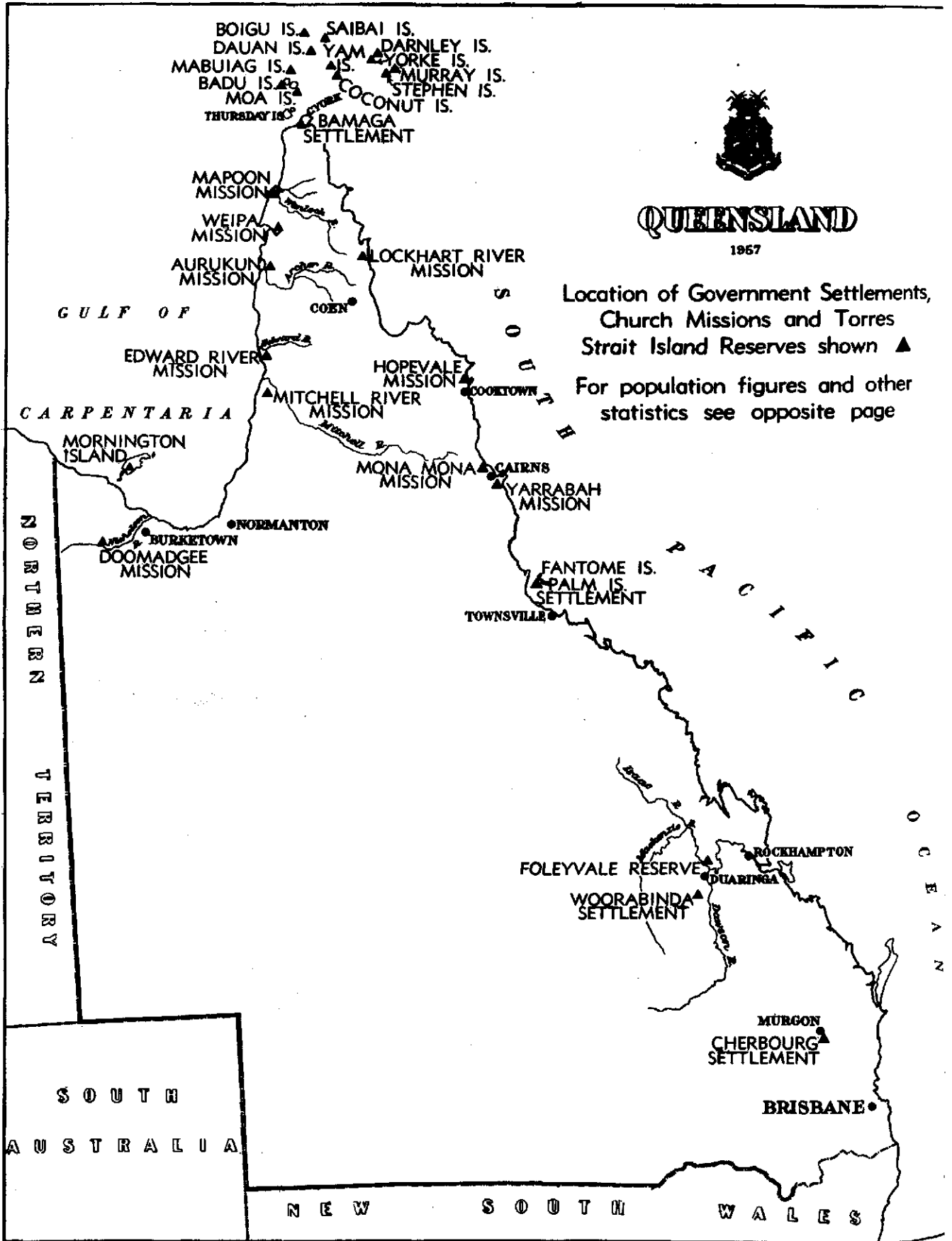

NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Information contained in Report
of Director of Native Affairs
for the Twelve Months ended
30th June, 1957.





Native Affairs—Annual Report of Director of Native Affairs for the Year ended 30th June, 1957.

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, 1957.

POPULATION.

Aboriginals	9,957
Half-bloods	7,133
Torres Strait Islanders	6,084

In addition there are 20,000 non-controlled people of mixed blood residing in various areas throughout the State.

In the absence of a recent census the above-mentioned figures have been estimated on information furnished and based on local knowledge and records.

It will be seen from the figures quoted that the population of Government Settlements and Church Missions maintains the level of previous years, namely 46 per cent. On these Institutions the figures are overall and include the personnel in outside employment. Those natives residing in towns and districts outside Settlements and Missions, who represent the higher percentage of the population are capable of regular employment and the maintenance of their families.

Similarly when assessing the Torres Strait Island population those working on the mainland are taken into consideration.

There are four Government Settlements and twelve Church Missions and the areas and approximate population of these reserves are:—

	Established.	Area. Acres.	Full-blood.	Half-blood.	Torres Strait Islanders.	Total.
Cape York Government Settlement ..	1948	97,620	170	29	357	556
Cherbourg Government Settlement ..	1904	26,765	147	898	..	1,045
Palm Island Government Settlement ..	1918	15,510	655	729	..	1,384
Woorabinda Government Settlement ..	1927	54,800	461	258	..	719
Edward River Mission (Church of England)	1936	554,880	285	1	..	286
Lockhart River Mission (Church of England)	1924	588,400	317	6	..	323
Mitchell River Mission (Church of England)	1917	616,320	708	23	..	731
Yarrabah Mission (Church of England) ..	1892	39,710	154	675	..	829
Aurukun Mission (Presbyterian)	1904	1,218,000	630	..	..	630
Mapoon Mission (Presbyterian)	1891	2,140,800	123	176	..	299
Mornington Island Mission (Presbyterian) ..	1914	245,120	355	45	..	400
Weipa Mission (Presbyterian)	1898	1,600,000	159	..	..	159
Doomadgee Mission (Brethren)	1931	260,480	311	54	..	365
Hammond Island Mission (Roman Catholic)	1929	3,660	..	..	103	103
Hope Vale Mission (Lutheran)	1949	257,200	189	152	..	341
Mona Mona Mission (Seventh Day Adventist)	1913	4,318	213	112	..	325
Country Reserves .. .. .	..	..	5,080	3,975	..	9,055
Torres Strait Islands .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5,624	5,624
..	..	7,721,583	9,957	7,133	6,084	23,174

POLICY.

Throughout Australia it is very evident that a keener appreciation of the future of the native population is annually becoming manifested.

Particularly in those organisations whose philanthropic work brings them in close association with the aboriginal problem is the necessity for the greater uplift and encouragement of the people towards their assimilation into the white community evidenced. They appreciate that there is no short cut to this assimilation. Education, encouragement and the creation of a spirit of confidence are the salient features conducive to its achievement.

Since 1897 a policy of preservation and protection has been maintained. In 1939 the Queensland Government passed "*The Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Act of 1939*" which with amendments superceded the old 1897 Act.

This Act indicates the protective policy of the State Government and the administrative organisations provided in it. Vigorously implemented they have given to this State an organisation effecting the preservation and protection of the people equal to any and surpassed by none in the Commonwealth.

Queensland's aboriginal population still covered by the provisions of the Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts and "*The Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939*" total approximately 23,000, of which 6,000 are Torres Strait Islanders. These figures do not represent the total of persons residing in Queensland and possessed of a degree of aboriginal blood. The Aboriginals Preservation and Protection Acts, provide that Exemption Certificates may be issued to people whose education and general standard of living fit them to take their place in the community. In effect these people have so benefited by the protective provisions of the Acts that they are now able to control their own affairs. The number of such Exemption Certificates issued last year totals 153.

Decision to issue Certificates of Exemption to aboriginals and cross-breeds is not lightly made. For such issue there must be an appreciation of the responsibility which devolves on the recipient. In most cases that responsibility is accepted. Where, however, circumstances militate against the ability of an Exemption Certificate holder to make good of his own volition without assistance from the Department he is readily accepted back into the ranks of protected people.

These exempted people are not taken into consideration when the quoted population was assessed. By reason of certificates issued over the years there would be in Queensland at least 20,000 such people possessing some degree of aboriginal blood who are not subject to the provisions of the Acts in that they are capable of caring for themselves and have become more or less assimilated into the community in which they live.

There still remains the 17,000 people of aboriginal blood who must be assimilated in the community. Within these 17,000 people are

groups of varying degrees of education. The Church Missions of the Peninsula have a majority of full-bloods whose contact with white civilisation has been limited. The Aboriginal Settlements of Palm Island, Cherbourg, and Woorabinda are populated equally by full-bloods and half-bloods whose way of life is moulded mainly on a white civilisation. This latter presents the immediate problem of assimilation.

The Queensland Government has concentrated on the protection, preservation, education and general uplift of this section to such extent that to-day many of them have attained the maximum of training and education which the Department can give.

That maximum has placed them in a position where they are quite capable of taking their place in a white community as tradesmen and labourers. With these particular people the Departmental programme has been completed and the opportunity now is for them to accept their place, for which they have been trained, in the white community. This education and training has not, however, totally solved their problem. As a people they are ready for assimilation. The next step towards such could easily be disheartening to them.

Therefore, the creation within them of a confidence to step out into a new world is essential. They must be assured of Departmental assistance in their obtaining employment suited to their qualifications. They must have the assurance that the Department will likewise care for their wives and children during the settling down process away from the reserve which has been their life home and they must be assured that the white community within which they will live and work will accept them as one of its members.

Whereas we aim and work to have the aboriginal trained and educated to take their place in the white community, so must the white community be educated to its responsibility to accept the aboriginal as a member of its community.

It is quite easy to become enthusiastic on the subject of the rights of the aboriginal, but it is not so easy for the aboriginal to obtain the benefits of those rights when granted him.

It is an undisputed fact that there is in all white communities a degree of aversion to our coloured population.

To what extent that applies in this State, or in the Commonwealth is immaterial.

The fact is that it is existent, and while it remains, so the difficulties associated with the assimilation of the trained and competent aboriginal into the white community will continue.

Therefore, equally necessary with the education of the aboriginal, is the education of the white to enable assimilation to be achieved.

Our native people have the assurance that the Queensland Government will help them in every aspect along the road to assimilation and they can justifiably feel that the influence of the Queensland Government towards their acceptance in the white community will bear fruit.

Thereafter they become ordinary citizens of the State, fully equipped to accept the responsibility which such citizenship places upon them.

Briefly, therefore, this is the position in which the Queensland Government finds itself placed in the care and protection of its coloured people. To those States which have not reached the standards of pre-assimilation obtaining in Queensland this problem will inevitably come and must be met on lines similar to those being adopted in Queensland. Queensland's experiment, therefore, can reasonably be expected to be watched by the whole of the Commonwealth.

In its programme for the advancement of the aboriginal people the Queensland Government provides finance which can fairly be regarded as generous. The total contribution for this year by the State is £918,260. Included in this figure is grants and other assistance to Church Missions £138,225. The balance is absorbed in the maintenance, education and training of the people on Government Settlements at Cherbourg, Woorabinda and Palm Island and the administration of the Torres Strait area.

Included also is general relief to aged aboriginals not on Government Settlements or Church Missions and who are not eligible for Commonwealth Age or Invalid Pensions.

On the Government Settlements and Church Missions the training of the people comprises:—

- (1) Primary State School education for 2,775 children to approximately Scholarship standard. An additional 13 children from Settlements and Missions are attending secondary schools at Government cost.
- (2) Training in domestic science for girls and manual and rural training for boys.
- (3) Training of native nurses.
- (4) Training of natives as artisans to be employed in the various callings such as carpenters, plumbers, saddlers, tractor drivers, farm hands, clerks, storekeepers, &c. Practically all native stockmen employed on Government Settlements have learned their work on the Settlement.
- (5) Cattle raising activities on Government Settlements are a remunerative undertaking. Cherbourg and Woorabinda carry approximately 6,000 head.

Thus against his expenditure aboriginals on Government Settlements contribute from the various trading activities established there including the sales of cattle, pigs, grain crops, &c., and profits from the Retail Stores established thereon, a total of £190,000.

It is not to be assumed that every aboriginal in Queensland is a charge against the taxpayer. Approximately 46 per cent. of the aboriginals reside on Government Settlements and Church Missions, and are assisted by State and Church funds. The balance reside in various locations throughout the State and maintain themselves. The 20,000 exempted aboriginals referred to

previously likewise maintain themselves. The 6,000 Torres Strait Islanders are similarly independent of Government assistance other than that provided to any white community.

The following figures show how erroneous is any idea that the whole of the coloured people still under the protection of the Acts are indigent or homeless:—

	£
Gross earnings by aboriginals, excluding Peninsula aboriginals	540,000
Gross earnings by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals	470,000
Savings Bank deposits by aboriginals excluding Peninsula aboriginals	425,510
Savings Bank deposits by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals	398,240
Savings Bank withdrawals by aboriginals excluding Peninsula aboriginals	433,746
Savings Bank withdrawals by Torres Strait Islanders and Peninsula aboriginals	413,668
Value of marine produce won by Torres Strait Islanders off their own boats	159,287
Income from various industrial sources on Government Settlements including cattle, retail stores, &c.	190,000

In the overall, therefore, it can be seen that the Queensland Government is getting somewhere with its aboriginal problem. It has established an administration aimed at the uplift and advancement of the people. It is slowly but surely assimilating the aboriginals into the white community and is endeavouring to create in them a spirit of industrial independence and pride without which, as a race, they can never succeed.

BAUXITE AND CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

Compared with what can be regarded as a handful of white inhabitants on Cape York Peninsula between Cape York and Cooktown there are approximately 3,000 aboriginals on the various Mission Stations and the Government Settlement at Bamaga.

The discovery of bauxite on the Presbyterian Church Mission at Weipa is certain in the very near future to drastically alter these population figures. In June, 1955, a Geologist, Mr. Harry Evans, on a general survey in the Gulf country of Queensland discovered bauxite deposits which now may be regarded as the biggest and richest in the world.

Twelve months after the find at Weipa Mission, Consolidated Zinc Company sent its employees to the area to commence exploratory and investigatory work. Most of the bauxite deposits are on the west coast around Weipa which is 400 air miles from Cairns and Pera Head which is 30 miles south-west of Weipa.

Already the work being undertaken at Weipa Mission is changing the whole outlook of this Mission with its 159 people and is likewise effecting the future of the two other Presbyterian Mission Stations, Mapoon and Aurukun.

It is feasible to imagine that the immensity of the undertaking at Weipa Mission will compel the removal of the Aboriginal Mission Station and already the Presbyterian Church Committee is examining the potentialities of Aurukun Mission to enable the Weipa people to be absorbed there.



Aerial view of Weipa Mission, location of bauxite deposits.

It is not difficult to visualise a modern township of many thousands of white people surplanting Weipa Mission Station.

