals excluding Peninsula aboriginals over the year .. .. .	£376,228
Savings Bank deposits by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals over the year .. .. .	£348,448
Savings Bank withdrawals by aboriginals excluding Peninsula aboriginals over the year .. .. .	£359,522
Savings Bank withdrawals by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals over the year .. .. .	£304,206
Value of marine produce won by Torres Strait Islanders off their own boats	£112,357
Value of produce produced on various Government settlements .. .. .	£55,230
Number of men employed in essential industries in Queensland .. .. .	4,500
Number of men in the marine industry	1,100

#### HEALTH.

Continuous vigilance by the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, his staff, Government medical officers throughout the State and superintendents and staff of the various hospitals, guarantees an effective check on the health of Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals to such extent that immediately an epidemic is reported, prompt action is taken to counteract it. Such epidemics do occur, but it is pleasing to record that for this year no serious outbreaks of the type that occurred some years ago in Torres Strait have been recorded. That outbreak in Torres Strait of malignant malaria was something that required urgent and drastic action by the Director-General, but the experience gained on that occasion and the precautionary measures now taken to prevent a recurrence have been most effective.

Tuberculosis, to which the coloured people are particularly susceptible, is well under control on all of the settlements, missions, and in Torres Strait.

On Thursday Island is established the Waiben Hospital, for coloured tuberculosis patients, with a bed capacity of 77. The extension of this hospital to provide for a bed capacity of 100 is now under way. Aplin Hostel, with a bed capacity of 40, is similar to the Waiben Hospital, operating on satisfactory and effective lines. Aplin Hostel is a receiving centre for dischargees from the Waiben Hospital. In that hostel, patients are closely watched and only by medical certificate is their return to their home islands or missions permitted. Even so, a continuous check of the patients following their discharge is exercised, to the extent of having the people returned to Thursday Island periodically for rechecking.

The Torres Strait area is fortunate in having acquired tuberculosis expert, Dr. G. R. Hales, M.B., Ch.B., who now has assumed complete control of the tuberculosis treatment in the Torres Strait islands and peninsula missions,

Recently a visit was paid to Thursday Island by the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, Dr. Fryberg, and representatives of the Commonwealth Department of Health. Their expressions of satisfaction with the treatment arrangements were frank, and they gave many useful hints and indications for the further expansion of the existing work.

It is desired to record the Department's appreciation of the medical staff and nursing staffs of the various hospitals in Queensland for the care and attention which they provide for the coloured community. In this category also comes the Cairns Aerial Ambulance, whose services to the coloured people in the Peninsula are outstanding. Similarly the Queensland Ambulance Transport Organisation must be commended for the efforts and assistance which they render the sick and injured aboriginals and islanders. That the aboriginals and islanders are cognizant of the care and assistance given them by the Cairns Aerial Ambulance and the Queensland Ambulance Transport Organization is exemplified by their continuing contributions to the funds of both organizations.

The attached Schedules provide—

- (1) Statistics of births and deaths at the Thursday Island General Hospital of Torres Strait Islanders.
- (2) Statistics of the small hospitals established in the Torres Strait area which cater for cases not warranting removal to the Thursday Island Hospital.

Additional to the statistics recorded for Saibai, Badu, and Darnley, small hospitals are established on other Torres Strait Islands where emergency treatment is provided and from which, if circumstances warrant, patients are transferred to the Thursday Island General Hospital.

It is fitting here to record the great service rendered in maintaining a satisfactory health position in the islands and on the Peninsula by the Thursday Island Department Radio Network. Continuously reports are received by the Superintendent, Thursday Island General Hospital, for advice and assistance, and that advice is always readily forthcoming. By means of this radio transmission many patients who otherwise would require to be brought to Thursday Island remain on their home islands and receive the treatment as determined by the medical superintendent following his diagnosis of the complaint on information furnished him.

Very close liaison exists between the Thursday Island Hospitals Board and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The latter periodically visits the mission stations far removed from the Thursday Island Board's area, and the co-operation between the two bodies ensures that communications by the Department's radio are always available to the Medical Superintendent, Thursday Island, and the Flying Doctor for discussions on the cases as circumstances warrant.

On the three Government settlements the general health of the aboriginals has been satisfactory, and the ailments common to all communities have been reasonably controlled, and

apart from an outbreak of poliomyelitis at Cherbourg and gastro-enteritis at Palm Island it could have been said that the year was particularly free of disease.

Poliomyelitis affected 10 children under the age of five years, with one resultant death. Of the remainder, five children were transferred to Brisbane for treatment. The Deputy Director-General of Health and Medical Services visited Cherbourg and arranged injections of gamma globulin for all children under five years, and other precautionary measures were taken under his instructions.

Medical evidence reveals that poliomyelitis is rare in aboriginals, and natives who live in a primitive manner develop an immunity to the disease at an early age. However as the standard of hygiene and nutrition improves poliomyelitis begins to attack children of pre-school age.

On receiving knowledge of the gastro-enteritis epidemic at Palm Island the Director-General of Health and Medical Services arranged for Dr. M. J. Mackerras, of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, to visit Palm Island and conduct a survey of intestinal parasites. The investigation was an extensive one, and will greatly benefit the Palm Island people.

The drive to combat tuberculosis has continued, and it can be said with some measure of success, as the following figures, taken at 31st March, 1955, show the number of patients at the three Settlement Hospitals receiving treatment for this complaint:—

Cherbourg	..	..	..	..	7
Palm Island	..	..	..	..	15
Woorabinda	..	..	..	..	Nil

It is both pleasing and encouraging to report that the patients at Fantome Island Hospital for Hansen's Disease have readily responded to the treatment and nursing as proved by the underquoted statistics:—

Number of admissions during the year	1
Number of discharges during the year	30
Number of patients remaining at end of year .. .. .	36

The practice of immunisation against diphtheria and typhoid fever of settlement inmates was continued, all new cases being given the required series of injections, while arrangements have been made by the respective settlement medical officers to give "booster" doses to those people requiring them. After the original injections against typhoid a "booster" dose is given every two years.

Reports and figures furnished during the year reveal that venereal disease is well controlled and practically negligible.

A vote of thanks is extended to the Director-General of Health and Medical Services and his officers for the ready response given in all matters pertaining to the health of the coloured community.

PERIOD 1ST JUNE, 1954 TO 31ST MAY, 1955.

	Births.		Total.	Still Births.	Deaths.			Marriages.
	Male.	Female.			Male.	Female.	Total.	
Thursday Island Hospital .. ..	91	84	175	7	15	14	29	..
Thursday Island .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	6
Badu Island .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2
Boigu Island .. ..	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	1
Coconut Island .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bamaga Settlement .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Red Island Point .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darnley Island .. ..	1	1	2	..	1	1	2	..
Dauan Island .. ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Dowar Island .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kubin Village .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naghir Island .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mabuig Island .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Murray Island .. ..	2	1	3	..	1	..	1	2
Rennell Island .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stephen Island .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Saibai Island .. ..	2	2	4	..	1	2	3	..
St. Paul's Mission .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
Yam Island .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yorke Island .. ..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	2
Hammond Island Mission .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Horn Island .. ..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..
At Sea .. ..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..
	101	89	190	8	22	23	45	17

Excess of births over deaths is 145.

## HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1955.

## BADU.

	In-Patients Monthly Average.			Out-Patients.		
	M.	F.	Total.	No.	Treatments.	
June .. ..	2	3.9	5.9	196	489	In-patients. Daily Average 6.68  Out-patients. Number treated 3,238  Number of treatments 6,943
July .. ..	2.4	1.2	3.6	216	698	
August .. ..	3.1	3.1	6.2	253	916	
September .. ..	3.3	1.7	5	279	728	
October .. ..	3.8	3.9	7.7	152	455	
November .. ..	2.9	2.7	5.6	198	374	
December .. ..	1.2	1.5	2.7	276	470	
January .. ..	1.2	1.8	3	292	514	
February .. ..	2.3	4	6.3	226	508	
March .. ..	4	10.4	14.4	391	672	
April .. ..	5.5	7.2	12.7	361	547	
May .. ..	3.5	3.6	7.1	398	572	

## DARNLEY.

## SAIBAI.

	Out-Patients.			Out-Patients
	No.	Treatments.		
June .. ..	..	254	June .. ..	..
July .. ..	..	169	July .. ..	202
August .. ..	..	204	August .. ..	171
September .. ..	..	322	September .. ..	..
October .. ..	..	..	October .. ..	249
November .. ..	..	243	November .. ..	137
December .. ..	..	405	December .. ..	143
January .. ..	..	..	January .. ..	..
February .. ..	122	323	February .. ..	121
March .. ..	126	685	March .. ..	118
April .. ..	107	589	April .. ..	62
May .. ..	132	705	May .. ..	..



## INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

*Cattle Raising.*—On the three Government settlements and Foleyvale Reserve the following cattle are depastured, the value of this livestock

as a Departmental asset being £149,931. Although the valuation figure is a little less than last year it is in keeping with the present market trend. The figures quoted are as at the 31st March, 1955:—

Settlement.	Beef Cattle.								Dairy Cattle.				Horses.			
	Bulls.	Breeders.	Spayed Cows.	Steers.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Bullocks.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Total.	Draught.	Saddle.	Total.
Cherbourg .. ..	18	405	120	..	121	254	66	984	..	..	..	..	..	16	38	54
Aboriginal Training Farm .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	77	16	27	124	3	1	4
Woorabinda .. ..	37	1,991	1	354	395	..	491	3,269	..	82	..	..	82	50	121	171
Foleyvale .. ..	..	7	..	5	1	..	1,517	1,530	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Palm Island .. ..	..	..	..	69	..	..	66	135	2	98	64	66	230	20	13	33
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>2,403</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>254</b>	<b>2,140</b>	<b>5,918</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>262</b>

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

474 bullocks, £20,070.

*Cattle transfers.*—From Woorabinda and Cherbourg to Foleyvale—673 head, valued at £6,508.

To view returns from cattle-raising operations in their true perspective to the above figure must be added £19,283, representing the value of cattle killed for consumption on the settlements. Accordingly, sale returns for the period under review amounted to £39,353.

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

## DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENTS.

With essential services such as electricity and water supplies having been provided emphasis has been placed in the main on the construction of native cottages. This does not apply to the same extent on Cherbourg Settlement, where a new water supply scheme has been completed. On this settlement work has also commenced on the construction of a waste water and sewerage disposal system, including an Imhoff tank for the treating of such wastes.

## PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

*Buildings.*—Due to the concerted effort made to obtain timber for building purposes, 21 native cottages, an aged people's home, and two staff houses have been constructed. To make most use of the timber available native cottages have been constructed with a concrete floor and walls to sill height.

Cottages are built to a standard design, using special removable forms for concrete work, so constructed that there is no delay in erecting new forms, for each building. This type of construction is ideal on Palm Island, where climatic conditions made them most suitable.

Apart from these buildings a new machinery shed and workshop 30 feet by 40 feet and two overhead concrete silos have been constructed.

The silos, particularly, will prove most advantageous in maintaining milk production for distribution to the native population. During the drier periods of the year it is most difficult to grow sufficient quantities of green fodder, which naturally affects the dairy herd.

## WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

The building programme generally has been stepped up and reorganised. It has always been conceded that the most satisfactory means to expedite cottage construction would be to pre-cut the timber in a workshop. Unfortunately, in the past it has not been possible to obtain a suitable carpenter overseer fully qualified and capable to organise constructions in this manner.

The recent appointment of a qualified carpenter has now made it possible to erect buildings in this manner.

For the period under review the following buildings have been erected:—

- 7 Native cottages
- 1 Staff house
- 1 Administration store
- 1 Carpenter's workshop.

In the latter building at the present time cottages are being pre-cut by hand, and machinery is on order which, when installed, will greatly facilitate this work.

It might be mentioned with regard to the production of sawn timber for building purposes that for the last six months of the period under review abnormal seasonal conditions have been such that frequently the mill has not been worked to capacity due to the boggy conditions of roads, precluding the transport of log timber to the mill.

## FOLEYVALE.

Foleyvale has been again subjected to serious flooding from the MacKenzie River, and apart from this heavy falls of rain have been experienced throughout most of the past year, thereby limiting access to the area for extended periods by boat only. Despite this, however, work was still carried out ringbarking, suckering, scrub felling, and clearing.

#### CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

The water supply scheme is now completed. This was a major construction and consists of a 100,000-gallon concrete reservoir from which water is reticulated to the settlement. The source of supply is Barambah Creek, from which water is pumped by two submersible pumps to the treatment works, where filtration and chlorination takes place prior to gravitation to the reservoir.

#### COUNTRY RESERVES.

*Normanton.*—A further two prefabricated steel buildings have been purchased for erection at Normanton, bringing the total to four buildings to be erected on this area.

*Townsville.*—Three prefabricated steel buildings have been purchased and delivered for erection on the Aboriginal Reserve at Aitkenvale, Townsville, which will provide accommodation together with a communal dining room and kitchen.

*Cloncurry.*—Three prefabricated steel buildings similar to those purchased for Townsville have been procured and delivered to Cloncurry.

Arrangements have been made with the Department of Public Works for the erection of those buildings on the three reserves mentioned, and it is anticipated such will be completed in the near future.

At these centres this accommodation is required for natives who visit during holiday periods and others awaiting hospitalisation or transport after treatment.

#### CHURCH MISSIONS.

Government subsidised church missions, of which there are 12 operating in Queensland, have ably played their part in the welfare and betterment of the Queensland aboriginals. These missions as a whole tend to the requirements of 4,545 aboriginals, and difficulty would be experienced in absorbing this population on the Government settlement should any of the religious bodies decide to close their mission stations.

At the same time the mission authorities are appreciative of the State Government's generous subsidy and other financial assistance given because it is realised that without such monetary help they could not exist under present-day conditions.

In turn, the Queensland Government is grateful to the various Missions for the valuable and humane work they have undertaken in assisting the State to further the interests of natives.

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

Exemption certificates issued during the year totalled 150, while the children of the exempt families totalled 110. Although children under the age of 15 years are not issued with separate certificates they are named on the mother's certificate, thus the exact number of persons exempted from control over the year is 260.

It is pleasing to report that the percentage of revocations or voluntary surrender of certificates is extremely low due to the fact that the majority of certificate holders successfully combine with life outside the settlements and missions by obtaining permanent employment and providing adequate accommodation for their children.

All wards, whether fullblood or half-blood, are entitled to apply for exemption.

It is not generally known that with the introduction of "*The Aboriginals' Preservation and Protection Act of 1939*" all half-bloods or of lesser caste who were not residing on an aboriginal settlement, mission, or reserve, and not habitually associated with aboriginals or living as an aboriginal became automatically exempt. Under this provision of the Act many coloured people obtained full citizenship rights.

#### EDUCATION.

The head teachers of the three Government settlements have in their reports touched on the difficulty being experienced by some of the older pupils in absorbing the studies required with the advancement of the syllabus from fourth to seventh-grade standard. This change was effected approximately two years ago as it was felt that the aboriginal child was being unduly handicapped in after life through lack of education. While it was known that some problems would arise the new curriculum was adopted with a view to the advancement of the younger children, and this contention is bearing out.

The younger pupils proceeding from grade to grade are proving capable of the higher school work, and within the near future the possibility of introducing the Scholarship class exists. At present promising students are obliged to attend church colleges to study for this examination, and while results have been encouraging the ultimate aim is for many more children to successfully compete in this examination.

There is no doubt that with the present-day trades available to intelligent boys and girls a good grounding in academic work is essential, and unless the aboriginal children have the benefit of higher education they cannot advance with the times.

*Manual Training and Domestic Science.*—This class of study has been continued as it is a good grounding in trade work, particularly for boys and tends to give lads of near school leaving age an idea as to what particular trade calling they would prefer to follow. Native girls are naturally bent towards cooking and sewing, and the domestic science class presents little difficulty. These particular classes will, therefore, continue to remain in the curriculum of the Government Settlement schools.

The Aboriginal Training Farm at Cherbourg functions for the training of lads who are agriculturally minded, while the Trade Training Section caters for the instruction of lads who have reached school leaving age in the various trades. This particular section is fully covered in the Instructor's Report appearing elsewhere in this publication.



Office of Director of Native Affairs, Thursday Island—Island Girl Typist.



## TORRES STRAIT.

Representations to date have not been successful in obtaining the services of a school inspector to inspect the eighteen schools in the Torres Strait area. If and when an Inspector is available his services will be gladly welcomed.

One of the features of the education of the Torres Strait children is the unsuitability of reading books. These books should be of a type suitable to the mentality of the island child. Already representations have been made for the procurement of samples of suitable books which might prove more advantageous to the education of the island children than applies with the existent standard reader.

The Bishop of Carpentaria has plans for the establishment of a secondary school for Torres Strait Island children at St. Paul's Mission, Moa Island. Preliminary discussions have occurred with him on the terms of acceptance of these children to enable them to obtain a secondary education not possible within the area. Torres Strait Island parents are not particularly enamoured with any scheme which would send their children to Southern centres, an outlook which at first glance may be difficult to understand but to those with a knowledge of the psychology of the islander his desire to retain his children and have them educated within the Torres Strait area is appreciated.

Already a Torres Strait Welfare Association has raised sufficient funds to enable the education of five or six children in a secondary school, and if the negotiations with His Lordship the Bishop of Carpentaria can satisfactorily materialise then a considerable step towards this end will be achieved.

The natural corollary to the Primary Education of any child should be some organisation which will provide for his post-school fitness for absorption into a calling to which he is suited. Naturally his adaptability for certain vocations

must be closely scrutinised, and in the Torres Strait area an effort is being made to achieve such end.

The proposed Torres Strait Island Training School for divers, tenders, and gauge board attendants is aimed at the training of youths for assimilation into the marine industry, to which most of the boys are attracted. However, there is always that type of boy who desires to become a trained artisan, and his future is similarly cared for as is the boy with instincts towards the sea.

The training school established in Thursday Island on a practical basis for carpenters, painters, and plumbers, is in full operation. At present 32 men and youths trained to the building trade are already employed by the Department. It is possible that a similar number, having received tuition, are employed by private enterprise. Again, there are approximately 20 men trained on the Island Industries Board boat slip as shipwrights working on the Board's slip or elsewhere. In effect, therefore, under the Department's control of its pupils from the primary school to the adult state, an organisation prevails whereby youths and men are sent to work under the best possible conditions consistent with the training that they can receive.

Over recent years this Sub-Department has concentrated on the tuition and training of suitable boys and girls for employment in the offices of the Director of Native Affairs and the Island Industries Board. Excellent results have been obtained to such extent that island storekeepers, clerks, teachers, and typists now approximate 150, and the services which these islanders are giving to Island Industries Board and to the Sub-Department of Native Affairs are beneficial to those Departments and the people employed.

As at the 31st March, 1955, the number of children receiving primary education was 2,553, 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, 1955.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement .. .. .	Cherbourg .. .. .	150	154	304
Settlement .. .. .	Palm Island .. .. .	120	102	222
Settlement .. .. .	Woorabinda .. .. .	103	107	210
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Aurukun .. .. .	57	51	108
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Doomadgee .. .. .	44	39	83
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Lockhart River .. .. .	30	27	57
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mapoon .. .. .	34	37	71
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mitchell River .. .. .	34	46	80
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Monamona .. .. .	36	30	66
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Hope Vale .. .. .	36	35	71
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Mornington Island .. .. .	55	47	102
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Edward River .. .. .	23	17	40
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Weipa .. .. .	21	15	36
Aboriginal Mission .. .. .	Yarrabah .. .. .	93	82	175
Island Mission .. .. .	St. Paul's (Moa Island) .. .. .	31	31	62
Island Mission .. .. .	St. Michael's Convent (Palm Island) .. .. .	48	39	87
Island Mission .. .. .	Hammond Island .. .. .	15	16	31
Inland Mission .. .. .	Normanton .. .. .	7	6	13
Reserve .. .. .	Cowal Creek .. .. .	18	21	39
Reserve .. .. .	Bamaga .. .. .	34	26	60
Reserve .. .. .	Red Island Point .. .. .	3	10	13
Torres Strait .. .. .	Island Schools .. .. .	311	312	623
	Total .. .. .	1,303	1,250	2,553

*Secondary Education.*—As previously stated, to sit for examinations above seventh grade it is necessary for boys and girls to attend church colleges, and the Department's Secondary Education Scheme is still fostering the higher schooling of pupils who appear to have the ability and will to better themselves. Even though all pupils are not successful in passing the Scholarship and Junior examinations they have at least studied the required subjects, and such study must stand to their credit in their future years.

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

All Souls' College, Charters Towers—Nine boys.

Mount Carmel College, Charters Towers—Three boys.

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

St. Gabriel's College, Charters Towers—Three girls.

#### 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 £749,985 7s. 10d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw, within reason, against their savings bank accounts.

#### TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1955

	Total.		Savings Bank Balances as at 30th June, 1955.	Commonwealth Stock.	Total Funds.
	Deposits.	Withdrawals.			
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Cherbourg .. ..	36,826 2 0	34,925 11 11	4,092 12 1	1,000 0 0	5,092 12 1
Palm Island .. ..	52,317 0 3	44,393 0 11	8,326 4 8	21,000 0 0	29,326 4 8
Woorabinda .. ..	40,301 10 6	37,112 12 1	7,660 11 10	4,000 0 0	11,660 11 10
Various Protectors ..	246,784 6 4	243,091 8 9	44,862 18 7	463,000 0 0	507,862 18 7
Torres Strait Islands ..	347,701 1 3	333,173 6 6	111,043 0 8	85,000 0 0	196,043 0 8
	723,930 0 4	692,696 0 2	175,985 7 10	574,000 0 0	749,985 7 10

The balance, £749,985 7s. 10d., 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 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 £7,499 9s.

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 .. ..	315
Cherbourg Settlement .. ..	157
Woorabinda Settlement.. ..	99
Palm Island Settlement.. ..	120
Torres Strait Islanders .. ..	821
	<u>1,512</u>

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £83,462 12s. 11d.

When aboriginal children are wholly maintained in mission and Government settlement institutions, the endowment is paid to institution funds. These funds are utilised solely for the benefit of the children by providing extras in diet, better type of clothing, all forms of sporting and general recreation equipment, library books, and reading material.



**Palm Island—Construction Base Native Housing.**

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

Woorabinda Settlement.. .. .	45
Cherbourg Settlement .. .. .	101
Palm Island Settlement.. .. .	339
Hope Vale Mission .. .. .	3
Daintree Mission .. .. .	14
Doomadgee Mission .. .. .	89
Monamona Mission .. .. .	130
Mitchell River Mission .. .. .	104
Aurukun Mission .. .. .	173
Mapoon Mission .. .. .	120
Mornington Island Mission .. .. .	184
Weipa Mission .. .. .	42
Yarrabah Mission .. .. .	363
Presbyterian Home, Thursday Island..	18
	1,725

#### 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 of the Department to function smoothly and efficiently were it not for these country Police protectors.

The superintendents and staffs of the church missions also deserve commendation for their self-sacrificing labours, often in difficult and trying conditions.

Reports of the settlements and the missions and in respect of Torres Strait Islanders are attached as appendices.

Appendix 1 ..	Palm Island Settlement
Appendix 2 ..	Cherbourg Settlement
Appendix 3 ..	Woorabinda Settlement
Appendix 4 ..	Monamona Mission
Appendix 5 ..	Yarrabah Mission
Appendix 6 ..	Doomadgee Mission
Appendix 7 ..	Hope Vale Mission
Appendix 8 ..	Torres Strait Islands and Peninsula
Appendix 9 ..	Island Industries Board
Appendix 10 ..	Mapoon Mission
Appendix 11 ..	Weipa Mission
Appendix 12 ..	Aurukun Mission
Appendix 13 ..	Mornington Island Mission
Appendix 14 ..	Lockhart River Mission
Appendix 15 ..	Edward River Mission
Appendix 16 ..	Mitchell River Mission
Appendix 17 ..	Hammond Island Mission
Appendix 18 ..	Palm Island Convent School

#### APPENDIX 1.

##### PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT

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

##### HEALTH.

##### STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
In-patients .. .. .	422	497	919	
Births .. .. .	31	32	63	
Deaths .. .. .	23	11	34	
Stillbirths .. .. .		Nil		

The staff of the Palm Island Hospital consists of matron and three sisters, and the hospital is at present capably controlled by Matron Larnders. A doctor is resident on the island, and the roster system, whereby he is relieved every two months, is working well.

A new children's ward has been proposed, and when erected, the old children's block will be remodelled and used as an out-patients' section.

The milk distribution scheme was continued with beneficial results to the school children.

The Female Welfare Officer made a worthwhile contribution to the health of the settlement people by acting in co-operation with the hospital staff in all health matters.

A minor outbreak of measles and influenza occurred, and earlier in the year an attack of gastro-enteritis was experienced. All such outbreaks have abated.

A survey has been made by Dr. Mackerras of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research into gastro-enteritis and similar diseases.

##### HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

Routine insecticidal spraying and regular disposal service are maintained by this section. The work of erection of new lavatories and the repair of existing ones continued.

A 30-foot barge has been completed and will be used to initiate a sewage disposal scheme by sea, and this is expected to be of considerable value to settlement hygiene. Two miles to sea from the settlement a strong tide rip will make disposal complete and effective and eliminate the present trench disposal system.

Owing to the sandy nature of the available soil trench disposal has some drawbacks which will be overcome when the sea disposal scheme is in operation.

##### BABY WELFARE CLINIC.

This section of settlement activity has expanded during the year, and it is now installed in the new Baby Welfare Clinic building just completed.

This building is of cement, brick and steel construction, and is 60 feet by 40 feet in area. It contains waiting room, weighing and inspection room, nursery, bathroom, store, kitchen, dining, and sewing rooms.

Training to mothers of small children is undertaken and follow-up visits are made to the homes.



Children under five years receive supplementary rations and the mothers are instructed in the preparation of suitable meals where the need is indicated.

Regular weekly weighing of all children under five years is undertaken, and where children do not appear to be progressing as well as they should they are brought in to the clinic with their mothers for a period of feeding for the children and instruction for the mothers.

The health of the children under five years is carefully watched, and at the first sign of ill-health the children are passed on to the Resident Medical Officer for attention.

#### NATIVE HOUSING.

An intensive drive in housing was undertaken over the year. Timber from all parts of the island was brought in and utilised in the erection of houses, which resulted in the building of 21 good-type native cottages.

In addition to the houses a building to house 30 aged people has been completed and is now occupied. This building includes two lavatory and shower blocks and a laundry block.

A dining room was added to the separate living quarters of the married couple who cook and care for the home, and the aged people eat there.

All timber for these buildings and homes has been cut on the island and sawn at the Palm Island mill by native workers. Similarly the erection of the houses has been the work of aboriginal tradesmen working under white staff supervision.

More native houses are in various stages of construction. Routine repairs and maintenance of existing homes are under way.

#### EDUCATION.

The school is staffed with a head teacher and four assistant teachers. These are assisted by six native monitresses.

Training in handicraft and elementary trade work is undertaken by the senior grades, and sewing classes are held regularly for the senior girls.

The following Palm Island children are enrolled at secondary schools:—

- All Souls College—Four
- Mount Carmel College—Three
- St. Mary's Convent—Three

Five Palm Island girls are also receiving training in denominational missionary colleges.

One Palm Island girl has been accepted at Townsville General Hospital as a trainee nurse. It is hoped to have two more appointed next year, and these are going through the VIII Grade at the Palm Island Aboriginal School at present. The lad, appointed to a position with the Forestry Department following Junior examination, is doing well.

Various alterations at the native school have greatly improved conditions there. The under-school classroom has been ceiled and painted. Extra glass louvres have been added.

#### AGRICULTURE.

During the year emphasis was placed on production of tropical fruits and on the conservation of fodder.

Five thousand banana suckers have been planted and these are now coming into production and bunches of over a hundredweight have been common.

At present 20,000 pineapple plants are in various stages of growth, from 7,000 freshly planted to those in full production.

A twin silo structure has been erected, and these are capable of holding 120 tons of silage. Sixty tons have been cut and placed in one silo and a further 50 tons are in a trench silo. The ensilage consists of saccaline, corn, Townsville lucerne, and some para grass to form a good mixture.

An acre has been planted with various types of cane, and this will be used as stock fodder and also incorporated with green corn as silage.

An area of ground is being cleared at Butler Bay in preparation for cultivation. Fodder cane, pineapples, pumpkins, &c., will be grown there.

#### CATTLE.

The cattle have come through the year well, and the present figure of 365 head shows an increase of 70 over the last two years.

With a good fodder reserve it should be possible to maintain a steady increase over future years.

The new spray dipping plant is effective in buffalo fly and tick control.

#### PRODUCTION.

The production of meat, fish, milk, fruit and vegetables is as follows:—

Meat .. .. .	7,266 lb.
Fish .. .. .	5,039 lb.
Milk .. .. .	7,062 gallons
Fruit and Vegetables.	
Lettuce .. .. .	4,700 head
Cabbage .. .. .	2,900 head
Marrows .. .. .	150
Raddish .. .. .	63 corn sacks
Sweet potatoes .. .. .	44 corn sacks
Beetroot .. .. .	6 corn sacks
Peas .. .. .	5 sugar bags
Beans .. .. .	35 sugar bags
Eschalots .. .. .	16 corn sacks
Tomatoes .. .. .	585 bushels
Turnips .. .. .	88 corn sacks
Chinese cabbage .. .. .	4,800 head
Carrots .. .. .	34 sugar bags
Bananas .. .. .	178 bunches
Pineapples .. .. .	3,191
Papaws .. .. .	1,320
Water melons .. .. .	235
Pumpkins .. .. .	9 tons

#### GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

During the year a general tool store was built of cement-brick, and now holds equipment and spare parts for all sections of settlement activity.