It will provide the aboriginals with opportunities for employment at a scale not previously imagined. It will bring them in close touch with a civilisation new and strange to them and it should result in assimilation into the community much faster than the Mission and Government authorities had hitherto anticipated.

In the overall, however, the aboriginal community will ultimately benefit in a manner not previously visualised. That portion of North Queensland previously regarded as practically impossible of development will likewise benefit to a degree difficult of assessment.

EDUCATION.

Education is generally based on the Department of Public Instruction curriculum and provides for:—

- (a) Primary education.
- (b) Manual training.
- (c) Domestic science.

Attending Secondary Schools are six boys and seven girls. During the current year one boy and one girl passed the State Scholarship examination and proceeded to Secondary Schools.

Michael Miller, a pupil of Mount Carmel College, Charters Towers, was successful in sub-senior and sits for the 1957 Senior Examination.

Veda Dinger, a 21-year-old aboriginal girl, from Woorabinda Settlement, is attending the Y.W.C.A. Leader Training Course. She is the first aboriginal girl to do so, beginning her training at Townsville and after attending the Y.W.C.A. Summer School at Toowoomba she is continuing her studies at that centre. Towards the end of this year she will proceed to Melbourne for an intensive nine months course which will fit her to occupy Secretarial or administrative positions. As a Leader it is hoped she will encourage other aboriginal girls in Y.W.C.A. work.

Particulars of the children attending the established primary schools are shown hereunder:—

ABORIGINAL SCHOOLS.

Description of School.	Name.	Enrolment 31st March, 1957.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Settlement	Cherbourg	140	144	284
Settlement	Palm Island	148	131	279
Settlement	Woorabinda	93	92	185
Aboriginal Mission	Aurukun	66	58	124
Aboriginal Mission	Doomadgee	49	47	96
Aboriginal Mission	Lockhart River	35	36	71
Aboriginal Mission	Mapoon	28	30	58
Aboriginal Mission	Mitchell River	34	56	90
Aboriginal Mission	Mons Mons	44	39	83
Aboriginal Mission	Hope Vale	41	36	77
Aboriginal Mission	Mornington Island	62	51	163
Aboriginal Mission	Edward River	21	14	35
Aboriginal Mission	Weipa	20	18	38
Aboriginal Mission	Yarrabah	82	85	167
Island Mission	St. Paul's (Moa Island)	32	30	62
Island Mission	St. Michael's Convent (Palm Island)	56	44	100
Island Mission	Hammond Island	19	17	36
Reserve	Cowal Creek	18	26	44
Reserve	Barnaga	35	26	61
Reserve	Red Island Point	5	12	17
Torres Strait	Island Schools	365	370	735
	Total	1,393	1,362	2,755

HOUSING.

Housing has always held a very high priority in State Government policy aimed at the ultimate assimilation of the aboriginal people into the white community. Equally with education, housing provides that medium of uplift without which assimilation could never materialise. The progress which has marked previous years in the provision of better housing has been well maintained as is evidenced by the following:—

Palm Island Settlement.—Ninety-five houses over 3 years of which 36 were built this year.

Cherbourg Settlement.—Twenty-three houses over 3 years of which 11 were built this year.

Woorabinda Settlement.—Twenty-one houses over 3 years of which 2 were built this year.

Torres Strait Area.—Sixty-six houses over 3 years of which 25 were built this year.

Church Missions.—Ninety-eight houses over 3 years of which 42 were built this year.

Building has not been confined solely to dwellings but includes recreation halls, schools, workshops, &c.

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.

It is very evident that Tuberculosis, which a few years ago was fairly regarded as a challenge to the future of the aboriginal race, has been brought under control to such extent that the Waiben Tuberculosis Hospital at Thursday Island with bed capacity of 80 is now able to take aboriginal patients from Palm Island Settlement. The transfer of natives to this specially established Torres Strait Island Aboriginal Hospital relieves the General Hospitals of this particular type of patient and enables concentrated treatment under the Tuberculosis Specialist at Waiben Hospital.

No serious epidemics have occurred. Minor outbreaks have been adequately and expeditiously dealt with by the medical authorities.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE.

On all the Government Settlements and Church Missions special attention is paid to the health of the mother and child. Child

Welfare centres conducted on the lines of the Maternal and Child Welfare organisation in Brisbane have resulted in the education of the parents and a guarantee of strong healthy children. Where previously the death rate on some of these Settlements and Missions was comparatively high amongst the infants such does not now prevail.

In the overall the health of the community has been good. It is quite evident that the better housing of the people contributes considerably to this happy situation.

The following 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.

PERIOD 1st JUNE, 1956 TO 31st MAY, 1957.

	Births.			Still Births.	Deaths.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.		Male.	Female.	Total.
Thursday Island Hospital	93	93	186	6	11	11	22
Waiben Hospital, Thursday Island	2	2
Badu Island	1	1	2
Boigu Island	1	1	1	2
Coconut Island
Cowal Creek
Bamaga	1	2	3
Red Island Point
Darnley Island	1	1	1	2
Dauan Island
Dowar Island
Kubin Village
Naghir Island
Mabuiag Island
Murray Island	3	..	3
Rennell Island
Stephen Island
Saibai Island	1	..	1	1	2	..	2
Yam Island	1	1	2
Yorke Island	1	..	..	..
Horn Island
At Sea	1	1	2
	94	93	187	10	22	20	42

Excess of births over deaths is 145.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31st MAY, 1957.

BAMAGA.

	In-Patients.	Out-Patients Treatments.	
June	12	1,500	In-patients total 215 Number of treatments 10,049
July	9	900	
August	8	756	
September	29	1,040	
October	44	1,255	
November	24	810	
December	31	368	
January	16	312	
February	7	694	
March	14	724	
April	12	712	
May	9	978	



Bauxite cliff at Pera Head, Weipa Mission.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS—YEAR ENDING 31ST MAY, 1957—*continued.*

BADU ISLAND.

	In-Patients Monthly Average.			Out-Patients.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Number.	Treatments.	
June	3.3	6	9.3	496	752	In-patients. Daily Average 9.25
July	2.6	6.3	8.9	565	790	
August	4.5	7	11.5	371	858	
September	3.2	6.9	10.1	486	927	Out-patients. Number treated 4,389
October	6.4	13	19.4	451	985	
November	4.8	8.7	13.5	323	762	
December	6	1.2	7.2	206	497	Out-patients Number of treatments 9,372
January	1	3.4	4.4	306	729	
February	1.2	3.5	4.7	404	618	
March	3	4.4	7.4	264	772	
April	2.7	5.2	7.9	209	718	
May	2.8	3.9	6.7	308	974	

DARNLEY ISLAND.

	In-Patients Monthly Average.			Out-Patients.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Number.	Treatments.	
June	86	359	In-patients. Daily Average .05
July	136	438	
August	123	323	
September	1.5	1.5	102	354	Out-patients. Number treated 1,366
October	2	..	2	97	336	
November	2.5	2.5	128	360	
December	88	248	Out-patients Number of treatments 5,892
January	107	462	
February	95	314	
March	126	535	
April	142	933	
May	136	1,230	

EMPLOYMENT OF ABORIGINALS AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS.

Pearl shelling and gathering of trochus shell together with those industries incidental to the marine industry, viz., boat building, &c., constitute the main avenue of employment for Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals in the Thursday Island area.

The wages and working conditions for these employees are governed by agreement entered into between the Director of Native Affairs and the Pearl Shellers Association annually.

It has been generally accepted that the Torres Strait Islander as a diver, tender and engine man has without tuition made commendable efforts to demonstrate his ability to work economically and efficiently the pearling industry.

The handicap under which he worked without expert tuition has naturally militated against his ability to measure up to the standard set pre-war by foreign divers. Thereby as a unit in the industry he has been criticised. Whether that criticism has been always justified is problematical in that it failed to appreciate the difficulties under which he laboured. Those difficulties have now been, to some extent, removed by the acquisition by Island Industries Board of a Tutor Diver capable and willing to impart the knowledge which he obtained as a Navy Diver to the Torres Strait men. The success or otherwise of this venture by Island

Industries Board on behalf of the Islanders will be watched with considerable interest.

There are approximately 1,100 Torres Strait Islanders and aboriginals employed in the industry at various ports from Thursday Island to Mackay. Ordinarily this number is considerably below that required for the efficient manning of all boats licensed in the industry. However, since January market fluctuations for trochus shell strongly indicate a fall in price with the resultant possible laying up of some of the boats engaged in this particular section of the marine industry. Such action would release the trochus men to pearling boats and thus overcome to some extent the crew shortage in the pearling section. It will not, however, overcome the shortage of skilled divers, tenders and enginemen. Trochus shell is won by swimmers working in shallow water whereas pearl shell is obtained by dressed divers in deep water.

It can be fairly estimated that in the pastoral industry, 4,500 aboriginals of various degrees of caste are employed. A further 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.

Every Islander and aboriginal employed in a calling covered by a State Arbitration Court Award is paid in accordance with that Award. This does not apply to the Award covering the pastoral industry from which provisions, aboriginals are specifically exempted. Departmental Regulations, however, provide a wage and living conditions in this industry consistent with the aboriginals' ability. Where it is evident that aboriginals in this industry can compare favourably with white employees they are paid at the same rate as the latter.

In all cases aboriginal workers are covered by the State Workers' Compensation Acts. In effect the organisation aimed at the preservation and protection of the aboriginal race in Queensland gives to him work and wages of a standard practically similar to white workers.

INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS.

Cattle Raising.—As a Departmental asset the value of cattle depastured on Government Settlements is £149,582. The numbers of livestock on the various Settlements as at 31st March, 1957, are: —

	Beef Cattle.								Dairy Cattle.					Horses.		
	Bulls.	Breeders.	Spayed Cows.	Steers.	Heifers.	Bullocks.	Weaners.	Total.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Total.	Draught.	Saddle.	Total.
Cherbourg Settlement	14	349	26	..	325	76	184	974	..	..	..	..	..	22	34	56
Aboriginal Training Farm .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	72	19	15	109	2	1	3
Woorabinda Settlement	56	1,981	182	383	408	239	..	3,249	..	92	..	..	92	43	127	170
Foleyvale Reserve .. ..	..	8	..	..	..	1,574	..	1,582	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Palm Island Settlement .. ..	..	..	..	97	..	50	..	147	2	70	104	64	240	32	9	41
Total	70	2,338	208	480	733	1,939	184	5,952	5	234	123	79	441	99	171	270

From cattle raising operations, 561 cattle were slaughtered for rations valued at £14,025. Five hundred and six bullocks were sold realising £17,343. Sale of bullocks represents male cattle transferred from Woorabinda and Cherbourg to Foleyvale where they are fattened.

Timber Production.—The total output from all Sawmills amounted to 526,525 super feet of sawn timber valued at £28,957. This timber is used for the erection of buildings for native accommodation on the three Government Settlements and the Torres Strait area.

Agriculture and Farming Generally.—Fruit, vegetables and milk were produced on the various Settlements for local use to the value of £15,000.

Cash crops such as grain sorghum, broom millet and cotton have been successfully grown. Cotton in particular was of a high quality. In addition dairying and pig raising were carried out on a commercial basis.

Trade Training.—The joinery workshop at Cherbourg Settlement provided all joinery requirements for buildings erected on all Settlements and Torres Strait and in addition all school furniture as required for these areas and the Church Missions.

The value of joinery and furniture produced was £3,467.

CHURCH MISSIONS.

The various Church Missions which cater for aboriginals throughout the State have again recorded a fair measure of progress in the policy of uplift and betterment of the living conditions of the people.

Most of these Missions are situated in the more inaccessible portions of Queensland, viz., the Cape York Peninsula area. There climatic conditions are hard and the lack of adequate transport militates against the progress which is hoped for. To these missionary workers, men and women, employed in mission fields in these areas the Government is deeply appreciative. They have virtually given their lives to a cause to which they are espoused and many unrecorded hardships are suffered in the performance of their duties.

Opportunity, therefore, is now taken to thank these Mission workers for the unselfish efforts which were theirs during the current year.

All possible assistance in cash and kind is made available to these Church Missions by the Government to enable their planned work to proceed. It is common knowledge that contributions to the mission fields are not as great now as previously and, therefore, the responsibility devolves upon the Government to make good the shortages and to provide extras to meet added cost of maintenance and development of the missions.



Bauxite material on beach near Pera Head, Weipa Mission.



Bauxite on top of white clay cliffs near Pera Head, Weipa Mission.

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 £888,370 9s. 2d. Every facility is provided for aboriginals to withdraw, within reason, against their savings bank accounts:—

TRANSACTIONS FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1957

	Total.				Savings Bank Balances as at 30th June, 1957.			Commonwealth Stock.			Total Funds.				
	Deposits.		Withdrawals.												
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cherbourg	37,294	3	8	38,110	9	3	6,464	12	3	1,000	0	0	7,464	12	3
Palm Island	63,381	13	0	63,394	8	5	16,167	13	6	21,000	0	0	37,167	13	6
Woorabinda	39,839	9	3	42,867	13	4	8,087	14	7	4,000	0	0	12,087	14	7
Various Protectorates ..	284,985	8	7	289,373	2	6	56,121	7	1	547,233	0	4	603,354	7	5
Torres Strait Islands ..	396,670	16	8	413,668	10	7	83,296	1	5	145,000	0	0	228,296	1	5
Totals ..	£ 822,171	11	2	847,414	4	1	170,137	8	10	718,233	0	4	888,370	9	2

The balance, £888,370 9s. 2d. represents the savings by 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 a deceased aboriginal, immediately following death being reported, action is taken to distribute the estate amongst the next-of-kin. The number of estates so administered was 31 and the amounts made available to next-of-kin were £9,042 9s. 6d.

No aboriginal is precluded from operating on his savings bank account for his immediate needs. This is plainly evident from a perusal of the total deposits and withdrawals shown in the foregoing table. 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 the 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	383
Cherbourg Settlement	155
Woorabinda Settlement	95
Palm Island Settlement	141
Torres Strait Islanders	922
	<u>1,696</u>

The annual payments on account of the children of these endowees totalled £89,400 18s. 1d.

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

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

Woorabinda Settlement	38
Cherbourg Settlement	93
Palm Island Settlement	302
Hope Vale Mission	2
Daintree Mission	12
Doomadgee Mission	103
Mitchell River Mission	110
Arukun Mission	187
Mapoon Mission	130
Mornington Island Mission	187
Weipa Mission	62
Yarrabah Mission	420
Presbyterian Home Thursday Island ..	9
	<u>1,655</u>

APPRECIATION.

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

The Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, the Commissioner of Police, the Manager, State Stores Board, and the staffs of their Departments have always

readily afforded any assistance and advice needed.

The various Police Officers appointed as district protectors have carried out their 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 ..	Doomagee Mission
Appendix 5 ..	Yarrabah Mission
Appendix 6 ..	Hope Vale Mission
Appendix 7 ..	Mona Mona Mission
Appendix 8 ..	Torres Strait Islands and Peninsula
Appendix 9 ..	Island Industries Board
Appendix 10 ..	Edward River Mission
Appendix 11 ..	Mitchell River Mission
Appendix 12 ..	St. Paul's Mission
Appendix 13 ..	Aurukun Mission
Appendix 14 ..	Mornington Island Mission
Appendix 15 ..	Hammond Island Mission.
Appendix 16 ..	Lockhart River Mission.

APPENDIX 1.

PALM ISLAND ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT, VIA TOWNSVILLE.

(Superintendent—Mr. R. H. Bartlam.)

STATISTICS.

Deaths from all causes	27
Births	53
Exemptions	35

HEALTH.

Generally this has been satisfactory but a Mumps epidemic during the last quarter of the period affected both adults and children.

A Gastric outbreak occurred in October affecting approximately 40 children.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis, Tetanus, Whooping Cough and Diphtheria was regularly undertaken and an X-ray programme for Tuberculosis continued in conjunction with Mantoux tests and B.C.G. injections.

DENTAL.

The work of the dentist during the year has been very important and a considerable improvement in the teeth of the Settlement inmates has resulted. Treatment given was:—

Number of extractions	665
Number of fillings	408
Number of patients' attendances ..	1,777
Number of dentures	85

Constant dental care will be required for some time to ensure that a complete survey has been made.

DIET.

During the latter half of the year the Settlement Bakery commenced production and now 2,500 loaves of wholemeal bread are issued weekly. The effect has been noticeable and the standard of nutrition considerably improved thereby.

A hot meal at mid-day is provided for all children in the two lower grades at School. This innovation provides an outlet for the efforts of the Domestic Science trainees as well as a nutritional lift to children of a difficult age.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

Emphasis has been placed on garbage and nightsoil disposal and special care taken to see that this essential service is carried out properly. Constant follow up work in the camp area has been a major factor in fly and vermin control and no slackening of effort in this regard has been permitted. The programme of diverting all waste water underground via sumps is being continued. Dry garbage has been used to fill up low lying areas and is covered up with sand and clay as deposited.

Septic systems have been installed in the Women's and in the Girls' Homes.

BABY WELFARE.

This section has functioned most satisfactorily throughout the year and is one of the active causes in the steady improvement in health and hygiene among women and children on the Settlement.

Unremitting care and watchful eye on dietary and mothercraft problems are proving their worth and the increase in births and the low infantile mortality rate are a sure indication.

The usual issues of clothing to children and a winter issue of blankets, cardigans, towels, &c., were made, as also were supplementary issues of fruit, eggs, cheese, butter, cereals, peanut paste, &c.

The arrangements made to have the local Medical Officer visit the Clinic once weekly to advise the Sister-in-Charge on difficult cases are proving satisfactory.

A new outdoor play pen and coke room were added to this Institution during the year, and the installation of a new weighing machine has been of great value in keeping a proper record of weights.

EMPLOYMENT.

The demand for domestic labour exceeds the supply. Aboriginal stockmen are always required and difficulty is experienced in complying with all requests for proven stockmen. Casual labourers are not so easily placed.

NATIVE HOUSING.

During the year thirty-six (36) new concrete and timber homes were constructed for native use, each containing bathroom, laundry and lavatory. A further improvement in design has been incorporated this year, and instead of a detached laundry and bathroom, these are now included in the main building. Careful attention is given to ventilation and drainage around



Construction native house, Palm Island.



Meeting of Social and Welfare Association, Palm Island.

these houses. All the work is performed by native tradesmen. Quarters to house 30 convalescent Tuberculosis and ex Hansen's Disease patients were built.

In addition, maintenance work on the best of the old type houses was effected.

The improved housing has brought a much better response by the people to hygiene and sanitation and a real desire for better conditions is now noted.

Furniture for the new homes is constructed in the Settlement workshop. This includes such items as tables, kitchen dressers, chairs, &c.

FEMALE WELFARE.

This unit is operating effectively and with the Baby Welfare Section is doing good work in improving conditions for women and children. Domestic training in the form of cooking and sewing classes is now regular training for all teenage girls and is also extended to older girls and mothers who need the assistance. The eight-month course covers two months each in cooking, sewing, house and laundry work and Baby Welfare instruction.

The expansion of this phase of activity has considerably relieved the aboriginal School staff who originally supervised part of this training, thus releasing them for other School duties.

This section also has the supervision of the Old Peoples' Home where 28 aged aboriginals are now living and the Hostel which was completed this year. The Hostel houses and cares for 30 convalescent people including ex-Hansen's Disease patients. Meals for these people are prepared and served by a married couple in each block.

All clothing requirements for the Settlement women are made at the Settlement Sewing Room and these, with cardigans and blankets, have been regularly issued by the Home Training Section.

Regular weighing of all School children has recorded their satisfactory increase in weight.

FARMING.

Rainfall—65.61 inches.

Production covering the year ended 31st March, 1957, is as follows:—

Beef	10,515	lb.
Pork	3,856	lb.
Fish	7,009	lb.
Mutton	1,850	lb.
Milk	7,883½	gallons
Pineapples	13,322	lb.
Bananas	5,220	bunches
Papaws	3,973	
Pumpkins	123	cwt.
Chinese cabbage	2,100	heads
French beans	14	sacks
Marrows	229	sacks
Eschallots	6	cwt.
English cabbage	4,217	heads
Radish	91½	sacks
Tomatoes	169	cases
Peanuts	6½	sacks
Sweet potatoes	112½	sacks
Beans	6½	bags
Cucumbers	45	cases
Carrots	34½	sacks
Turnips	98½	sacks
Lettuce	1,260	heads
Onions	9	bags
Watermelons	2,974	

New banana land is being steadily opened up and about 14 acres are now under this crop.

The area at Butler Bay has been extended and another acre of pineapples have been planted. Six acres are under fodder cane as a reserve for the dairy cattle against the usual dry period at the end of the year. The two silos are full.

About 10 acres of scrub have been felled on the range above the Settlement and arrangements to plant this with Green Panic and Buffel grass at the end of the year are in hand.

Work on scrub felling is continuing and it is hoped to have at least 100 acres of good scrub land under grass by the next wet season. An experimental area of two acres is being cleared and grubbed for cultivation for the growing of vegetables and fruit trees.

CATTLE.

There were 386 cattle on the property at 31st March and in addition to the meat supply from Townsville, 29 head were killed and issued as rations during the year. Constant dipping and careful cattle husbandry is required to maintain cattle numbers.

SAWMILL AND LOGGING.

Extensive re-organisation at the sawmill and the addition of a secondary saw bench has assisted in improving the timber supplies. This sawbench was improvised by components manufactured on the Settlement.

The greatest factor in the improvement is the better class of timber available in the second half of the year from the range behind the Settlement. A D.4 Caterpillar tractor and a five-ton timber jinker are in full use and timber is now regularly hauled over the road recently cut into the range. This road climbs about 1,600 feet to the scrub and to enable a workable grade to be obtained, follows a winding course.

85,669 super feet of sawn timber was recovered from logs hauled and rafted in during the year.

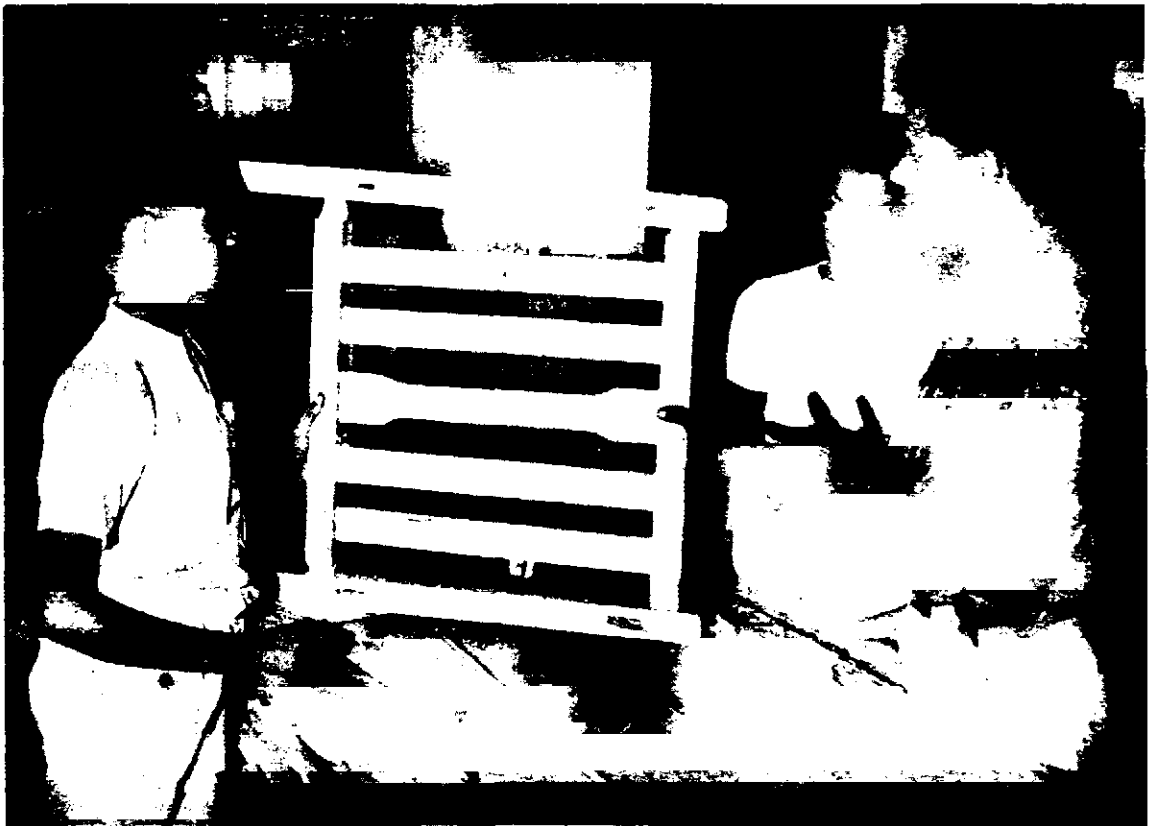
WORKSHOP AND MANUAL TRAINING.

A complete workshop unit and training area has been set up for the training of young lads in the handling and care of tools, general carpentry, simple joinery and furniture making. Plumbing is also taught and in addition to training young workmen, the older lads from the School are instructed in this section.

EDUCATION.

The staff at the aboriginal School has been maintained with a Head Teacher, four Assistant Teachers and seven native monitresses.

Three children sat for the State Scholarship Examination last December and although they failed, the general attitude to education of one of the girls warranted her enrolment at a Secondary School in Charters Towers. Her subsequent School Reports are good.



Manual training, Palm Island School.



Domestic Training, Palm Island School.

One aboriginal lad passed his Junior Examination last December and has been added to the aboriginal School staff.

On the mainland two girls from the Palm Island aboriginal School are trained nurses at the Townsville General Hospital. Fourteen children are in Grade 8 and eligible to sit for Scholarship next year.

Five Palm Island children are attending mainland Secondary Schools and next year one student will sit for his Senior Examination, one for the Junior Examination and one for Scholarship, while the remaining two are at sub-Junior standard.

It is pleasing to report that a Settlement girl has been placed in employment as a Stenotypist with a law firm on the mainland, while three young men and two girls are being trained in the Settlement Office. One of the girls was trained in Junior Commercial work on the mainland.

SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES.

Scouting and Guiding activities have continued during the year. Visits were made to the Scout installations at Esk Island and regular parades were held.

TRANSPORT.

The three Settlement trucks have been maintained. The International timber truck is doing good work.

The launch "Sylvia" is under repair, thus the launches "Turtle" and "Irex" have borne the brunt of the local water transport. Transport to and from Townsville is by charter vessel.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS.

A large Manual Training Workshop and Plumbers' Shop was completed. Two miles of fencing was erected in the Butler Bay area to close all the new cultivated ground from stock.

Two bridges were replaced and general maintenance was carried out on roads and bridges. One staff house for the Engineer was erected during the period.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

This organisation has functioned well during the year. The most ambitious project yet commenced by the Association is the Recreation Hall. The proposed building is 150 feet x 80 feet and will house all the indoor functions such as films, boxing and dancing as well as the Association Offices, Kiosk, Store-room, &c. Preparation of the site is under way and plans for speedy erection on arrival of the material have been completed.

This co-operative body has further improved its finances during the year and its credit balance now stands at £5,056.

PENCIL BAY.

This installation has been maintained throughout the year. Fifteen old men live happily here.

A complete gaol installation was erected at Pencil Bay comprising a five-roomed house, compound, cell, windmill and tank complete

with septic system and water reticulation. All work was performed by native tradesmen under supervision.

FANTOME ISLAND LEPROSARIUM.

The nursing and care of patients at this Institution is in the capable hands of Sisters of the Franciscan Order of Mary who devote their lives to the care and welfare of the unfortunate sufferers. During the yearly period admissions were four and discharges four. The general response to medical treatment has been good.

Administrative buildings and patients' cottages were maintained. Half an acre of bananas were planted and the vegetable garden area increased.

APPRECIATION.

Appreciation is given to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for assistance during the period and to the Settlement staff for their loyal support.

PALM ISLAND CONVENT SCHOOL.

(Priest in charge—Rev. Father V. Ashwood.)

The enrolment increased slightly having reached 100, not including a group of senior girls taking Domestic Science. The school comprises seven grades and the attendance has been good with the exception of during rainy weather.

The staff consists of four Franciscan Missionaries of Mary aided by a native nun for each academic division. English is being stressed and as supplementary reading is essential to depict, in correct language, experiences foreign to the children, a better library must be acquired; a number of books was supplied by the Department of Native Affairs this year. Films and film-strips have been valuable aids in English and other subjects. On the whole, progress has been satisfactory.

From Grade III. upwards the girls participate in the sewing class making articles of clothing which gives increased interest. The boys receive training in gardening and manual work.

Special attention has been given to music, the native songs and dancing being encouraged. The annual concerts gave the necessary impetus in this line.

Sports are emphasised, each season bringing its special games. The inter-school games promote friendly relations with the children of the other schools.

The Settlement social worker, a trained nurse, contributes greatly to the health of the children by her supervision. Considerable assistance was given towards the health of our pupils by the Government Dentist who visited our school and attended their teeth. We are deeply grateful to the Superintendent for issuing the necessary food for a warm lunch for the smaller children at noon which proves a very valuable factor in maintaining good health.

We wish to express our appreciation of the assistance received in supplies and other ways from the Director of Native Affairs and the other members of the Department.



New road for logging operations. Palm Island.