Two staff houses were erected during the year. These are completed and occupied.

The work on these houses was done by native tradesmen under the supervision of settlement staff.





**New Native Cottages—Palm Island.**

Steady progress is being made on a rock causeway which, when completed, will enable the launches to berth and discharge cargo and passengers. This is a long-term project, and is subordinate to the more important work, such as native housing, farming, and kindred phases of settlement activity.

A new Welfare office and storeroom has been completed and a building to hold the library is in course of construction. A machinery shed and workshop 30 feet by 40 feet has been completed.

A fish trap was erected during the year, and the resultant fish catch was a valuable addition to the diet of the settlement people, 3,548 lb. being so trapped.

#### WATER TRANSPORT.

A 30-foot barge has been constructed for the Hygiene section. A 40-foot barge is under construction for lightering work and for transport of stock.

Maintenance to small craft has been undertaken as required during the year. All timber for the work comes from the island resources.

The m.v. "Wondi" was overhauled during the year and the "Irex" also went on the slips for survey.

The "Turtle" boat has done good service and the "Sylvia" has now gone back into work following an engine replacement.

#### SAWMILL AND LOGGING.

Timber production for the year has shown an increase. The sawmill has had some reorganisation and over the last month the 40-h.p. diesel engine has been operating. New bearings to main shaft have been installed.

Timber resources are scattered and becoming difficult to exploit, but as the easily accessible timber on Palm Island itself becomes harder to get attention has been diverted to Esk and other islands in the group from which some thousands of super feet of logs have been taken this year.

The experiment of hauling logs by sea from other islands has proved successful, and is limited only by the supply available and the weather.

Production of sawn timber for the period is as follows:—

Hardwood and semi-hardwood..	39,995	super feet
Softwood .. .. .	82,962	super feet

#### SEASON.

Rainfall for the year ending 31st March, 1955, was 14,110 points.

The rain was scattered well into the winter. The growing period was later than usual because of the difficulty of getting on to the ground.

#### GENERAL.

Handicrafts and folk dancing were features of dormitory activities and proved very successful. The native instructors proved both keen and competent, and the work performed by the trainees was of good quality and a means of revenue to the children.

Tourist visits to the settlement were made during the year by Hayles launches.

#### CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I would like to record my appreciation for the assistance rendered me by the Director of Native Affairs and the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and his staff, and to the Palm Island Settlement staff for their loyal support through the year.

#### HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. D. Garrett.)

*Nightsoil Disposal.*—Progress is still being made with this service. Trial sea disposals were made during the year to gather information as to the possibility of permanent sea disposal. This was successful and resulted in the construction of a barge large enough to dispose of all nightsoil at sea daily. The barge is now completed and in service. Undoubtedly this system will cut the fly population to a minimum.

*Sanitary Conveniences.*—Twenty-six foundations have been laid for new conveniences, some of them being replacements for old ones. Repairs have been carried on throughout the year on E.C. cabinets and buildings—two native carpenters being employed on full time duty.

*General Hygiene.*—There has been a greater improvement over the last two months. This improvement points to many factors, including the appointment of a female officer, which has brought a better understanding to the housewife, and more intimate matters can be brought to their notice and discussed.

The housing project has given a greater incentive for the native to do more for himself and family, and many with assistance are working on new homes in their spare time.

All new homes have wash houses and a shower cubicle, with appropriate drainage.

On the whole the population is becoming more health conscious.

*Drainage.*—Twelve more residences have been properly drained during the year and grease traps and subsurface irrigation installed.

The installation of a septic system at the storekeeper's residence has commenced. Repairs to existing drainage was maintained throughout the year.

Drainage to take off heavy storm water runoffs has been installed at three points using 36-inch reinforced concrete pipes built on the settlement.

*Survey.*—A complete hookworm survey is now being carried out by the Hygiene staff in the new building where we have all the facilities to conduct examinations to find those harbouring hookworm.

#### *Outlying Areas.*—

Pencil Bay—Conveniences were serviced twice weekly.

Butler Bay—This was inspected at regular intervals.

Casement—A new cesspit was installed at the depot.

The school was serviced daily on school days, other places twice weekly. Repairs to conveniences were carried out.

## PALM ISLAND SCHOOL REPORT.

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

*Staff.*—The numerical strength of the staff has remained the same during the past year though some changes in personnel have been made.

At present a number of native monitresses are employed to help assistant teachers with large classes.

*Enrolment and Attendances.*—The enrolment per quarter varied from 118 to 222, and at the end of the March quarter there were 120 boys and 102 girls, making a total of 222 children.

The daily attendances on the whole are reasonably good, and it is only when excessive wet weather or for sickness reasons that the attendances drop. Absenteeism is more prevalent among the infant classes. One wet day recently only 20 children out of the 222 on roll were able to come to school because of the very heavy tropical rains. It will be appreciated that days such as this soon pull down the averages.

Despite these instances the average for the year was 109·6 boys and 88·2 girls, making a total of 197·8 or 89·1 per cent. of the enrolment.

*Grading.*—At the commencement of the current year three new classes were established, including a special class for very backward children, a new Grade seven and a Grade eight. The lastmentioned has two girls in it who are endeavouring to cover the work of this grade so they can qualify for admission as trainee nurses at the Townsville Hospital. Since these two girls have been absent from school for twelve months prior to taking up their studies they are finding the work somewhat difficult though both are making a valiant attempt to cover the prescribed work.

The following are the gradings and enrolments at the end of March:—

Class.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Preparatory .. ..	19	12	31
Grade I. .. ..	15	12	27
Grade II. .. ..	14	16	30
Grade III. .. ..	22	14	36
Grade IV. .. ..	23	12	35
Grade V. .. ..	16	11	27
Grade VI. .. ..	4	13	17
Grade VII. .. ..	4	3	7
Grade VIII. .. ..	..	2	2
Opportunity class .. ..	3	7	10
	120	102	222

*Manual Training and Domestic Science.*—Twenty-four senior boys receive tuition in woodwork and four others in sheetmetal work, while 27 girls are taught needlecraft as a Domestic Science subject.

*Physical Education and Health.*—The physical development of the child is considered just as important as his mental development, and besides the recognised physical training exercises some time is devoted to talks on health and hygiene and this is supplemented by screenings of health films. These films are also made available for screening to the adult population at week ends. Owing to the unseasonal and

excessive rains and flooded conditions no health films are received during the earlier part of the year.

As a further aid towards good health the children attending this school receive pasteurised milk under the free milk scheme, and the female Welfare officer, who is also a trained nurse, visits the school weekly and personally inspects each child. By this means any early signs of sickness or bad sores are quickly detected and such children are then treated at the hospital. There is quite a marked improvement in the health and physique of the children.

*General Remarks.*—Full use is made in this school of both the radio and the film, and the classes are so organised that each receives its fair share of this form of instruction.

An attempt was made to revive native handicrafts and native dancing as special subjects in this school's curriculum in place of the normal forms of handicrafts and folk dancing practiced in mainland schools. Some measure of success was achieved.

Both intra- and inter-school sports have been encouraged and a very friendly atmosphere exists between the island's schools.

The general conduct of the children is satisfactory, and progress is being maintained.

In conclusion, I would like to express appreciation to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director and staff, the superintendent and staff, and all others who have assisted in any capacity to help the children of this school.

## SCOUTING.

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

Since submitting my last annual report on the First Palm Island troop of boy scouts I am happy to state that some progress has been made both in the expansion of our scouting activities and the development of Esk Island at a Native Scouts Training Camp.

A cub pack has been formed with a dozen young boys, and others are anxiously awaiting the next intake or for the day when they will be old enough to be eligible to join the cubs.

An attempt is also being made to establish a sea scout section to our group, and senior scouts should find this not only interesting but opening an avenue for them to follow a career on the sea, if they so desire. It is hoped this section will become a reality before very long.

A prefabricated hut to be used as a store room and a scout hut have been erected on Esk Island, and should prove a very valuable asset to the group. A 3,000-gallon tank has also been installed, and this will now ensure an adequate supply of clean fresh water for the scouts when camping at Esk Island.

The present strength of the group is as follows:—

- 2 Warranted scouters
- 4 Scouters (warrants applied for)
- 12 Cubs
- 24 Scouts
- 6 Prospective sea scouts.





**Boat Building—Palm Island.**



**Cement Brick and Cylinder Making—Palm Island.**

We are indeed grateful to the Department and the Government for the assistance given to our group, and hope more boys will now avail themselves of the opportunities scouting now offers to them on Palm Island.

#### GIRL GUIDES.

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

After being in recess for over two years pending the appointment of a guide captain, I am happy to advise that the First Palm Island Company of Native Girl Guides is re-establishing itself.

Miss Graves has offered to act as guide captain, and she will be ably assisted by a native lieutenant—Irene Clumpoint.

At present only one patrol is being trained, and many girls have applied to be admitted to the company at the next intake of new recruits.

Those at present being trained for their "tenderfoot" are displaying great keenness and I am hopeful of the company soon reaching full strength.

#### SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. D. Garrett.)

It is with much pleasure that I present to you the tenth annual report of the Palm Island Social and Welfare Association.

During the 12 months under review the activities of the Association have been more than maintained over those of previous years.

#### ARTS AND CRAFTS.

Although slightly fewer entries were received, our Arts and Crafts Show proved, as in previous years, a success. The annual show dinner was held, with many visitors being present.

#### THE BAND.

During the period under review the band has practised assiduously and given much pleasure with their numerous musical entertainments. During the visit of their Majesty's to Townsville the band were honoured by an invitation to participate in the march, and met with a spontaneous welcome.

#### SPORT.

*Boxing.*—Our Club has now affiliated with the Queensland Amateur Boxing and Wrestling Association, which enables our boys to nominate for State titles. Enthusiasm has been maintained, and many visits to Townsville by invitation of the National Fitness Club, Townsville, have been made. On every occasion our boys have given an excellent account of themselves and always received a big welcome.

A visit was also made by the National Fitness Club of Townsville to Palm Island by invitation from our club which proved very successful, and trophies were presented by our club for each division.

*Football.*—The year has shown that football is still one of the foremost sports.

*Tennis.*—The new court is completed and should be ready for play in the near future.

*Women's Sports.*—This branch has been well up to standard, and we had the pleasure of receiving two teams of basketball players from the National Fitness Club in Townsville, our girls proving very able basketball players.

*Dancing.*—This has become even more popular, and a number of competition dances gave much pleasure. Also the dancers paid a number of visits to the mainland where, on every occasion, a great welcome was extended to them.

*Pictures.*—As always, the weekly Saturday picture programme has proved most popular, including health films which were shown on many occasions.

*Fishing.*—Competitions have been held on various holidays and are a continuous source of popularity and many splendid catches made. The construction of five dories for which materials are now coming to hand will enable more parties to take part in this sport.

*Kiosk.*—The completed kiosk has proved a great success during performances at the picture ground, and the sale of soft drinks, fruit, &c., is much appreciated.

#### GENERAL IMPROVEMENT.

Our new workroom and storeroom has been completed while the library and office, where it is intended to install fluorescent lighting, is nearing completion and it will be ready for this year's show, where our 1955 show dinner will be held.

A gymnasium is in the course of construction and will prove a big asset when finished, with the equipment to enable our young athletes to carry on their essential training.

#### FINANCES.

The Association is in a sounder financial position than ever, with a credit balance of £2,240 at the end of May.

#### TOURISTS.

The tourists always appreciate the display of dancing, boomerang and spear throwing, fire making, &c., put on for their benefit.

#### THE FUTURE.

Again we look forward to the future full of confidence in our ability to, not only maintain, but to steadily improve on the amenities provided for the Palm Island people by their Association.

#### FANTOME ISLAND.

The Fantome Island Hospital for the treatment of Hansen's disease sufferers is under the management of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, and to this unselfish body of women must be extended every credit for the results achieved. By their careful and unstinted nursing and ability to keep the patients in a full measure of contentment they are ably contributing to the speedy recoveries and discharges.

#### Statistics.—

Admissions during year	..	..	1
Discharges during year	..	..	30
Patients as at 30th May, 1955	..	..	36



The high number of discharges can only be attributed to the use of modern drugs and careful nursing, and the results obtained are very encouraging.

*Development.*—One of the main features of 1955 was the installation of radio telephone. The island is no longer dependent on wireless for contact with the mainland, as this system brings the Administration in touch with Townsville and other centres in the same way as one makes an ordinary telephone call.

All cottages used by the patients have been kept in good repair, and work of all types as required was carried out.

## APPENDIX 2.

### CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.

(Superintendent, Mr. G. Sturges.)

#### Statistics.—

##### Births—

	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Total.
Male .. ..	10	19	29
Female .. ..	12	26	28
Totals .. ..	22	45	67

##### Deaths—

	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Total.
Male .. ..	2	4	6
Female .. ..	5	9	14
Totals .. ..	7	13	20

Marriages—8

Exemptions—33

#### HEALTH.

*Hospital.*—The Cherbourg Hospital is under the control of the South Burnett Hospitals Board, and details of the hospital activities will be found in the Board's annual report.

However, my discussions with the Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. B. Monz, and the Hospital Matron, Miss C. L. Rynne, and hospital statistics supplied by the Hospital Board, reveal that the health of the community is good. Hospital admissions and attendances have been the lowest for some years.

Doctor E. M. Rathouse, of the Chest Clinic in Brisbane, visited the settlement during the year to further investigate and follow up treatment already instituted to control tuberculosis.

##### Dentist.—

Number of visits .. ..	17
Number of patients .. ..	434

##### Optometrist.—

Number of visits .. ..	1
Number of patients seen .. ..	14

##### Notifiable Disease.—

Hansen's disease .. ..	Nil
Tuberculosis .. ..	7
Venereal disease .. ..	5

It is with regret that I must report that an outbreak of poliomyelitis occurred during March, 1955. Ten children under the age of

five years were afflicted, one of whom died. Seven children were subsequently removed to the Wattlebrae Infectious Diseases Hospital, Brisbane, and later to the Wilson Hospital.

Three children have now returned to the settlement, and are progressing favourably.

Immediately following advice that poliomyelitis had occurred, the Deputy Director-General of Health and Medical Services, Dr. D. W. Johnson, visited the settlement. Dr. Johnson arranged for 110 children under the age of five years to receive gamma globulin injections, and advised on other measures.

There can be no doubt that the medical measures taken, coupled with the medical attention by Drs. B. Monz and Fulcher, and the excellent nursing of the matron and staff of the Cherbourg Hospital, arrested the outbreak in its early stages.

All who contributed assistance are to be commended.

#### RAINFALL.

Total for the year 46 inches 82 points.

Rainfall was abnormal, and Barambah Creek was in flood on numerous occasions. During July, 1954, the flood height was the highest for 30 years, and on the 28th March, 1955, it was 5 feet higher than in July, 1954.

#### EDUCATION.

The policy of increasing the standard of education of native children to Grade VII was introduced at the commencement of the school year and, while difficulties are observed, there is no doubt that they will disappear when further advancement in the standard has been made. This policy will be pursued until the Education Department's syllabus and standard are completely covered.

Accumulation of material for the new school is now in progress, and is the first step in the erection of a first-class school building.

Staffing has been satisfactory.

*Sporting.*—The school gained second place in the "A" Grade of the District School Sports held at Wondai on the 23rd July, 1954.

*Inspection.*—The District Inspector of Schools, following his annual inspection, reported the general condition "Good."

#### BABY WELFARE CLINIC.

The mothers of this settlement can now be said to be "Clinic conscious," and co-operate very satisfactorily with Sister Carew, the officer in charge.

The detailed attention given to this work is reflected in the continual improvement in the children's wellbeing.

#### HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

Earth closets are cleaned not less than three times per week, and in the case of public lavatories, administrative buildings, dormitories, and other large families, daily except Sundays.

Garbage is attended to daily Monday to Friday, and is disposed of by burning or burial.



**Bananas grown on Palm Island.**



**Peanuts growing on Palm Island. Silos at rear.**

Continual attention is given to the control of flies, mosquitos, rodents, and vermin. *Gambusia* fish were introduced into Barambah, Bralbion and Muddy Flat Creeks. The fish have multiplied and have migrated to every section of the water courses. Mosquito control has been excellent in these areas.

The men employed in the sanitation and hygiene gangs are becoming more conscious of their responsibilities, and co-operate with the hygiene officer and residents generally to ensure satisfactory attention to their work.

#### SAWMILL.

Logs milled during the year—

—	Logs.	Contents.	Recovery.
Hardwood .. ..	329	147,578	91,095
Pine .. ..	93	41,681	31,868
Total.. ..	422	189,259	122,963

The average weekly recovery from all classes of timber was 2,364 super. feet. The log supply has been satisfactory, and 112 logs were on hand at the end of the year.

The abnormal wet season caused many stoppages of plant owing to flooding of belt ways and frame sawpit.

The mill was closed down for periods approximating four weeks during the installation of the "Jackass" boiler.

#### BUILDINGS.

The abnormal prolonged wet season has seriously affected building construction, and maintenance work has been heavy, consequently reducing the available labour employed on new construction.

Six cottages for natives, of improved design, were commenced. Three cottages are complete and ready for painting, one is almost completed, and three have frames ready for roofing timbers. Detached laundry-bathroom blocks for two of the above cottages are complete, and number three is partly completed.

An extension to the infant's school to form a shelter shed, 45 feet by 14 feet, has been completed ready for a concrete floor.

The pump house on Barambah Creek, which was washed away by flood, was rebuilt.

Extensions to the sanitary shed were completed.

New partition in the old people's home, so that inmates may enjoy greater privacy, was completed.

Alterations to settlement office and store completed.

Baby clinic completed to a stage where, on the receipt of paint and the completion of essential painting, it will be possible for the baby welfare officer and the dentist to move in.

Switch house to accommodate automatic switching gear for pumps of new water supply completed.

B

One two-bedroom cottage, quarter for Local Government supervising officers completed.

#### PAINTING.

Painting of the roofs of the following buildings completed:—

Office  
Butcher shop  
Old people's home  
Domestic science school  
Two staff cottages  
Store  
Boys' home  
Mothers' home  
Free store  
Mothers' home—Exterior and interior completed  
Boys' home—Exterior completed  
New cottage—Interior completed  
Existing native cottage—Exterior and interior completed.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Construction work is almost complete on the reservoir, filtration plant, &c.

The laying of reticulation mains is 80 per cent. complete.

Pumps are in position and connected to the electricity supply. Unfortunately, the continued flooding of Barambah Creek has prevented completion of the work.

This work is under the direction of the Department of Local Government. Except for engineering and supervising staff, all labour has been drawn from the native residents of this Settlement.

#### TRADE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

The work produced is of very high quality. The variety of work covers a range from simple household furniture to highly specialised cabinet work. It is worthy of note that a silky oak pedestal office table was part of this Department's display at the 1954 Royal National Association Exhibition, in Brisbane.

The installation of a 2 foot 6 inch bandsaw has materially assisted in stepping-up the completion of orders. The small type of machines now in use are being replaced by larger ones, and with each replacement the output will increase in proportion.

#### STOCK.

Seasonal conditions, although abnormally wet, have benefited the cattle. The policy of transferring steers to Foleyvale Reserve, Central Queensland, was observed, 98 head being transported during the year.

Following investigations into phosphate deficiency ten lick troughs were installed and sterilized bone flour placed therein. The cattle, particularly young stock, have taken to it readily, and it is apparent that it is beneficial to the stock.

This settlement's cattle now compare with the best stock in the district.

The drop in calves was very satisfactory.

A bang-tail muster revealed the following stock on hand:—

Bulls .. .. .	22
Breeder cows .. .. .	383
Maiden heifers .. .. .	211
Spayed cows .. .. .	168
Bullocks and steers .. .. .	185
Miscellaneous cows .. .. .	7
Branded calves .. .. .	293
Bleeders .. .. .	2
Weaners .. .. .	259

Stock killed for rations was 145, including 23 Jersey cows culled from the training farm dairy stock, the average weight being 392 lb., valued at £2,400.

Stock purchased for rations was 241, the average weight being 491 lb. and the average price £26 5s. per beast.

One bleeder was purchased.

Ringbarking and poisoning have been continued in grazing areas with definite improvement in pasture.

Experimental plots have been sown with barrel medic, kikuyu, green panic, and *Panicum muticum*.

Fence maintenance has been very heavy owing to flooding.

Noxious weed control has been exercised.

#### ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

	£	s.	d.
Commercial butter output, 6,924 lb., returned .. .. .	1,361	2	11
Pigs sold, 121, returned .. .. .	1,096	18	6
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>£2,458</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

In addition to the above, 1,130 gallons of milk was supplied to the Cherbourg Hospital, valued at £175 8s., and 1,450 gallons to the Aboriginal Training Farm employees, valued at £216 12s.

#### Pigs on Hand.—

Boars .. .. .	3
Sows .. .. .	17
Fatteners .. .. .	9
Stores .. .. .	24
Suckers .. .. .	17
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>70</b>

#### Stock on Hand.—

Bulls .. .. .	4
Dairy cows .. .. .	77
Heifers .. .. .	16
Weaners .. .. .	27
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>124</b>

#### Crops.—

22 acres maize returned 238 bags
26 acres lucerne returned 40 tons
6 acres pumpkins returned 25 tons
Settlement supplied with—
125 bags pumpkins
83 bags turnips
53 bags cauliflower
2 bags beetroot
1,110 lb. tomatoes
1,196 doz. citrus fruit
151 bags cabbage
34 bags potatoes
1,500 bags lettuce heads
611 lb. beans
14 bags cucumbers
25 bags squash

Development work has been carried out as opportunity offered. One hundred and fifty acres of timbered land has now been poisoned with consequent improvement to pasture.

It is intended to gradually extend the piggery, and with this end in view a sire was purchased from the Gatton Agriculture High School and College.

#### SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

The Association is in a sound financial position, as the President's report shown elsewhere reveals.

Outstanding events of the year were:—

- (1) Christmas Tree and Christmas celebrations.
- (2) Annual show and show ball-dinner.
- (3) Show ball, at which debutantes from Palm Island and Cherbourg made their debut.
- (4) Participation in the Inter-Settlement competition for the Moore Shield, staged at the 1954 Royal National Exhibition. The shield was won by Cherbourg.

The 1954 Settlement Annual Show, which was opened by Mr. P. J. Richards, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, was very successful indeed, and attracted very favourable comment from the many visitors and the press.

Displays by this settlement were also presented in the Australia Day and May Day processions and attracted very favourable comment and praise.

Anzac Day was celebrated in the traditional manner. Settlement residents who fought in World Wars I and II and in Korea were remembered, and especially those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

#### SPORTING.

This Settlement's sporting clubs were associated with—

Cricket—Murgon and District Cricket Association.

Football—Wide Bay and Burnett Rugby League.

Tennis—Murgon Tennis Association.

Darcy Burke was selected to represent the Wide Bay and Burnett Rugby League in the Country Trial staged at Rockhampton.

Willie Hegarty was selected as a member of the Wide Bay and Burnett Rugby League team which played the English Rugby League touring team at Maryborough.

The Toombul Cricket team, Queensland Cricket Association premiers, and the Yarraman Cricket team, Queensland Country Premiers, played Cherbourg representative teams at Cherbourg.

Cricket and tennis teams throughout the South Burnett area frequently play Cherbourg teams at Cherbourg.



## GENERAL.

This settlement was given the responsibility of designing and constructing the stand in which the Department's exhibit was staged at the 1954 Royal National Exhibition. The job was a great credit to the officer in charge of the work, Mr. H. R. Pascoe, and the native workers under his direction.

## CONCLUSION.

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, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs and head office staff, settlement staff, the protectors of the various protectorates in which Cherbourg people are working, and to all those who have continually co-operated towards the well-being and development of this settlement.

## SCHOOL REPORT.

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

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment varied from 296 for the June quarter, 1954, to 304 for the March quarter, 1955. The mean quarterly enrolment for the year was 297.5.

*Attendances.*—The total attendances for the year were 29,260 boys and 28,011½ girls, a total of 57,271½.

The average daily attendance for the year was 141.3 boys and 135.3 girls, a total of 276.6.

Attendances were affected by—

Colds and sickness during June and July, 1954.

Wet weather in July, 1954, and in February and March, 1955.

Some hospitalisation cases during February, 1955, and some poliomyelitis cases and contacts during March, 1955.

All things considered the attendances were very satisfactory throughout the year.

*Conduct.*—Generally the conduct of children at school has been satisfactory. Manners are reasonably observed at school. The children as a whole are obedient whilst at school and diligence may be rated very fair.

*Progress.*—Progress generally has been satisfactory. It has been very good in the lower school, about very fair in the middle school, and only fair in the higher grades. At the commencement of the school year the standard was raised by the creation of Grade VII, and some of the children carried forward to this grade are experiencing difficulty in their studies. However, some of the younger children of this grade are showing really good results. It is still anticipated that when the new syllabus has been in operation for a greater number of years and those pupils at present in the lower school reach the higher grades many of the present difficulties will disappear.

*Domestic Science.*—This section has operated reasonably satisfactorily throughout the year. Reasonably keen enthusiasm has prevailed and progress has been very fair. The number undergoing instruction varied from 67 during

the June quarter, 1954, to 46 during the March quarter, 1955. As few of the older girls left school at the end of 1954; the number of girls now receiving instruction, apart from the primary school girls, is small. This section assisted with display work for the Brisbane Exhibition display and with entry work for the settlement show.

*Manual Training.*—This section has operated satisfactorily throughout the year. Boys, generally, have displayed good enthusiasm, and the progress has been very fair to good. Conduct has been reasonably good. Much work was prepared here for display at the Brisbane Exhibition and for the settlement show. The enrolment varied from 62 during the June quarter, 1954, to 43 for the March quarter, 1955.

*Staffing.*—All members, both white and native, devoted themselves earnestly and diligently to the duties required of them. Miss R. M. Everson commenced duty on 23rd August, 1954. Native Monitresses, Iris Kirk and Inez Leedie, relinquished duty at the end of 1954, and Patricia O'Chin and Ruby Purcell commenced duty as monitresses on 7th February, 1955. Mr. H. R. Pascoe and Mr. J. McCarthy were absent on accrued recreation leave towards the close of the school year, 1954.

*General.*—One hundred and sixty-seven children from this school competed at the District schools' sports held at Wondai on 23rd July, 1954, and gained second place in the 'A' schools' grading.

Children from all grades exhibited work in the settlement show and also prepared exhibits for the display at the Brisbane Exhibition.

Films were received regularly from the Department of Public Instruction, and our thanks are extended to that Department for their assistance. The projector failed to work satisfactorily during the year, and it was found to have completed its useful working life. As a new machine has been ordered it is expected that full use of this medium will be available during the coming year.

The District Inspector of Schools visited this school on his annual inspection on the 2nd and 3rd June, 1954, and reported the general condition as "Good."

The last day of the school year was devoted to the usual breaking-up festivities. The forenoon was devoted to various games and musical items, and children were entertained during the afternoon at a special screening of suitable pictures by the Welfare Association. The usual sweets, ice-creams, fruit, &c., were distributed, and all appeared to have 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, and all others concerned for their ready assistance and kind co-operation in school matters throughout the year.



## TRADE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

(Overseer, Mr. G. Cooper.)

The following joinery and furniture has been manufactured during the year under note:—

43	Dual school desks
59	Small school tables
1	Inter-settlement display
1	Silky oak filing cabinet
9	Coffins
3	Notice boards
29	School teachers' tables
2	Forms—4-foot
26	School presses
3	Table trays
9	Flush panel doors
1	Typiste's table
16	Ledged doors
2	Sink cabinets
10	Fanlights
1	Wardrobe
12	Five pupil school desks
22	Small school chairs
2	Pedestal office tables
242	Chairs
50	Cots
60	Pegs
1	Utility bureau for show
4	T.P. arm chairs
4	Silky oak front doors
6	Half-glass flush-panel doors
50	Framed and sheeted doors
60	Pairs casements
1	Medicine cabinet
3	Pairs french lights
63	Three-panel doors
2	Kitchen tables
5,600	lineal feet door and sash stops
8,000	lineal feet cover strips
1,500	lineal feet architrave

Glazing of windows in the dormitory and hospital was attended to.

Four men and four boys, with two part-time boys, has been the average employed at the workshop.

The new bandsaw has been instrumental in making up leeway on outstanding orders.

The conduct and workmanship of the men and boys has improved, and they have completed some very creditable work.

## CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

(Sister, Miss M. Carew.)

All children up to the age of five years attend weekly. The general health of children has been satisfactory.

Supplies issued during the year:—

Vi Lactogen	..	392	tins
Sunshine Milk	..	176	large tins, 387 small tins
Sugar of Milk	..	106	packets
Hypol	..	168	bottles
Haliborange	..	121	bottles
Pentavite	..	30	bottles
Minadex	..	32	bottles
Mist A and D	..	178	oz.
Farex	..	140	packets
Aktavite	..	27	tins
Vicks	..	362	jars
Milk of magnesia	..	40	bottles
Olive oil	..	33	bottles
Feeding bottles	..	155	
Teats	..	253	
Bottle brushes	..	74	
Pipettes	..	43	
Cots	..	19	

Number of children attending clinic:—

Babies	..	..	..	..	..	60
Toddlers	..	..	..	..	..	169
Total	..	..	..	..	..	229

Number of new babies 67 (Females 37, Males 30)

Number reached school age 30.

Number off settlement permanently 32.

Number of deaths 8.

## HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

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

## HEALTH.

The general health of the inmates of this settlement was satisfactory, evidenced by the daily average of in-patients to the Cherbourg Hospital being the lowest for several years.