Scrub clearing, Palm Island.

APPENDIX 2.
**CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT,
 VIA MURGON.**

(Superintendent—Mr. G. Sturges.)

STATISTICS.					
Births—			Full-blood.	Half-caste.	Total.
Male .. ..	..	..	7	20	27
Female .. ..	..	..	17	19	36
Totals .. ..	..	..	24	39	63
Deaths—			Full-Blood.	Half-caste.	Total.
Male .. ..	..	..	2	12	14
Female .. ..	..	..	7	8	15
Totals .. ..	..	..	9	20	29

Note.—"Half-caste" includes quadroons, octeroons, &c.

Marriages—9.

Exemptions—5.

Child Endowment—	£	s.	d.
Total Child Endowment paid ..	10,722	13	7
Average monthly payment ..	824	16	5
Total Store sales to Endowees ..	7,171	15	2
Average number of Endowees—	162.		

HEALTH.

Hospital.—The Cherbourg Hospital is under the control of the South Burnett Hospitals Board, and details of Hospital activity may be found in the Board's Annual Report.

Dentist.—

Number of visits	32
Number of fillings	645
Number of extractions	531
Number of dentures	3

Optometrist.—

Number of visits	4
Number of patients seen	50

Notifiable Diseases.—

Hansen's disease	Nil
Tuberculosis	10
Venereal disease	6

A number of cases of Infantile Gastro Enteritis occurred during the last quarter of 1956. Investigations by officers of the Director-General of Health and Medical Services Department were prompt, and remedial action, apart from medical treatment and hospitalisation, was recommended and the outbreak brought under control.

During the first quarter of 1957 scabies became prevalent. There appears to be no doubt that the infection was brought into the settlement by visitors living in sub-standard conditions in the surrounding district.

Continuous effort has been made to maintain medical fitness of the whole population. The whole population was tested for Tuberculosis by Mantoux test, followed up by mass X-ray.

Immunisation against typhoid was completed and an immunisation campaign using triple antigen also completed.

Arrangements have been finalised for the immunisation against Poliomyelitis with Salk vaccine.

Continued efforts have been made to educate the population in respect to health and medical fitness. Screenings were made on two occasions by the Health Education Film Unit. Pamphlets published by the Health Education Council are distributed and followed up by advice from the Baby Welfare Officer, Hygiene Officer and Welfare Officer and short addresses have been given by the Superintendent.

EDUCATION.

School enrolment figures show a total of 300 at the end of the quarters June, September and December, 1956, and 284 for that ended 31st March, 1957.

The average daily attendance was 135.2 boys and 131.2 girls making a total of 266.4, an average of 89.8 per cent.

The Department's policy of raising the standard of education of its aboriginal wards to the level of State Government Schools is bearing fruit in that one boy from this Settlement secured a pass in the 1956 Scholarship Examination and two girls were granted Concessional Scholarships. The boy, Lawrence Bell, is studying Industrial Junior and the girls, Joan Shillingsworth and Iris Bell, are taking Commercial Junior.

Another girl, Jennifer Bird, who obviously failed in the Scholarship Examination due to nervousness is also attending the Murgon State High and Rural School taking Commercial Junior.

Reports of the children's behaviour, their interest in studies, diligence and attention are very satisfactory indeed and it is anticipated they will secure passes in the subjects being taken.

As indicated by the Head Teacher in his Report, teaching staff devoted themselves earnestly throughout the year.

It is anticipated a start will be made in the near future on the erection of the new Manual Training building, followed by a new Domestic Science building. During this time it is anticipated that material for the new Primary School will be accumulated and a commencement made on the erection.

The School took part in the Annual Inter-School Sports and secured third place in the competition.

BABY WELFARE CENTRE.

This section functions most successfully, and the native residents co-operate with the Baby Welfare Officer wholeheartedly. In fact, mothers can be regarded as clinic-conscious.

Number of children attending clinic:—

Babies	49
Toddlers	220
Total	269

HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

Careful attention is paid to every aspect of this work. The sanitary service to public lavatories, administrative buildings, homes occupied by large families, dormitories, and staff quarters is daily Monday to Saturday and all other E.Cs. not less than thrice weekly.

Garbage is removed daily Monday to Friday. All potential and suspect breeding places of flies, mosquitoes, and other pests are sought out and dealt with. Preventive measures are also taken as a matter of routine.

SEWERAGE SCHEME.

Progress on this job has been maintained and 13,000 feet of sewer main and service connections were laid.

RAINFALL.

The total for the year was 27.57 inches, spread over 57 wet days.

Only 3.80 inches of rain spread over 13 wet days have fallen since the 1st January, 1957. This period of the year is the recognised wet season and as seen from the rainfall figures we are, like other Queensland centres, now experiencing a drought of serious proportions.

SAWMILL.

Logs milled during the year were:—

—	Logs.	Contents.		Recovery.
		Super. ft.	Super. ft.	
Hardwood	547	249,260	145,358	
Pine	111	50,403	36,986	
Totals	658	299,663	182,344	

Timber machined:—

50,465 lineal feet 4in. x 1in. flooring.
1,590 lineal feet 8in. x 1in. facia.
658 lineal feet 6in. x 3in. slls.

Production figures show an increase over 1955-56 of 10,831 log content of hardwood with an increase in recovery of 8,852 square feet. Pine log content showed an increase of 18,652 with a recovery increase of 15,475 square feet.

BUILDINGS.

The construction of dwellings for native residents has been given priority and eleven were completed during the year. These are of modern design and are of three and four bedrooms. They are painted throughout in attractive pastel colours and are fitted with electric light and power points. Water is also laid on to each house.

Five cottages for natives are in various stages of construction.

One staff cottage, complete with garage and fencing was completed. It is of modern design and conforms in every way to similar houses being built in adjacent towns.

Maintenance of buildings was attended to as required and the availability of timber.

PAINTING.

Eight new cottages were completed and work is proceeding on others recently erected. Eight of the existing native cottages were completed and one new staff residence together with garage and fence complete.

The International truck was stripped down and painted.

Painting of the sales section of the Retail Store is under way.

WATER SUPPLY.

The plant operated satisfactorily throughout the year, the only problem arising being caused by lightning which damaged the automatic switching. However, the plant is also capable of being manually controlled and, therefore, no interruption to pumping occurred.

Approximately 30,000 gallons are consumed daily.

The water is filtered and chlorinated.

Regular bacteriological tests are made and these checks confirmed that pure water is being delivered to the point of consumption.

TRADE TRAINING WORKSHOP.

The high standard of work already established has been maintained. A display of cabinet and joinery work from this workshop was included in the Department's exhibit at the 1956 Royal National Association Exhibition.

Items manufactured during the year are listed hereunder:—

Pine dual school desks	13
Pine chairs for desks	26
Sink cabinet	1
Kitchen tables	17
Kitchen chairs	113
Ledge doors	70
S.O. fanlights	43
Meter box	1
Flush panel doors	54
Door stops (lineal feet)	4,000
Quadrant (lineal feet)	4,000
Door jambs (lineal feet)	3,000
Architrave (lineal feet)	3,000
D mould (lineal feet)	3,000
Cover strips (lineal feet)	5,000
School presses	25
S.O. casements	584
Coffins	23
School tables	12
Typiste filing cabinet	1
S.O. Office chairs	6
Kitchen cabinet	1
Set pigeonholes	1
T.P. office arm chairs	3
Sixteen drawer filing cabinets	2
Office table	1
Four drawer filing cabinet	1
Framed and sheeted doors	26

Woorabinda School Furniture:—

Dual desks with iron frames	80
Teachers' tables	6
Teachers' chairs	6
Hyloboards with chalk rail and buttons	12
School presses	14
Pine dual desks	32
Chairs for desks	64
Head teachers' table	1
Head teachers' chair	1
Head teachers' book case	1

STOCK.

Seasonal conditions were extremely wet until December, 1956, but since then drought conditions have prevailed. However, stock generally are in good condition. The policy of transferring steers to Foleyvale was continued and 102 head were moved to that settlement on the 23rd October, 1956.

A bang tail muster of all stock was completed during the year.

Book figures of stock on hand at the date of Report are:—

Bulls	13
Herd cows	414
Maiden heifers	244
Speyed cows	20
Steers—Bullocks	75
Weaners	Nil
Miscellaneous cows	5
Bleeder	1
Calves branded	179
	<hr/>
	951
	<hr/>

Settlement stock killed for rations numbered 121, and this figure includes 11 Jersey cows culled from the Training Farm dairy herd. The average weight of stock killed was 453 lb., and at current market rates valued at £2,978.

Stock purchased for rations numbered 235, of an average weight of 467 lb., and the average price was £24 12s. 3d. per head.

The sale of hides realised £416 13s. 7d. and the sale of horses brought £9 10s. and one bull for £17 17s. 6d.

The abnormal wet seasons over past years and the 1956 portion of the current one have seriously affected fences, those on creek banks being in places completely washed out, making maintenance somewhat of a problem.

Noxious weed and burr eradication was carried out and the property is clean except where reinfestation takes place owing to flooding.

ABORIGINAL TRAINING FARM.

Commercial butter—9,789 lb. realised £1,670 3s. 7d.
Pigs sold—125 realised £1,628 1s. 9d.
Broom millet sold—6½ cwt. realised £32 10s.

Stocks on hand at 31st March, 1957:—

Bulls	3
Dairy cows	72
Heifers	19
Weaners	15
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Total	109
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Pigs on hand at 31st March, 1957.

Boars	3
Sows	14
Fatteners	14
Stores	78
Suckers	28
	<hr/>
Total	137
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Crops as at 31st March, 1957:—

Twenty-five acres Maize grown yielded 302 bags.
Five acres Broom Millet yielded 6½ cwt. This was despatched to the Queensland Industrial Institute for the Blind.
Twenty-one acres Lucerne cut, stored and grazed
Twenty-two acres Barley grazed.
Fifteen acres Poona Pea grazed.
Two acres Vegetables—These were supplied to the Settlement as available in season.

An experimental plot of 3 acres of Buffel Grass and Lucerne mixture was planted. However, it is not as yet sufficiently established to enable an opinion to be formed on its suitability for grazing.

APIARY.

The hives were increased to five and the 501 lb. of honey produced were distributed to Settlement inmates and the Cherbourg Hospital.

IMPROVEMENTS.

The farm water system was coupled to the Settlement supply thus ensuring a pure supply of water for all purposes.

Two new pig runs completed, and water extended to four runs.

Maintenance to tractors, farm machinery, and irrigation plants was satisfactory.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

All motor vehicles were satisfactorily maintained. The International 3-ton truck was sent to the Government Garage for examination and complete overhaul.

ROADS.

The Cherbourg—Murgon road has been frequently graded by the Murgon Shire Council free of cost to the Settlement. However, it is not a built up road and it quickly falls into a state of corrugations and pot holes, this position being aggravated each time it rains.

The Council proposes to bitumen surface the road from the existing bitumen strip to the Settlement boundary.

SOCIAL AND WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

The Association is in a sound financial position. Assets are valued at £15,453 8s., the Savings Bank credit balance is £1,557 1s. 3d. and the liabilities, except for current monthly accounts, are nil.

Outstanding events of the year were:—

Christmas Tree and associated presentations.

Annual Show and Dinner.

Annual Debutante Ball.

Participation in the Departmental Exhibit at the Royal National Association 1956 Show.

The Annual Show was opened by Mr. W. B. Draffin, Inspector, Department of Native Affairs.

The Annual Show and Debutante Ball were outstanding successes and the Annual Show Dinner was attended by a representative gathering from the surrounding district.

The Association performs a major role in that entertainments, sporting, and social and welfare work are carried on by natives participating in their own organisation on a voluntary basis.

It has been most encouraging to note the manner in which the Association has assisted the children attending the Murgon State High and Rural School.

The library is also a credit to the Association and it is pleasing to note the number of borrowers increases each year. The Association is now considering the erection of a separate building to house the library, included in which will be a reading room.

During the year a Youth Club was introduced. This gives boys and girls an opportunity to come together for games and other avenues of indoor recreation. It has proved quite a success.

Under the auspices of the Association many branches of sporting activities are enthusiastically engaged in and with a very large measure of success. The Settlement Clubs are, in a number of instances, registered with the local District Associations.

ANZAC DAY.

A Commemoration Service was conducted on the Settlement by the Aborigines Inland Mission, Missioner Mr. W. Caddy. Tokens of remembrance were laid on the Honour Board by the Murgon Sub-Branch of the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. and Settlement residents.

The following resolutions were moved by Mr. J. Krebs, Chairman of the Murgon Shire Council:—

- (1) On the forty-first anniversary of the immortal landing at Gallipoli, this Meeting of Citizens of Queensland expresses its loyalty and devotion to the Throne and the person of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II., and to the British Commonwealth of Nations.
- (2) This meeting re-affirms its admiration of the magnificent heroism, self-sacrifice and endurance of the Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, and Nursing Sisters of Australia and New Zealand who, on the first Anzac Day and throughout the Great War of 1914-1918, conferred a glory on Australia and New Zealand that will never fade.

This meeting avers that the lofty ideals of service of the Anzacs pervaded the dauntless spirit of Australia's gallant sons and daughters, who, during a period of six years of fierce and intensive warfare on land, on sea, and in the air from 1939 to

1945, gave such heroic and self-sacrificing service in the cause of liberty; the same lofty ideals of service are exemplified in the Korean campaign.

- (3) This meeting gives its assurance that those who have fallen shall be held in sacred memory, and that those who have survived the perils of War will ever be honoured and remembered with gratitude by the people whose hearts and homes they went forth to save so that our freedom and our free institutions under the British Commonwealth of Nations might survive.

BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION.

The Scouting movement was reformed during the year under the guidance of Group Scout Master H. Michel and Scout Master J. H. Pascoe, both members of the Settlement staff.

A very energetic native Committee has been elected and is readily working on the task of raising funds.

GENERAL.

This Settlement was again given the responsibility for the design and construction of the Departmental Exhibition Stand at the 1956 Royal National Association Show. The job was a credit to the officer-in-charge, Mr. H. R. Pascoe.

Included in this Departmental Stand was an exhibit from this Settlement depicting the arts and crafts of the native before the advent of the white man and the progress made up to the present. Mr. E. H. Rees, Settlement Welfare Officer, was in charge of this work and much credit is due to him and to all other officers who co-operated and to the native residents who produced the various articles included in the exhibit.

APPENDIX 3.

WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT, VIA DUARINGA.

(Superintendent—Mr. R. W. Naggs.)

STATISTICS.

Births	24
Deaths	8
Marriages	6
Arrivals	38
Departures	68

HEALTH.

The health of the inmates could be described as very good. The lessening of worm infestation through immediate control measures was made possible by the setting up of a laboratory for this purpose. Medical Officers' visits have been at fortnightly intervals.