## POLIOMYELITIS.

During the end of February and the beginning of March an outbreak of poliomyelitis was encountered and seven children were subsequently admitted to Wattlebrae Infectious Diseases Hospital in Brisbane. Soon after the outbreak of this epidemic approximately 110 children under the age of five years received passive immunisation with Gamma Globulin. It appears that this, with excessive spraying of environs and isolation of contacts, proved successful in limiting the outbreak. One death was due to an encephalitic type of poliomyelitis which occurred amongst the total of ten.

## VENEREAL DISEASE.

Monthly inspection of all male inmates of the settlement are made by the Hygiene officer, and the thorough investigation of contacts has kept the incidence of this disease to a minimum.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year Doctor Rathouse, of the Chest Clinic, Brisbane, visited Cherbourg, and carried out a thorough B.C.G. vaccination and Mantoux tests.

## DRAINAGE.

A proposed new sewerage system will alleviate this problem. New rubble drains were installed in eight different areas on the Settlement.

## GARBAGE.

This service, five days per week, is working satisfactorily. Sixty new rubbish tins, with close fitting lids, were manufactured by the settlement plumber, and issued to householders. The dump was shifted to a new site further away from the camp area.

## SANITARY SERVICE.

This service is working satisfactorily over six days per week, and the depot is clean and tidy. New washing troughs and a new tar boiler were installed. All pans are regularly tarred and disinfectant placed in them before service. The building at the depot has been extended and complete new drainage installed, and all floors were concreted.

## SPRAYING.

All native homes, dormitories, pig yards, rubbish dumps, and the depot were sprayed regularly throughout the year. The use of Gamexene No. 7 mixable, and Gamexane No. 120 were found to be very helpful in this work.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The state of the water has been unsatisfactory owing to several floods experienced during the year, and this meant a shift in the pumping from Barambah to Bralbion Creeks. Tropical bleaching powder and chlorine gas was used in purifying the water. Tests were taken daily for the amount of free chlorine present.

## MOSQUITO CONTROL.

During the year *Gambusia* fish were introduced into the Barambah, Bralbion and Muddy Flat Creeks. All tanks and guttering were regularly inspected and treated. This has produced results which exceed our expectations.

## RODENTS.

A few rodents were noticed, but baiting and trappings were continually employed to get rid of these pests.

## VERMIN.

*Head Lice*.—A supply of Lotio Lithane was obtained, and with the assistance of the dormitory and clinic matrons the problem is being rapidly overcome.

*Cockroaches*.—These were noticed in some homes, and the use of Gamexane spray and Gamexane dust placed under paper on shelves proved successful.

## HOUSE INSPECTIONS.

This is carried out weekly, and the serving of notices with follow-up inspections has resulted in definite improvements.

## HORSES.

It was found necessary to purchase new draught horses. Some of these are in work and are instrumental in facilitating the services.

## HYGIENE AND SANITARY GANGS.

These men are showing an increasing interest and are becoming more efficient in their duties.

## HEAD STOCKMAN'S PASTORAL REPORT.

(Head Stockman, Mr. A. West.)

*Season*.—The year has been one of the wettest on record. All creeks ran consistently throughout the year, and are still running. Barambah and Barker's Creeks were in high flood on at least four occasions, destroying miles of fencing.

Rainfall for the period was 4,682 points.

*Stock*.—Most stock have benefited by the exceptional season, notwithstanding the fact that very little burning-off was possible.

Although spayed cows are killing light, bullocks are exceptional.

There were 298 calves branded from 400 breeders. Until the last cyclone the condition of these was very good, but the heavy rains, plus ticks, and the fact that rain made mustering difficult, have caused many to lose condition, but should we have a frosty winter, with good days and no rain, they should improve.

The Foleyvale steers are generally in excellent condition, and are a fine even lot.

The feeding of Calphos is certainly benefiting the young stock, but the real test will come in the winter and spring.

I have finished spaying, including 66 aged cows and reject breeders, and nine reject dairy cows from the Training Farm; also six cows that were bought for rations which calved or injured themselves before killing.

There were 241 bought cattle killed for rations, the average weight being 491 lb., and the average price £26 5s. Of Cherbourg stock 145 were killed, including 23 Jersey rejects from the Training Farm. The average weight was 392 lb., and at a value of £2,400.

Eight saddle and four draught horses were purchased, and are giving good service. Suitable draught horses are difficult to obtain, and are very costly.

One bleeder was purchased from the Yeerongpilly Animal Health Station.

Dingo traps have been set, but so far only one dingo has been caught, but during August thirty pups were killed by natives.

*Improvements*.—Ringbarking and poisoning was carried out in Barker's Creek, Bottom Branch Creek, and Muddy Flat areas. The kill was fair, but a great improvement in feed is evident. Suckering of previous ringing in Top Branch and Bottom Branch Creeks was completed, but will have to be renewed next year.

Ten Calphos troughs were erected, giving each major paddock at least one trough.

Experiments were carried out with barrel maize, kikuyu, green panic, and panicum and newtrum grass.

Fence maintenance was general, and the common boundary between Smythe and the settlement renewed.

Portion of the stockyard was also renewed.

*Noxious Weeds*.—Burr, clockweed, and groundsell were sprayed.

## SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

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

I have much pleasure in presenting the annual report of the activities of the Association over the year 1954-55.

The main aim of our Association is to widen the social, sporting, and educational life of the settlement inhabitants, that is, to develop qualities which will win the respect and confidence of others and so further assist them in their future life.

Over the year Queensland was favoured with a visit from Her Majesty the Queen, and the people and children of this settlement had the opportunity of demonstrating their loyalty to the Throne and Empire at Bundaberg on the date of Her visit to that city.

## MEETINGS.

Well-attended meetings are held monthly.

## FINANCE.

The Association commenced the year with a credit balance of £519 9s. 3d. and concluded the year with a credit balance of £1,177 14s. 3d., showing a profit of £658 5s. The assets of the Association, after allowing for depreciation of £1,419 17s. are valued at £14,394 10s. 11d. The loan account with the Deputy Director of Native Affairs has been fully repaid.

## PICTURES.

The weekly picture shows are the main source of income of the Association. Screenings have been regular and patrons have enjoyed many good programmes. The Committee has been successful in getting some first-class programmes, which will be screened in the near future. The takings for the year were £3,050, an increase of £669 over the previous year.

## STALL.

The stall was again well patronised, the takings being £916, an increase of £305 over the previous year.

## SPORTING ACTIVITIES.

*Football.*—The Cherbourg football team played games at Dalby, Bundaberg, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Gympie, Nambour, Brisbane, and Wondai. Although not successful in winning any of the shields, the boys played the game for the game's sake. Darcy Burke and Willie Hegarty were selected in games at Rockhampton and Maryborough staged by the Wide Bay and Burnett Rugby League.

*Cricket.*—The Cherbourg Cricket Team has had a fair measure of success in local fixtures, and several players gained selection in the District teams. I want to thank Jack Malone for the many hours he put in in preparing the wicket for games.

*Tennis.*—The tennis team played fixtures with the Murgon District Association and had some successes. No doubt the experience gained in those competitions will tend to improve their game. As in the preparation of a cricket wicket there is much hard work to be done before a match can be played on a tennis court, and that work will have to be done before the present winter fixtures commence.

## SHOW.

The annual show was again held in September, and the women's sections were the outstanding feature of the show and they are to be congratulated on the way that they entered for the various sections. As a contrast the men's sections left very much to be desired.

## SHOW BALL.

The annual show ball was an outstanding success, and debutantes from Palm Island and Cherbourg made their debut to Mr. Adermann, M.H.R., who, after the presentation, gave a short address to the girls.

## ANNUAL DINNER.

The annual dinner of the Association was held on the night preceding the show, and was attended by visitors from the surrounding district and in all it was a very enjoyable function.

## LIBRARY.

Further supplies of books were added to the library, which is still well patronised and is really a great asset to the Association and its members.

## ANZAC DAY.

Anzac Day was held with a service taken by the Rev. Mr. Kurger, and was well attended by local residents.

## INTER-SETTLEMENT EXHIBIT.

Your Association assisted with the staging of the Cherbourg Exhibit at the Royal National Show for the Moore Shield and this settlement was successful in winning the Shield.

## SPORTS DAY.

Sports Days were held on Easter Monday and New Year's Day. The arranged programmes were enjoyed by both competitors and spectators. On New Year's Eve a children's fancy dress ball was held and dancing was continued until the dawn of the New Year.

## TALENT QUEST.

Station 4KQ again visited the settlement and conducted a Talent Quest, and the successful winner, Cecil Garvey, visited Brisbane for the final.

## PLAYGROUND.

Through the generosity of the Department of Native Affairs the playground is now an established fact, and great is the enjoyment of our little folk.

## CHRISTMAS TREE.

The event of the year is the annual Christmas Tree, and this function is eagerly awaited by the children, or for that matter by all. Each child on the settlement was provided with toys and gifts.

## SUNDRY ITEMS.

Pocket money was provided to institution children for the Murgon and Cherbourg Shows.

In addition to a school boy tournament the schoolboys played cricket against Murgon teams.

Many free dances were held during the year, and free pictures were screened for the children on school breaking-up day.

## APPRECIATION.

The Association desires to express sincere thanks to the following:—

The Deputy Director of Native Affairs and staff.

The Superintendent and the Settlement staff.

Mr. Rees for the preparation of the hall and for conducting the football matches.

Mrs. Rees for the work in preparing the debutantes, and also a special vote of thanks to Mrs. Rees for her work in conducting the refreshment stall.

## CONCLUSION.

I could not close this report without making reference to the passing of one who has worked in no small measure towards the success of this Association: I refer to the late Mrs. Maud Bligh.

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 to conduct the year's functions.

On looking back over the past year I can confidently say that the future of the Cherbourg Social and Welfare Association is assured.

## ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

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

Owing to abnormal weather conditions which prevailed during the latter months of the year under note the income for the 12 months shows a decline in comparison with that of the previous year.

The practice of herd recording has been carried on, and 19 low-production and aged cows have been culled from the herd. There is, however, still some of the herd to be culled when the lactation periods have elapsed, as these animals are of short lactation periods and low producing.

Two bulls have been sold as they were of no further use as sires.

The income for cream, as shown on the returns for the year to the end of March, 1955, amounted to £1,361 2s. 11d.

The decline in income on pig returns was partly due to the fall in the price of pigs and also to the introduction of grading. The total number of pigs sold was 121, which realised £1,096 18s. 6d.

It is intended to increase the number of pigs, and with this purpose in view a sire has been purchased from the Gatton Agriculture College. Young breeders will be selected from stock reared on the Training Farm. Some of the old breeders are still on hand, and these will be sold during the next few months.

As far the piggery is concerned most of the pens are satisfactory. However, there is a need for cementing portion of some pens, and it is intended to do this when conditions are suitable.

Approximately 3 acres of lucerne will be planted during August, and pigs will be grazed periodically on lucerne.

Since the introduction of grading it is necessary to grow pigs to a stipulated weight without showing signs of excessive fat; therefore, grazing and feeding a proportion of roughage and grain is essential to obtain choice grades suitable for the export market. The demand for heavy and fat pigs is now non-existent, and a lighter weight pig is being sought. It is necessary, therefore, to breed the right type of pig, and feeding in such a manner to ensure excessive fat is not carried, and the intention is to concentrate on this method.

The growing of crops and vegetables has been curtailed to some extent on account of wet weather conditions. It has been impossible to grow sufficient green fodder for constant grazing

of the dairy herd, and the planting of grain crops has also been hampered. At the present time approximately 15 acres of maize are growing and will be harvested during July, and it is estimated that the approximate yield will be 190 to 200 bags. There are also 10 acres of milo which will be harvested during June. Unfortunately, this crop was severely damaged by flood waters, and will be fed to the cows. There are 21 acres of lucerne growing at the settlement farm, but during the year this has been extensively grazed by the herd and could not be mown or conserved. It is intended during this next year to clear and cultivate land which can be utilised for the growing of fodder crops. It may not be possible, however, to clear sufficient land in a period of two to three years to grow sufficient fodder for constant grazing, but by concentrating on pasture improvement and the eradication of useless timber it will eventually be possible to store the lucerne which can then be used when necessary.

During the year approximately 150 acres of timbered land has been poisoned, and is now showing a good growth of grass. More poisoning of timber will be carried out during the year as the paddocks at the present time are very heavily timbered and require quite a good deal of work to improve the growth of the pasture.

Approximately 20 chains of new fence has been erected, and it is intended to subdivide present paddocks so that areas can be grazed alternately.

The purchase of a power mower was made, and this implement is proving a valuable asset in saving time.

With regard to the irrigation plant, the underground main is proving highly satisfactory.

The citrus orchard is growing reasonably well, and during the year 1,168 dozen oranges, 28 dozen mandarins, and a quantity of lemons were distributed to the settlement. There is a fair crop of fruit on the trees at the present time, and these will be distributed during June.

The growing of vegetables has been carried out, and regular supplies to the settlement were made until the middle of February. Since then wet weather conditions have been experienced and the growing of vegetables has not been successful. The following is a list of the varieties of vegetables grown:—

Pumpkins  
Cabbage  
Turnips  
Cauliflower  
Lettuce  
Beetroot  
Beans  
Tomatoes  
Carrots

At present there are lettuce, cabbage, cauliflower, and beetroot growing. Carrots and turnips, which were planted and spoiled by excessive rain, will be again planted. It is hoped to eventually be able to have a regular supply of vegetables for distribution to the settlement, but land has to be prepared and suitably drained to successfully carry out this work.



## APPENDIX 3.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT.  
(Superintendent, Mr. R. W. Naggs.)

## HEALTH.

The general health of the population has been well maintained, with the exception of hookworm infection. The campaign against this infection is still being carried on.

The medical officer's visits were somewhat irregular due to periodical flooding of the Dawson River.

Matron Tomlinson, a former matron, has again accepted the position as matron of the settlement.

The appointment of Mr. K. Bracey as Visiting Dental Officer was the means of bringing all dental work up to date.

Hygiene has been maintained satisfactorily during the period under review, as perusal of the Hygiene and Welfare Officer's report will disclose.

## STATISTICS.

**Births**—Twenty-nine and two stillbirths—19 males and 10 females.

**Deaths**—Seven, three of which were infants who only lived a few hours, two were under 12 months, one was three years of age and Arthur Miles, aged approximately 63 years of age.

**Marriages**—Fifteen.

**Exemptions**—Twenty-six.

## FINANCE.

*Official Bankings* amounted to £40,956 12s. 2d.; of this amount £14,221 17s. 3d. was banked to natives' Savings Bank accounts; £1,674 12s. collected for settlement maintenance.

*Cash Retail Store Sales* to natives £21,649 14s., and to officers £2,303 1s. 1d.

## BUILDINGS.

Ten native houses.

Settlement Matron's residence.

Store.

Sewing rooms.

New residence for assistant superintendent.

Carpenter's workshop.

Administration store.

## GARAGE AND TRANSPORT.

Mr. H. Bauman has been appointed to the staff and repair work and maintenance stepped up.

Two new vehicles were purchased, one an additional vehicle and one replacing a 1940 3-ton Ford ex Army.

Mileage, including Foleyvale vehicles—trucks 52,381 miles.

The bigger haulage jobs were 820 mill logs and 120 house blocks and fence posts, &c., totalling 256,867 superficial feet. This work has been handicapped considerably during the period because of wet weather and boggy roads.

The haulage of the wheat crop from Foleyvale to Duaringa rail amounted to 240 tons 12 cwt. 2 qr.

The enlarged gangs now at Foleyvale require two trucks to transport the men to and from Woorabinda each fortnight.

## Mileages.—

Trucks, including Foleyvale vehicles ..	52,381
Car miles travelled .. .. .	3,010
Jeep miles .. .. .	3,318
Utility miles .. .. .	7,249
<b>Total mileage .. .. .</b>	<b>65,958</b>

Passengers carried, other than Foleyvale workers, were 916. Of this number 144 were patients travelling to and from the Rockhampton General Hospital.

Fares collected from paying passengers totalled £217 10s.

## SAWMILL.

Two hundred and twenty thousand, one hundred and forty-two superficial feet of logs were sawn for a recovery of 143,271 superficial feet. Of this amount 34,513 superficial feet were dressed for flooring, lining and ceiling, window sills, and hand rails.

## FARMING.

Ten tons of lucerne hay were produced from 1½ acres of land and used to supplement Foleyvale hay and grain to feed the milking cows over the winter period.

Ten acres of peanuts planted on land which had been treated with gypsum produced 214 bags of nuts, and a cheque, to cover the first payment from the Peanut Board, amounting to £246 8s. received.

Broom millet damaged badly by last year's heavy continuous rains realised £46.

The citrus orchard produced 184 cases of oranges, 21 cases of lemons, and 9 cases of mandarins. All were issued to natives.

Vegetables produced, and issued, were as follows:—

15 cwt. onions
50 cases tomatoes
8 bushel cases french beans
3,360 head cabbage
2,400 head cauliflower
90 bushel cases lettuce
10 cwt. marrows
400 bushel cases cucumbers
90 bags kohlrabi
30 tons watermelons

## DAIRY.

The dairy herd totals 82 cows. Milk production during the year was 11,465 gallons. Officers paid £31 2s. 6d. for milk, the remainder was issued to the hospital and natives free.

## PASTORAL.

Livestock Register shows:—

354 Steers,
37 Bulls,
1,995 Herd cows,
491 Bullocks,
394 Heifers, and
82 Dairy cows, a total of 3,353 head of cattle.
50 Draught horses.
121 Saddle horses.

During the period 562 head of bullocks were transferred to Foleyvale and 417 head killed for rations. Meat weight 172,880 lb., of which total 151,253 lb. were issued to natives and 22,847 lb. were purchased by officials. Three hundred and sixty-four hides sold during the period realised £378 7s. 10d.

Rebate on commission received on sales through the Queensland Primary Producers of bullocks from Foleyvale and hides from Woorabinda was £246 8s.

## POWER HOUSE.

The power house has given efficient service throughout the year: £103 5s. 6d. has been collected from officials for light and power. Electricity is supplied to the guest section of the guest house, the dormitory matron's quarters, hospital, and all native quarters free of charge.

## GUEST HOUSE.

The guest house is now under the control of Mrs. J. Costar. The amount paid is on account of rental for rooms and amounted to £111 12s. 9d.

## CONDUCT.

Conduct of the natives during the period can be considered very good. Drunkenness on the settlement is practically non-existent.

## WELFARE.

The Welfare Association is now functioning under Mr. J. Bailey as president and Mr. J. Clark as Secretary.

## EDUCATION.

This matter is ably reported by the Head Teacher, Mr. W. S. Jarrett.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SCHOOL.  
(Head Teacher, Mr. W. S. Jarrett.)

*Attendance.*—The enrolment on 31st March, 1954, was 201, and on 31st March, 1955, it was 210, an increase of nine pupils for the year.

*Daily Average.*—The daily average attendance for the year was as follows:—

Boys	..	..	..	..	95.8
Girls	..	..	..	..	97.5
Total	..	..	..	..	193.3

Grades.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
VII. .. ..	3	4	7
VI. .. ..	10	10	20
V. .. ..	11	10	21
IV. .. ..	16	14	30
III. .. ..	14	27	41
II. .. ..	21	16	37
I. .. ..	13	10	23
Prep. .. ..	15	16	31
Total.. ..	103	107	210

*Staff.*—The teaching staff consists of three whites and four natives. Applications have been invited for an additional male teacher.

*Syllabus.*—The syllabus prescribed by the Department of Public Instruction for its own schools of white children has been followed as closely as industry, vigour, and determination make possible.

*Progress of Pupils.*—Everything considered, it is believed that very good progress has been made. In cultural subjects such as music and drawing the native children are equal to the whites.

*Accommodation.*—The proposed new buildings when completed, will relieve the position.

*Playground Equipment.*—Sporting equipment is in satisfactory supply and materials are well used.

*The Library.*—A new list of required books has been forwarded to the Department for consideration. Considerable help was received during the year from the Public Library of Queensland (Country Extension Service). This institution maintained a "Circulating Library" scheme for the benefit of the children.

*Inter-Settlement Competition.*—In the inter-settlement competition held in Brisbane in August, 1954, this school obtained 49 points out of a possible 54, the percentage thus being 91 (to the nearest unit).

*Non-Competitive Display at Brisbane Exhibition.*—The exhibits sent from this school consisted of 12 articles of woodwork, six of tin-work, eight of leather work, three trade drawings, and the following girls' work:—

Two dresses

Three pieces of fancy work (centres).

Also five exercise books and six copy books were sent.

*Hygiene Lessons.*—During the second half of the period under review the Hygiene officer gave talks on health and hygiene on four days each week. The subject matter was well illustrated by the presentation of actual specimens.

*Improvements to the Playground.*—Much work was done, during the closing weeks of the period covered, by a team of workers who cleared the grass from the tennis court and adjacent area and resurfaced the court. The basketball court, too, was cleared of long grass. The work done was greatly appreciated.

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

Projector  
Gramophone  
Piano  
School library  
Percussion band instruments  
Circulating library.

*Distribution of Clothing made at School.*—The following clothing made by girls at school has been distributed during the year:—

60 pairs of panties  
22 dresses  
6 aprons  
1 shirt  
1 pair of overalls  
4 slips  
6 pillow slips

## SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

(President, Mr. J. E. Bailey.)

As President of the Woorabinda Welfare Association, it is with pleasure that I submit, this, the tenth annual report, of the activities of the Association for the period under review.

Since the annual meeting at the commencement of the year it is pleasing to see that some interest is now being shown by members, with the result that the activities of the Association continue to grow. Co-operation has always been given by officials and natives at any function held in the interest of welfare.

*Football.*—Football is by far the most popular sport played at this settlement. The players and spectators alike derive much enjoyment from the game. The outstanding success of the two representative teams during the season reflects great credit on those who are sincere in their efforts to train and work in the interest of the game.

*Cricket.*—A popular sport with a great number of the residents, the representative team having achieved some notable victories during the season. The forthcoming season is looked forward to by those interested in the game.

*Boxing.*—Boxing during this period has been confined to the settlement, as this sport has been at a very low ebb in outside centres; at the present time there does not appear to be any hope for a brighter 1955 season.

*New Year's Day Sports.*—Our New Year's Day rodeo and sports were an outstanding success, all events being keenly contested, but owing to large nominations some of the minor events had to be cancelled. Outside visitors were plentiful and showed keen interest in the events. The ice cream and soft drink stalls were as popular as ever and the catering also consisted of morning and afternoon teas, the sale of sandwiches, hot dogs, and bread rolls.

*Annual Show.*—The annual show this year was marred by the extensive wet season with the result that only the rodeo events and sports were conducted. The same success was achieved as at all rodeos held at the settlement.

*Inter-Settlement Show.*—The Moore Shield Competition, held at the 1954 Brisbane Royal National Show, was an outstanding success. The fact that only 36½ points separated the first and the third place getters proves the quality of the exhibits and workmanship. It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity of congratulating all who participated and assisted in making every part of the show the outstanding success it was.

*Talkie Screening.*—Saturday being the usual night for screening it is always looked forward to; attendances are always good.

*General Activities.*—Regular dances are held on Wednesday and Friday nights, the former being children's night and the latter for adults. A popular pastime for all.

In conclusion, I would like to convey our thanks and appreciation to the Honourable the Minister, Mr. Moore, the Under Secretary, Mr. McCormack, the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. O'Leary, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Mr. Richards, and Mr. Naggs, Superintendent of the Woorabinda Settlement.

To the Committee members and those who have assisted in any way I say "thank you."

## HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

(Hygiene Officer, Mr. J. Sheppard.)

### REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF NIGHTSOIL.

A new horse-drawn pneumatic-tyred sanitary wagon has been built upon a steel chassis and put into use: capacity, 100 sanitary pans. Disposal of nightsoil is by trenching according to the Nightsoil Disposal Regulations.

The use of sawdust has been discontinued in preference to DDT solution. The addition of 1 qt. of DDT (2 per cent.) solution to the pan, prior to its being put into use plus the provision of DDT (2 per cent.) solution in a bottle in each lavatory for use after each deposit dispenses with the need for sawdust. The advantages of the use of DDT solution over that of sawdust are—

- (1) No evidence of fly breeding is ever seen.
- (2) Smaller bulk in the pans.
- (3) Humification is faster due to less solid organic matter in the pans and because the liquid portion soaks away into the soil giving greater access for nitrifying bacteria.
- (4) Latrines are cleaner.
- (5) Almost complete absence of obnoxious odours.

The advantages of sawdust over DDT are:—

Cheapness—cost is nil.

Availability—produced on the settlement.

A man and a woman are employed solely to keep the public latrines and bathrooms in a clean and hygienic condition.

One septic tank has been installed and two others in the process of installation. The effluent is disposed by means of vertical drains, this type of country particularly lending itself to this method.

### GARBAGE AND REFUSE.

The settlement is serviced once weekly with the exception of the dormitories, hospital, and larger families, which have up to five services per week. Disposal is by deep burial and firing.

### DAIRY.

Although the wet weather renders conditions soft about the dairy fly breeding has been kept down to an absolute minimum. This is due to the daily spraying of manure heaps with DDT and their twice weekly removal to the farm. The milk room and bails are scrubbed clean daily. All milking staff are schooled in the principles of hygienic milk production.

### SLAUGHTER YARDS.

Soakage pits have been dug for the reception of blood and water from the killing pens. Provision has been made for the dressing of two beasts at once. A 45-gallon boiler has been installed for the supply of hot water for cleaning and disinfection. A lavatory with wash basin was installed for the sole use of slaughter-yard personnel. Excellent quality beef is slaughtered for consumption.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of treated water is more than adequate for demands.

## SANITATION.

*Drainage.*—All open drains are cleared weekly and closed drains flushed twice weekly. The sedimentation tanks are functioning satisfactorily.

*Insect Pests.*—Due to constant vigilance, flies, mosquitoes, fleas, and cockroaches are kept under control. Houses are either fumigated with "Gammexene" smoke pellets or sprayed with DDT when required and upon request. Each family is supplied weekly with a disinfectant for cleaning purposes.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

A hookworm incidence campaign was commenced at the beginning of this year. Four hundred and seventy-six persons were tested, of whom 128 were found to be infested. In addition, a number had ascariasis and other helminths of lesser pathological importance. Four cases of venereal disease, gonorrhoea, three cases of tuberculosis, and two cases of Hansen's disease were also notified. All infected persons were treated and precautions taken, as far as possible, against the spread of the diseases.

## WELFARE.

Houses have been repaired and made weather proof where necessary. Firewood carted to indigent people and those unable to cart same themselves.

In a drive to eliminate many of the remaining "ground" houses several families have been moved into newly-built cottages and the houses formerly occupied by natives now exempt. However, some families show strong preference for "ground" houses because a fire can be built indoors on the floor.

## GENERAL HEALTH EDUCATION.

Health films were obtained from the Health Council and shown at the usual weekend screenings. Talks on health and hygiene were administered at the school to the children each school day for six months. A billboard was erected in a prominent place and health poster displayed. Talks were also given to the men on several occasions on the parade ground on the subject "Hookworm and Ascariasis Prevention." The special lectures on practical hygiene and sanitation, given at regular intervals to those comprising the hygiene staff, are showing excellent results.

## FOLEYVALE RESERVE.

*Pastoral.*—Weather conditions at Foleyvale during the period under review became good after a reasonably mild winter followed by good spring rains.

Bullocks, after a good winter, responded well in the spring, resulting in exceptionally good sales through the Rockhampton Sale Yards. The top price obtained was for one consignment of 32 head, the average price being £60 5s. per head.

*Cattle Transfers.*—At Cannon Hill, Brisbane, and Gracemere, Rockhampton, Sale Yards, 474 bullocks were sold by public auction realising £20,070 4s. 10d.

Eight bullocks were transferred to Woorabinda for killing purposes.

*Agriculture.*—Crops harvested and distributed during the period under review were—3,281 bags wheat sent to State Wheat Board, Bajool, realising to date £3,599 0s. 3d. An amount of £16 15s. 3d. was received as quality premium on wheat supplied to the Board in the 1953-54 season.

Three hundred and five bags milo harvested from 20 acres.

Twenty-one sack bags Rhodes grass seed were harvested for further use at Foleyvale and two truck loads Rhodes grass hay transferred to Woorabinda.

*General Improvements.*—With the appointment of a carpenter, one native cottage has been completed: store-dwelling now well in the advance stages.

Under the supervision of Mr. Holliman a further 78 acres were cleared and 2½ miles of fencing completed. Thirty acres of land have been cultivated.

Under the supervision of Mr. Grenfell the following work has been completed:—

166 acres scrub felled  
26 acres scrub cleared  
340 acres ringbarked  
231 acres suckered

In addition to the above two motor grids were erected and a 2- by 24-inch-pipe viaduct inserted at the Annabranche, Duaringa to Foleyvale road.

## APPENDIX 4.

## MONA MONA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Pastor W. H. Turner.)

## STAFF.

Mr. M. O. Blyde, Accountant and Secretary  
Mrs. M. O. Blyde, Matron (Honorary)  
Mr. D. E. Hay, B.A. Th.L., Head Teacher  
Miss G. Gillam, Infant Teacher  
Mr. F. H. Cherry, Engineer  
Mrs. F. H. Cherry, Sewing Room and Clothing (Honorary)  
Mrs. W. H. Turner, Deputy Matron (Honorary)

During the year under review Mr. and Mrs. Zanotti retired from mission service after ten years at Mona Mona. Mr. Zanotti spent seven of those years as head teacher and three as superintendent. During his term of office in these capacities Mr. Zanotti personally planned and supervised many big projects which remain and will remain for many years as monuments to his ability and hard work. I believe it most appropriate that the Mona Mona Mission Aboriginal Brass Band be mentioned in this connection. Mr. Zanotti was the founder of this now famous Band and the credit for all the hard work and patience required to teach beginners and plan and work toward the purchase of instruments is due entirely to him.