Hygiene has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the period.

Laboratory statistics are as follows:—

Number of tests made 2,614, of this number 1,641 tests were found infected, 865 were hookworm and 69 ascaris lumbricoides. Treatments given 1,150.

Hospital admissions 808 of which number 58 were transferred to the Rockhampton General Hospital.

FINANCE.

	£	s.	d.
Cash collections	42,635	11	7
Banked to native savings bank accounts	10,093	2	9
Settlement maintenance	1,182	0	0
Cash Sales—retail store	25,075	3	0
Credit Sales—Retail store to officers	3,946	8	9
Sales to natives on orders against savings bank accounts	6,865	15	3

RAINFALL.

An exceptionally good year has been experienced—41 wet days yielded 35·26 inches; the greater part of this rain fell in 1956. The three months of this year, 8 wet days have only yielded 454 points.

SAWMILLING.

Wet weather seriously handicapped log hauling, thereby holding up sawmilling in the early part of the period.

Gross measurement of logs hauled	314,016	super. feet.
Gross content of 654 logs	232,676	super. feet.
Recovery	113,812	super. feet.

BUILDINGS.

Completed during the year were two native houses, two official houses, sawmill shed 105 feet x 40 feet, boiler shed 20 feet x 30 feet, officers' welfare hall used as probationary school for white children, new school for native children complete with two play sheds and outbuildings to accommodate 200 children.

FARMING.

The following quantities of fruit and vegetables were produced and used on the Settlement:—

Oranges	435	bushels
Lemons	19	bushels
Mandarins	5	bushels
Tomatoes	247	bushels
Turnips	7	tons
Beetroot	31½	cwt.
Onions	3½	tons
Cabbage	7,037	heads
Cauliflower	2,049	heads
Watermelons	2,826	
Rockmelons	730	
Marrows and squash	½	ton
Cucumbers	63½	cwt.
Kohl rabbi	5	tons
Pumpkins	10	cwt.
Fodder	3	tons of lucern hay

Cash Crops.—Ten acres broom millet yielded 10 cwt. A final payment of £30 13s. 8d. was received for peanuts delivered to the Peanut Board in 1955.

DAIRY.

Milk production was 9,574 gallons. Milk is issued to natives and Hospital free. Officials paid £46 1s. for milk.

GARAGE AND TRANSPORT.

Total mileage covered by all vehicles, including Foleyvale vehicles:—

Trucks	52,892	miles
Utilities	10,877	miles
Jeep and Land Rover	8,398	miles

The biggest haulage jobs were:—899 hardwood logs gross superficial measurement of 314,016 feet; grain sorghum, Foleyvale to Duaringa 107½ tons; wheat 24½ tons; cotton 17½ tons.

Carriage of passengers:—2,496 trips for Foleyvale workers; 347 paying passengers; 197 non-paying passengers; 150 hospital patients.

LIVESTOCK.

The Cattle Register Figures are:—

Bullocks	238
Herd cows	1,981
Herd bulls	56
Speyed cows	182
Steers	383
Heifers	408
Dairy cows	91
Total cattle	3,339

Horses—Draught	43
Saddle	127

Cattle movements throughout the period were:—

Transferred to Foleyvale	571
Purchased Dairy cows	9
Transferred from Foleyvale for killing	48
Calves branded	791
Cattle killed for rations	411
Pigs killed for rations	26
Total meat weight	188,781 lb.
Issued to natives	162,316 lb.
Sold to officials	26,465 lb.
Hides sold	416
Realised	£494 9s. 4d.

Rebate on commission charged for previous year's produce sales amounted to £5 7s. 4d.

POWER HOUSE.

Electricity supply has been maintained throughout the period. Officials paid £118 3s. 11d. for current supplied on meter reading.

SEWING ROOM.

The following clothing was made in the Settlement sewing room for issue to natives:—

Dresses	694
Petticoats	690
Playsuits	16
Pillow slips	20
Table cloths	12
Curtains	12 pairs
Sheets	54
Boys' pyjamas	12
Boys' shirts	10
School tunics	47
School blouses	45

CONDUCT.

Conduct of inmates was satisfactory.

EDUCATION.

School for Natives.—Enrolment on 31st March, 1957, 93 boys; 92 girls: total, 185.

Aggregate Attendances.—Over the 205 days, 17,480 boys; 19,085 girls: total attendances, 36,565.

Two pupils were presented for the Scholarship examinations. One girl, Lynette Booth, was successful. This girl is now attending the Girls' Grammar School at Rockhampton.

WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

The Association has continued to function with similar interest and success as in previous years.

ANNUAL SPORTS.

The annual sports were conducted in September, 1956. The same success was achieved as in previous years.

Football and cricket are played in season, the former by far being the most popular for players and spectators alike.

ENTERTAINMENT.

Talkie screenings, being the most popular form of entertainment on the Settlement, are greatly appreciated and are looked forward to each Saturday night.

Work has progressed sufficiently on the erection of the new Recreation Hall to permit the projection box being transferred and pictures are screened on a temporary screen.

Dances are held regularly each Wednesday and Friday nights the former being for the entertainment of children and the latter for adults.

The Association is grateful for all assistance given both Departmentally and otherwise which has contributed towards its success.

	£	s.	d.
Credit balance at commencement of period	3,845	9	3
Balance at end of period	2,739	11	10
Principal expenditure (being cost of purchase of new Recreation Hall)	1,889	2	1

FOLEYVALE RESERVE.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Buildings.—Three men's huts completed 20 ft. x 30 ft. and one 20 ft. x 30 ft. shed.

Fencing.—Three miles of Foleyvale-Balcomba boundary completed.

Roads.—Three miles of black soil road lightly metalled and the Anna branch rock pitched and gravel filled for 120 feet.

A 14-ft. aluminium boat and outboard motor has been secured, thereby making contact from

Woorabinda, when the McKenzie River is in flood, very much easier.

Aerial spraying of 2,000 acres of dense brigalow was carried out.

FARMING.

Three hundred and twenty-five bags of wheat were harvested from 65 acres; a first payment of £382 9s. 3d. has been made.

A premium payment of £94 17s. was received for wheat delivered to No. 18 Pool.

Grain Sorghum.—1,615 bags were harvested from 160 acres. Of this, 1,443 bags, weighing 107 tons 9 cwt. 2 qr. were delivered to the 1957 No. 1 Grain Sorghum Pool. Sixty-eight bags were transferred to Woorabinda for winter feeding of the dairy herd and the remainder was kept at Foleyvale to feed pigs.

Cotton.—Ninety bales from 28 acres of freshly cleared scrub land have been delivered to the Glenmore Ginney, Rockhampton. Total weight of cotton is 36,868 lb. An amount of £23 18s. 8d. has been received, being final payment for cotton delivered during 1956 season.

On the quality of cotton grown at Foleyvale the Cotton Marketing Board of Queensland commented as follows:—

“I am very pleased to inform you that twenty-two bales of excellent Seed Cotton has been received at our Glenmore Ginney from the Woorabinda Aboriginal Settlement, Duarina. Of these twenty-two bales—

Three bales received top grade of SGM 3/-. Sixteen bales received the next grade of GM 3/-. Three bales received one lower grade of GMLS 3/-.

These three grades are in the top bracket of Seed Cotton grades, and show that the cotton has been well grown and well picked.

Our Rockhampton Manager has stated that the cotton was received in excellent condition, and well baled and branded. We congratulate the Aboriginal Settlement on the quality of their cotton, and trust that a big expansion will take place in cotton growing at the Settlement.”

LIVESTOCK.

Cattle.—Five hundred and six bullocks have been disposed of through the Queensland Primary Producers at Gracemere and Cannon Hill Yards for a nett return of £17,128 9s. 11d., an average of £33 17s. per head. Forty-eight bullocks were transferred to Woorabinda and killed for rations. Rebate on commissions charged on stock sales for the year 1955-56 amounted to £212 10s. 8d.

Steers received from Cherbourg number 102 head and from Woorabinda, 571 head.

Pigs.—Thirty-eight pigs were disposed of to Lakes Creek on the weight basis, realising £434 0s. 9d., an average of £11 8s. 8d.

Thirty-seven pigs were transferred to Woorabinda to be killed for rations.

APPENDIX 4.

DOOMADGEE MISSION, VIA BURKETOWN.

(Superintendent—Mr. J. Talbot).

STAFF.

Mr. Allan J. Hockey (Acting Superintendent) and Mrs. Hockey.
 Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Knott.
 Miss Isa Black (Nursing Sister).
 Miss Pearl Roberts.
 Miss Grace Grouch.
 Miss Helen Rossow (School Teacher).
 Mr. H. L. Fawcett (School Teacher).
 Mr. and Mrs. M. Kay.

STATISTICS.

Births—12.
 Deaths—7 (5 adults, 2 Infants).
 Transfers, to Mission—7.
 Transfers, from Mission—4.
 Marriages—1.

HEALTH.

The general health of the people was good. There were no epidemics but there were the usual minor ailments and injuries requiring medical attention. There were four cases of fractures—two at the Mission and two caused by accidents at employment. One native with fractured ankle had to be removed to Townsville Hospital for special orthopaedic treatment.

The Flying Doctor based at Cloncurry paid sixteen visits to the Mission, ten of which were routine clinics and the remaining six for specially urgent cases.

Dentist B. Tadducei from Cloncurry paid a visit of one week to give dental treatment.

EDUCATION.

This side of the work is now well catered for with the addition to the staff of two qualified school teachers—Miss Rossow from Queensland and Mr. Fawcett from Victoria.

CONDUCT.

There have been the isolated instances of misconduct but on the whole the conduct has been very good.

RELIGION.

Bible instruction has been conducted daily as well as other weekly gatherings. Reports received relative to some of our natives at places of employment give indication of their appreciation of spiritual help received while home at the Mission.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMING.

Vegetables.—Our supplies throughout the year have been on the same standard as other years—sweet potatoes, pumpkins (Queensland Blue and Trombone), lettuce, carrots, and tomatoes being the main varieties.

Bananas.—Although extra care was given in this section and results looked promising, a dry spell and lack of flooding by irrigation decreased our yield.

Citrus.—Much more time has been given to the orchard work by Mr. Fawcett (who has taken a particular interest in this sphere in conjunction with his school work) in an endeavour to maintain present citrus trees which suffered much by cyclonic winds several years ago. Some new trees have also been planted.

Apiary.—Although only numbering three hives, apart from the yield in honey, the bees have proved their worth in the pollination of crops.

Poultry.—Egg production has varied but still provided for the needs of the Staff and Dormitory children throughout the year.

PASTORAL.

Livestock.—

Cattle on hand at 1st April, 1956	.. 1,880	
Less Natural shrinkage	.. .. 188	
		1,692
<i>Add—</i>		
Brandings for year	.. .. 696	
Bulls purchased	.. .. 6	
		702
		2,394
<i>Less—</i>		
Sales	.. .. 329	
Slaughtered for own consumption	.. .. 74	
Known deaths	.. .. 4	
		407
		1,987
Horses on hand at 1st April, 1956		
(Mission owned)	.. .. 76	
Deduct losses	.. .. 3	
		73
Add Brandings	.. .. 10	
		83
On hand at 1st April, 1956 (Native owned)	.. .. 40	
Deduct losses	.. .. 1	
		39
Add brumbies caught, and colts	.. .. 8	
		47
		130

BUILDINGS.

As our temporary builder (Mr. A. Polderman) returned South before the wet season commenced and building supplies were held up owing to disorganisation in shipping, we were not able to carry out all that had been planned.

Work at the Mission Hospital has been completed, providing a Doctor's and Dentist's Surgery.

An extension of 20 feet was made to the present garage and workshop building. This has proved useful as a bulk store for hardware materials.

With supplies now to hand work has recommenced on the new dormitory for Institution boys.

AERODROME.

As the soil is of a sandy type to ensure safety and a continuous service, maintenance has been carried out extensively throughout the year, the main portion of the work being done just prior to the wet season. Local labour was engaged to raise portion of the centre of the main runway with ant bed, then later, with the assistance of native men, our Mission vehicle was used to carry much more ant bed and river gravel for the same purpose. Although much has been done with success, we still have a tremendous amount of work confronting us to provide for a continuous service in the wet season. Extensive mowing was carried out. This is always necessary over the wet season to cope with the prolific growth of grass.

PLANT AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.

With the help of visiting friends, who had electrical qualifications and under the supervision of Mr. J. Taylor, Assistant Electrical Engineer, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the electric light and refrigeration plant has been installed. Electric light and one of the two cold rooms are functioning well but the second room has yet to have repairs effected—damage having occurred to equipment during transportation to the Mission.

The Farmall A. tractor had a major overhaul during the latter part of 1956. The remainder of the vehicles also had maintenance and repairs effected and all are operating well.

OUTSIDE NATIVE EMPLOYMENT.

Notwithstanding that many of the natives remained in employment during the wet season, the demand for native labour this year far exceeded the number available. Throughout the year mostly all the natives travelled to and from employment by the regular T.A.A. Gulf Service. Bush Pilot Airways again operated on occasions when the D.C. 3 could not land in the wet season.

SOCIAL.

The usual forms of entertainment have been made available with outings when arranged camps have been conducted.

Australian Rules football was introduced by our new teacher and this has taken on very well.

The projector has been much more in use both in the School and with educational strips to the whole community.

GENERAL.

Mr. Talbot, Mission Superintendent, held in high esteem by all, was taken to Cloncurry Hospital by Flying Doctor Neil Duncan on the 12th March, 1957. This was a distressing time for all, as adverse flying and unusual wet season conditions prevailed, preventing the doctor coming for four days even though Mr. Talbot was desperately ill. Doctor records a miracle that Mr. Talbot recovered and we render thanks to God for His goodness.

Miss R. Parry who gave temporary help to the Mission for nearly four years returned to Sydney in December.

With the opening up of further mineral developments in the West, there is increasing traffic through the Mission.

APPRECIATION.

With this report is proffered the sincere thanks of the Superintendent, members of the Mission staff, our Brisbane representatives and all friends interested in the Mission, to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their ready assistance and co-operation.

We would again record our appreciation of the Royal Flying Doctor Service for invaluable service rendered to our native people and the Mission staff during the year under review, and add a note of personal thanks to both Doctor and Mrs. Duncan for professional devotion and friendly interest shown to all.

APPENDIX 5.

YARRABAH MISSION, VIA CAIRNS.

(Superintendent—Captain H. E. Cole, C.A.)

STAFF.

Acting Boat Skipper—Captain A. Polgen, C.A.
 Chaplain-Headmaster—Rev. F. W. Hipkin.
 School—Mrs. F. W. Hipkin.
 School—Miss N. D. Howell, B.A. Dip. Ed.
 Hospital—Sister M. C. Stanley, C.A.
 Dormitory Matron—Miss P. Style.
 Office Clerk and Welfare Officer—Mrs. H. E. Cole, C.A.
 Store—Mr. G. G. Gretten.
 Accounts and Office—Mr. D. R. Bird.
 Engineer and Electrician—Mr. D. L. Cottrell.
 Farm Supervisor—Mr. P. Justice.

Captain E. J. Pearce resigned as Reserve Overseer on 31st December, 1956, after two years' service at Yarrabah. His was a constructive work in which fire wood for mill, suction gas engine and logs up to 4 ft. diameter were stockpiled, and road repair and fencing achieved. Miss I. Sanders as Dormitory Matron did yeoman work among the girls of the Dormitory for five years. In that period the girls were provided with beds, sheeting and bed covers, crockery and a wireless from the "Cooma" fund, maintained by the Diocese of Canberra-Goulburn, N.S.W.

Mr. L. T. Stevenson resigned and left to take up a position on the staff of All Saints' College, Bathurst. With the breakdown of the Mill and absorption of all sawn material, his work so well commenced terminated.

Mr. E. McAuley, skipper of the m.v. "Ernest Gribble," resigned because of domestic reasons, after twelve months at Yarrabah. He did much to improve the boat position and the movement of the ever increasing heavy equipment, fuel and provisions for the Mission. Over the last three years much personal effort of the staff has been given in their own time to the bettering of their quarters.

EMPLOYMENT.

Full employment is given to all resident males, other than indigents. The larger group is on a 40-hour working week, others are on 32 hours. The choice is given to the native to choose the hours of work he will do.

Incentive pay has been introduced among the carpentering gangs and the sawmill workers. This has produced better output but will require much supervision to avoid negation of energy and reversion to previous tempo.

HEALTH.

Health is very good. All Tuberculosis patients have been discharged from Cairns Base Hospital back to Yarrabah. These are provided with a special scale ration to maintain good health.

Optical.—Government appointed Optometrist visited the Reserve on an annual visit.

Salk Vaccine.—Two injections to date have been given to all children.

An Anti-Tuberculosis skin test has been satisfactorily effected during the year.

Visits of the Resident Medical Officer from Cairns Base Hospital assist considerably the achievement of good health.

CRAFT WORK—CURIOS.

Emphasis is placed on utility articles. Floor matting is required all over the Eastern part of Australia and good reports are received as to the quality of workmanship. Sale of this and basket ware, table mats, clutch purses and feathered sprays bring a good income to the women folk engaged in this industrious business. Household equipment and furniture is being purchased and better clothes supplied to children indicates wise use of the income derived from craft work.

RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT.

All through the year no football has been played. An oval has been shaped up in the foreground of Yarrabah head station between the Church and Store buildings. This will be 300 ft. x 156 ft. Suitable trees have been planted for shade. The oval is defined by white posts spaced at seven yards intervals on the four corners. It will be possible now to organise more definite sports fixtures of cricket and football. The annual St. Alban's tide sports of 17th June are a highlight of community effort.

The open-air theatre was opened on Monday, 18th June. Regular talkie programmes have been screened. Educational, Bible society and religious films have also been screened and much appreciated.

Three extra pieces of playground equipment were donated to the Mission on 16th December. These have proved most acceptable to the children and our warmest thanks go to the Rotarians who provided them. The annual visit of 60 children to a party on the m.v. "Kanimbla" proved a highlight in the lives of these children again and our thanks go to the Social Club for their kind and friendly cheer to those children.

MOTOR VEHICLES.

The arrival of the T.D.9 tractor and Dodge 5 ton truck on 11th July, 1956, completely changed the tempo of the labour effort in Yarrabah Mission. Stockpiling of logs has been maintained above the mill consumption. Some of the logs obtained have been tea trees over 5 ft. diameter. The Dodge truck has made possible quicker stockpiling of wood fuel for the gas suction engine and transporting of logs for the mill sawbenches. Unfortunately the gas suction engine deteriorated under the heavy tempo of last spring and with multiple breakdowns, sawn timber ceased before Christmas.

A new 50-h.p. diesel has been allocated for the power unit of the mill and until installed satisfactory effort will not be possible. The mill resumed in April, 1957, and is maintaining just enough timber to keep carpenters moving towards the completion of 10 new homes.

FARMING.

Indifferent dry weather and absence of irrigation equipment meant the loss of many sowings of seed and transplanted seedlings. The inability of the Cairns Cannery to take pineapples has changed the planning for extended plantations. All available fruit was consumed on the Reserve and only a small amount forwarded to the cannery in Brisbane. Until assurance is given from a Cairns Cannery only local requirements will be grown.

Pineapples	.. ..	12½ tons.
Papaws	.. ..	119 lb.
Bananas	.. ..	1,165 lb.
Sweet potatoes	.. ..	4,058 lb.
Tomatoes	.. ..	1,391 lb.
French beans	.. ..	1,128 lb.
Cabbage	.. ..	2,713 lb.
Watermelons	.. ..	{ 6,737 lb.
		8,112 lb. (to market).
Pumpkins	.. ..	3,312 lb. (to market).
Pumpkins	.. ..	1,280 lb.
Cucumber	.. ..	1,046 lb.

SCHOOL.

There are 167 children on the roll with an average attendance of 154. Progress has been continuous and it will be possible to plan for a 7th Grade in the near future.

Esme Murgha, trainee teacher, has been accepted by the Australian Board of Missions, Sydney, for training to 8th grade, and for a teacher training course. For the four years in Sydney she will be resident at the House of the Epiphany. At the conclusion of her training she will return to teach in a Mission school of North Queensland.

With a planned development of the school new buildings will be essential and it is hoped that a start will be possible for the 1958 school year by having at least one or two new class rooms finished of a master plan of buildings which can be completed as timber is available.

One boy after completing his education at All Souls' School, Charters Towers, has gone to Brisbane and been apprenticed to a ship-building firm.

CHURCH.

The Church life is constant. Festal seasons the congregations are very good. Hundreds attended the Three Hours Services on Good Friday and as many attended the special children's Good Friday Service. At out-centres where fortnightly services are held, congregations are always good. There has been a revival of the C.E.B.S. for boys. The Heralds for girls with some 60 girls attending regularly, is proof of solid leadership.

The Mothers' Union members meet monthly and their Christian lead in their homes shows the worthwhileness of this Church organisation.

APPRECIATION.

Appreciation is expressed to the Director of Native Affairs by all staff members of Yarrabah for his constructive interest in helping them continue their developmental plan of Yarrabah Reserve, especially his support in obtaining the T.C. 9, Dodge 5 tonner, YC diesel generating plant, without which the achievement of better conditions would not have been possible. Also to the many friends who have supported and provided for the wellbeing of the aboriginals we express our appreciation.

APPENDIX 6.

HOPE VALE LUTHERAN MISSION, VIA COOKTOWN.

(Superintendent—Rev. E. C. Kernich.)

STAFF.

Rev. B. F. Hartwig, Head School Teacher.
Mr. Peter Koetz, Assistant School Teacher.
Mr. Gordon Rose, Farm Overseer.
Mr. Robert Hensel, Stockman.
Mr. C. A. Hartwig, Sawmill and Building Manager.
Miss Judith Lubach, Nursing Sister.

During the year there were various staff changes, the most notable being that of the change of Superintendents. Rev. V. F. H. Wenke, who left the Mission in February for health reasons, served the Mission faithfully for over seven years, being the first Superintendent and Missionary to take office since the re-establishment of the Mission on the new site at Hope Vale in May, 1949. His services, and those of his wife, particularly during the difficult pioneering years, will not be forgotten.

STATISTICS.

Births	8
Deaths	3
Marriages	5

HEALTH.

In general, health has been good, especially among the children, apart from the prevalence of hookworm which still presents a problem. The soil in the Mission area presents an ideal breeding ground for hookworm. Regular and efficient tests and treatment by the nursing sisters have reduced the effect of hookworm on those infected, to the minimum. With further education in hygiene and improved housing and sanitation it is hoped to decrease the number of those infected. Spraying the area in the vicinity of the homes with salt water is being considered.

Every effort was made during the year to keep the children supplied with a glass of fresh milk daily.

BUILDINGS.

In September the construction of a large church was begun. This Church, when completed, will house 450 people. In its present stage of construction it is an imposing building. The roof is on, and the walls are being lined. The project is being financed by the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Queensland and New South Wales, and Mission friends in general.

Good progress was made on native cottages and a staff home which is in course of construction. Eight native homes were completed or practically completed. Several others are being built. Repairs were also effected on at least a half dozen old cottages.

SAWMILL.

Good timber which is accessible to our log hauling equipment and suitable for building purposes is limited on this Reserve.

Gradually timber must be hauled from further afield. The wet season caused some delays as logs could not always be hauled in when desired; but apart from this the mill functioned smoothly and well. Over 70,000 super feet of sawn timber was produced during the year, all of which is being used on the Mission for building purposes.

Moreton Bay Ash, Puce Plum, Yellow and White Leichhardt, Pencil Cedar, Acacia Cedar, Bloodwood are the timbers available.

AGRICULTURE.

As was anticipated in last year's report, due to the poor quality of the seed and other factors the peanut harvest was very meagre. From the ten acres of cotton planted, 25 bales were picked.

This season 180 acres are under crop. Seventy of these acres are reserved for the Mission and the rest are in native allotments, the proceeds of which go directly to the natives after expenses are deducted. Besides peanuts and cotton, which are the main crops, 10 acres of maize and five acres of sweet potatoes have been planted. In addition to this a few acres of vegetables have been planted for village consumption.

In their private allotments the natives grow pineapples, bananas, papaws, tares and various other fruits and vegetables.

SHARE FARMING.

In July a new venture was begun. Sections of land consisting of about twenty acres were granted to natives to work on a share farming basis, the agreement being that the native farmer would have the sole right to work and manage the property as he desired for his own interest and the interest of the Mission, that the Mission provide free rations for the native and his family; that the Mission supply the necessary implements to farm the property; that the proceeds from the sale of produce be shared by the farmer and the Mission.

This agreement is to be reviewed after twelve months. This is but the first stage in a venture which is hoped will encourage at least some natives to become responsible farmers.

STOCK.

The Mission Reserve consists of about 250,000 acres, but only a limited area is suitable for cattle grazing. The herd at present numbers about 250 beef cattle including the 65 calves branded during the year.

No cattle were sold, but some were killed to supply fresh meat for the natives.

EDUCATION.

The School staff consisted of two white teachers and four native monitresses. The native monitresses have proved helpful, but experience has shown that they cannot in any way replace the services of a trained white teacher. The enrolment for the year was 74 with an average daily attendance of 70. The children have shown more of a natural aptitude for such subjects as drawing, writing, arts and crafts than, for example, arithmetic and social studies.

RECREATION.

Rugby Union is a popular sport for the men during the cooler months of the year. A keen team spirit is a pleasing aspect. Basket Ball for the girls was introduced during the year and it was played enthusiastically.

Hunting and fishing have lost none of their attractions.

Open-air concerts were staged during the year and proved popular.

The Annual Show again proved a success and has become one of the big events of the year. Exhibition of handicraft, art, and cooking was displayed, judged and prizes awarded. Sports were then engaged in with enthusiasm, horse events being the most popular.

SPIRITUAL.

Church services held each Sunday morning and Bible study each Sunday afternoon were well attended. The general knowledge of scripture acquired would compare more than favourably with many white congregations.

Choir singing was particularly appreciated by the natives who show some aptitude for harmonisation, although the general quality of the voices, especially of the women, leaves something to be desired.

As usual the Christmas and Easter services were a special highlight. At present services are being held in the school building which leaves much to be desired from the liturgical angle.

With the completion of the new church the services should be much enhanced.

APPRECIATION.

Appreciation is hereby expressed to all who have in any way been of service to this Mission and Missions in general. In connection with this

Report we would express special thanks to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff and to the Department of Health and Home Affairs for their assistance, co-operation, and general interest in aboriginal welfare.

APPENDIX 7.

MONA MONA MISSION, VIA CAIRNS.

(Superintendent Pastor N. A. Ferris,
M.B.E.)

The Station has passed through a rather turbulent year but still finds itself riding along to better conditions and a more unified team approach to the general problems of a native station, by both Europeans and natives.

An unfortunate accident and a long medical attempt to regain his full strength kept Mr. Turner, then Superintendent from attending to the many responsibilities of the Station. He was finally compelled to relinquish his duties.

Re-organisation of the Mission began immediately in the sawmill and in all other Departments. The Office received a face lift with better facilities added.

A fully qualified Accountant in the person of Mr. Cecil Bailey was added to the team and he has taken over a very difficult situation and has gradually sorted out many problems.

To cope with a large building programme, Mr. Clyde Litster and family have joined the Mission team and in the past few months many renovations have been made. Four native buildings are in the course of construction, one almost completed, and the foundations for a new Church building commenced. Mrs. Litster has also joined the office staff, giving valuable help.

The old dispensary has been converted into the accountant's residence, while one of the dormitories near the centre of the station has been made into a hospital.

MEDICAL.

Sister Myrtle Allum joined the staff as medical officer and has rendered very helpful and efficient service. She reports:—

	Males.	Females	Total.
Deaths	3	3	6
Births	10	4	14

It will be noted that during the past two years the total number of deaths number 12, while births number 32. These figures now bring the present population to 325.

The health of the people has been generally good. Measles and seasonal colds have been prevalent, but no serious epidemics have occurred nor have there been any fresh cases of Hansen's Disease during the year.

Hookworm and tuberculosis tests have been made during the period.

Appreciation is given to Mareeba and Cairns hospitals for medical services rendered to the Mission community at their hospitals.



Mona Mona Mission Brass Band.

STORE.

During the year the store has proved to be a centre of interest and activity. Mrs. Ferris has watched the family needs and has endeavoured to provide the essentials for a good diet. She has also helped to greatly improve the bread output. In all departments natives are trained to do the various tasks required.

EDUCATION.

The Principal of the school reports 83 pupils, made up of 44 boys and 39 girls. These are taught in Grades 1 to 7.

1B	14
1A	19
2	14
3	15
4	7
5	10
6	2
7	2

Achievement.—Quite a few obtained between 50 per cent. and 80 per cent. in English, Arithmetic and Social Studies examinations of the Cairns State Central School. Two ex-pupils have entered their second year of training at the Australasian Missionary College, Coorabong, New South Wales.

A fairly good average attendance was maintained during the year. The school is very fortunate in having qualified teachers—Mr. D. E. Hay, B.A., L.Th., has introduced a number of practical methods of teaching. One is the setting up of a store in the class room. The children take their turn in both selling and buying. While there are no actual real foods for sale, yet the value of money is taught in a playful and interesting way. Many visitors from around Australia and overseas have stated that the Mona Mona School has certain features for the training of native children which are unique.