We wish Mr. and Mrs. Zanotti and their family every happiness, as they now work and live in the city of Brisbane.



## HEALTH.

## Statistics—

## Births—

Females .. .. .	9
Males .. .. .	5

## Deaths—

Gastro-enteritis .. .. .	3
Pneumonia .. .. .	1

The general health of the people has been good, and we have been favoured with regular monthly visits by the resident doctor of Mareeba District Hospital for most of the year. We greatly appreciate these visits. During the year the mission suffered a gastro epidemic which resulted in the deaths of three children. We greatly regret this loss of young lives, but feel grateful to medical science which has produced drugs which were used for the successful treatment of over 50 other patients. Our medical staff administered over 15,000 tablets during the two weeks the epidemic lasted, and we wish to record our gratitude to these voluntary workers. Here, also, we wish to record our appreciation of assistance of the Mareeba Hospital Board, which made a trained nurse available to us during that critical period.

Twenty-four Hansen's disease patients—both arrested and suspects—have received follow-up treatment daily under the personal supervision of our matron and her native nurse girl. All of these patients are transported to Cairns Commonwealth Health Laboratory once a month for a blood count. Smears are also taken from all of these by matron at regular intervals. These smears are sent to the Department of Micro and Pathology, Brisbane, for examination.

We are pleased to be able to report that six more of our Hansens' disease patients have been welcomed home from Fantome Island with the disease completely arrested. Thanks to modern drugs and the devotion to service of suffering humanity displayed by the Mother and Sisters of Fantome Island, we are hoping soon to have no more sufferers on that Island.

A regular weekly ante-natal and baby clinic has been conducted and all mothers avail themselves of the instruction and facilities provided.

All infants from one to two years were immunised against whooping cough, diphtheria, and tetanus.

We are fortunate to have been able to avail ourselves of the services of the mobile X-ray plant being used in conjunction with the Government's anti-tuberculosis campaign. Although the plant could not be brought here we were able to transport all of the native population over 14 years of age to Cairns for X-ray. We wish here to place on record our appreciation of the efficient planning of the campaign organizer, Mr. Chisholm, which enabled our people to be accommodated so conveniently.

## EDUCATION.

This year two higher grades, Sixth and Seventh, have been introduced in the school and several young people who had left school have returned to take advantage of this. They are making very satisfactory progress and we have hopes of sending some on to the Australasian Missionary College to train as missionaries. At

least two are working of their own free will toward this high ideal. The present enrolment is 66.

## RECREATION AND SPORT.

A wide range of sport and entertainment is entered into, the more regular features being the fortnightly Saturday night youth socials held in the recreation hall, rodeos, fishing, and shooting every week end, monthly pictures and band practice twice weekly. All functions and sports are well attended. An unofficial group of boys known as the "School Band" have made themselves crude wooden cornets, tenor horns, trombones, &c., and it is a source of amazement and delight to hear their version of "Colonel Bogey." The Mona Mona people seem to have a natural flair for music. The Brass Band is held in great esteem to all. It has been the means of bringing a great deal of pleasure and travel to its members and others who travel with it on tour. Last July one tour included Mareeba, Atherton, Millaa Millaa, Ravenshoe, and Herberon. In all of these towns large crowds of white people were delighted, and it was visibly evident that many were emotionally moved by the beautiful music rendered by the sons of Australia's original inhabitants. Another tour took the band to Townsville where it played to a thousand delegates to the North Queensland Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists. About 50 others also attended this conference and benefited greatly not only by travel but from fellowship in church matters with European delegates.

## RELIGION.

Considering that religious appointments are many and attendance is voluntary it is encouraging to see about 33 per cent. of the population at the Sabbath divine service and about 80 per cent. at Vespers. Each morning the day is begun with a thought from the Word of God at work parade after which any one of the native people is called upon to ask God's blessing on the day's activities. The ability with which this is accomplished is proof of the spiritual response to Christian education. Devil dances and, indeed, all ceremonial dances are cherished no longer, and "Gwengin," the devil, is not respected at all.

## VISITORS.

A great number of visitors have been entertained during the year, including Pastor W. E. Battye, President of the Trans-Tasman Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, Pastor Richards, President of the North Queensland Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists, Mr. O'Leary, Director of Native Affairs, Mr. Bartlam, Superintendent of Palm Island Settlement, whose visits were greatly appreciated.

As arranged by the Government Tourist Bureau during the tourist season, Pioneer Tours (North Queensland) Pty. Ltd. ran week-end trips to the mission, and people from all over the world are entertained by the natives.

## DISCIPLINE.

We are fortunate indeed to be able to report that alcoholic liquor is unknown among the inhabitants of this place—both natives and staff



**Mona Mona Mission—Combined School and Recreation Hall.**

—and only a very small percentage of the natives use tobacco, and that with a great deal of timidity, for they are a definite minority. Gambling has been unknown during the year, and we have hopes that this vice will never raise its ugly head again.

#### AGRICULTURE.

In spite of the very poor quality of our soil fair supplies of all the main vegetable crops were grown, with special emphasis on watermelons. Pineapples were in good supply as the pineapple plantation at Kyber is now progressing well and some sections show real promise of good production.

#### TIMBER AND SAWMILLING.

We are fortunate in having an abundant supply of timber, not only on the Mission Reserve but also on the Forestry Reserves adjoining it. Many thousands of super. feet of pine and other good soft timbers, as well as hickory, were felled and either sent to Cairns Timber Pty. Ltd. or milled in our own plant.

The mill is very well equipped now with the recent installation of a much larger reconditioned steam engine which supplies adequate power for the whole plant. As this report goes to press, though, we are faced with the prospect of having to make very extensive repairs to the boiler, and are informed by the manufacturers that the delivery of materials cannot be expected under seven months. Production, therefore, has temporarily ceased.

#### STOCK.

Because of the rough nature of the country it is difficult to obtain a complete cattle muster, but it is estimated that the mission owns 290 head, including calves, and about 20 horses.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

Whereas the affairs of this mission have previously been administered by the Executive Committee of the Trans-Tasman Union Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists from Sydney, they are now, as from 1st January, 1955, under the direction of the Executive Committee of the North Queensland Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists. We believe that this change from remote control to direct control by a committee on the spot will be a decided advantage to both natives and staff.

#### THANKS.

We wish again to grasp this opportunity of extending our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to those who have assisted during the year the great cause for which this mission was established. We hesitate to mention names, for it is obvious that many who are most deserving of mention must be left unsung. Mention, however, is freely made of the Director and Deputy Director of Native Affairs, the honorary members of our staff, who are missionaries indeed, and the hundreds of people who, during the year, have responded to the annual appeal for missions conducted by the Seventh-Day Adventist Board of Missions.

#### APPENDIX 5.

#### YARRABAH MISSION.

(Superintendent, Captain H. E. Cole, C.A., J.P.)

#### STAFF.

The Reverend F. W. Hipkin, Chaplin and Headmaster  
 Mrs. F. W. Hipkin (School)  
 Miss N. D. Howell, B.A., Dip. Ed. (School)  
 Mr. G. G. Gretton, J.P. (Store)  
 Miss I. Sanders (Dormitory Matron)  
 Sister M. C. Stanley, C.A. (St. Luke's Hospital)  
 Miss P. Style (Curios and Office)  
 Sister J. Cryer, C.A. (Office Clerk and Welfare Officer)  
 Captain E. J. Pearce, C.A. (Reserve Overseer)  
 Captain A. Polgen, C.A. (Boat)

Staff changes over the last twelve months have consolidated administration of the mission. We do express our grateful thanks to all those who have served the Church and the native people at Yarrabah and have by various circumstances left for overdue leave or to other places of employment.

We are grateful to the Church Army in providing officers and sisters to fill these gaps. The shortage is still acute in respect of specialists in engineering and building construction.

#### STATISTICS.

##### Births—

There were 31 in 1953  
 34 in 1954  
 39 in 1955

There are 167 children under six years of age  
 108 children six years and under  
 11 years of age  
 102 children 12 years and under  
 16 years of age

—  
 377  
 —

Deaths—Six.

Exemptions—Two.

#### HEALTH.

The general good health of the people has been maintained. Some unknown fevers have caused some distress among children and workers, and is being investigated by doctors of the Cairns Base Hospital.

*Tuberculosis.*—All inhabitants of Yarrabah over 14 years of age have been to the Mobile X-ray Unit visiting Cairns. Three known cases of recurring tuberculosis are in the Cairns Base Hospital.

*Dental.*—Occasional visits of Flying Dentist carried out routine work at Yarrabah. For 45 years "Dadda" George Singleton, one of the patriarchs of Yarrabah Mission, very successfully fulfilled the position of dentist to the relief of many aching jaws. We do wish him happy days in his retirement, as age demanded his resignation.

*Optometrist.*—The optometrist visited for annual routine check.

## CRAFT.

*Curios.*—A very definite improvement is noticed in basket and mat work which has gained favourable comment from all the Eastern States of Australia and elsewhere where sold.

## RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT.

*Hunting.*—Hunting in the heavy scrub belt along the coast takes up the main free time of most men during weekends; fishing, also, along coast to augment variety in diet.

Privately owned small boats go out to the reef for trochus fishing, &c.

*Football.*—Rugby football is the favourite ball game, but it is hard to hold interest for a full season. Cricket is spasmodic as a team game.

*Native Dancing.*—"Island" variety and true aboriginal style of dancing is the main entertainment. Excellent shows were put on at Christmas and the New Year.

## CONSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENTS.

An excellent bulk store, butcher's shop, 50 feet by 18 feet, with concrete floor, was built by Yarrabah men under the guidance of Mr. D. M. Robertson, M.A.I.M.E. The building is divided into two 25 feet by 18 feet rooms. A 9-foot cube cool room is installed in the butcher's shop, the power unit, 5-6-h.p. Lister is in a well-spaced engine room, suitably attached under the one roof.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Every house block in Head Station has water laid on.

## TIMBER MILL.

Over 35,000 super. feet of logs were cut during the year.

## FARM.

*Oombunghi.*—Oombunghi area has been extended by fenced cultivated paddocks. Two special varieties of sugar cane for cow cane fodder have been planted and are now established. Molasses grassed areas have been extended, also 2 acres for pineapple planting. Excellent crops of watermelons, sweet potatoes, and maize were harvested during the year. A number of very young A.I.S. calves have been received as a gift from the Bush Brotherhood at Ravenshoe, for which we are most grateful.

*Long Scrub.*—Extended cultivated area during the year. Vegetable crops were more intense here and good yields obtained.

*Dijinghi.*—Now has 60,000 pineapple plants in various stages of growth. A little more than 1 acre was harvested last summer. Most fruit was issued to the people. Bananas also provided many bunches towards the fruit ration.

*Mourighan.*—Excellent french beans were produced here in addition to a maize crop and Queensland blue pumpkins, cassava and sweet potatoes were also grown.

Farm produce issued to inhabitants during the year ended 31st March, 1955.

1,458 lb. white turnips.
926 lb. swede turnips.
520 lb. cabbages.
2,092 lb. french beans.
922 lb. cucumbers.
3,811 lb. pumpkins.
758 lb. marrows.
9,203 lb. sweet potatoes.
4,880 lb. tomatoes.
3,539 lb. carrots.
1,460 lb. beetroot.
248 lb. onions.
150 lb. pie melons.
1,232 lb. cassava.
8,360 lb. watermelons.
737 lb. pineapples.
4,260 lb. bananas.
221 lb. papaws.

## DAIRY.

Some 1,095 gallons, approximately, were produced during the year, and next year it is hopeful to step up the supply.

## EMPLOYMENT.

Full employment for all the men is always possible. Big inroads are made by the demand for cane cutters and field workers, station hands and domestics.

*Outside Employment.*—There were 76 on agreement, 19 on permit, and 42 cane cutters during the year. Gross wages recorded amounted to £14,082 7s. 1d.

## CHURCH.

The number of communicants have steadily increased, and there has been an enrichment in the tone of all services.

Thirty-one young folk were confirmed by the Bishop in April, 1954.

There were 27 baptisms and 16 marriages during the year.

Church Youth organizations and Sunday Schools were conducted through the year by the faithful service of staff members.

## SCHOOL.

During the year Miss N. Howell, B.A., Dip. Ed., of Sydney, joined the staff of the school.

Miss Florence Phipps resigned in August owing to failing health after three years of fruitful service as head teacher.

Father Hipkin took charge of the school in September, 1954.

There are 165 children on the roll. An extended building programme will have to be undertaken to meet the need of the growing population in the near future.

One boy is at All Souls' School, Charters Towers, and three girls are at St. Gabriel's School, Charters Towers.

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



## APPENDIX 6.

## DOOMADGE MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. Talbot.)

## STAFF.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Hockey  
 Miss Isa Black  
 Miss Grace Crouch  
 Miss Pearl Roberts  
 Miss Ruth Parry.

## STATISTICS.

Births—15.  
 Deaths—3 adults, 5 infants.  
 Transfers to Mission—5.  
 Transfers from Mission—11.  
 Exemptions from Act—1.  
 Marriages celebrated—2.

## HEALTH.

There were continued recurrences of gastro-enteritis amongst infants during beginning of this year which required constant nursing. An epidemic of influenza and Gulf fever was suffered in September and October.

A whooping cough epidemic was experienced in January, and for two months our nursing staff, quarters, and facilities were taxed beyond capacity. During this latter epidemic four infants died but only two of the deaths could definitely be attributed to whooping cough. Two confinement cases went to Burketown Hospital.

Three cases were taken by Flying Doctor to Cloncurry Hospital for tonsillectomy.

Two whooping cough cases were taken to Cloncurry for special treatment as were also two women suffering serious decline.

All cases have returned to the mission and have continued to improve in health.

The Flying Doctor based at Cloncurry paid nine Clinic trips and six special visits to the mission during the year.

There have been the usual minor accidents, including a fractured arm, all of which were satisfactorily treated immediately.

A native man returning 50 miles home on foot injured a foot and hobbled in with the foot so badly infected that he had to be taken to Cloncurry for surgical treatment.

One fatal accident occurred. A little girl of two years wandered away from her mother and fell into the river.

## SOCIAL.

On a number of evenings colour films have been screened and much enjoyed by the people, and other evenings have been given to varying forms of entertainment. There are games and sports every Wednesday afternoon for the school children and sports for all, almost every Saturday. The latter afford great enjoyment when the men folk are home during the mid-summer season.

There have been holiday camps along the river, the boys and girls going at different times for a week.

Besides these special outings the Institution children have more frequently than ever enjoyed day picnics, bush walks, &c. These are made possible by more women missionaries and visits by a number of interested men and women friends of the mission.

During the wet season we had many visiting natives from other Protectorates and these all participated in the various forms of entertainment.

## EDUCATION.

School has been regular throughout the year, the usual holidays and between term vacations being observed.

## CONDUCT.

It is sufficient to say that the conduct of the people has been remarkably good, and a fine spirit has prevailed particularly amongst the institution girls and in the native village.

## RELIGION.

All devotional meetings have been well attended, and we believe the fruit of this work is responsible for the improved conduct of the people.

Several men take an intelligent, free-speaking part in devotions and gospel proclamation.

## AGRICULTURE AND FARM.

*Garden.*—Notwithstanding havoc suffered by grasshoppers in the 1954 sowing season for the year under review we had fair supplies of green and root vegetables all through the winter and spring months of the year.

During the wet season 3 acres green manure crop was grown and ploughed in.

Three hundred new banana stands were planted out, also a good number of papaw seedlings. Bananas cropped very well for the year. Early vegetable seed sowings in February and March, 1955, almost all failed, but later sowings have done favourably.

*Apiary.*—This has been quite a success. We have a pure Liguarian strain, and they are getting stronger in spite of ceaseless war waged by the bee-eating birds which we check a little with shooting. Honey yield for the 12 months has been over 600 lb.

*Poultry.*—Egg production during the seven months of the year was excellent, enabling supply of eggs to all children of the mission. When moulting began in the wet season the production fell very low and has not nearly recovered to previous numbers.

## PASTORAL.

One new cattle yard has been built at a watering place 15 miles north of the mission.

A new horse yard at the mission became necessary, and a very good horse drafting and breaking-in yard has been built almost entirely by native men.

Paddock fences have been kept in constant repair and cattle yard gates, which suffer much with wild cattle, have constantly to be repaired or re-made.

Under Mr. Hockey's instruction and supervision a number of saddles and old gear which saddlers have declined to attempt to repair have been dismantled and rebuilt, or repaired and made useable. If the doing of this work may not have been as economical as buying new saddles, we count the cost in relation to the valuable tuition of a native man in the work. This man has applied himself very consistently and has become quite good at the work.

## LIVESTOCK.

*Cattle.*—

Cattle on hand 1st April, 1954	1,500	
Less losses unaccounted for	396	
Sales	8	
	404	1,096
Add brandings for year	627	1,723
Deduct killings for Mission consumption	70	
Cattle on hand at 31st March, 1955		1,653

*Horses.*—

Mission owned at 1st April, 1954	70	
Deduct losses 10 per cent.	7	
Add brandings for year	13	63
		76
Native owned at 1st April, 1954	33	
Deduct losses 10 per cent.	3	
Add brandings for year	4	30
		34
Horses on hand at 31st March, 1955		110

## BUILDINGS.

Existing buildings have all been maintained.

*New School Building.*—The roofing has been completed and floor entirely concrete paved. It is being used, but walls and fittings have all to be finished.

## AERODROME.

This has been maintained, but whether the convenience of weekly mail and passenger service warrants the cost and labour of maintenance is questionable.

We have now to enlarge the landing strips to meet requirements of D.C.3 now being used by T.A.A. on Gulf Mail Service, this means more scrub clearing, levelling, and fencing work.

## NATIVE LABOUR.

Most of our people returned to mission from places of employment for wet season holidays.

There has since been a good demand for native labour, and all but some unwell men have gone out to employment again.

Forty-one men and 11 women plus some small children were taken from the mission direct to places of employment by Bush Pilot Charter Service, and a number got away by regular mail and passenger plane service.

## GENERAL.

Miss Isa Black, Nursing Sister in charge of medical work of mission, returned from sick furlough 31st August. About the same time another triple certificated nurse joined temporarily the staff of the mission, Miss F. Bearfield, of Brisbane.

## Visitors included:—

Miss D. Johnson, from Brisbane, for four weeks.

Mr. J. Bain, from Sydney, for three months during which time he, with the assistance of two native men, concreted floor of new buildings.

Mr. J. Boyd, of Sydney, was here for five months assisting in work of maintenance of motors and machinery.

Mr. Don Richter, of Gospel Recordings, U.S.A., for a week taking recordings of gospel messages in Burketown native language.

A number of Commonwealth Government geologists working in the north west area passed through the mission. Uranium and other mineral ore seekers have passed through mission, and some have made air surveys. We believe there is nothing of interest to mining prospectors in any part of the Doomadgee Reserve. Representatives of oil-boring interests visited the mission and appeared to be chiefly interested in how we obtained our supplies, the quality of local timbers, the handicaps we have to contend with, and the availability of native labour. On the 28th June the Cloncurry based Flying Doctor visited the mission and departed for Calvert Hills, in Northern Territory. The plane was lost; later found by Lincoln Bombers. The mission offered it's Chevrolet Blitz and equipment with our Mr. Hockey and some dozen or more native men to assist, if necessary, in salvage work. The mission truck left on 1st July in company with Police Sergeant of Burketown and returned 5th July after an arduous task for both men and the vehicle. A number of large tyres were destroyed by rocks and timber stakes on the excursion.

## APPRECIATION.

The ready assistance and co-operative interest of the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director, and the staff of the Brisbane office are always such as to call for our sincere thanks. We would like again to record our grateful thanks to the Flying Doctor Service for what they have done for our people during this year, adding a special note of appreciation for the understanding professional devotion of Doctor Ewell Smith to sick natives of the mission, as well at their places of employment as at the mission.

## APPENDIX 7.

HOPE VALE LUTHERAN MISSION,  
COOKTOWN.

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

## STAFF MEMBERS.

Reverend B. F. Hartwig, Head School Teacher  
Mrs. B. F. Hartwig, Assistant School Teacher  
Mr. Gordon Rose, Store Manager and Farm Overseer  
Mr. Robert Hensel, Stockman  
Mr. Donald Ruthenberg, Sawmiller and Mechanic  
Mr. Neville Knopke, Carpenter  
Miss Violet Tanzer, Nursing Sister

At the end of 1954 Mr. Gordon Rose and Miss Marcia Manitsky, who were placed in charge of our school and store due to the resignation of Mrs. O. Hartwig, were relieved, when Reverend and Mrs. B. F. Hartwig, formerly



**Doomadgee Mission—Spear Fishing.**



**Doomadgee Mission—Stock Yards.**

engaged in teaching Papuans in New Guinea, were placed in charge of Hope Vale School. Miss Manitsky, who was only temporarily engaged, left on 31st March, 1955. Since the beginning of the year Mr. Gordon Rose has been able to devote his time to our store as well as supervise the various farming projects. Mr. Neville Knopke is serving the mission as a carpenter for a period of 12 months. In the near future a carpenter will be urgently required to replace him.

#### STATISTICS.

Hope Vale Lutheran Mission Reserve,  
area 257,200 acres.

Births	..	..	..	..	11
Deaths	..	..	..	..	1
Marriages—					
At Hope Vale	..	..	..	..	2
Palm Island	..	..	..	..	6
Yarrabah	..	..	..	..	1

#### HEALTH.

The health of inmates on the mission has been fair. According to records kept by the nursing sister in charge the re-infestation of hookworm among a number of families has given cause for alarm. Despite constant and regular warnings and inspection the infestation of hookworm has been increasing. On the advice of Mr. McFarlane, Inspector of Health, a new sanitary and disposal system is soon to be introduced. The new system will enable those responsible to have a regular weekly inspection.

During the year 18 native families erected poultry sheds and yards and were supplied with a dozen six-weeks-old chickens. It is hoped that more native families in this coming year will have their own poultry and eggs.

For a number of months it was possible to supply a glass of milk each daily to 74 school children as well as nursing mothers and invalids. During the past few months the production of milk has dropped. However, it is hoped that in the near future the supply will gradually increase.

The following is a record of patients who have received medical attention:—

Month.	Out-patients.	In-patients.	Hook-worm.	Dental.
1954—				
April ..	304	17	20	..
May ..	371	18	12	..
June ..	616	14	40	..
July ..	447	11	19	..
August ..	487	15	12	66
September ..	389	13	18	30
October ..	433	14	25	..
November ..	460	13	137	..
December ..	283	13	47	..
1955—				
January ..	350	8	24	..
February ..	306	6	..	..
March ..	330	5	85	1
Totals ..	4,776	147	439	97

#### EDUCATION.

The attendance at school has been reasonably good, the average being 67·39 per cent. Subjects such as English and Arithmetic appear to be difficult for the majority of children to learn.

c

Constant revising is necessary. Practical subjects such as writing, drawing, singing, and handcraft are more easily taught and learnt by almost all the pupils.

#### BUILDINGS.

During the latter part of 1954 money amounting to £4,950 was made available for the mission. A portion of the money was spent on the construction of a Canadian twin bench, breaking-down bench, erecting a four-sider planing machine and shed measuring 60 feet by 35 feet. Our Farmall M tractor was used to haul the logs and supply power to the mill. Since our tractor is required for our expanding agricultural projects, a stationary 40-h.p. engine has recently been purchased for our sawmill. Efforts are under way to acquire a four-wheel-drive timber hauling truck.

Due to an exceptionally wet season and our tractor being required for farm work the erection of buildings has been retarded. However, the following buildings have been erected:—

- 1 Sawmill shed 60 feet by 35 feet.
- 1 Cow shed 30 feet by 12 feet.
- 1 Staff residence
- 2 Permanent native residences
- 2 Temporary native residences
- 1 Machinery shed re-roofed and enlarged.

#### STOCK.

During the year it was possible for the mission to purchase 120 head of selected Red Devon Shorthorn Cross heifers from Rookwood Station. Early in January three Red Poll three-eighth grade Zebu Bulls were secured from Mungalla Stud, at Ingham. In addition to the purchase of beef cattle eight Illawarra heifers were purchased at Malanda and 16 heifers and one stud dairy bull were donated by friends of the Murgon and Wondai district. The station has now a total of 220 head of cattle. The condition of cattle purchased is above expectation. Mr. Kleinig of Leeton, New South Wales, presented the mission with a mobile spraying unit which can be moved to wherever it is required.

#### AGRICULTURE.

The 1954 peanut crop yielded a total of 1,225 bags. Nine bales of cotton were forwarded to Brisbane and 300 cases of pineapples were marketed at Cooktown and Cairns. Due to very dry weather in January, 1955, and exceptionally heavy rains following in February and March, returns from crops this season will be disappointingly small. An area of 40 acres of peanuts and maize were completely devastated due to the heavy rain which fell in a space of a few hours. However, 25 acres of cotton which were planted after the rain show promise of a fair return.

Plans are being made to develop some hundreds of acres of red soil land which is lightly timbered. After farming certain areas for a number of years pasture grasses will be sown for the fattening of cattle.

Tropical fruits which were in plentiful supply were badly stung by the fruit fly.

#### CONDUCT.

The behaviour of inmates has been generally good. Eight young men were sent to Palm Island and one man to Yarrabah to seek wives.



Seven of the nine have returned to the mission with their brides, and it is expected that the remaining two men will be successful.

#### RECREATION.

During the cooler months of the year football is played by the men. Swimming, hunting, and fishing are keenly indulged in. At the end of the school year a sports picnic and concert was organised and enjoyed by young and old. Exhibits are being prepared for our first local show.

#### SPIRITUAL.

Divine services, Bible study, devotional exercises, and choir singing have been well attended and appreciated by the inmates. Most families hold their own daily family devotions and prayers.

#### VISITORS.

During the past year many tourists visited the station. Many of them were favourably impressed with the work being done. Especially appreciated were the visits of Inspector Draffin, of the Department of Native Affairs, the secretary and treasurer of Hope Vale Mission Board, Reverend N. C. Keller, Mr. H. Radke, Mr. and Mrs. V. Koschade, the Donges Brothers of Glenarvon Estates, and Mr. G. R. Kleinig, who built a second rubber-tyred trailer and spring cart, as well as attending to many needs of the mission. The presentation of a road grader, spray unit, milking machines, engine, and sterilizer for our dairy are much appreciated.

#### APPRECIATION.

Members of Hope Vale Mission Board, members of Hope Vale staff, aboriginal inmates, and the superintendent sincerely thank the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, the Deputy Director of Native Affairs, Mr. P. J. Richards, and their staff members for their keen interest, helpful advice, and assistance given to the establishment and development of the mission for the welfare of natives placed under our care.

#### APPENDIX 8.

### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND PENINSULA.

#### MARINE INDUSTRY.

The life of Thursday Island and the Torres Strait Islanders is dependent on the Marine Industry, viz., mother-of-pearl shell and trochus shell. Without these industries Thursday island could not exist and the living conditions in the Torres Strait Islands would be in a parlous position.

Consequently, it is the aim of the Queensland Government to retain the Marine Industry as a unit in the industrial life of Queensland. The psychology of the Torres Strait Islander is such that he regards the Marine Industry, particularly the Torres Strait, as his domain. It is the birthright of his race. Therefore, the Sub-Department of Native Affairs must of necessity protect the islander in his employment conditions in this industry of which no industrial award operates.

For the year ended March, 1953, the value of marine produce won by island-owned vessels was £113,318. For the year ended March, 1954, the value was £119,918, and for the year ended March, 1955, the value was £113,810.

Over the three years there is little difference between the amount produced in the value of produce.

The remuneration paid to divers, tenders, engineers, and crews in the pearling industry and the captain and crew of workers in the trochus industry is provided by agreements between employees and employers. These agreements record improvements in the remuneration of Islanders and Aborigines as compared with 1954 agreements. The Diver's Agreement for the 1955 season is as hereunder:—

#### DIVERS AGREEMENT—1955.

AGREEMENT made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
One thousand nine hundred and fifty-five 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 1955 ending on the 31st January, 1956, 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 Owners' consent. The Owners agree not to send the vessel to any other ground without first obtaining the approval of the Shellers 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 1955 to the Owners and the same shall become and remain the property of the Owners immediately it is obtained by the Diver and crew and shall be delivered by them to the Owners or their authorised representatives at such place in Thursday Island and at such times as the Owners may direct, provided that no costs shall accrue against the Diver for transport or wharfage. Marine Produce includes all types of shell, shell meat, dugong, and all kinds of edible fish, and Beche-de-Mer, turtle meat, and shells.

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

	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 Second Diver, Third Diver, Fourth Diver, Tenders, Engineer, and Crew, and other payments or advances made against the Diver's Account.

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

6. The Diver shall pay the cost of all fuel used over and above the amount of Two hundred and thirty pounds (£230) in the case of luggers and Three hundred and thirty pounds (£330) in the case of power boats.

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

7. The Diver agrees with the Owners that he will pay wages to the crew as follows:—

Second Diver .. .. .	£20 per month.
Third Diver .. .. .	£20 per month.
Fourth Diver .. .. .	£20 per month.
First Tender .. .. .	£20 per month.
Second Tender .. .. .	£18 per month.
Third Tender .. .. .	£18 per month.
Fourth Tender .. .. .	£18 per month.
Engineer .. .. .	£20 per month.
Crew .. .. .	£17 per month.