Miss Gillam left during the year and Mrs. Weedon stepped in and her services have been greatly appreciated.

SAWMILL.

Efforts have been made to increase the saw-mill output. The demand for pine and hickory has continued, but we are not yet equipped to meet the demand on our one bench mill.

Hardwood sleepers are cut and supplied to the Railway Department.

Timber milled during the year amounted to:—

	Contents.	Recovery.
Pine	141,165	94,600
Miscellaneous Hardwoods ..	235,012	125,730

STOCK.

An effort is being made to improve the stock. Two Santa Gertrudis heifers with stud standards were purchased from Mr. Kelly of Bundaberg and a young bull from Mr. Atkinson of Wyroona Station.

Eight heifer calves were bought from A.I.S. Stud and stud bulls were purchased through Mr. Kidd of Malanda and these are all doing well. Some interesting reports should be given of these stud crosses at a later date.

GENERAL.

The Station presented to the new Superintendent many problems. Through the courtesies of the Director of Native Affairs, Mr. C. O'Leary and his staff and Pastor W. Richards, President of the Seventh-day Adventist Conference of North Queensland and Mr. Perkins, Manager of the Bank of New South Wales, Cairns, Mona Mona Station is rising to a new day. The general behaviour of the natives is very good, and on the whole the health and good-will of the people is much improved.

APPRECIATION.

I wish to express appreciation to Mr. Murphy who, during his visit, gave able assistance to the Accountant who had but recently taken over his responsibilities. With our books in order and regular organised groups employed in regular work, 1957-58 should prove to be a very successful year.

APPENDIX 8.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND
PENINSULAR AREA.

(P. J. Killoran—Deputy Director of Native Affairs.)

During the year under review the overall health of the Torres Strait Islander has received major attention and results achieved can be regarded as very satisfactory.

In conjunction with Island Industries Board, medical survey parties have been transported to all Eastern Islands, Central Islands and some of the Western Islands have received attention.

The medical survey team carried out a complete check of all inhabitants of an Island in regard to mantoux testing and X-ray of those persons warranting such with a mobile X-ray unit and, where necessary B.C.G. Vaccination finalised the survey at an individual Island.

In addition to the survey work being carried out at Islands arrangements were made with the Medical Superintendent, and Tuberculosis Medical Officer whereby every Torres Strait Islander and Aboriginal employed in the Marine Industry received a medical check and X-ray at the close of the season and it is very satisfying to know that the result of the survey and examinations revealed a more satisfactory state of health than was previously envisaged.

Additional to the Tuberculosis Survey Work, Dental Officers provided by the Queensland Government carried out dental work at a number of the Islands as transport arrangements permitted.

Arrangements have also been made by the Government Medical Officer whereby children on the larger Islands are receiving continuing protection against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, &c., to ensure that no major outbreak of these diseases will scourge the Torres Strait areas.

In addition the Queensland Government provided the full time services of a Health Inspector and Hookworm Expert and his services have been available, to date, at more than half of the Islands of Torres Strait combating Hookworm and acting as General Adviser in improving health standards on the various reserves.

MARINE INDUSTRY.

As in previous years all available able bodied men residing in the Torres Strait Islands have offered themselves for work in the Marine Industry and are employed in the gathering of Pearl Shell and Trochus Shell.

The Torres Strait Islanders, as owners of their own vessels are also engaged in the gathering of Pearl Shell and Trochus shell and each operates as an individual entity.

No Torres Strait Islander acquired his lugger in an easy way and the majority obtained them at the termination of hostilities with Japan. When the men were discharged from the Army, family groups pooled their deferred pay to purchase luggers in the main through army disposal. These luggers were equipped with sail power only and for a number of years the men operated "skin diving" but continued to save their money in order to purchase the necessary equipment to go deeper as the shell became scarce in the shallow waters accessible to the skin diver.

"Skin diving" luggers were then equipped with hand pumps, but still dependent upon sail-power, until funds were available to finance engines and equipment to such an extent that today their luggers are equal to others operating in the Pearling Industry.

Many obtained temporary financial assistance from Island Industries Board, which assistance has been repaid.

WELFARE.

Welfare Clubs on the various Islands in Torres Strait and at Bamaga and Cowal Creek on Cape York Peninsula continue to create a club spirit among the young and old at each centre.

These Welfare Clubs provide entertainment and in addition raise funds for various projects for the general good of the inhabitants of a particular Island and the result is a greater degree of happiness, contentment and intermingling of the members.

As a departure from previous years, the Torres Strait Island Committee which annually held a Bazaar at Thursday Island decided to forego their right last year to allow the month to be allocated to some other worthy cause and as a result the Ambulance and the R.S.S.A.I.L.A. Memorial Funds benefited appreciably.

The following are the credit balances in the Welfare Funds controlled by the Sub-Department of Native Affairs and operated on by the Native Welfare Committee—

	£	s.	d.
Alpin Hostel Welfare Fund	13	15	4
Badu School Fund	767	19	3
Bamaga School Account	872	5	2
Bamaga Welfare	399	11	3
Boigu Welfare Club	147	10	4
Coconut Welfare Club	52	14	10
Cowal Creek Welfare Fund	159	14	6
Darnley Island School Library	7	3	9
Darnley Island Welfare Fund	58	17	6
Southern Cross Club Dowar	131	12	7
Dowar School Welfare Fund	5	6	7

	£	s.	d.
Kubin School Welfare Fund	144	8	6
Mabuiag School Welfare Fund	409	3	4
Mabuiag Welfare Club	17	5	9
Murray Island School Fund	245	16	9
Murray Island Welfare Club	38	6	9
Saibai Herald Clubs	75	5	3
Saibai Welfare Club	10	5	8
Stephen Island School Welfare Fund	2	10	3
Yam Island Welfare Fund	12	5	1
Western Island Comforts Fund	63	13	9
Eastern Island Comforts Fund	146	15	7
Torres Strait Circulating Library	1,082	3	10

BADU ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher—P. R. Frith.)

Badu Island Primary School.—The number of children now on roll is 129, comprising 67 boys and 62 girls, an increase of 23 pupils since the last return.

The staff has been increased to six native assistants and one trainee.

Progress throughout the school, though not spectacular, has been steady and uniform throughout, and very gratifying.

The Oxford English Course of Readers has now been adopted in all classes and the Queensland Reader and the Happy Venture Series are being used as supplementary Readers. The Queensland Social Study Reader has proved excellent material for the children in Grade IV. and above.

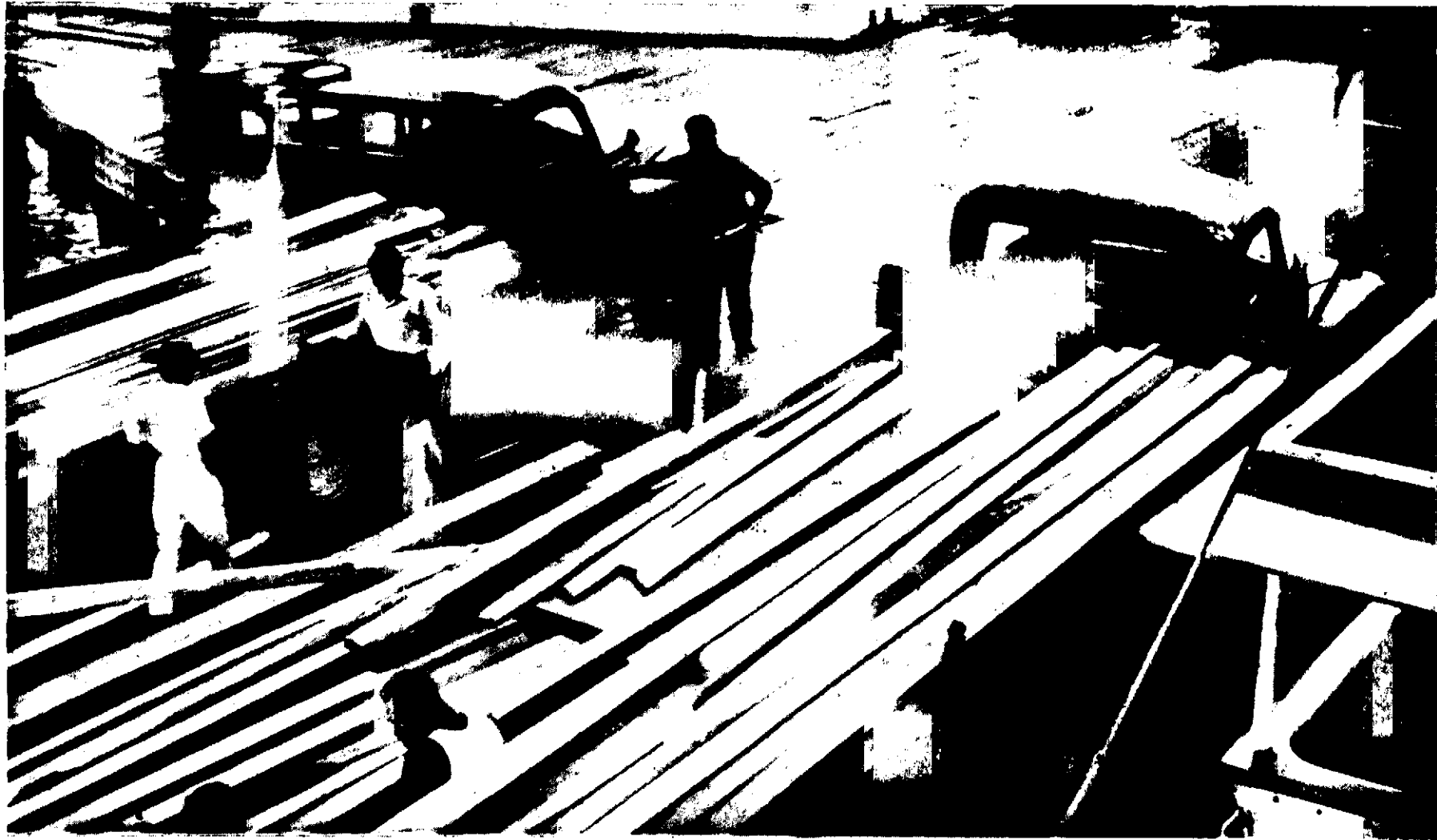
The highlight of the school year has been the erection of the new school building. The old school, previously the headquarter store of the Papuan Industries, was erected in 1904. The new school is on the site of the old building.

The new school erected by native carpenters, under the direction of the Supervisor, Mr. E. Niblett, is a credit to these island tradesmen. It consists of three buildings, each 60 ft. by 20 ft., giving a floor space of 3,600 sq. ft. With the large number of casements installed it makes for very airy conditions.

The school is to be lined with Masonite, which has been donated by the Badu Council and people. The School Committee are supplying the paint and labour for the new building.

Buildings.—The Chairman of the Island, who is also the Government Representative of the Western Torres Strait and all people of the area under his jurisdiction would like to thank the Hon. the Minister and the Department of Native Affairs for their unfailing help and assistance that is so readily forthcoming on all occasions. This especially applies to the new buildings that have been constructed since the inception of the Torres Strait Building Programme. On Badu there has been built, eleven cottages (each cottage containing three rooms, kitchen and sanitary services) a new store, a rectory, a new school and repairs and additions to teachers quarters and staff quarters.

During the current year six cottages and new school have been erected by island labour. This is indeed a remarkable effort as the work is done by island labour.



Loading timber at Thursday Island from Department's mill at Bamaga Settlement.

Several additions and alterations have been made to the homes in the village. Three houses have installed bathrooms with water connected.

Health.—Towards the latter end of last year an outbreak of influenza of rather a severe type broke out and this was immediately followed by an epidemic of whooping cough. This continued until March of this year, when the last case was reported. It was found necessary to refer several children to Thursday Island for check up, but fortunately there were no deaths.

Two cases of appendicitis were conveyed to Thursday Island by Doctor Meredith for operation during June this year.

A most regrettable baby death occurred during June, the cause being broncho-pneumonia breaking a ten-year record, as no Badu child had been lost during this period.

A variety of other illnesses, accidents, &c., have been treated and mothers have been encouraged to bring their babies for weighing and general check up. Under-weight babies are admitted to the hospital until their condition is satisfactory.

Ex Waiben patients are weighed weekly and encouraged to carry out the Doctor's instructions regarding feeding and resting and are admitted to hospital if found to be losing weight.

Health Inspector O'Shea arrived Badu on the 13th May and stayed for nearly three weeks conducting a hookworm campaign and found a very heavy infestation. A large percentage of the population was given treatment.

In conclusion I desire to express my sincere thanks to the Government Medical Officer, Wireless Operator and the Deputy Director of Native Affairs for their ready co-operation at all times and under any circumstances.

DARNLEY ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher—O. G. Smart.)

Enrolment—

Boys	52
Girls	44
Total	96

Average attendance—87.

Grades—Preparatory to Seventh Grade.

Progress.—Progress has been very slow but must be considered satisfactory bearing in mind the many interruptions to school work occasioned by the medical survey of last year, an epidemic of whooping cough and the absence of the Government Teacher on other duties at Stephen Island on various occasions.

Standards.—The standard of English continues to improve slowly and some good efforts have been made at letter writing. The fact that regular, if somewhat delayed, correspondence

with children in England has been established for some considerable time, has had a noticeable effect on written English. Several changes in staff have set back the previous high standard of mechanical work but when the younger teachers settle down to routine and regularly attend the teacher training sessions due to resume in the near future, then the standard will no doubt improve.

The older members of the staff have worked well and have maintained a high standard of control and of book work.

Physical Education.—Physical education has again been an important item on the school curriculum. All children take part in games and athletics with great enthusiasm. Western Districts again were the most successful team in sporting competitions. Both island dancing and folk dancing are very popular with the children and with their inherent suppleness and agility, they soon become very competent performers.

Activities.—The chief event of the school year was again the concert presented immediately prior to the August vacation. The senior boys have as a spare time activity assisted the Government Teacher to repair school furniture.

A bazaar was again held in connection with the break-up at Christmas and proceeds were for the benefit of the school welfare fund. A Christmas carol party was organised by the senior boys and girls and all villages were visited, resulting in some twelve pounds being collected for the Church.

Welfare.—New executive officers were elected by the school welfare committee and European dances were held to obtain funds. A radiogram has been ordered and together with the projector previously purchased should prove of very great benefit to both pupils and people of Darnley. The new school building is almost ready for occupation and all are eagerly awaiting opening day.

Village Activities and Occupations.—The male population has again been occupied in the fishing of trochus and pearl shell either on luggers or using their own dinghies.

Gardens have been extensively cultivated and pigs and poultry are raised by most Islanders for their own consumption. Almost all able bodies persons assisted in the transfer of buildings materials to the site of the new school building.

Buildings.—The new school is almost completed and should soon be ready for occupation. Foundations have been laid for four new cottages and construction of one is well on the way. Repairs have been carried out to steps at the rear of the Cottage Hospital.