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

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

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

- (a) Crews at all times must be aboard their respective vessels unless given permit to leave by the Stern Tender and all breaches of this clause should be reported in writing to the Director of Native Affairs and the Shipping Master;
- (b) Any crew member who deserts his boat during the season or whose services are terminated through his own fault or because of misconduct, neglect of duty, breach of this Agreement, or at his own request, shall not participate in bonus payments;
- (c) The Diver agrees to pay the following bonuses to men employed aboard his vessel:—

*Vessels fishing up to 20 tons—*

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

*Vessels fishing over 20 tons—*

Bonus as above shall apply to the 20 tons. Bonus shall be 50 per cent. 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 such to commence after 15 tons is reached and share then be retrospective and Trainee Divers for the first year shall be paid extra bonus at the rate of £1 per ton by the Owner 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—*

Second Diver .. .. .	One-quarter of the above
First Tender .. .. .	One-quarter of the above
Second Tender .. .. .	One-eighth of the above
Engineer .. .. .	One-eighth of the above
Four crew .. .. .	To be equally divided among them

*Three (3) Diver Boat—*

Second Diver .. .. .	three shares
Third Diver .. .. .	three shares
First Tender .. .. .	three shares
Second Tender .. .. .	two shares
Third Tender .. .. .	two shares
Engineer .. .. .	three shares
Four Crew .. .. .	one share each

9. When vessels are being fitted out for work as diving boats, the Owners will provide her with masts spares, rigging, engines and compressors, sails, blocks, ropes, anchors, chains, cooking utensils, helmets and corselets, piping, lifeline, dinghy, approved medical kit, three sets Diver's clothing for a Two-diver boat and four sets of Diver's clothing for a Three-diver boat, and any other gear necessary to carry out working.

Any replacement due to any of the above wearing out (except Diver's clothing) to be supplied, but any replacements due to carelessness on the part of the Diver or his crew to be paid for by the Diver, provided that nothing in this section shall refer to the Divers 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 pearls won are the property of the Owner and shall be handed to him, but in the case of Islanders 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 or 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 Owner's option without giving any reason thereof.

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

15. At the termination of the Agreement or sooner if the Diver leaves the vessel, the vessel may be shipped, cost of necessary repairs caused by ordinary wear and tear to be paid for by the Owners, repairs caused by carelessness to be paid for by the Diver.

If on slipping it is shown that no repairs caused by the Diver's negligence are needed the slipping costs shall be the Owners' responsibility: Provided that by arrangement with the Director of Native Affairs and Owners an amount of £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 moneys held shall be returned to the Diver.

In witness thereof the said Owners and Diver have hereto subscribed their names:

Signed by the said Owners {

in the presence of:

Signed by the said Diver in the presence of:

Dated this                      day of                      , 1955,

at Thursday Island.

N. B.—

*Regulation 74 (1).*—Every employer shall pay all expenses of the employee's conveyance from the place of residence to the place of employment and on completion

of the period of Agreement, the cost of his return to his place of residence together with an allowance for sustenance at the rate of nine shillings per day while en route. The allowance for sustenance en route shall not apply to any employee travelling by steamer when board is provided for by the passage money.

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

#### TROCHUS WORKERS.

(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—£30 per ton;

Island 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 than 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—£10 for each ton in excess of four tons per month.

Each crew member—£5 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 £10 for each ton to the Chief Officer, and £5 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 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) Employers engaged in the Thursday Island area shall report to the Director of Native Affairs and the Shipping Master there when any member of the crew leaves the vessel in circumstances other than on discharge from Articles before the Shipping Master. Any failure to advise the Director, in writing, of such absence or desertions will make the employer responsible for payment of wages during the absence of such member of the crew from the vessel.

(g) Employees engaged at ports other than Thursday Island shall similarly advise the Protector of Aboriginals at 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.

(h) Every employer shall pay all expenses of the employee's conveyance from the place of residence to the place of employment and, on completion of the period of employment, the cost of his return to his place of residence.

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

When an employer fails to return an employee in terms of the foregoing he shall in addition to the cost of the return of the employee to his residence, become liable for an allowance for sustenance at the rate of nine shillings per day while en route. The allowance for sustenance en route shall not apply to any employee travelling by steamer when board is provided for by the passage moneys. This sustenance allowance shall apply from the date of discharge or cessation of employment to the date of arrival at his place of residence.

#### 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 .. ..	431	9	8
Bamaga Show Account .. ..	426	8	6
Bamaga Welfare Fund .. ..	883	10	9
Boigu Welfare Fund .. ..	14	11	9
Coconut Welfare Club .. ..	50	6	4
Cowal Creek Welfare Fund .. ..	229	3	4
Darnley School Library Fund .. ..	6	17	3
Dauan School Welfare Fund .. ..	5	17	3
Southern Cross Club, Dowar .. ..	112	12	0
Dowar School Welfare Fund .. ..	5	4	1
Horn Island School Welfare Fund .. ..	14	12	6
Mabuiag School Welfare Fund .. ..	143	14	11
Mabuiag Welfare Club .. ..	16	8	11
Murray Island Welfare Club .. ..	184	8	7
Murray Island School Fund .. ..	277	9	6
Herald Club, Saibai .. ..	13	8	8
Saibai Welfare Club .. ..	7	9	10
Saibai School Welfare Fund .. ..	2	6	7
Stephen School Welfare Fund .. ..	2	2	1
Yam Island Welfare Fund .. ..	11	18	11
Seagull Club, Yorke .. ..	52	15	10
Western Island Comforts Fund .. ..	60	12	5
Eastern Island Comforts Fund .. ..	139	9	1
Torres Strait Circulating Library .. ..	1,025	18	10
Torres Strait Ex-servicemen's League .. ..	222	16	9
Thursday Island Bazaar Fund .. ..	912	0	6



## EDUCATION.

Under this heading, remarks applicable to Torres Strait area are already recorded in this report.

Hereunder are reports by various Government teachers which indicate the existent position in the island schools under their direct control. These reports contain also various information relative to the general living conditions of the island people whose children attend the schools.

## BADU ISLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL.

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

*Education.*

*Number on Roll.*—Eighty-five children, being 43 boys and 42 girls. The school is well staffed with five native teachers and one trainee teacher. Steady progress has been made in all classes during the year. All classes are now using the Oxford English Course Reading Books and the Queensland Readers are being used as Supplementary readers. These books have a local atmosphere and are much appreciated by the children.

English, is still the substandard subject, due solely to the fact that the child speaks and thinks in English only during his school hours. On returning home he reverts to the native language as the parents themselves rarely speak English to their children. Much could be done if parents who speak English could be persuaded to converse in English instead of native language, thereby helping the child to speak and think in both languages. Mathematics are above average.

The third quarter school attendances were well below average, owing to (a) an outbreak of influenza and (b) a chicken-pox epidemic. The hospital averaged 14 school children daily in-patients for this period.

The school committee has worked hard during the year and has raised £400 for the School Fund, since the last report. All native teachers are given one afternoon per week in instruction on class teaching and methods.

*Marine Industry Development.*

During the past year Badu Island has operated five luggers of the D.N.A. fleet. The island has also manned completely seven mother-of-pearl luggers and three trochus vessels, the property of the Master Boat Companies. Of the seven luggers mentioned all divers are Badu men. Besides these luggers several men are employed by other companies. Of the Badu male population over 180 are actually employed on luggers in the production of mother of pearl and trochus.

The Badu luggers of the D.N.A. fleet again head the list for the value of shell produced. All the boats have worked continuously throughout the year and have returned to their homes for the dirty water periods only.

The request by the Thursday Island Pearl Shellers' Association late in the year for the reintroduction of the Japanese diver caused some agitation among the islanders. At a public meeting held on Badu Island late in January, at which the Director of Native Affairs was present, it was unanimously agreed by all chairman, councillors and men of the Western

Islands that they would not tolerate the reintroduction of the Japanese diver into the Strait. They also agreed that no labour would be found to man the luggers if the Japanese were brought in.

The islander resents the inference that he is not producing the shell. The question of the reintroduction of the Japanese diver into this area to boost up production should not be considered. The islander's sole means of employment is the sea, and it is his natural environment. A steady employment for all islanders, with their present good living standards and wages is vital to the wellbeing of the Torres Strait. The reintroduction of the Japanese diver may result in a sudden boom in production of mother-of-pearl, but this in turn may result in the flooding of the mother-of-pearl market resulting in a depression, through over-production.

The islanders themselves will be looking to the opening of the Diving School; there deep water diving is to be taught them.

From observation it would appear that the islanders as divers, tenders, engineers, and crew are making more than a success of the Marine Industry in the area, both for themselves and the others who are involved.

*Agriculture and Food Growing Developments.*

An order issued early last year by the chairman and councillors of the island instructing all people to have adequate gardens has resulted in large areas being put under cultivation. Every married couple has a portion of land on which to plant sweet potato, yam, pumpkin, and water melon. Some have large areas under banana plants. The result has been that the diet of the people has become fairly well balanced.

*Housebuilding, &c.*

The past year has been one of great activity in the building programme on Badu. The Director of Native Affairs sent out six carpenters and a painter, and the following have been erected.—

Four cottages for old-age pensioners. These cottages are constructed with iron roofs, fibrolite walls, and the usual timber floorings. They have two rooms, kitchen, and veranda back and front. These cottages were a gift from the Department to the people.

A new Island Industries store has been erected, the size of which is 20 feet by 60 feet. Floor is of concrete, walls of fibrolite, and roof of iron. An area of 20 feet by 15 feet has been wired completely to make it rat proof. New counters and shelving have been installed.

The old store has been converted—one half for Council Chambers and the other half into two flats. The flats were a necessity as married couples from other islands are sometimes employed on the school staff. Accommodation is now available for anyone coming to Badu for employment in the Departmental service.

A rectory has been erected by the D.N.A. carpenters for the native priest. This is a very good house, with four rooms, including an office, kitchen and bathroom. There are verandas on all sides.



Two new homes are in the course of erection by the islanders themselves.

A scheme has been drawn up whereby every married man will now be able to purchase his own home at a reasonable cost. The people are very gratified with the building scheme inaugurated by the Department. The standard of work of the native carpenters is high and does credit to their training.

#### DARNLEY ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. O. G. Smart.)

##### *Education.*

*School Enrolment.*—Boys 53, girls 48, total 101. The children are enrolled in eight grades, viz., Preparatory to Grade VII. Attendance is good, averaging 89 per cent.

*Staff.*—The school is staffed by the Government teacher and six native teachers (two male, four female). The native staff, although hampered by lack of training, show great keenness and work very hard.

Weekly sessions of staff training have been inaugurated by the Government teacher, with special reference to speech training and speech training method. Basic mathematics and English are subjects in which the teachers are receiving further education as apart from teacher training. Sessions are regularly attended by all teachers.

*Standards.*—Mechanical arithmetic and spelling are of a high standard due to much hard work by both staff and children in the lower grades. English standard is low, but a noticeable improvement is being made and some quite creditable attempts at composition have been made by members of the upper grades.

The children show a great keenness to learn of other lands and other peoples, and the strip projector, when it arrives, will indeed be a great asset in overcoming the difficulties created by the restricted environment of the island population.

Physical education forms a regular feature of the time-tables, and some English and European folk dances have been tackled with enthusiasm. Boys show a great liking for soccer and cricket, as do the girls for basketball and vigoro.

*Activities.*—The school welfare fund has benefited considerably by European dances being held in the school on Friday of each week, and a deficit has been converted to a healthy balance of some £30.

A school concert is being prepared for presentation in August.

Much fun and merriment at Badog village marked the Easter celebrations. A cricket match with teams comprised of schoolboys and villagers raising much enthusiasm among players and spectators.

##### *Health.*

The general health of the island has been excellent, the large majority of patients treated having only minor ailments such as cuts, sores, and common colds. No malaria cases have been

reported due, no doubt, to the effective preventive measures now in force.

##### *Industries.*

*Shell.*—The island luggers "Rebecca" and "Loyalty" have been engaged in trochus fishing, and early trips this year have shown satisfactory results.

Men not working as lugger crews have generally worked their own dinghy for trochus with good financial return for their labour.

*Agriculture and Food.*—A large area of the island is devoted to cultivation, and bananas, pumpkin, melon, sweet potatoes, corn, and sugar cane are grown.

Pig-raising for home consumption is carried on by some islanders, and most families have poultry for both egg production and the table.

##### *General.*

Shelter sheds on the Mission grounds of Badog have been entirely rebuilt and, with their bamboo and coconut leaf walls and thatched roofs, present a very picturesque appearance. The roof of the trochus store shed has also been renewed.

In conclusion the thanks of all concerned in the life and welfare of the island are due to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the doctors and nurses at Thursday Island Hospitals, Island Industries Board, radio operators, and last but not least the island council, police, and the islanders themselves.

#### MABUIAG ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. B. J. McGuire.)

*Enrolment.*—The enrolment for the year varied from 44 to 45. The mean quarterly enrolment was 44.

*Attendance.*—The average daily attendance for the year was 41.2. This is a decrease of 3.16 on last year. A progressive decrease in the enrolment is apparent. In 1952 the enrolment was 55. This decrease is occasioned by the number of families which have left Mabuiag to take up residence in Thursday Island.

*Conduct.*—Conduct throughout the year has been very satisfactory and the children are obedient and diligent.

*Staff.*—The staff comprises two assistants and four junior teachers. This enables the head teacher to apply his time more fully to the training of teachers and the application of the syllabus.

*Progress.*—The school has not made tremendous progress under the new syllabus. One big drawback is that all native teachers were educated under the old syllabus and consequently the teachers themselves must receive extra tuition before they can apply their learning to their respective grades. At present the aim at Mabuiag is to consolidate up to Grade VI standard if possible. This, in turn, has meant that the syllabus has been given the broadest possible interpretation and the Project Method has been applied at every opportunity.

The acquiring of a command of English by the island children presents the greatest difficulty. This difficulty must be overcome before any real progress is made. The new syllabus has been a great aid in this direction.



**New School, Murray Island—in course of erection.**

*General.*—The children, under supervision, prepared a display of school work, native crafts, and handwork which was forwarded to Brisbane to form part of the Departmental Exhibit at last year's R.N.A. Exhibition. Mounting boards were made by the Senior boys.

During the year the school building was completely painted and display boards added to all rooms. The work was done voluntarily by the island men. As the area painted was almost 8,000 square feet of corrugated surfaces, their donation was no small thing. The results are pleasing—the interior walls are pastel green with a cream ceiling while the exterior is cream with green windows and aluminium roof.

#### MURRAY ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. J. Freemantle.)

In March a school was established once more on Dowar Island and the enrolment figures are now—

Murray Island School .. ..	101 pupils
Dowar Island School .. ..	15 pupils

A new school has been erected on the site of the old school gardens, and is now in occupation. The site is an ideal one. The school, built of fibro-cement and covering an area of 2,400 square feet, stands facing the public square, leaving room in front for an assembly ground and at the side for a small flower garden and a craft centre. Behind the school sufficient space has already been cleared by the children for a playground generously shaded on one side by mango trees. A further area behind the playground has yet to be cleared and utilised as a food garden.

The school syllabus follows rather loosely the Queensland Syllabus, and the top class may be said to reach Sixth Grade, bearing in mind the handicap of environment. While keeping as closely as possible to the Queensland Syllabus, particularly in English and arithmetic, it is intended to place greater emphasis than heretofore on gardening, art and handiwork, and domestic science.

The school is assisted by a responsive school committee which exists not only as a money-raising body but as a group of parents who are prepared to discuss seriously how best they can assist the Department in improving the amenities already existing for the children and their education.

*General.*—The old school building, kindly given by the Department to be a community centre, has been taken down by voluntary labour and will shortly be re-erected on one side of the public square. In its place a large and attractive store has been erected. A more adequate and substantial medical-aid post has also been provided. The improvements have aroused great interest amongst the people and, activated by a progressive council and welfare committee, plans are already afoot for them to do their share in improving their island life.

#### YORKE ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. J. Watt.)

*Enrolment.*—Boys 19, girls 20, total 39. Attendance excellent.

*Progress.*—The children's response to the teaching has been most gratifying, both in their attitude to work and in academic subjects. All grades are now studying the correct work for the grade according to the Queensland Syllabus, Grades I and II, consisting of 24 children, are keeping pace with children in all Queensland schools and are averaging 75 per cent. One child has entered Grade VIII. She has just completed a test which I had previously given to a school on the Darling Downs for Grade VII and passed with 72 per cent. This girl has just turned 14 and should have a good future.

*Staff.*—The presence of a fully-trained white teacher is very necessary. The grades show this to a marked degree. One can trace without effort which children started school without the guidance of a trained teacher. This is not stated in disparagement of the island teachers. These people do excellent work and it would be almost impossible to carry on without their support as the children of each grade need individual attention. The island teachers carry out their duties eagerly and enthusiastically provided they can follow the lead of a trained teacher.

*Method.*—The head teacher has been taking, since last year, at least two lessons a day with each grade; the class teacher watches and repeats the lesson at a later date. This method is proving satisfactory and all new work is thus introduced correctly to the children; the class teacher learns correct procedure, and the head teacher is kept in touch with progress.

*New School.*—The children are now housed in a spacious building of 1,200 square feet of floor space. A neat garden has been developed and the interior has bright, interesting pictures around the walls. The desks are painted green to harmonise with the green walls. This building has been a great step in the improvement of the child's outlook, not only on school but on life itself, and has been worth any money expended on it. Its clean, bright, business-like lines are reflected in the children's dress, in their pad work, and even in their posture and attitude. No longer do children show lack of interest, but walk smartly and dress as smartly as the children in any school I have had the privilege to teach in. The tone of the school is good, and I believe this new building has played a big part in the bringing about of this.

*General.*—I wish to express my appreciation to D.N.A. for the assistance given to us who are working in isolated areas. Everything possible is done, both in a material way and by personal contact (recently the Director himself visited the island), to make the teacher realise that he is not a forgotten, isolated identity but an active member of a Department that is doing much to raise the standards of the people of these islands.

Recently the wife of the teacher here became dangerously ill. In a very short time the doctor at Thursday Island was in touch by wireless with the teacher, advising him how to use the drugs which are amply provided by the Director of Native Affairs. The Department immediately sent out their boat "Melbidir" with a doctor,



a pathologist, and a sister on board. Captain Mellor sailed all night through the reefs and the wireless operator at Thursday Island maintained radio contact. Thus the patient was soon comfortable and made a rapid recovery.

Such a spontaneous action is deeply appreciated by the teacher at Yorke, and by all teachers in the Torres Strait. It makes the teachers feel secure and should encourage other teachers in Queensland who may contemplate teaching in this area.

*Industry.*—The outstanding event of the year is without a doubt the response to the Director's appeal for a greater effort in the production of pearl and trochus shell. This island, always industrious in the diving industry, has redoubled its efforts, until now, apart from Government workers, every able-bodied man on the island is working in the industry.

*Gardens.*—There was increased activity this year in the planting of gardens. Much time and labour was put into this work, both by men and women. Sweet potatoes, cassava, maize, and pumpkins were planted, but the soil is of such a poor nature that the resultant crop hardly warrants the tremendous work put into this project. These people are fully aware of the value of fresh vegetables.

*Buildings.*—There has not been a great deal of private building carried out but the Department has erected a splendid school and the island council has erected a hall as a community centre. Both buildings are solid, permanent structures, neat and tidy in appearance, and must influence the future construction of private buildings. It is pleasing to see more and more of these permanent buildings replacing temporary buildings.

*Health.*—The health of the people is very good. The children are bright and active, clean in body and dress, and are a credit to their parents and to the Government nurse.

#### BOIGU ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher, Mr. R. V. Miles.)

When the island was taken over in June, 1954, the council had to be dismissed, and because of this very little had been done on the island for many months. As the erstwhile branch manager of the store had also to be dismissed much had to be put in working order again before normal village life could be resumed. Many public meetings were held so that the people themselves would have knowledge of things being done and be well advised as to why changes had to be made.

The Council was taken over by the Government Teacher, Mr. R. V. Miles, who had the power to take court cases and generally organise

all Council activities on the island. One erstwhile councillor not involved was re-employed as an advisor to the chairman and to attend to Boigu business at Thursday Island when it was needed.

At first all activity on the island consisted in cleaning-up the village, pulling down unsightly buildings which had been allowed to rot and remain in a completely ruinous condition and rebuilding or repairing many to make them decently habitable—this included the teacher's residence, which had been allowed to fall into a disgusting state through sheer neglect. All work was carried out as village work by the whole population, who soon came to realise they must help themselves if they expected to be helped fully by the D.N.A. in return. Within three weeks much had been set to rights and the store had begun functioning smoothly.

Throughout all this time the school had been kept running reasonably well so there was very little reorganising to be done. Teacher's classes were instituted to teach new methods in the handling of the new curriculum here which up until then had not been demonstrated. These have continued steadily right throughout the year with a corresponding improvement in the general handling of the work. In the New Year two new male teachers were put on the staff to replace two who had left at the end of 1954. The school now consists of three male teachers and a female who takes the smallest class and carries very little responsibility.

The numbers in 1955 have risen considerably since the year 1953, when they remained around 23 in all. This year the total attendance has touched 41 and maintained an average of 34, and this only because several children were called to Thursday Island for medical reasons in March. The general attitude of the people on this island towards the school is to allow children to remain at school until they are 16 provided the teacher does not recommend their leaving school at 14 through inability to cope with the work. In this way a fair standard of Sixth Grade work has been reached with children aged 15. Until 1950 many children were leaving school at 16 still only in the Third or Fourth Grade due to the teachers' lack of knowledge and understanding of the handling of a curriculum.

The teaching of handwork, social studies, and English expression in those days was either non-existent or of such mechanical dullness as to be more damaging than instructive. This, fortunately, has all been changed due to the setting up of a reasonable school library which contains a modicum of useful books on several subjects suitable for teaching. A library box of 50 books from the Queensland Juvenile Country Library has proved more successful in its application to island teaching.





New School—Yorke Island.

With the advent of 1955 on Boigu a new medical aid post building was put up by village labour and streets carefully cleaned and laid out so there is now a general atmosphere of wellbeing about the place, notably lacking previously, and a general co-operative spirit augurs well for the future.

## 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:—

## ACCOUNT TO 31st MARCH, 1955.

—	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.		Balance 1-4-54.		Balance 31-3-55.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Torres Strait Islands and Missions .. .. .	5,613	348,447	12 5	304,208	0 8	175,027	9 6	134,269	1 3
		Investments Com		monwealth Loan		..		85,000	0 0
								£219,269	1 3

Section.	Number of Accounts 31-3-54.	Number of Accounts 31-3-55.	Balance 31-3-54.		Balance 31-3-55.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Islands .. .. .	3,921	3,919	95,933	4 11	130,333	7 3
Missions .. .. .	749	609	48,820	12 3	51,016	15 6
Island Funds .. .. .	74	79	19,550	17 11	22,846	11 10
Child Endowment .. .. .	963	1,016	10,722	14 5	15,072	6 8
	5,707	5,613	£175,027	9 6	£219,269	1 3

## NORTHERN PENINSULA RESERVE.

*Bamaga and Cowal Creek.*

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

*Season.*

Rainfall for 12 months ending 31st May, 1955, 8,023 points; sixty-nine inches falling during the north-west period December to March; February being the wettest month, with 26 inches and 17 wet days. Native grasses and herbage made prolific growth.

*Agricultural Farm.*

The following crops were grown for sale by the Island Industries Board in Thursday Island:—

Pineapples	Rosellas	Squash
Rock melon	Egg fruit	Tomatoes
Marrow	Papaws	Citrus fruits
Sweet potatoes	Beans	Cabbage
Bananas	Pumpkins	Cucumber
Capsicums	Water melon	Sweet corn

Total value sold—£1,207 15s. 3d.

## Produce grown and fed to pigs:—

Cassava	Sweet potatoes	Peanuts
Pumpkins	Maize	
Arrowroot	Sugar cane	

Total area of approximately 6 acres. Reserve stocks of plant stock of cassava and arrowroot are available for planting out; increased areas of these crops will be put in. Experimental plots of hybrid maize are growing but only three types of the eight planted show satisfactory germination. It is hoped that upwards of 10 to 15 acres of maize will be planted next wet season as experiments show that this crop can be satisfactorily grown during the wet without

irrigation. Citrus trees showed good promise but flowers did not hold—only approximately 10 cases were harvested from the 400 trees. Fruit fly did some damage. We now have 600 bananas and 500 papaw trees in bearing. Good quality fruit is being sent to Thursday Island as well as having a surplus of ripe fruit available between boats for issue to the children. A further 350 bananas have been planted.

After the heavy wet season the farm was badly overgrown with grass and herbage, but with the arrival of suitable implements this can be controlled. Cover crops were planted in the citrus and fruit areas to prevent erosion and leaching.

Approximately 5,000 pineapples have been planted, making a total of approximately 22,000—15,000 will crop before the end of the year. Hormone weedicide is being used to control weeds in the pines, but after the wet growth was so prolific that chipping had to be resorted to.

*Irrigation and Water Supply.*

The weir was completed and the gates closed in June of last year. The supply of water was satisfactory, standing up to pumping at the rate of 13,000 gallons per hour, average six hours per day, till the first rain in December. The heavy undergrowth is being cleared from the water storage area which will do away with a certain contamination of the water, which is also used for domestic supplies. Delivery of a new pump and engine is expected before the end of the year, which will give us all the water we require. Existing equipment stood up well to the demands made on it.

Materials are on hand for a domestic water supply at Cowal Creek. This will be the next reticulation job undertaken.

*Fig Breeding.*

Stock on hand—			
Boars .. ..	..	..	12
Breeding sows .. ..	..	..	13
Stores and weaners..	..	..	83
Suckers .. ..	..	..	77
<hr/>			
Total .. ..	..	..	185
<hr/>			

The first litters are coming forward from the second generation from wild sows. From the two litters dropped the suckers show a marked improvement, confirmation, shape, hair, and general type improved, but some throwback in colour is noticeable. They plainly show the results of the double cross with the Berkshire boar. A change of blood line is indicated for the next cross. Seven-months-old pigs of a dressed weight of over 100 lb. have been sent forward to Thursday Island for sale.

A further area of approximately 10 acres has been fenced, giving a total area of about 20 acres of open runs, all with natural water from the creek. Increasing use of farm products, cassava, arrowroot, peanuts, sugar cane, is being made. Coconuts in copra form and in nut are transported from Somerset.

*Cattle.*

Stock on hand—			
Bulls .. ..	..	..	2
Cows .. ..	..	..	19
Heifers .. ..	..	..	17
Steers .. ..	..	..	15
Weaners .. ..	..	..	15
Bullocks .. ..	..	..	8
<hr/>			
Total .. ..	..	..	76
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Stock are running in an area of approximately 15 square miles. Owing to shortage of labour little or no pasture improvement has been done during the year. An area of approximately 10 acres on the creek has been cleared and fenced and will be used as a plant stock planting area for para grass. Guinea grass and molasses grass seed was broadcast during the end of the wet, but the prolific growth of native grasses seemed to stop germination; some result was obtained but not what hoped for. Plantings will be made after a burn before the rains this year.

Fencing is now going forward which, when completed, will give us two smaller paddocks, one of which is almost devoid of scrub with the approximate 100 acres of creek area cleared and planted with good soft grasses capable of holding the native grasses. Stock can be held under control and looked after. With the dense grass up to 6 feet it is almost impossible to find the stock.

*Sawmilling.*

During the year the mill produced 88,000 super. feet, recovery from 192,487 super. feet logs cut. All this sawn timber, with the exception of a few thousand feet used on local repairs, was sent forward to Thursday Island for building purposes.

The months of December to the end of February were almost a complete loss of production owing to the wet weather. Timber trucks worked nine days in January and five in

February on timber works. It was not till the middle of March that conditions became dry enough for continual working. Modifications and improvements have been made to the sheds, benches, and timber storage. Equipment is on order, for modification to the primary drive, canadian bench, and equipping a sawdust removal unit. A crawler tractor equipped with a blade and winch is to be delivered shortly; this unit will be of great assistance in cutting scrub roads and hauling logs. As soon as satisfactory roads can be made logging will start in the Lockerbie Station area some 15 miles from the mill. Permission has been received to cut 20,000 super. feet of red cedar; most of this will be used in the boat building by the Island Industries Boards, Thursday Island.

Since the establishment of the sawmill logging has been carried out in nearby scrubs. The bulk of the millable logs are being cut out. There are several scrubs with good timber, but as they are rough it is problematical if economic logging can be carried out when there is good-quality easily-got timber a few miles to the north. We are awaiting the arrival of a Forestry Department officer to carry out a survey of these areas.

*Building.*

Other than normal maintenance no homes or dwellings have been built this year. With the near arrival of a carpenter-overseer a building programme will be started at Cowal Creek. This will include a new medical aid post and remodelling the branch store. New dwellings will be built on the eastern side of the present village where there is good soil—householders can have a garden.

A building to house the engine and cold room has been completed. The engine room is in operation but the cold room will not be completed till the arrival of the carpenter tradesman.

Two large implement sheds have been completed and minor repairs carried out to hospital, medical aid posts, and staff houses.

*Garage Workshop and Motor Vehicles.*

One four by four truck has been completely rebuilt and fitted with a reconditioned engine and transmission. It is now in service. The jeep is being rebuilt as time is available. All trucks have given good service, but we are experiencing more transmission troubles in axles and gearboxes.

*Health.*

Village inspections are made personally every month at both Bamaga and Cowal Creek, with weekly inspections by the police and council. Lavatories are kept in good condition. Village hygiene closely watched and teachers inspect school children every day for personal hygiene. Correct diet is a big problem. Every effort is made by the Matron Clinic sister to instruct the mothers in the preparation of good food and proper care of their children. Every encouragement is given to start gardens, and community school children gardens are now going both at Bamaga and Cowal Creek. Fencing wire and plants as available are supplied to any person asking for them.





**Bamaga Sawmill—Logging.**



Fish, turtle, and dugong are obtained by community effort. The new community fishing net has resulted in many good hauls. Transport is always supplied to bring the catch from the sea.

Fruit and vegetables are supplied as available. Issues of fruit are made direct to the children at the clinic and school.

#### *Somerset Plantation.*

Coconuts from this plantation were transported both in nut and in copra form by road and sea to Bamaga for pig feed. The heavy wet this year did serious damage to the road, to date this has not been made trafficable. A completely new road will be cut before the end of the year mostly clear of creeks and scrubs.

#### *Native Schools.*

*Bamaga.*—Boys 33, girls 25, total 58. Staff—Head teacher and three female teachers.

*Red Island Point.*—Boys 5, girls 6, total 11. Staff—female teacher.

*Cowal Creek.*—Boys 20, girls 20, total 40. Staff—Head teacher, two males and one female.

School children are instructed to Seventh Grade by native teachers.

#### *Statistics.*

Number of births—				
Bamaga	..	..	..	9
Cowal Creek	..	..	..	6
Number of deaths—				
Bamaga	..	..	..	1
Cowal Creek	..	..	..	2

#### *General.*

*Visitors.*—In October last year we were honoured by a visit from His Excellency Sir John Lavarack and Lady Lavarack. His Excellency met the people of Bamaga and Cowal Creek at the showground.

On 1st April electric light and power were switched on, providing light and power for a large cold room (to be completed), workshop, and administrative block, also for a 16 mm. picture plant. This picture plant has been purchased by the Bamaga Welfare Club, and weekly shows are much appreciated by the people. Transport is provided for the Cowal Creek residents.

Our thanks are due to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff in Thursday Island for their assistance and co-operation at all times.

#### *Sawmill.*

Sawmill operations at Bamaga from 1st June, 1954, to 31st May, 1955, produced approximately 88,800 superficial feet of sawn timber from 192,487 superficial feet of logs, thereby giving a recovery of 46.1 per cent.

I feel quite certain this will be found to be much lower than sawmills operating on forest hardwoods.

For the greater part of the year this mill was cutting timber from low-lying scrubs, logs from which do not return near the percentage recovery as good solid timber from higher ground.

The overall tally for the period was not a true indication of the full capacity to which this mill can operate.

Several modifications have been effected at the sawmill resulting in increased efficiency and also enabling the sawmill hands to mill a better class of timber.

Roller feed speed on the No. 1 bench has been geared up and timber can now be fed to the saw up to its maximum 65-70 square feet per minute on all cuts.

Flitch storage skids and sawn timber skids have been placed adjacent to the bench, giving much more convenience in handling timber to and from the No. 1 bench.

To give the semi-canadian unit greater efficiency a power winch was installed and log storage skids have increased and placed closer to the unit.

Racks for the purpose of storing sawn timber have been built. Timber now comes off the saw to be stacked directly in this building, giving it immediate protection from our extreme climatic conditions.

The road to Lockerbie timber, a distance of some 15 miles has been cleared. However, before being suitable for heavy haulages it will require forming up and grading.

#### *Health.*

##### *Staff.*—

Bamaga Hospital	..	..	2 native nurses
Cowal Creek Medical Aid Post	..	..	2 native nurses
Red Island Point	..	..	1 native nurse
In-patients	..	..	102
Out-patients	..	..	12,909

Daily average 35.4.

The medical survey conducted by the Government Medical Officer, Thursday Island, was completed in June last year. Thirty cases were treated for hookworm at Cowal Creek and chest X-ray as required and depending on transport and accommodation in Thursday Island. There was an outbreak of chicken pox in both areas during the year. During the month of May influenza and colds have been prevalent. The dental superintendent and mechanic visited the settlement. They were here for four weeks and have completed all the children and most of the work required on the adults.

Bamaga and Red Island Point children periodically break out in sores; persistent cases are admitted to hospital for treatment and correct diet. There have been only a few cases of scabies which can usually be traced to persons who come over from Thursday Island.

Every effort is made to instruct mothers and the people generally on food, personal and general hygiene. Fish, turtle, and dugong are obtained most of the year. They are more plentiful at certain seasons.

At Cowal Creek there are very few cases of sores and only an occasional case of ringworm. The children are doing well, particularly the pre-school children.

Aged people who are unable to get about are visited once a month. At Cowal Creek special issues are made to indigent persons of food and clothing.

*Child Welfare Clinics, Bamaga and Cowal Creek.*

Number of visits—				
Babies	..	..	..	736
Weekly average	..	..	..	14.1
Toddlers	..	..	..	3,280
Weekly average	..	..	..	63.1
Numbers of new babies—				
Bamaga	..	..	..	9
Cowal Creek	..	..	..	6

Every child is weighed and examined each week and mothers instructed in the care of the child and in preparing foods.

*Bamaga and Red Island Point* children receive Hypol, Colliron and Pentavite. They are also given fruit at the clinic. Most of the mothers are co-operative and try to carry out instructions.

*Cowal Creek.*—The children are weighed and examined each week and mothers instructed in the care of the children and in preparing foods. They are given Pentavite, Hypol, Colliron, and dugong oil. They also get a daily issue of milk. Nursing mothers get Milo and extra milk.

Any child of indigent persons who is not getting sufficient food, clothing, &c., is given a special issue. Fruit, as available, is given to clinic children and the school children. School children are receiving a daily issue of milk. Vegetables are issued to mothers and indigents as available. The mothers are very grateful for the patterns of children's clothing which were obtained through the courtesy and co-operation of the Maternal and Child Welfare, Brisbane.

## 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  
 Mornington Island Mission  
 Badu Island  
 Boigu Island  
 Coconut Island  
 Darnley Island  
 Murray Island  
 Mabuiag Island  
 Nakhir Island  
 St. Pauls Mission, Moa Island  
 Saibai Island  
 Stephen Island  
 Yam Island  
 Yorke Island  
 m.v. Melbidir  
 m.v. Gelam  
 m.v. Kebisu  
 m.v. Reliance (Presbyterian Mission Launch)

*Hours of Operation Base Station.*—

Week Days—8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Saturdays—9 a.m. to 10 a.m.  
 Sundays—10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

In addition to the above, station is opened as required for periodical medical reports, &c.

Regular schedules are kept with Cairns Ambulance Base Station to enable speedy despatch of ambulance plane to transport urgent cases. This link with Cairns has proved of great assistance to other organisations such as Police Department; the telephone service to the mainland being still inoperative.

*Traffic Analysis.*—

Total messages handled for year—

In	..	..	..	..	16,200
Out	..	..	..	..	12,100
Radio medical messages	..	..	..	..	1,160
Total cases treated by radio	..	..	..	..	260
Daily average words	..	..	..	..	4,500

Weather reports from all stations are received twice daily for the Weather Bureau.

Stocks of certain antibiotic drugs are now held at all islands on which there are white staff. These are administered on advice from the doctors, and have been responsible for the saving of several lives. A careful check is maintained on quantities and freshness of supplies to ensure availability when needed.

*Equipment.*—

The Pye dry-battery operated set at Boigu Island has been replaced by standard wet battery equipment along with charging engine and new mast. This was necessary, as the small set proved inadequate. The Pye equipment has been located at Cowal Creek Settlement, which normally communicates with Bamaga Settlement.

All existing standard equipment has been modified to incorporate new improvements and to give better service ability.

A new workshop has been provided and greatly facilitates handling of repairs which in both number and scope are continually increasing. A small lathe has been supplied and it is now possible to undertake most repairs of electrical or mechanical nature.

On permission being granted by the Postmaster-General to install equipment in his building on Millman Hill it is hoped that installation of remote receivers will be completed this year. Work was suspended owing to lack of a suitable site. This will give very much better reception of the outstations which at times becomes impossible due to locally generated noise.

In addition to work directly associated with the radio network, the following jobs were undertaken:—

110-volt D.C. electric power was installed at Bamaga Settlement with 120 lights and 25 power points.

16-mm. sound projector was supplied to Bamaga Settlement and put into operation.

Refrigeration plants at Aplin and Aurukun Mission put into operation and maintained.

16-mm. projectors belonging to Aplin Hostel, Hospital Board, and Waiben State School repaired. A similar projector has been received and will be installed at Mornington Island in the near future.



**M.V. "Melbidir"—Loading Timbers, Red Island Point.**

## BUILDING PROGRAMME.

*Thursday Island, Torres Strait Islands and Peninsula.*

The Department controls, under its white foreman, Mr. E. Niblett, a gang of 32 Torres Strait Island artisans, viz., carpenters, plumbers, painters, and builders' labourers, who are responsible for all of the building programme associated with the five years' plan of rebuilding for the Torres Strait people. That plan envisages within that period, suitable accommodation for the Torres Strait Island population, including the essential workers in Thursday Island.

The report by Mr. Niblett as hereunder is indicative of the work being performed.

## REPORT ON BUILDING PROGRAMME—1954-55.

During period between 30th June, 1954, and 1st July, 1955, the following works were carried out:—

*Coloured Nurses Domestic Quarters.*

This building was completed, including installation all furniture, water tanks, &c.

*Badu Island.*

Prefabrication, erection, Branch Store for Island Industries Board.

Prefabrication, launching, cargo pontoon for Island Industries Board.

Prefabrication, erection four cottages for islanders (one house Cabay Pilot).

Repairs, repainting hospital buildings.

Installation of 1,500, 2,000-gallon tanks.

Repairs, repainting, Government teachers' residence.

Repairs, school building.

Partial conversion old store to coloured staff quarters.

Supply prefabricated timbers No. 2 cottage type.

*Aplin Hostel.*

Completion and extensions freezer cold room.

Completion water supply installations.

Erection of laundry and drying shed.

Extensive repairs, reroofing wards, &c.

New ward, recreation building in course construction.

Lavatory and ablution blocks in course of construction.

*Murray Island.*

Prefabrication and erection large school building and conveniences.

Prefabrication and erection branch store well under way, for Island Industries Board.

Conversion portion old school to storeman's residence for Island Industries Board.

Repairs, extensions, painting Government teacher's residence and conveniences.

Prefabrication shell store building, E.C., &c.

*Yam Island.*

Prefabrication, erection branch store building, for Island Industries Board.

Prefabrication, erection school building under way.

Prefabrication, erection medical aid post building, under way.

Areas have been pegged, levelled, some blocks poured for five cottages, including one for Government Teacher. All materials are on respective sites. Materials are also on site for completion Branch Manager's residence.

*Darnley Island.*

Extensions, repairs, painting hospital.

Repairs, painting Government teacher's residence.

Materials supplied for repairs native cottages, &c., also for bridges and island improvements.

*Yorke Island.*

Completion school building, painting, &c.

Repairs, Government Teacher's residence.

Materials supplied, joinery, timber, iron, paint, for Government teacher, mission house, village hall.

*Mabuiag Island.*

Repairs to school, Government teacher's residence, radio building.

Materials forwarded for repairs—joinery, paint, iron, hardware, timber, tank, &c., and cement.

*Coconut Island.*

Material supplied for repairs to school, &c.

*Naghir Island.*

Material supplied for repairs to school, &c.

*Kubin Island.*

Material supplied for repairs to school, &c.

*Boigu Island.*

Prefabricated radio room—material forwarded and erected.

Materials supplied Government teacher—stove, &c.

*Director of Native Affairs Staff Quarters (White and Coloured).*

Repairs, extensions, repainting, installation and rigid maintenance carried out.

Conversion old garage to coloured clerks' quarters.

*Public Works Department.*

Erection of cat walk on Harbour Master's boat shed. Thursday Island.

Repairs to male and female conveniences.

Maintenance on Court House building.

*Director of Native Affairs Office.*

Extensions for clerks.

Improvements in lighting ventilation.

Installation of fire extinguishers.

Office furniture—making repairs.

*Director of Native Affairs Radio.*

Workshop extensions.

Signs, &c., Painting of building.

Repairs, replacements residence.

Extension under way.

*Director of Native Affairs Garage.*

Repairs to bodies of vehicles.

*Thursday Island Hospital Board.*

Supply of building timbers.

Construction, extension, awning, administration building.



*Island Industries Board, Thursday Island.*

- Repairs to main office building.
- Repairs to staff quarters.
- Repairs, plumbing, installation communication system "Gelan" and "Kebisu."
- Rebuilding staff cottage No. 1.
- Commencement rebuilding slipway, hardware store, ships' stores.

*Local Government Administration.*

- Rebuilding town hall front.
- Repairs base structure, portion superstructure.
- Supply, erection tank and stand, Waiben.

*Building Programme—Yard, Thursday Island.*

Large timber rack has been erected capable of holding up to 60,000 super. feet of timber, all sizes. Large open workshed for prefabrication. Blacksmith's shop has also been erected. 1,500-gallon and 2,000-gallon tanks have been built and distributed.

The prefabrication of cottages is well under way, approximately 12 complete buildings awaiting transport.

E.C. buildings have been prefabbed and forwarded to schools, cottages, &c.

E.C. cabinets have been constructed and distributed. Urinal troughs and all types of water fittings have been made and installed.

Medical aid post buildings.

Tank stand platforms, &c., have been prefabricated and distributed.

Crates have been made for packing of furniture, &c., for transportation for Police and Director of Native Affairs staffs.

*Director of Native Affairs Property.*

A rigid maintenance policy is carried out and all buildings kept free of termites and in good repair. All buildings have been painted.

*Bamaga Timber.*

Approximately 56,00 super. feet of Bamaga timber has been used on aforementioned projects. Timber is of excellent quality grading, will cut to specifications, and good supplies have been kept up.

*Coloured Carpenters.*

During the year an average of twelve men have been gainfully employed. Their work is of high standard and neat and progress generally fast. Discipline is good.

*Builders Labourers.*

A good class of industrious labour is being used. These men are also under instruction, and during the year five labourers have passed the tests and are now giving good, solid service and satisfaction as carpenters.

The ability of these coloured people in adapting themselves to this line of work is surprising, and I feel there is plenty of hidden talent amongst those otherwise employed.

*Materials.*

These have been steadily coming to hand and stocks now guarantee continuity of programme.

*Remarks.*

The general behaviour of all men under my control is quite good. Their work is very satisfactory and results of training and instruction are paying dividends.

Union regulations are being strictly observed and the recent visit of A.W.U. organiser places full team as union members.

*Painters, Plumbers.*

These men are doing an excellent job and are receiving the praise they are justly entitled to.

The two plumbers' labourers are showing very good promise and interest in the trade.

The work of the men in both trades is equal to any white men.

*PATROL VESSEL "MELBIDIR."*

(Master, Capt. A. Mellor.)

(Engineer, Mr. D. Kennedy.)

*General.*—"Melbidir" has been actively engaged during the past 12 months carrying out regular administrative patrols to the Torres Strait Islands, including the Cape York waters. The carrying of foodstuffs and general cargo for the Island Industries Board is one of the major jobs of the vessel. Fourteen Island Industries Board island branch stores require replenishing monthly. The regular administrative and cargo carrying voyages are carried out in conjunction with each other. Voyages vary as follows:—Cape York one to two days; Western Islands Group seven to nine days; and Eastern/Central Island Group eight to 12 days. As all discharging of cargo at the island anchorages is from ship to beach by motorboat and two large skiffs, adverse weather and daylight low tides often delay a quick turn round of the ship.

Transporting of passengers is another important job of "Melbidir." Teachers and their families taking up appointments in the islands or travelling to Thursday Island for medical or dental treatment do so by "Melbidir." Island Industries Board staff, doctors, nurses, dentists, and auditors frequently visit the islands. The islanders, however, make the great majority of passengers, both outward and inward, and of these a great number are cases for hospitalisation or medical check-ups. Advanced pregnancy cases, elderly patients, stretcher cases, and young children are always accompanied by suitable escorts, preferably near relatives or friends.

During the Governor of Queensland's visit to Thursday Island, Sir John and Lady Lavarack and staff accompanied the Director, Mr. C. O'Leary, from Cape York to Red Island Point on board the "Melbidir," on an official visit to the Bamaga Native Settlement. The Vice-Regal party returned to the Lighthouse Vessel "Cape Leeuwin" on board "Melbidir," transferring off Possession Island.

"Melbidir" was given her annual survey in Cairns early in June, 1954, by Captain J. Barnes (Shipwright Surveyor) and Mr. Pierce

(Engineer Surveyor) of the Department of Harbours and Marine. The ship was then taken over by Cairns Harbour Board workshops for slipping, fitting, repairs, and engine overhaul. Owing to extensive repairs to the ships stern the original anticipated refit time of six weeks was extended to ten weeks. The staff and tradesmen of the Cairns Harbour Board workshop made a first-class job of the refit.

The main engines have given every satisfaction. There have been no mechanical defects. Regular maintenance work is carried out by the engineer. The Director in planning voyage itineraries allows ample periods in Thursday Island for the engineer to do maintenance. This greatly assists engineroom efficiency.

Marking buoys as aids to navigation for "Melbidir" and Island Industries Board vessels have been placed at Saibai. Further buoys are planned for Boigu-Moimi Channel, Badu Outer Anchorage, and approaches to Red Island Point. Buoys placed at Badu were moved out of position by the exceptionally strong current between Banks (Moa) and Mulgrave (Badu) Islands. These will be replaced when heavier mooring are made.

*Staff and Crews.*—Two white officers and 14 islanders. The crew are competent in the duties they are required to perform. They are cheerful, willing at all times, good seamen, and are amenable to common sense discipline.

*Discipline and Health.*—The crew's conduct has been very satisfactory. There have been no cases of drunkenness or absent without leave. The general health of the crew is very good. There were no cases of illnesses or accidents. The ship was completely fumigated in Cairns by the Commonwealth Health Department, and since then all cabins, storerooms, and galleys are regularly fumigated monthly to prevent cockroaches breeding.

*Ships Dimensions, &c.*—Gross tonnage 200 tons. Length 100 feet; beam 24 feet; draught, forward 7½ feet, aft 9 feet; in ballast forward 5 feet, aft 7½ feet. Speed—cruising 7½ knots, full 9 knots. Engines—Main, 240 B.H.P. Alle Diesel; two auxiliary engines 30 B.H.P. and 20 B.H.P; two electric winches. Radio—R/T and C/W with Director of Native Affairs Base Station or OTC Stations.

*Passengers.*—

Government officials .. .. .	37
Medical officers, &c. .. .. .	19
Hospital sisters and civilians .. .. .	23
Islanders .. .. .	856
Aboriginals .. .. .	79
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,014</b>

*Cargo.*—Carried on behalf:—

	Tons.
Island Industries Board .. .. .	988
Department of Native Affairs .. .. .	427
Other State Departments .. .. .	15
Medical stores .. .. .	10
Mission stores .. .. .	15
Private stores (authorised) .. .. .	42
Islanders goods and chattels .. .. .	56
Islanders own produce .. .. .	110
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>1,663</b>

*Annual Ship's Mileage.*—

Torres Strait Islands .. .. .	3,400
Cape York Area .. .. .	480
Queensland East Coast .. .. .	500
<b>Total .. .. .</b>	<b>4,380</b>

*Appreciation.*—The Master records his appreciation to the Director and staff for their ready assistance and co-operation at all times. To Captain J. Barnes, Harbour Master, Cairns, for advice and practical assistance on slipping matters and arranging engagement of temporary mates. Finally, but not least, to the island crews for their loyal support, good work, and cheerful devotion to duty.

**BOY SCOUTS ORGANISATION.**

It is pleasing to record that a boy scout troop and wolf cub pack have been established on Thursday Island during the year under review. Pre-war scout troops and cub packs were existent in the Torres Strait area but the organisation of the Thursday Island Troop is first indication of a reversion to the Old Scout Movement of pre-war days.

This movement has the support of the Department in that it provides a training for the Thursday Island boys which otherwise would not exist. It gives to these boys an incentive to a training that is aimed at their social and moral uplift. That training is most essential to the youths of Thursday Island as a barrier between a decent home life and the temptations of a town that offers little amenities other than the billiard room and the streets. To those officers and the committee of the Scout Movement who have been sufficiently energetic to establish the organisation, congratulations are offered.

Particular mention of this movement is made in this report in that the Scout Master, G. B. Smale, is an officer of the Sub-Department of Native Affairs and his assistant scoutmasters are Torres Strait Islanders. The troop is not particularly confined to Torres Strait Island boys. It is open to white and coloured, but a high percentage of the members of the troop are Torres Strait Island boys who gladly mix with the other members of the troop, thereby creating a spirit of friendship and harmony that is most essential in any community.

Hereunder is report submitted by Scout Master G. B. Smale.

*First Thursday Island Scout Troop.*

*Assistant Scoutmasters—*

Gelam Warrior

George Sailor

Both assistant scoutmasters are Torres Strait Islanders.

Number of invested scouts .. .. . 16

Number of recruits .. .. . 6

**Total .. .. . 22**

Ten of these boys are Torres Strait Islanders.

Number of Scouts who have attained Second Class, 2.

Since mid-March we have been doing a lot of general scout work, and good progress is being made by all the boys towards their Second Class badge, with some First Class badge work.

We held a Patrol Leaders' camp on Thursday Island from 21st-22nd May, and are now ready to hold a Troop camp at Little Buttertun, on Prince of Wales Island, from 16th-17th July. It is planned to hold a further Troop camp at Bamfield Falls in mid-August.

*First Thursday Island Wolf Cub Pack.*

The Cub Pack is in charge of Mrs. E. Graves, wife of the Head Teacher, Waiben State School for coloured children. Hereunder is Mrs. Graves report with respect to the cub pack.

The pack was started last September as an addition to the scout troop which had already been running for some time. The Cubmaster, Mrs. E. Graves, is assisted by two Assistant Cubmasters, Misses Joy Dubbins and Polly Tekelu, the latter being a Torres Strait Islander from Mabuia Island.

We began with 14 boys, representing all races, and throughout there has been a perfectly happy relationship between the boys whatever their race or origin.

We pursue the usual cub policy of dividing the time at the weekly meetings between games of all kinds, and work leading to the award of the First Star, and subsequently to the Second Star. To gain these awards the boys have to learn a variety of useful things, including road safety, first aid, morse signalling, knot tying, and so on; and they have also to give steady and satisfactory service to the pack and to their homes and schools over a definite period of time. We also try to inculcate ideas on hygiene, exercise, and thrift with money.

So far, 12 of the original 14 have gained their First Star and are well on the way to Second Star; of these, two are Torres Strait Islanders.

The numbers in the pack have built up steadily, and the strength is now 27, including seven Islanders. It has been noticeable that the islanders are beginning to join in greater numbers.

The cubmasters of the pack would like to thank the Director of Native Affairs for his interest in their progress and to assure him that whenever they can be of any help or service to him or his department he has only to say so.

APPENDIX 9.

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.

Acting Secretary—Mr. P. P. Hanley.

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 16 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 the Board's functions:—

1. Carry on the business, trade, or occupation, as the case may be, of banker, blacksmith, builder, carpenter, commission agent, common carrier (whether by land or water), dealer (wholesale or retail), engineer, exporter, factor, farmer, fisherman including fishing for pearl-shell, trochus shell, and beche-de-mer), forwarding agent, freight contractor, general merchant, grazier, importer, ironworker, joiner, labour agent, lighterman, manufacturer, mine-owner, moneylender, plumber, shipping agent, ship's chandler, shipbroker, shipbuilder, shipowner, shopkeeper, stevedore, storekeeper, timber merchant, tinsmith, trustee, warehouseman, wharfinger, or any other trade or business incidental or ancillary to any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid or which in the opinion of the Board can be effectually carried on in connection with any such business, trade, or occupation.

2. Acquire from time to time and at all times, 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 £187,778 from its sixteen retail stores, as compared with £178,161 last year.
- (b) Sales of marine produce totalling £113,810, from which can reasonably be deducted £1,453, representing the sales of scrap metal, which is included in the marine produce account.
- (c) Sales of other products, including, pork, fruit, and vegetables from the State Government settlement on the Peninsula amounting to £1,207.
- (d) The Board owns and controls an up-to-date slipway on which the 24 luggers and cutters owned by Torres Strait Islanders are repaired. On this slipway, when opportunity offers, the vessels of private pearlers and vessels the property of the missions operating in the area are repaired.
- (e) The Board owns two cargo vessels—“Gelam,” at present inoperative, due to the inability to obtain a suitable Master-Engineer; 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. Never at any time is a demand made on the Board for the use of its vessels in the interests of the islanders without a ready response, irrespective of the time of sailing or the hours to be worked in such an undertaking.

- (f) The Board employs a staff of 12 whites and 69 islanders. This staff comprises clerical workers, branch store managers and assistants (all Torres Strait Islanders), shipwrights, and island carpenters.

The reduction in the number of white staff is consequent on the Board's determination to train efficient island staff to wherever possible supplant white staff. Similar remarks apply with respect to coloured staff where efficiency supersedes quantity.

- (g) The overall assets of the Board are valued at £205,181, an increase over last year's figure of £24,354.

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

—	1952-53.	1953-54.	1954-55.
	£	£	£
Stock (end of year) ..	73,628	70,281	90,163
Sales .. ..	186,806	182,052	191,414
Purchases .. ..	126,108	113,130	143,394
Charges (Freights, &c.)	35,049	36,972	37,704
Stock (beginning of year) .. ..	67,718	73,628	70,281
Gross Profit .. ..	31,559	28,603	30,198

STATEMENT OF SALES OF PRODUCE FOR YEAR ENDED  
31st MARCH, 1955.

	£	s.	d.
<i>Mother-of-Pearl-Shell</i> —			
137 tons 2 cwt. 3 qr. 0 lb. .. ..	73,285	4	8
<i>Trochus Shell</i> —			
173 tons 12 cwt. 0 qr. 18 lb. .. ..	39,071	17	3
<i>Scrap Metal</i> —			
8 tons 16 cwt. 1 qr. 23 lb. .. ..	1,453	5	3
	<u>£113,810</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>



Hereunder is statement of store transactions for the year 1954-55:—

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

STATEMENT OF STORE TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1954-55.

Island.	Turnover. 1953-54.			Turnover. 1954-55.			Cash.			Stock.			Total Cash and Stock.			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Badu .. .. .	14,323	3	6	19,075	0	2	54	5	11	3,079	9	10	3,133	15	9	
Bamaga .. .. .	12,340	8	9	10,908	11	3	185	2	3	1,636	10	11	1,821	13	2	
Boigu .. .. .	4,195	3	8	4,657	6	4	122	0	3	1,461	13	7	1,583	13	10	
Coconut .. .. .	6,469	5	9	7,491	16	8	314	4	10	1,033	11	11	1,347	16	9	
Cowal Creek .. .. .	8,024	16	7	8,036	7	5	117	9	4	2,246	2	0	2,363	11	4	
Darnley .. .. .	11,639	7	11	10,097	19	7	290	13	9	1,908	5	11	2,198	19	8	
Dauan .. .. .	3,225	7	2	3,693	10	5	98	13	1	946	10	9	1,045	3	10	
Kubin .. .. .	4,176	11	9	4,114	10	4	95	8	8	1,069	18	4	1,165	7	0	
Mabuiag .. .. .	9,268	3	11	10,231	6	11	286	8	1	2,229	7	6	2,515	15	7	
Murray .. .. .	13,801	1	11	14,819	12	9	201	5	9	1,748	11	1	1,949	16	10	
Naghir .. .. .	1,451	16	3	2,038	8	2	14	8	0	776	2	2	790	10	2	
Saibai .. .. .	8,628	18	10	9,515	10	1	150	10	2	1,836	14	3	1,987	4	5	
Stephen .. .. .	3,106	6	11	2,542	7	3	381	0	3	1,539	12	4	1,920	12	7	
Yam .. .. .	4,944	13	11	5,306	13	8	256	7	4	1,977	1	5	2,233	8	9	
York .. .. .	7,432	14	11	8,389	19	2	101	5	9	646	9	7	747	15	4	
Thursday Island Retail	35,960	2	10	40,306	15	1	..	..	..	6,299	5	5	6,299	5	5	
Kennedy .. .. .	25,552	8	2	26,552	0	1	..	..	..	34,714	16	7	34,714	16	7	
Bulk .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43,292	10	4	43,292	10	4	
Butcher shop .. .. .	3,621	17	6	Closed Down	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	£	178,162	10	3	187,777	15	4	2,669	3	5	108,442	13	11	111,111	17	4

MARINE PRODUCE.

Island Industries Board has two essential commitments for the advancement and uplift of the Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginal customers for whom it caters. They are:—

- (1) The provision of retail stores on the islands wherever such provision is essential.
- (2) The receipt and sale of marine produce won by the islanders controlled by the Director of Native Affairs.

In this report appears statement of the Board's store transactions for the year under review. Hereunder is statement of the boat catches for the year ended 31st March, 1955, all of which produce was disposed of by the Board at current market prices as applicable to the quantities produced.

The Islanders' fleet is the largest fleet in the marine industry in Queensland. It is constituted of luggers and small cutters. The luggers are efficiently equipped, and on production figures can more than hold their own with any other fleet. The fleet is managed by the Director of Native Affairs and, despite assertions to the contrary, there is no special selection by him of crews for the islanders boats. The employment of men on these boats or on any other fleets is purely voluntary, and no compulsion under any circumstances is exercised by the Director or Island Industries Board to obtain labour to the benefit of the island-owned vessels.

Weather conditions will always militate against production of marine produce, and these occurred last year, and to the 30th June this year the same position applies. An equal if not greater contributing factor in the production of shell, be it either pearl shell or trochus shell is—

- (a) The type of boat utilised.
- (b) The administration, management, and encouragement given to the divers, tenders, and crews.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR DIVERS, TENDERS, GAUGE BOARD ATTENDANTS.

Mention of the establishment of this school was made in last year's report. The Board is determined that this school will operate, and has, with the assistance of the State Government, sufficient funds to implement it.

The Pearl Shellers' Association, Thursday Island, has in a small way contributed towards the school, but it is common knowledge that that association's members are not particularly enamoured of the future success of it, the argument being that foreign labour employed on the boats will be of greater assistance to the training of the islanders than the establishment of the school ashore.

The intention is to establish the school in Thursday Island, but the function of the tutor, when secured, will be to train the men on their luggers at sea. Herein lies the difficulty of securing a suitable tutor diver, in that living conditions on luggers are particularly hard and the life is not sufficiently attractive to induce a tutor to undertake the work. However, the Board has not given up hope of securing such a man capable and competent of undertaking the work.

Recently the Board had extensive discussions with a trained expert in the use of the "Hookah" Unit. This diving unit, manufactured in Australia, is reputed to be an improvement on the helmet-corselet dress now used in Thursday Island waters. Investigations are proceeding with a view to the Board's purchasing two of these units and arranging with the supplier to have an expert sent to the island for the purpose of tutoring at sea the islanders who would use it. It is a more mobile plant, reputedly cheaper and safer than the existent equipment.

## BOAT CATCHES YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1955.

Name of Vessel.	Mother-of-Pearl.				Trochus.				Scrap Metal.		Total Value.						
	Weight.				Value.				Value.								
	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Petta Nona .. ..	25	8	1	8	11,516	10	5	..	..	..	..	11,516	10	5	..	..	..
May Nona .. ..	21	5	3	8	10,140	19	8	..	..	..	..	10,140	19	8	..	..	..
Relsie Nona .. ..	20	8	3	6	9,584	10	2	..	..	..	..	9,584	10	2	..	..	..
Naianga .. ..	15	12	3	8	7,087	19	4	..	..	..	..	7,087	19	4	..	..	..
Sarah Nona .. ..	13	1	0	22	6,268	2	6	..	..	..	..	6,268	2	6	..	..	..
Mosby .. ..	11	6	3	22	5,731	6	1	..	..	..	..	5,731	6	1	..	..	..
Macoy .. ..	7	15	1	27	3,836	12	0	8	1	3	4	1,283	10	0	..	..	..
Cessa .. ..	9	1	2	1	4,239	15	11	..	..	..	..	4,239	15	11	..	..	..
Uropi .. ..	6	14	0	22	3,374	0	9	..	..	..	..	3,374	0	9	..	..	..
Caroline .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	4	1	8	3,308	13	4	..	..	..
Ella .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	10	2	16	2,781	15	8	..	..	..
Loyalty .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	13	2	14	2,689	5	10	..	..	..
Dona .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	9	2	7	2,297	3	11	..	..	..
Kismet .. ..	0	11	3	25	323	7	6	8	17	1	10	1,406	17	10	..	..	..
Maria .. ..	0	6	2	19	154	10	10	9	17	1	8	1,565	8	4	..	..	..
Rebecca .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	5	3	13	1,315	17	5	..	..	..
Nancy .. ..	0	11	2	3	267	17	1	6	2	0	27	969	15	7	..	..	..
Adiana .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	8	0	0	1,174	2	8	..	..	..
Ya za .. ..	1	15	2	9	922	16	11	..	..	..	..	922	16	11	..	..	..
Adai .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	8	3	24	864	9	0	..	..	..
Cape York .. ..	0	9	3	2	227	17	7	0	18	0	2	157	19	10	..	..	..
Zunal .. ..	0	4	1	21	110	14	0	1	7	2	26	220	0	2	..	..	..
Wadumo .. ..	0	6	2	4	169	18	3	0	10	1	14	82	6	2	..	..	..
Binibin .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	0	11	183	4	11	..	..	..
Dinghy Shell .. ..	0	12	2	16	320	16	7	3	16	3	8	644	15	0	..	..	..
Slipway Scrap .. ..	135	14	0	27	64,267	15	7	132	15	2	24	20,945	5	8	1,453	5	3
Sundry Purchases .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Price Adjustments, &c. .. ..	1	8	2	1	9,017	9	1	40	16	1	22	18,126	11	7	..	..	..
	137	2	3	0	73,285	4	8	173	12	0	18	39,071	17	3	1,453	5	3

## SLIPWAY.

(Officer in Charge, C. Thus.)

During the year, from 1st April, 1954, to 31st March, 1955, this slipway has carried out some 406 tons gross of slipping vessels and general repair work. Vessels up to 60 feet in length have had engines installed, new decks, keels, &c. repaired or replaced. Torres Strait Islanders are employed constantly for eight years. Eighteen men and four youths are the slip's complement. The men are constantly on ship repair work, and the youths either dinghy building or making repairs to same. Eleven new dinghies of sharpie design and six clinker built dinghies have been built.

Wages paid to the employees are according to the Industrial Award with allowances for sick leave and holidays the same as a white ship-builder would receive. Each year they keep themselves financial with their union. Two leading hands have a gang each for the various jobs. These hands are responsible to the white shipwright officer in charge of the yard.

The yard consists of three slipping cradles, one derrick capable of lifting up to 3 tons, circular saws of various sizes, bandsaws, planing machine, emery grinding wheels, gulleting machine, electric drills, and a steam box. The machinery is operated by electricity. All sharpening tools are kept sharp and well oiled by the leading hands.

Theoretical side of shipbuilding is taught by holding classes in the evening twice a week. Technical books and drawing material are supplied by the slip.

Riggers' work is also carried out by the employees—slings replaced, standing rigging, long splices on hawsers, block strops.

Sailmaking and hatch covers are made occasionally. The yard draws all its materials and timber from its own shipchandlery store. This store is operated by coloured storemen under the supervision of a white officer.

Island Industries Board's slipway is the biggest slipyard in the Torres Straits operated by Torres Strait Islanders shipwrights.

## REPORT ON VESSELS SLIPPED FOR GENERAL REPAIRS DURING THE YEAR 1ST APRIL, 1954, TO 31ST MARCH 1955.

	Gross Tons.
Ketch "Adiana" (1st April, 1954) .. ..	22
Ketch "Cessa" (13th April, 1954) .. ..	20
Cutter "Janet Thomson" (11th May, 1954) ..	15
Ketch "Mosby" (1st June, 1954) .. ..	22
m.v. "Gelam" (15th June, 1954) .. ..	30
Auxiliary "Laura" (21st June, 1954) .. ..	20
m.v. "Kebisu" (29th June, 1954) .. ..	30
Auxiliary "Nobby" (16th June, 1954) .. ..	20
Auxiliary "Active" (30th July, 1954) .. ..	20
Cutter "Maria" (31st July, 1954) .. ..	15
Auxiliary "Jennifer Jill" (13th August, 1954) .. ..	22
Ketch "Helen" (10th September, 1954) .. ..	22
Ketch "Adai" (12th November, 1954) .. ..	22
Cutter "Sania" (17th January, 1955) .. ..	15
Ketch "Petta Nona" (20th January, 1955) ..	22
Auxiliary "Sarah Nona" (18th February, 1955) .. ..	20
Ketch "Relsie Nona" (20th March, 1955) ..	22
Ketch "May Nona" (21st March, 1955) .. ..	22
Ketch "Nianga" .. ..	25
Gross Tons .. ..	406

## APPENDIX 10.

## MAPOON MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. J. C. Allan)

*Staff.*—Rev. G. W. Holmes resigned from the work in November, 1954. Mr. and Mrs. Hartshorn, who had served on this station before, relieved for a period of three months after which time Mr. Hartshorn returned to Brisbane to continue his study.

Towards the end of February Mr. and Mrs. Allan took over from Mr. and Mrs. Hartshorn. Mr. and Mrs. Allan will be at the station until the end of 1955. Mr. Allan has received leave of absence from his Church for this time.

During 1954 Mr. John Mackie resigned. In the early part of 1955 Miss Cochrane was granted leave of absence. She has sought medical advice and is receiving specialist treatment at the present time.

*Statistics.*—*Births*—

Four females  
Two males

*Deaths*—

Three old age

*Marriages*—Three

*Merger.*—The decision of a conference held at Mapoon and later confirmed by the committee to merge this station with Weipa altered the whole set-up here. Nothing of a constructive nature has been done at all. At the present time the mission is maintained and only maintenance work is carried out.

*Health.*—No statistics of the daily attendances has been kept. The health of the people seems to be on the same standard as in former years. We are thankful for the services of the Flying Doctor and the help given by the resident Government medical officer on Thursday Island. Having these men to help relieves a great deal of the work of the staff.

When it was heard that the Flying Doctor would call if the strip was repaired the people turned to and voluntarily cleared the strip of undergrowth and grass. Both Flying Doctor and bush pilots have used the strip.

*Employment.*—Most of our men have gone to cattle stations in the Gulf. All told there are 40 employed in this area, three in other employment, and six out on boats.

Many of the older ones go out after crocodiles, and although the market seems to have slumped considerably the price gives them a fair income. The sale of shell necklaces and fans is a source of income to the women of the mission.

*School.*—There are 77 children in the school. Miss Cochrane did much to assist in this work. Altogether the work of the school is not of a high standard nor will it be until the native staff is supervised by a trained white teacher. Many of the children are quick to learn and capable but without the tuition cannot advance far.

*Stock.*—The status quo seems to be the order of the day here. Like all communities supervision is required and one cannot possibly do it. We were able to sell a few bullocks in 1954 and have sent out sixty this year.

*Conduct.*—There have been a few domestic quarrels but nothing of a serious nature. The Sacraments of the Church and regular worship have been carried out. The staff and people thank all churchmen for their guidance in worship.

*Appreciation.*—Staff and people take this opportunity to thank our many friends who have contributed to the wellbeing and comfort of the mission. Among these we would especially mention the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the Government Medical Officer, Thursday Island, and the staff of the hospital, the Cairns Aerial Ambulance, the Flying Doctor and its services, and our own staff in the Church Offices, Brisbane.

## APPENDIX 11.

## WEIPA MISSION.

(Superintendent, Mr. J. S. Winn.)

*Staff.*—

Matron, Mrs. J. S. Winn.  
Sister, A. Cameron.

The Superintendent arrived at Weipa Mission from his furlough on the Sunday, 11th April, 1954, four hours ahead of a Presbyterian Church Conference party comprising Rev. Coombes, General Secretary, Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions, Rev. James Sweet, Secretary for Home and Foreign Missions, Queensland, Rev. P. W. Pearson, Ann street, a member of the Visitation Committee, Rev. D. Belcher, Superintendent, Mornington Island, Mr. D. Allan, Accountant for Aboriginal Missions, Mr. Peter Fletcher, Assistant, Weipa, newly appointed agent for Presbyterian Missions, Thursday Island, Mr. Stockman, in charge of mission launch "Reliance," and a Mr. John Mackie, from Mapoon Mission. Mr. and Mrs. Winn and Mr. Graham arrived by 'plane in time to greet the visitors on this memorable occasion.

At this conference at Weipa future policy bound up with the Mapoon-Weipa merger and projected changes in the financial running of the missions were the main themes brought forward for discussion; reorganisation of staff and matters vital to the welfare of the natives. At the conclusion of this conference I am sure that all felt we were on the eve of greater development. The ensuing 12 months, however, have been fraught with many difficult problems both for staff on the mission field and the Aboriginal Missions Committee.

The very unfortunate breakdown in health of Mrs. D. Page prevented Mr. and Mrs. Page from reaching the scene of labour for which they had felt the call. Many aspirants failed to pass the necessary medical test and the loss of the services of Rev. G. Holmes, from Mapoon; Mr. and Mrs. J. Gillanders, from Mornington Island; and Mr. and Mrs. L. Little, from Aurukun, have added a great strain to a company of mission servants already overtaxed.

The financial burden at the beginning of the year under review was no doubt critical, but the position was faced with quiet optimism, both Government and Church recognising their common problems, arrived at a better spirit of understanding and sounder financial basis.



*Religion.*—Sunday and daily services have been maintained throughout the year with good average attendance.

The kindergarten, under the care of Mrs. Winn, is a bright spot in our mission life. To hear the little voices uplifted so joyously—at times heard over the voices of the adults in praise within the church—undoubtedly the message of the Church is an effective working power within the lives of these people.

*Statistics.*—

Communicants on the roll	..	..	79
Marriages	..	..	1
Baptisms (children)	..	..	4
Births	..	..	3
Deaths	..	..	4

*Medical.*—The general health of the people is good. A few cases as required by the medical officer, Thursday Island, go to Thursday Island for their periodical checkup in tubercular survey for which survey we are greatly indebted to the Thursday Island Hospitals Board and its trained staff.

The inauguration of a monthly visit for medical clinic by the Flying Doctor Service of Australia based at Charters Towers has also proved a great boon to the missions, lifting a load of responsibility. Dr. O'Leary's helpful understanding has endeared him to the people and staff of Weipa, and his pilot, Captain Keith Galloway, is always sure of a hearty welcome.

On the 29th March Sister Cameron arrived at Weipa, and on her second day here one of our little girls fell from a tree and broke her leg in two places. This case was removed to Cairns Base Hospital by the Cairns Aerial Ambulance. This service made two trips to the mission during the year. Readers of this report will be greatly cheered by the very marked improvement in the medical care of our native people.

*School.*—Mrs. Winn had to take over the supervision of the school in the absence of any other assistance. This step was compulsory as it would have meant a big heartache to see the school slip back from its good standard. One very capable teacher, Ina Hall, had to give up the task when the third addition to her family was expected. We greatly appreciate the long years of service rendered by her. Three other native teachers are engaged in the school, all doing a conscientious job. The arrival of a fully qualified teacher to take over the full responsibility for the education of these children is a number one priority.

Attendance has maintained a good average. The number of days school was open was 214. Number of pupils is now 37.

*Employment.*—Temporary work for a number of men was found on trochus boats. Fairly satisfactory earnings were made by a few. Others left this employment and found jobs for themselves in shore occupations. Eight were employed on cattle stations or cattle droving—the period of employment was shorter but the earnings were greater. The financial position being as it was at the beginning of the year curtailed any works of a progressive nature and the only other alternative as far as employment was concerned was to find work for the men on out-of-the-mission occupations. The end of

March, 1955, saw another exodus of men from the mission to outside employment. I regret this very much, but without additional white assistants to supervise works I find the task of keeping men profitably employed impossible. The few men that I have left are elderly and just employable as gardeners, milkmen, and on occasional maintenance jobs.

The breakdown of the Ruston-Hornsby saw-mill engine curtailed my milling efforts, and the Ford truck was utilised when cordwood for firewood purposes had to be cut.

A considerable amount of cordwood was cut ready for transport to Thursday Island. This, with a quantity of hardwood posts and stumps for sale, added a little to our mission income and provided labour for male and female alike.

A few week's work is offered to widows annually clearing the air strips and keeping them in serviceable condition.

*Agriculture.*—At the moment we are reaping the benefit of our increased plantings of banana and papaw trees. Beans are plentiful, and an excellent crop of sweet potatoes, limes, and oranges has given a much better yield this year. Mangoes proved a disappointing crop this year, but it would appear that a poor season for mangoes was a general failing in most areas. The area under lucerne increases a little year by year.

The rainfall for the year was 73 inches 80 points.

*Stock.*—My remarks in the 1954 report are still applicable to this year under review.

*Aerodrome.*—Clearing improvements are carried out as opportunity offers, but the strips are maintained in good order and quite up to standards requested by the Inspector of Aerodromes from the Civil Aviation Department. Regular monthly landings are made by the Flying Doctor's plane. Two trips this year have been made by the Cairns Ambulance and one by a chartered plane.

*Conduct.*—No complaints—a few domestic squabbles and trivial incidents, but all satisfactorily settled.

*Social.*—The facts and sentiments of my previous year's report are still applicable for the year under review.

*Visitors.*—Approximately 30 different visitors stayed over night at the mission, some of these we call regular visitors—doctors, sisters, pilots, station owners, ministers of religion, photographers, crocodile hunters, journalists, accountants, and a plumber.

A glance at the first paragraph in the report gives the names of a few whom we were honoured to have with us, and mention must be made and appreciation recorded of the visit of the Moderator and his wife, the Right Reverend R. Ramsay and Mrs. Ramsay.

*Appreciation.*—We express our appreciation and indebtedness to the many friends in church organisations who contribute to a great extent to the material, physical, financial, and spiritual need of the people; to our Administrator, the Rev. J. Sweet and his staff within



the Church Office; the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia, per Dr. O'Leary; the Medical Officer, Thursday Island, and the members of his staff; to the Cairns Ambulance staff and those pilots who so willingly come to our help when required; to the members of the Director of Native Affairs wireless staff for their patient, helpful service; to the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary, and his staff for the ever-increasing help and co-operation given year by year; to our missionary co-workers at Aurukun, Mapoon, Mornington, and Thursday Islands.

#### APPENDIX 12.

#### AURUKUN MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. W. F. MacKenzie B.A.)

##### STAFF.

Mrs. MacKenzie B.A., Dip. Ed., Matron and Teacher.

Mrs. Little, Assistant Matron and Dispensary.

Mr. and Mrs. Little retired from the work in March, 1955, after a period of over six years' work on the mission. Mr. Little, by his tireless work, set the Cattle Department on a sound basis, and we wish to place on record the appreciation of all the mission for the splendid results achieved. Our good wishes follow them to their new life in the south, and we wish them every success in the future. In December, 1954, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Paton were appointed to the work and have taken up the posts vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Little.

##### AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

Every endeavour has been made to increase the fertility of the soil, which is a poor type of sandy loam. New seed has been introduced periodically to keep up the strain. Extensive manuring has been carried out both with artificial and cowyard manure, also the use of guano. Compost heaps have been made and many truck loads of humus from the bush brought in and scattered over the paddocks. Some liming has also been done.

##### CATTLE RAISING.

*Beef Herd.*—An extensive plan of fencing has been set out and work commenced on this important work. Fence lines and truck roads have been cleared. New bulls have been obtained. Yards have been built. Windmills and wells erected and dug. Mustering and branding have been carried out and two mobs of bullocks have been delivered to purchasers.

*Dairy Herd.*—Work on pasture improvement carried out, also clearing for more pasture. Four miles of fencing has been erected. A well for the dairy has been dug and pump installed. Careful records of milk production have been kept.

We are in the fortunate position of being able to run two independent herds of cattle. The beef herd is on the south side of the Archer River. Here are employed about 20 of our men on stock work, fencing, yard building, clearing, and road building. About 14 miles of fencing was put up subdividing the area into suitable paddocks. In two of the paddocks windmills are either erected or in the process of erection,

wells dug to ensure an adequate supply of water in the dry period. Concrete cylinders have been made to line the wells and troughing put up. This year 529 head of cattle were sold. In addition, 65 head were killed for beef for the mission. On the north side of the Archer River, at the mission, we have the dairy herd. The number of cows in milk is 33. It is not planned to increase the herd to any great extent, but by careful selection and culling thereby to increase milk production. We were fortunate in being given a stud Illawarra bull from a milking strain. Careful records are kept of the production of each cow, and only the heifers from the best cows will be kept. For the period under review 4,191 gallons of milk were received. Consequently every school child was given, on an average, a pint of milk per day. Five special paddocks, each of 5 acres, were planted with introduced grasses and legumes to be used to feed the milkers during the dry season when the native grasses have dried off. An experiment was made of planting elephant grass and Para grass in the swamp near the mission so that as the swamp dries green feed will be available. Over 5 tons of hay was cut, cured, and stacked.

##### HOUSE BUILDING.

Eight new houses were built in the village and others repaired. All new houses were built raised on stumps off the ground. The walls are bark or slabs and the floors adzed slabs with some sawn timber. It is hoped to be able to purchase sufficient iron to roof these houses, thus ensuring dry living quarters in the wet season. Many of the people have their own gardens of sweet potatoes, cassava, and papaws. Each house has at least one coconut tree and one mango tree.

##### EDUCATION.

There are 108 pupils in school, 51 girls and 57 boys. The older children are doing well in reading, writing, composition, and drawing, but it is very difficult to instil into their minds a sense of numbers, consequently arithmetic is the hardest subject for them to master. Owing to an acute shortage of staff it has been very difficult for Mrs. MacKenzie to devote sufficient time to concentrate on giving the children a real grounding in, and an understanding of, numbers. With regard to the older children, when they leave school the boys receive instruction in the general work around the mission and the girls learn simple domestic science which will be useful to them when they marry.

##### CONDUCT.

Conduct has, on the whole, been very good. All cases of trouble have been dealt with by a court consisting of the native councillors and policemen and presided over by the superintendent.

##### HEALTH.

With regard to the health of our people the greatest scourge has been consumption, but thanks to the great care given in hospital and

the frequent checking up many of our people, especially children, are enjoying much improved health. Injections against whooping cough, diphtheria, and tetanus were carried out by visiting members of the nursing staff from the hospital at Thursday Island. The children and people benefited greatly from a visit, early last year, of a dentist and mechanic, but it is necessary that these visits should be made at frequent intervals. A new departure was made in January, when the Flying Doctor from Charters Towers, Dr. T. J. O'Leary, commenced making monthly visits. The regular visit by a doctor is of incalculable advantage to the health and care of these people, especially during the wet season when normal boat trips to Thursday Island are impracticable and impossible. The dispensary has been open every day, and the sick receive treatment.

Recognising the truth of the old adage, "mens sana in corpore sano," greater efforts are made each year to improve the quality of the soil, which is a light sandy loam. Various paddocks in rotation are turned into pasture and planted with legumes as Townsville lucerne, stylo, Puro, Mauritius beans, which are later ploughed in. Through the year compost heaps are built up and allowed to rot; large quantities of humus are gathered and this, with the rotted compost, are spread over the paddocks and ploughed in. Artificial manure and guano are applied to the rows of plants with beneficial results. Last year about 4 tons of sweet potatoes and about the same quantity of cassava were harvested. This enabled the children to have dinner every second day of fresh food to which was added either pumpkin, cabbage, cow peas, or beans. On alternate days dinner consisted of brown rice. Each day a substantial ration of beef was cooked with the vegetables or rice. Fresh fruit as papaws, bananas, and mangoes was also issued. The people are encouraged to bring sea food for trading, and three times a week the children receive fish, crabs, oysters, and shellfish to supplement their breakfasts of ground wheat or sorghum and their suppers of damper made with flour fortified with cerevite and sweetened with grated coconut.

#### MISSION JUBILEE.

The year 1954 was the Jubilee of the mission. Special services marked the occasion in August. We were very pleased to have with us the Moderator of the Queensland Presbyterian Church, who conducted the special services. During the week a special dance programme was put on by the people and many very interesting dances from the totems of the different tribes were shown in public for the first time. Looking back over the years, it is a matter of thanks to Almighty God for what has been able to be done for these people here at Aurukun. Much has been done, more remains to be done, for the uplift of these people and to ensure their spiritual, mental, and physical development to enable them to take a worthy place in the community. The weekly and Sunday services have been held regularly, and the people encouraged to take part in them, with gratifying results. Twenty-five persons joined the Church during the year.

#### APPRECIATION.

We wish to express our grateful thanks to the Minister, the Director and his staff for their great help and encouragement, to the mission committee for their planning and work on our behalf to the ladies of the Church for the many boxes of comforts for the people at Christmas and through the year. We wish to thank the medical staff at Thursday Island Hospital, the Flying Doctor and the Pilot for their tremendous help. We also thank all our many friends and helpers, too numerous to mention, but without whose help our work could hardly carry on.

#### APPENDIX 13.

##### MORNINGTON ISLAND MISSION.

(Superintendent, Rev. D. L. Belcher.)

##### Staff.—

Matron, Mrs. D. L. Belcher.  
Hospital, Sister A. O. D. Creagh.

##### Statistics.—

Births	..	..	..	..	17
Deaths (all aged)	..	..	..	..	6
Marriages	..	..	..	..	1

This report covers matters of religion, agriculture, cattle raising, education, industrial development, marine industry, and things in general. Particular reference is made to the water problem in relation to the possibility of evacuation of the island.

*Religion.*—Services are conducted regularly and the sacraments administered. Twenty-five teenage boys and girls were admitted as communicant members of the Church. With assistance of Elder Gully Peter, the Sunday service is interpreted to the Bentinck Islanders, who continue to progress in rehabilitation on Mornington Island. There is a growing awareness of responsibility in practical Christian living which is reflected in the behaviour of the people as a group.

*Agriculture.*—A brief inspection made by an officer of the Department of Agriculture and Stock and an officer of the Department of Native Affairs revealed the following:—

- (1.) Arable land is available in limited areas.
- (2.) Irrigation of vegetable crops could be provided from a series of dams constructed to conserve the large volume of water available in the wet season. The terrain lends itself to the project.
- (3.) Such development will require a small power cultivator and spray irrigation equipment.

Since then extensive examination has revealed more areas which are suitable for agriculture, notably on adjacent Denham Island. Soil tests indicate a deficiency of phosphate and the trace elements boron and copper, all of which are available in fertiliser preparation. There is a good supply of guano available as a manure, on Rocky Island, nearby.

At present there is a small area under cultivation. Mangoes and coconuts supplement the diet. The native people make an effort to cultivate vegetable and with some assistance should have success in the future. We expect to have an agriculturist on the staff next year, depending on the result of water investigation,

*Cattle.*—Good progress has been made as a result of the appointment of one of our own men, Pat Reid, as head stockman. Yards and fencing have been erected and equipment brought up to standard. Regular mustering ensures a good supply of bullocks for domestic beef supply and for sale in the future. It is planned that 600 of scrub cattle be shipped out by barge in July and sold as "boners." Extensive preparations have been made for this venture following an inspection by buyers in November. With a better understanding of the situation it seems that quality of our cattle generally is good, particularly as there has been much in-breeding. A grazier has promised a gift of four stud Hereford bulls and a blood colt this year. Transport of these presents a problem.

There is constant demand for labour from stations, and there is difficulty in finding a balance between outside demand and our own requirements. Our men show a good spirit in choosing to remain here to develop the cattle work when comparatively high wages are available elsewhere.

It is estimated that there are 1,400 head of cattle under control with 600 or more at the northern end of the island uncontrolled.

*Education.*—There are 112 children on the School roll, the highest Grade being IV. Some who were doing Grade V. work are required to assist in teaching. The standard is fair and will improve only upon the appointment of a full-time qualified teacher, as is hoped for.

The Head Teacher, Ellen Richards, does a splendid job under difficult conditions. The school is housed in the church and elsewhere, and the provision of a new school is planned as a capital expenditure item for this year. Ina Richards has begun training as a nurse at Maryborough Hospital and it could be that she may return here as a qualified nurse.

*Building and Industrial.*—There have been several new native houses erected, and the standard is constantly improving with the addition of simple bathrooms and improved sanitation facilities. Two cement floored lavatories have been erected for school and general use. One lighting engine shed has been erected.

The major work has been the completion of a 5,000 yard air strip to facilitate the landing of the D.C.3 aircraft on the Gulf run. The job has been well done by the people working mainly for rations only as a self-help project. Initiative and skill was shown by the foreman, Barney Charles, and the Bentinck Islanders have constantly and willingly shared in this labour of timber clearing, stump grubbing and burning, rock blasting, levelling, and consolidating of the runway. The Department of Civil Aviation Inspector indicated that the strip has a value which extends beyond our own requirements of regular mail service.

*Marine Industry.*—There are good prospects of development of a fishing industry supplying mainland towns by air but this remains in abeyance pending the working out of future policy.

Freezing and cold room plant supplied by the Department of Health and Home Affairs in

1951 awaits installation by that Department when a decision concerning our future has been reached.

*General.*—The question of evacuation of the population arises from time to time and centres around water shortages in dry times. Water exploration will be carried out this year by Mr. Charles Ogilvie, who is qualified in this field of work. Shallow bores will be sunk and we are confident that an adequate water supply will be found. That water has been available even in the extremely severe drought conditions of 1952 was demonstrated by the fact that there was no appreciable loss of stock. There has been much confused thinking all round in connection with this matter. Abundance of sea food makes this island a good place for natives, and rather than consider evacuation we submit that it could be an area to which detribalised mainland natives could be sent for rehabilitation.

Educational facilities do not in practice exist for many mainland aboriginal children in the Gulf area, partly because of the nature of cattle station employment and colour prejudice in one area particularly. As in years gone by mainlanders were sent to Mornington Island and have become one with the islanders, so there is a movement, small as yet, towards settling on the island to gain the benefit of education and a satisfactory general environment. Two families have thus transferred from the mainland recently.

*Appreciation.*—The Department of Native Affairs, the Flying Doctor Service, and to all who have the welfare of aboriginal people at heart.

#### APPENDIX 14.

#### LOCKHART RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, J. A. Warby.)

#### *Staff.*

Rev. N. J. Eley, Chaplain.  
G. Pidsley, Engineer.  
Y. Ross Edwards, Engineer.  
W. Ewin, Agriculturist.  
Miss A. Hann, School Teacher.  
Sister H. Conn, Hospital.  
Mrs. P. M. Warby, Bookkeeper.  
W. Namok, Carpenter.

#### *Emphasis Swings from Building to Business.*

This year distinct changes in mission policy have brought about important and far reaching results in the mission and in the lives of the people.

The emphasis has swung from developing the material side of the mission such as the many new buildings, to the social and industrial side of life.

The emphasis now is on the co-operate way of life in general and of business and education in particular.

Steps have been taken to awaken the people to the greater future which lies before them, and a deeper realisation of this is responsible for an enthusiasm and willingness to learn which is most encouraging.

#### *General Aims.*

To instil initiative and to foster a sense of responsibility among all sections and ages of the people in general and in individuals and





**Mornington Island Mission—New Stockyards.**



young people in particular with the aim of increasing their self reliance and self respect.

*Summary of methods to achieve our Aim.*

1. By teaching the people to run their own co-operative business.
2. By providing employment for all able bodied men within the mission.
3. By creating a voluntary night school for adults and school children.
4. By delegating responsibilities to as many people as possible and at all times encouraging the people to think for themselves and to make their own decisions.
5. By improving living conditions and material benefits.
6. By fostering an active interest in activities based on the Church.

*Formation of the First Aboriginal Co-Operative.*

In July, 1954, the Rev. A. Clint, Director of Co-operatives in Australia and the Pacific for the Australian Board of Missions, instigated a series of lectures to voluntary meetings of men and women. As a result of these lectures a desire arose amongst the people to form a co-operative, and accordingly the Lockhart River Aboriginal Christian Co-operative Society Limited came into being.

The co-operative has both men and women as members with equal votes. It has rules drawn up by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and is registered and incorporated under "The Co-operative Societies Acts, 1946 to 1951."

The society is run by a board of directors, all aboriginals, under the supervision of the superintendent.

The directors number seven, two of whom are elected by the Bishop, the remaining five being elected by members of the society.

The board has a president and secretary, and all decisions of the co-operative are moved, discussed, and voted upon as in normal business practice.

The trochus industry at present constitutes the only business activity of the co-operative but it is intended as soon as practicable to include cattle, agriculture and a cash store and to make it a community co-operative.

The society rents two boats from the Diocese, and has recently purchased a third boat, the "Francis Pritt," which was the original boat of the first Bishop of Carpentaria, the Right Reverend Gilbert White.

*Aboriginals Easily Adopt Co-operative Ways.*

The society has proved an ideal method of developing and training the people, who fit into the co-operative way most naturally. Much progress has been made by the board, directors, and skippers of boats in assuming responsibilities and making decisions.

Many mistakes have been and will be made, but this is to be expected.

It is felt that the co-operative is a great step forward in the lives of the people, allowing them to implement their own decisions in their own business, giving them a momentous chance at last of learning to stand on their own feet.

*Full Employment on Mission.*

All able-bodied men are gainfully employed. There is a varied choice of work, which includes engineering, carpentry, boatbuilding, school teaching, and truck and tractor driving and maintenance, as well as the more usual cattle work, farming, and trochus swimming. Home employment has placed domestic life on a sounder basis.

*Delegation of Responsibilities.*

This is based on the assumption that the way to develop a sense of responsibility among the people is to give them responsibilities and let them handle them as best they can.

While it often happens that they fail, very often surprising and gratifying results have been obtained in this manner.

One of the most outstanding examples was of Frank O'Brien, who was placed in charge of a truck and a gang of men and whose job it was to reclaim the 3-inch pipes used as posts in the Wenlock-Portland Roads telegraph line which had been purchased by the mission.

Working entirely without supervision over a period of four months and about 50 miles away from the mission, this party cut down 700 pipes and reclaimed many thousands of insulators and transported pipes and all distances up to 30 miles over poor roads.

During this time the truck required considerable maintenance, and many difficulties were encountered but all were overcome in one manner or another, mainly through the leadership shown by Frank O'Brien.

*Positions of Trust.*

The following positions are actively filled and every effort is made to ensure a fuller and increasing performance of duties.

1. *Two Administrative Councillors* assist in organising and running the work and social side of the mission and also sit on all court cases under the supervision of the Superintendent. They are elected by the people.

2. *Four Church Councillors* assist in the smooth running of the church and Sunday school. They are elected by the people.

3. *Three Cattle Councillors.*—This is a new departure following the resignation of Joe Calliope as cattle manager last July. One councillor is elected by the Superintendent and the other two by the stockmen.

The three councillors confer under the supervision of the superintendent, and are responsible for the running of the cattle work. The general scheme for working the cattle is arrived at together and each councillor is responsible for various Departments of the work.

*Improving Social Conditions.*

Additional houses were completed in the village. Three other houses were roofed with iron. Sanitary arrangements were improved. A large office for the co-operative has been built. A house bought at Iron Range about 35 miles away was pulled down, transported, and re-erected for the chaplain close to the church. A kindergarten is in course of erection. The kitchen and dining room for the Children's

Centre was completed and furnished. A refrigeration and battery charging room was erected.

#### *Children's Community Centre Commenced.*

It is part of the policy of the mission not to revert to the dormitory system for children. It was obvious, however, that the system whereby children were left entirely to the parents except for schooling was also lacking in various ways.

A compromise was sought and the children's centre is the result of this.

The centre at present consists of kitchen and dining room, refrigerator room, and lavatories, and is being expanded to include dressing rooms, shower rooms, laundry, and children's playground. The operation of the Centre is controlled by Sister Conn, and is included in her report.

#### *Slipway Construction.*

During July and August last year a slipway was constructed. This is unavailable part of the season due to the heavy seas and poor shelter but has proved of great use so far.

This mission operates four boats altogether, including one cargo boat, and the slipway fills a long-felt need to facilitate their repair and maintenance.

#### *Boat Rebuilt on Mission Slipway.*

One of the Diocesan boats, the "Cape Grey," was recently rebuilt on the mission slipway. Jobs done on her included complete new planking below the water line, new ribs throughout, additional stringers, and frames. In addition, the bottom was coppered, hull and deck caulked and pitched, new bunks and flooring fitted, and the whole painted.

This work was carried out entirely by aboriginal labour under the guidance of William Nomak, a Torres Strait Island lay missionary.

#### *Water Pipe Line from Telegraph Posts.*

Many of the 3-inch pipes reclaimed from the Wenlock-Portland Roads telegraph posts are being relaid to form a strong and enduring pipeline from Cutta Creek 2 miles distant.

A pipe-line already has been laid from this creek which has been dammed, but the new line will be far superior in durability and output of water. The reclaimed pipes were found to be in A1 condition, as both ends had had plates welded over them.

This pipe-line is being financed by the Department of Native Affairs. Mr. Pidsley is in charge of this major work, and when it is completed, ample water throughout the year should be laid on to every house on the mission. The line is being buried at an average depth of 1 foot throughout its length, and is expected to prove trouble free and of inestimable benefit to the mission in the years to come.

#### *General Engineering and Mechanical Maintenance.*

This was handled by Mr. G. Pidsley until December, when he was wedded to Miss. Beth Mussett at St. Paul's Mission, returning in April to take over the laying of the pipeline. Mr. J. Ross Edwards arrived from Mitchell River Mission to replace him.

Much work has been handled by the engineering section, which has grown considerably over the past year. Two major jobs were the overhauling of the engines of "Mary Lochart" and "Yola."

Both engines had to be removed from the boats. The "Mary Lochart" suffered a broken crankshaft while the "Yola" ran out all her bearings due to an oil stoppage. Many jobs too numerous to mention were put through. A welding plant was acquired and proved most useful. Six men are undergoing training in practical mechanics.

#### *New Agricultural Area Opened.*

An alluvial river flat at Cutta Creek has been fenced, cleared, and cultivated and a very good garden has been established. This is aimed purely at producing vegetables and fruit for home consumption. A Skinner Irrigation System was purchased and erected, and with this vegetables can be grown right through to the "wet."

Many almonds, mangoes, and coconuts were planted, and are well established with the late wet season.

The Director of Tropical Agricultural, Mr. D. Atherton, carried out a survey which should have far-reaching effects on agriculture here. Some of his recommendations are being implemented and the new tractor will allow others to be put into practice.

#### *Cattle.*

Following the resignation of Mr. J. Calliope this work was handled by the three cattle councillors under supervision. Brandings for the year were 420. An average of two beasts a week were killed for home consumption. A paddock of about 4 square miles was completed at Nunda.

A cattle survey was conducted by Mr. J. N. Skelton, Assistant Husbandry Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Stock.

This survey should prove of great value in the future running of the cattle, and it is hoped that this side of mission life can be built up into a venture capable of considerably assisting in the support of the mission.

#### *Religion and Church Activities.*

Rev. N. G. Eley, Chaplain, reports as follows:—

The year 1954-55 has been one of consolidation of church life, following the more spectacular previous year in which a new church was built, church councillors elected, and aboriginal lay readers were introduced.

All these developments of the previous year have gradually proved their worth in an overall improvement in church life. Attendances, without rising very greatly in numbers, have been much more regular and consistent.

A better understanding and interest in the spiritual life was demonstrated in Lent this year. For the first time devotional addresses were given on the Wednesday nights during Lent and these were well attended by the same group of people throughout the series. This seems to be significant.

The Co-operative Board of Directors stated in the rules for the boats that morning and evening prayers were to be said daily by some competent person and that each dinghy skipper was to say prayers for the men before diving began each day. The chaplain had special prayers printed and each boat was provided with prayer and hymn books. Boat skippers report this programme is adhered to and a white visitor who travelled on the boats for a trip this year was very impressed by this procedure.

#### *New Hymns Composed.*

During the year several new hymns in their own language were composed by the natives. They now have 18 of their hymns, and both these and English hymns are sung at the services.

#### *Formation of Mothers Union.*

One of the most significant events for the year was the formation of a Mothers' Union on the mission. This is a world-wide organisation within the Church of England. Its aims are to preserve the sanctity of marriage, to encourage better motherhood, and to foster the better upbringing of children in the Christian Faith. With these ideals the Mothers' Union has become a force among women throughout the world, and it has already proved its strength among the women of the mission. We look forward to greater things from the Mothers' Union in the years ahead.

#### *Constant Improvements to Church.*

Improvements to the church buildings are gradually being carried out, making it a more fitting place of worship and one that shows the love and interest of those who worship there. This care and interest in a church helps to achieve "atmosphere," which is an ethereal quality and one which is most important but which cannot be experienced in all churches.

We feel that the church at Lockhart River Mission is beginning to have that quality.

Change in church life and spiritual experience are things which cannot be measured but only felt and, looking back over the past year, I do feel that it has been a good year.

#### *Primary Day School Report.*

Miss A. Hann, teacher in charge of the day school, reports as follows:—

Number of pupils on roll	..	..	61
Average attendance	..	..	58.59
School was opened	..	..	199 days

This year the school is using the Queensland Primary Correspondence Course. The instructions sent with each lesson is of great benefit to the teachers. Progress is being maintained, the senior grade being Grade VI standard. Where possible teaching aids have been made and brought into use to enable the children to have practical help and experience.

The senior grades have two afternoons a week for manual work. The boys work with the engineer one afternoon a week and the other is spent doing odd jobs around the mission.

The girls do needlework, fancy work, and basket and mat making with the pandanus leaf. On Friday afternoons all classes do outside activities. Last April the beginners grade moved into its old classroom when part of the old store became available. Six grades are still crowded

into the one classroom. A kindergarten half the size of the school is under construction, and should be ready for use soon.

Training to the teachers was given one afternoon a week as well as individual instruction, but this has now been replaced by the teachers attending the co-operative school classes on Friday afternoons and two nights a week.

There was very little sickness among the children, the main reason for absenteeism being children going to Thursday Island for medical attention.

This year two of the senior boys are attending school at All Souls School, Charters Towers. This is the first occasion any children have had a chance of education beyond the mission school, and it is to be hoped that other pupils will follow in due course.

Two male adults commenced teaching in February, 1955, and are of considerable assistance.

#### *Unique Steps in Education—Report on L.R.A.C.C.S. Ltd. Night School.*

The Principal of the co-operative school reports as follows:—

In August, 1954, the natives of this mission, under the guidance of the Rev. W. A. Clint, formed a producer co-operative. As a result of this and also under the guidance of Rev. Clint, a night school was begun to give the members of the co-operative a better education as a much-needed factor in their preparations for running their own business.

This school was completely voluntary, and it has been interesting to find how consistent some students have been in their desire to learn. Some have either never had any interest or their desire to learn has waned as time went on.

Some of the members have been able to attend right from inception of classes, while others have been unfortunate enough to miss classes either through sickness or because their work has taken them away.

Correspondence lessons have been arranged for these latter, and these have proved most helpful.

In the early days of the school all people were in one class and the subjects were restricted to the "three R's."

Many of the older men and women had left school a long time ago, and so had quite a lot to do refreshing their memories on long-unused work.

As the school developed it was found necessary to grade the students, as some were brighter than others, some had reached a higher standard than others in their early school years, and some had been able to attend the night school more regularly and so had drawn ahead of those who had missed.

#### *Many Subjects Taught.*

At the beginning of 1955 the school was set on a more orderly basis. The school is open three nights per week for two hours and for three hours one afternoon. The subjects studied are arithmetic, reading, grammar, and social studies. In addition, special subjects such as health and hygiene, home gardening,



and farm mechanics have been introduced. These should have an important practical value in the daily life of the people.

#### *Illiterates Not Forgotten.*

There is also a special class for older men and women who are illiterate and are keen to learn. This grant is perhaps the most significant of all because it indicates a definite keenness to make up for lost years now that there is a definite incentive to learn.

#### *Scholarships Provided for Students.*

Through his work in New South Wales and Queensland the Rev. Clint has been able to enlist the interest and support of many co-operatives, trade unions, and other organisations, and, through these, a good sum of money has been raised to provide full time classes in 1956 so that these scholarship winners will be able to make maximum use of their scholarships.

However, if these classes are to become full time it will be necessary to provide a full-time teacher. At present all teaching is done by other members of the mission staff who are already doing full-time jobs during the day. An appeal is being made at present through teachers' journals in New South Wales and Queensland for such a teacher.

#### *Children Keen on Night School.*

The night school numbers have considerably increased this year with an influx of school children.

These children enrolled in the night school of their own accord, and so it would seem that the future is bright with hope and promise when one sees these youngsters attending their compulsory day school and then coming voluntarily at night to do another two hours of the same kind of work.

It is to them that the co-operative looks, for it is they who will build on the foundation laid by the original members.

#### *Hospital Report.*

The medical work was handled by Miss A. Hann in the absence of a sister until the end of July, when Sister H. Cann arrived and took over. Sister Cann reports as follows:—

*Births.*—Thirteen—males eight, females five.

*Deaths.*—Eight—two male stillborn infants, one full term, at Thursday Island Hospital, one 22/52 gestation.

One male infant 3/365 old, death due to prematurity.

One female infant death due to respiratory congenital deformity. Died at Thursday Island.

One female 12 years, death due to abdominal malignant tumour. Died at Thursday Island.

One female adult, death due to cerebral haemorrhage.

Two female adults died in bush, cause unknown.

One female adult, death due to abdominal disorder.

*Patients.*—Ninety-nine cases treated during the year. There were two epidemics of tropical fever. Eight cases were transferred to Thursday Island for investigation and hospitalisation and one was transferred to Cairns.

Thirty-two transferred to Thursday Island for routine X-ray and check-up.

*Outpatients.*—Average 20 to 30 per day.

*Dental Care.*—A dental survey was carried out by Mr. Darveneza, Superintendent of Thursday Island Dental Clinic. Much work was done. Mr. Darveneza remarked on three cases of arrested dental caries, a dental rarity which he had seldom noted in his previous experience, and said that this was due to a definite improvement in diet.

*Ante-natal Clinic.*—Commenced in October. All expectant mothers are interested and attend willingly at regular intervals.

*Infant Welfare Clinic.*—Held once weekly for all infants under 12 months.

*Special Foods for Pre-school Children.*—Great stress has been laid upon the importance of correct feeding of all pre-school children, and special foods have been obtained for them. Two meals a day are prepared and served to them apart from the school children at the Children's Centre.

The majority of mothers were at first lax about bringing their children to meals, but were soon influenced by the greatly improved health of the regular attenders and meals are seldom missed.

*Hospital Improvements.*—Necessary repairs were carried out and the interior of the hospital painted in pastel colours. Much new equipment procured through the Department of Native Affairs has been put into use. One small room has been turned into a kitchen.

*Lectures on Health and Hygiene.*—A series of lectures were given to mothers and to the two top grades of school girls. Emphasis was laid on precautions against hookworm, the importance of cleanliness with babies, and care of obstetrical cases.

Special efforts were made to influence expectant mothers to attend hospital for their confinement, and since this two mothers were confined at hospital.

*Childrens Centre Commences.*—This centre is aimed at improving the general and personal health and hygiene of all children, and it is succeeding in this.

Ample nourishing meals are served twice daily, and the special foods made available through the Department of Native Affairs are much appreciated and are a considerable factor in the noted improvement in health.

The kitchen and dining room are staffed by four women under Nancy Powloo, who was especially trained for this work at Aplin Hostel, Thursday Island. Meals are prepared without supervision and are of a high order.

The older boys and girls assist in general work and are responsible for such things as supplying wood and leaving the dining room clean, and all children from Grade III up do their own washing-up.

A 25-cubic foot refrigerator was donated to the Centre by well-wishers and is proving invaluable.



*Appreciation.*

Our thanks are due to the many people and organisations who have in various ways assisted the mission during the past year, especially the Director of Native Affairs and his Department, and the Australian Board of Missions and all helpers, and the superintendent and staff of the Thursday Island Hospital.

## APPENDIX 15.

## EDWARD RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, J. W. Chapman.)

*Staff.*—

Chaplain, Rev. W. Rechnitz.  
School Teacher, Mr. Hooper-Colacy.

*Statistics.*—

Births .. .. .	4
Deaths .. .. .	3
Marriages .. .. .	1 (tribal)

*School.*—Forty two children are enrolled. Attendances have been satisfactory although the attendance of some semi-nomadic children has been irregular, but an improvement on previous 12 months. School material supplied by the Director of Native Affairs has enabled the school to be conducted much more efficiently. This help is much appreciated. Our great need is for a decent school building such as exist on the mission settlements. Our present structure is a building of palm leaf, used as a church and quite unsuited for school purposes.

*Health.*—During the year the general health of the people has been good. There have been no serious epidemics. As during the past year no medical officer has paid a visit, a survey for the detection of tuberculosis, hookworm, and haemoglobin deficiency is urgently needed. There has been no medical survey since November, 1952. I am hoping that a trained nurse will soon be appointed. A furnished residence was made available over two years ago. An hospital building is also urgently needed. The flying dentist, Miss Tredennick, and assistant Mr. P. Hayes, paid a visit in October last and did some necessary dental work.

*Church.*—Services are conducted daily by the chaplain.

*Conduct.*—Satisfactory. A few minor incidents but such differences were settled satisfactorily.

*Building.*—Ten native houses were erected and many others repaired. These buildings were built from local material—the framework of local timber covered with palm leaf. A great deal of work was needed to erect as all material had to be carried some distance by manpower, no other means of transport being available.

*Agriculture.*—Garden produce harvested consisted of sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, arrow-root, taro as well as vegetable garden produce; papaws, custard apples, bananas, coconuts, were also harvested. We will have to rely on hand hoes for cultivating crops. Under such conditions it is difficult to maintain a food supply to an increasing population. We must have more up-to-date methods, such as a rotary hoe, if we are to succeed.

*Cattle.*—So far we have not been able to have a herd of cattle for the benefit of the mission. A large area of mission country capable of running some thousands of head of cattle is lying idle.

*Recreation.*—The most popular recreation continues to be native dances. Football and basketball continue to be popular.

*General.*—Steady progress in the erection of houses and improvements to the villages was carried out, but much remains to be done. It is impossible to increase the area of cultivated land without more up-to-date methods of cultivating the soil.

From 16th to 23rd June last, the mission had a visit from three officers of the Department of Agriculture and Stock, who made an inspection of the country within reasonable distance of the mission. Part 2 of the Report reads "Introduction of Cattle." There is no doubt that Edward River Mission can be profitably utilised as a cattle-breeding property.

Their report on agriculture was also favourable and the rich dark peaty soil was favourably commented upon. Much could be done in this direction to grow various kinds of crops, if only for local consumption. Isolation from markets would prevent crops being grown for market.

*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 16.

## MITCHELL RIVER MISSION.

(Superintendent, F. W. Currington.)

*Staff.*

Mr. A. J. Warman.  
Rev. D. M. Sutherland, Chaplain.  
Miss S. M. Card, Head Teacher.  
Sister J. Squibb, in charge Hospital.  
Mrs. M. H. Warman, Girls' Dormitory Matron.  
Mr. K. Hodson, Cattle Manager.

*Statistics.*

Births .. .. .	20
Deaths .. .. .	9
Marriages .. .. .	1

*Religion.*

Since the chaplain arrived on 16th June, 1954, the church services have been held as follows:—

Daily Mass at 7 a.m. and evening prayers at 5.30 p.m.; and on Sundays—Mass at 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and evening prayers at 7 p.m.

Attendances have varied from time to time, for, as in other places, some attend church more regularly than others, but there has been an improvement in the number of attendances at Mass. Approximately 40 people hear Mass and 90 attend evening prayer on week days, and on Sundays attendances at the two Masses total 120 and at evening prayer 80.

Statistics on baptisms, confirmations, &c., are as follows:—

Baptisms 37, confirmations 45, marriages one, burials five. Average weekly communions 160. The Bishop of the Diocese arrived on 19th January, 1955, for a week's visit, during which he administered the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation to 45 people, visited the people in their villages, and took part in various services. As a step forward in arousing a sense of responsibility in the mission aboriginals towards their church, six men were chosen by the chaplain to act as church councillors, whose function is to assist and advise the chaplain in matters connected with church life. This has been successful in as much as some of the people have taken a greater interest in church affairs. On the whole the religious life of the mission has given the chaplain some satisfaction and is indicative of progress.

#### *Agriculture.*

Seasonal plantings in staff and village gardens are under way. Dormitory gardens are being extended and crops are looking well. A number of extra gardens have been started in the villages and people are showing interest.

#### *Industrial Improvements.*

Cattle herd continues to make good progress, and a further sale of Mitchell River Mission bullocks has just taken place. Negotiations are now under way for purchase of 40 bulls, which are urgently needed to improve our herd. Forty horses also were purchased for use in mustering camp. Supply of killers was delivered to Edward River Mission and, as mentioned in the past, the mission workers receive their daily ration of meat. Brandings are up to usual standard for this time of the year. Four new yards and one new paddock were built during the year. A new truck was purchased for the use of the Cattle Department, and we hope to purchase a chain saw shortly, which is most essential to enable us to carry out repairs to yards and building of new ones.

#### *Improvements.*

A number of houses have been built in the villages, and several have raised floors, which is an improvement on past years. One new cabbage-tree-palm staff house was erected and a new store erected at the landing for cargo on arrival by boat. A 5000-gallon tank with stand supplied by the Department of Native Affairs has been erected and is in use. Our air strip is continually maintained to D.C.A. specifications.

#### *Employment.*

Usual demand for native stockmen is being met as far as possible.

#### *Conduct.*

General conduct of the natives has been satisfactory.

#### *School.*

Native teachers, Leah, Venus, Jessie, Susan, and Nancy have been teaching throughout the year. Lorna's place was taken by Marjorie.

Venus was away three months to attend Thursday Island Hospital. Leah was caught by the flood waters and was absent six weeks

at Rutland Plains. The teachers worked well and showed interest in their lessons. A staff conference was held during the first week in the December holidays.

*School Chaplain.*—Since his arrival the Rev. D. M. Sutherland has been a great help in the school. He has taken school prayers in the church and given divinity lessons.

*School Attendance.*—The school attendance has been very good. There were few absences until a mild epidemic of chicken-pox occurred.

*Lessons.*—The children have shown keenness in their church life, lessons, and games. In February Colin and Christopher entered All Souls' School, Charters Towers. Both passed in their first report.

An exhibition of native handiwork was held in October and the children have been preparing work for an exhibition of school work in June. The school sports on Ascension Day provided another occasion for the people to enjoy the school activities.

*Improvements.*—During the year the ceiling of the school was replaced, making the buildings cooler in the hot weather. Two new lavatories were erected. The school fence was attended to in order that cattle could be kept away. All the school children, under the supervision of Leah, are working at the school gardens.

#### *Health.*

Number of births at mission .. ..	13
Number of deaths at mission .. ..	5
Deaths at Townsville Hospital .. ..	1

#### *New Hospital.*

Plans have been submitted for a new permanent hospital.

#### *Hookworm Treatment.*

Mass treatment of all natives on mission twice yearly.

#### *Weekly Baby Clinic.*

Average attendance 30.

#### *Weekly Ante-Natal Clinic.*

Average attendance 6.

#### *Immunisation.*

All children from four months to five years and not previously immunised receiving combined immunisation against whooping cough, diphtheria, and tetanus.

#### *Flying Doctor Service.*

Resumed in May after lapse of seven months. The Flying Doctor and Dental Services are much appreciated.

#### *Girls' Dormitory.*

There are 49 school girls and nine dormitory girls, Judy and Rita being now independent of the dormitory although living there. Etta Gilbert returned from Thursday Island Hospital, and several newcomers to school adding to the number making nine more girls than last year on the dormitory list.

All the girls are happy at work, and play gardens are still being cultivated, potatoes being well to the fore. A banana plantation has been also started, and the first fruits should be forthcoming this year. The wardrobe room is still a success, dresses being well cared for and kept clean. Very few cases of ringworm have been found in the dormitory this year, but a mild chicken-pox prevailed for a few weeks.

Health is good on the whole.

The Brownie pack is in full swing. Brownie revels were held in March and parents invited to tea. The pack was given the name of First Kowenyama Pack and registered at Guide Headquarters, in Brisbane. The children are very keen and we hope to carry on with the good work. Test work in the pack is good.

#### Recreation.

General sports and corroborees encouraged.

#### Appreciation.

Thanks are again tendered to Mr. O'Leary, the Director of Native Affairs, and his staff for their co-operation and help at all times without which things would be very hard.

### APPENDIX 17.

#### HAMMOND ISLAND MISSION.

(Priest in Charge, Rev. O. McDermott.)

#### Staff.—

Resident Priest, Rev. A. J. Collins.  
Two Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.  
Permanent Lay Worker, Francis Dorante.

Father Collins replaces Rev. Father Raymond who early in 1955, was transferred to Samarai, Eastern Papua. Father Collins has had three years of mission work in the Northern Territory.

#### Statistics.—

Births .. .. .	5
Deaths .. .. .	Nil
Marriages .. .. .	2
Children attending school .. .. .	31

*Discipline.*—During the year under review discipline on the mission has been satisfactory and, consequently, conditions have been pleasant for all. There exists a good spirit of co-operation between the staff and the people and amongst the people themselves. Calls for community effort evoke a ready response. Church services are well and regularly attended.

*Health.*—No serious illnesses or epidemics occurred during the year. For the most part the people of the mission are medically minded and readily attend the Thursday Island Hospital for treatment of ailments or in case of accidents. Mothers avail themselves of the services of the Baby Clinic.

The mission store retails all necessary food commodities. Turtle and dugong meat is frequently distributed free to all on the mission. Although a number of the mission homes have their domestic refrigerators, a freezing unit for the conservation and rationed distribution of dugong, turtle, and fish supplies is desired. Negotiations for the establishment of such a

unit from second-hand components for sale on Thursday Island have not as yet reached a satisfactory conclusion.

*School.*—Two teacher-trained Sisters conduct the school, which is housed in two separate buildings. Together with the usual scholastic teaching, training is given in domestic science (cooking, laundry, housekeeping), needlework, weaving, basket making, woodwork, and music. Several girls can play the piano and one school-girl plays the organ for services in the church. The personal tidiness, good deportment, and correct speech of the school children make a good impression on visitors to the mission. It is hoped during the coming year to erect a new school capable of accommodating all the children and equipped to give ample facilities for teachers and pupils. The presence of Mr. and Mrs. O'Leary at the Christmas break-up concert was a courtesy greatly appreciated by teachers and pupils.

*Housing.*—Three new European-style homes have recently been completed, two of them being rather large dwellings. Existing homes have been painted or otherwise improved. Materials are on order for three more homes. The aim of the mission is to encourage every family to have its own neatly constructed, weather-proof home, with wood or concrete floors. I should like to commend very specially Francis Sabatino, who worked tirelessly, day and night, during the last "lay-up" season to complete his new home, a building 40 feet by 40 feet, set on high concrete blocks. The house is a credit to him and the mission as well as an inspiration to others.

*Employment.*—Twenty Hammond Island Mission men and boys are engaged in pearl shell and trochus shell work. Two boats captained by men of the mission are working pearl shell in the deep Darnley Island waters, and two trochus boats have Hammond Island captains. The divers and crews gave very good service in 1954, and promise to do equally well this year. Men not engaged in the marine industries are employed as carpenters, shipwrights, and labourers in Thursday Island, and return home each evening. Because of the regular employment of the men away from the mission it is difficult to find labour for mission maintenance and improvements. Voluntary work on Saturdays has aided mission projects considerably.

*General Remarks.*—The progress of the mission may not be spectacular but it is development on sound lines. The desire to own good homes shows a sense of values and calls for a measure of sacrifice. The cultivation of home gardens is encouraged, the surplus products meeting with a ready market. Dugong and turtle hunting is carried out on a co-operative basis; the meat is sold only when the mission needs have been satisfied. The general condition of the mission is satisfactory.

*Conclusion.*—I would like to express to Mr. O'Leary and the staff of the Native Affairs Department the gratitude of all connected with the Hammond Island Mission for the sympathetic and courteous assistance they have offered to the mission over the years.

## APPENDIX 18.

## PALM ISLAND CONVENT SCHOOL.

(Priest in Charge, Rev. Father Donovan.)

The enrolment of the school increased slightly, from 83 to 86. The school comprises three academic sections ranging from Preparatory to Grade VI, inclusive, and a small group of girls not included in the registration who follow a limited domestic science course.

The school is staffed by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary. The accommodation is

adequate and the classrooms are satisfactorily equipped. Steady progress is being achieved.

As in previous years school sports are encouraged. A series of basketball and cricket games have been played between the schools on the island. Music forms part of the programme, the floral cantata being the chief musical event of the year.

The school entered many exhibits in the annual show and a fair number of prizes were carried off in the various branches. Specimens were displayed at Townsville and Brisbane.

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**Annual Report of Director of Native Affairs for the year ended 30th June 1955**

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aboriginals

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