Health.—The staff of the Cottage Hospital have had a very busy year. An epidemic of whooping cough affecting some seventy children caused considerable work. This was followed by a medical survey party towards the end of the year investigating tuberculosis. The whole population of the island were tested and if

necessary were X-rayed. On the return of the Government Nurse from leave some of the cases of yaws were discovered and this together with a very large number of people suffering from serious leg ulcers necessitated the visit of Dr. Gwynn and Sister Ellis from Thursday Island. At the present time a dental survey is being carried out by Mr. B. J. Johnson and his mechanic.

General.—During the visit of Dr. G. Hales and his party on the tuberculosis survey, Mr. J. McKenna the Base Radio Officer brought a film projector to the island. Documentaries and a cartoon depicting the evils wrought by T.B. germs were much appreciated by an audience of almost the whole population. The films were discussed for quite a long time after the departure of the party and further visits of the like nature would be of great benefit.

MABUIAG ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher—B. J. McGuire.)

EDUCATION—ENROLMENT.

The enrolment for the twelve months increased from 61 to 72. The mean quarterly enrolment was 66.

Attendance.—The average daily attendance for the year was 58.5. This is an increase of 26 per cent. on last year's attendance. This is quite a large increase and the attendances now are approaching those of 1946, when over 90 pupils attended the Mabuiag Island School. The attendance figures would have been higher but for an outbreak of whooping cough and urti in October-November, 1956. All children are keen on school and no difficulty is experienced in encouraging regular attendance.

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

Staff.—The staff comprises five native assistants and one trainee teacher.

Progress.—The new syllabus has now been in operation five years. The results are satisfactory but not surprising. Basic mathematics provide no difficulty. Interpretative mathematics requiring a sound knowledge constitute a difficulty. As in all subjects the barrier of English limits the scope of the Syllabus. It is not possible to overcome the "language barrier" on Mabuiag; outside of the school the necessity of a knowledge of English barely exists.

The school is graded from Preparatory to Grade VI.

ISLAND GENERAL.

Marine Industry Development.—This season one trochus and one pearl-shell lugger have Mabuiag skippers. All other able-bodied men are engaged in some employment, though naturally the majority of them are engaged in the Marine Industry.

Some home dinghies have been gathering a little trochus shell but the sharp drop in price will certainly affect this venture.

Agriculture and food-growing developments.—There appears to be a greater effort being made to cultivate more gardens this year. Unfortunately wild pigs are still a menace and it is regrettable that the best of the garden areas is uncultivated.

House Building, &c.—The official opening of the new cottages was performed on 6th October, by the Western Island Representative. It was pleasing to note that all owners had painted the interiors and roofs. Other village homes also received a brightening-up with paint here and there.

The Council has pulled down one house during the year and had it rebuilt. Two more houses which are considered unsound will be demolished later and re-erected.

Another bridge has been added in the village.

A large hall (60 ft. x 20 ft.) has been erected by The Mothers' Union. It has a stage and a stove recess and will fulfil a great demand.

Health.—Another epidemic was experienced in October-November. Whooping cough developed and then urti supervened. The greatest number being treated on one day was 103. In all 79 children and 27 adults were affected. Sister Maiden from Thursday Island Hospital arrived on 3rd November, 1956, to assist Mrs. McGuire. No deaths occurred.

At present another epidemic is being experienced. Over 70 children and adults are at present affected. It appears to be a type of school sore which quickly ulcerates.

A most acceptable service introduced during the year was a remote radio transceiver at the Government Medical Officer's office. This permits of direct communication with the Government Medical Officer and allows of a more satisfactory dealing with medical cases. Also, a system now operates whereby contact can be made seven days a week between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. These services again stress the incalculable value of our radio network.

MURRAY ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher—E. J. Freemantle.)

The school has an enrolment of 65 boys and 75 girls, giving a total of 140 pupils. It is staffed by seven native teachers.

As anticipated last year, the all round progress has been sufficient to warrant the addition of an eighth class for 1957. Classes now range from Preparatory to Class VII.

In English there has been an improvement in the understanding of the spoken word, reading comprehension, composition and grammar. Progress in voluntary oral expression by the answering of questions and by classroom conversation, has been encouraging. Self sufficiency in the use of the mother tongue still remains, on this remote island, the prime obstacle to a facility in English.

In arithmetic all work requiring memory and simple straight forward mechanical processes is reaching the required standard. An increasing grasp of English is bringing about an upward trend in work of the problem type. The elements of geometry and simple geometrical forms are taught in the senior class. It has been found possible to include mechanical drawing and scale drawing with field work with the boys of Classes VI. and VII. The sight of the boys measuring the front elevation of the medical aid post or making a preliminary survey of the school grounds aroused great interest among the Islanders. Such purposeful practical work, requiring calculation, accuracy and the full use of the ruler and other drawing tools has produced quite satisfactory results which are reflected in other allied subjects.

The Queensland Syllabus for Social Studies is followed as closely as possible. Attention is also given to the children's natural interest in the peoples of the neighbouring countries. With the senior class weekly lessons are given in health and elementary science.

A needlework class for the girls of the two upper classes was formed in September, 1956, under the guidance of Mrs. Freemantle, assisted by one of the teachers who attended her earlier class. The pupils have now reached the stage when they are making their own dresses. It is anticipated that this class will make soft toys for Christmas presents later on in the year.

Out of doors activities consist principally of games and gardening.

Among the school activities the Christmas concert was the highlight of the year. One wing of the school was cleared and a stage, complete with scenery, was erected. The scenery was made and coloured by the senior boys as an art project. All ages were presented in a full programme. The juniors contributed a nursery rhyme playlet in mime and song, entitled "Sing a Song of Sixpence," which was enjoyed by them equally as much as by the audience. A fairy story, "The Gloomy Goblin" in the mother tongue was offered by the middle school. Then followed a Nativity play, one scene of which, the Court of King Herod, was particularly colourful and realistic. The audience was very appreciative of the fine rendering by the school children and teachers of the Rev. Dr. W. Rechnitz's translation of the introit from Schubert's German Mass. This was conducted by Dr. Rechnitz. The final items of the second half of the programme were old and new island dances beautifully executed by the senior girls. At the request of the people two further performances were given during the Christmas vacation, a fitting tribute to the hard work put in by the children and staff.

On Christmas Eve, as the children sat gathered around a gaily decorated tree singing carols, Father Christmas arrived by dinghy and, escorted by Island drummers and guitarists, appeared upon the scene. Parents as well as children enjoyed the fun of opening the parcels from Father Christmas' sack.

The School Welfare Fund now shows a favourable balance of £200 10s. The Mothers' Union donation this year was much appreciated and is an indication of the growing interest of the parents in the school. We expect to utilise some of these funds for the foundation of a school library and reading room.

The school's contribution to the Royal National Show was a series of sixteen illustrated wall sheets telling some of the folk lore of Murray. We are indebted to Marou, a much valued elder of the community, for his version of these stories. Two cases of shells collected by the children were also sent.

In conclusion, at the end of a successful year, I gladly express my appreciation to the staff for their loyal co-operation and hard work, and to the members of the School Welfare Committee who were always ready to come to our assistance when needed.

Health.—The medical aid post is supervised by Mrs. Freemantle, and staffed by one male and two female Island assistants. The health of the people in general has been good and in the few cases of emergency assistance has very promptly been given by the Department and hospital authorities. On their part the Islanders have supported the post most willingly. Over the past two years all expectant mothers have had their babies in Thursday Island Hospital. A Baby Day at the post when the mothers bring their babies for weighing and advice is well attended.

The Islanders were visited by a medical party under Dr. Hales and examined for tuberculosis. Full co-operation was given by the people, who expressed their appreciation of the party's endeavours on their behalf with a farewell feast. Dr. Hales' talk to the council and to the Island meeting were extremely useful. His filmstrip shows were of great interest to everyone. When he revisited the island in an emergency he received a great welcome.

We record our appreciation of the innovation of personal medical replies given daily by the Government Medical Officer. This service is very helpful.

General.—Two other concerts held this year are worthy of high praise. The Mothers' Union gave us an entertaining evening of dancing items and the Murray Island Welfare Club contributed a grand display of island dancing and hulas. In the latter concert the troupe of girl dancers on a stage beautifully decorated with poly leaf and other island materials showed great versatility in some very complicated dance movements. Many new tunes of local composition were included. The presentation and content of these concerts revealed much careful preparation. Everyone is now looking forward to the Anniversary Concert of the Southern Cross Club in August.

Everyone was sorry to say good-bye to the Rev. Bogo Pilot who was much loved here for his sincerity and active interests. We welcome in his place the Rev. Dr. W. Rechnitz, late of Edward River Mission.

YORK ISLAND SCHOOL.

(Government Teacher—F. J. Langston.)

The attendance percentage figure is excellent. During the last quarter of 1956 no child missed a day's school. The figures for this year been almost 100 per cent.

In addition to the Government Teacher the school is staffed by three Island teachers. There are six grades including one girl doing Grade VIII, work with moderate success except that English (especially written composition) is weak.

Progress has been satisfactory in all grades. English is the only sub-standard subject. This is difficult to overcome as a type pidgin mixed with the native tongue is the main language spoken on the island. I have found that most children comprehend correct English fairly well, but have contact with it only at school. Mathematics and memory work are of a very fair standard and in the upper grades Social Studies is excellent.

The Queensland Syllabus has been followed closely with respect to Australian Social Studies but has been curtailed to some extent on other countries. The children are avidly interested in facts and stories about places studied; music and art periods are taken regularly and are very popular. The spontaneous harmony in singing makes the teaching of songs a pleasure. For the most part art periods allow for free expression and some of the work is of high standard. Folk dancing is popular and easily mastered because of the sense of rhythm in the children.

A school concert in which every child participated was enjoyed by all and netted the newly formed School Committee almost £20.

On Christmas Eve the committee provided a Christmas Tree with gifts for every child on the island. Approximately 85 children, including visitors, received gifts valued at about 5s. each from Father Christmas in traditional costume. It was the first time any child from this school had seen Father Christmas in the flesh and even children of ten years of age were somewhat in awe.

Plans are well in hand for the first school bazaar which promises to be a great financial success.

The school radiogram has been of great assistance, not only to the school, but to the public generally as they may listen to news broadcasts, &c., and thereby gain a wider knowledge of the outside world.

A film strip projector has been ordered for the school and it is proposed that adults, as well as school children will see educational strips. From previous experience I have found that, for instructional purposes, the strip projector is of far greater value than movies.

Before my arrival here in June, 1956, the school had been without a white teacher for about nine months, but the standard maintained by the three Island teachers was good. The senior assistant teacher is to be complimented on his good work, as besides administration in the school he had to teach three grades.

Health.—The general health of the people on the island has been good. Several cases of whooping cough were treated, but the complaint did not reach epidemic proportions.

Several serious cases were referred to Thursday Island for hospital treatment, including a man who had lost an eye in a turtle spearing accident. Our thanks go to the Department of Native Affairs and the Island Industries Board cargo vessels and also our lugger skippers who have conveyed these persons to Thursday Island. We were unfortunate to lose a woman's life early in January while I was taking her to Thursday Island by lugger. I am sure that had this woman reported her illness earlier or had co-operated when her condition became known, her life could have been saved.

The new radio medical set-up is of great assistance to the nurse in charge. I feel that the Government Medical Officer's personal advice gives far greater confidence than the cold instructions of a radio message.

The Department of Native Affairs radio officers have been most helpful and efficient in handling medical traffic.

During the latter part of 1956 the Government Dental Officer (Mr. B. Johnston) and dental Mechanic spent about four weeks here. Although extractions were completed a mechanical breakdown prevented the completion of the dental work.

In February we were visited by a Health Inspector (Mr. J. O'Shea) who carried out inspection of the whole population for hookworm. The only cases identified were several temporary residents from New Guinea. The health Inspector also carried out a general health inspection of the island, including preparation and handling of food, sanitary disposal of rubbish, &c. No mosquito or fly breeding grounds were found. He was amazed by the almost complete absence of mosquitoes on the island.

The whole population was treated with a prophylactic course of atabrin during the wet months as a precaution against malaria. At an early date all children below school age will have triple antigen injections to immunise against whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus.

Island Affairs.—Weekly village days have kept the island roads in excellent condition and areas surrounding public buildings spotlessly clean. The women, in particular, are to be commended for this, as at most times, almost every man is away at work in pearling and trochus boats.

During the season completed the boats working from here were very successful in both pearl and trochus fishing. One privately owned sailing cutter fished about 35 tons of trochus shell with a crew of fourteen men. Lugger skippers in spite of bad weather, during usually "good times" reported a quite satisfactory season.

While the boats were working close to home their return during spring tides was eagerly awaited by the people here as they seldom returned without turtles, kingfish and occasionally dugong.



Old and new cottage, Kubin Village, Moa Island.

Several sailing dinghies working the home reefs and adjacent islands had fair seasons.

Gardens flourished in spite of the late start of the wet season and provided ample supplies of sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, water-melons and pumpkins. Some tomatoes were grown with moderate success. A type of yam introduced from New Guinea has been grown successfully and tastes very much like an English potato.

During the wet season a type of aphid killed many of the papaw trees on the island and beetles caused heavy losses in some melon gardens.

ACCOUNTS.

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

ACCOUNTS TO 31st MARCH, 1957.

—	Number of Accounts.	Deposits.		Withdrawals.		Balance 1-4-56.		Balance 31-3-57.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Torres Strait Islands and Missions	6,274	398,240	14 0	399,563	19 7	247,257	17 5	130,934	11 10
				Investments ..				115,000	0 0
								£245,934	11 10

Section.	Number of Accounts 31-3-56.	Number of Accounts 31-3-57.	Balance 31-3-56.		Balance 31-3-57.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Islands	4,094	4,317	149,336	6 5	139,218	14 5
Missions	622	715	51,417	13 6	59,542	12 1
Island Funds	87	105	30,787	19 0	34,631	19 0
Child Endowment	1,059	1,137	15,715	18 6	12,541	6 4
	5,862	6,274	£247,257	17 5	£245,934	11 10

NORTHERN PENINSULA RESERVE.

BAMAGA AND COWAL CREEK.

(Superintendent—Mr. H. M. Sidgwick.)

POPULATION.

Bamaga.—

Adults	204
Children	143
	— 347

Cowal Creek.—

Adults	120
Children	89
	— 209
	556

Number of Births.—

Bamaga	8
Cowal Creek	14

Number of Deaths.—

Bamaga	1
Cowal Creek	4

SCHOOLS.

Bamaga.—

Boys	36
Girls	29
	— 65

Cowal Creek.—

Boys	16
Girls	26
	— 42

Red Island Point.—

Boys	9
Girls	9
	— 18

125

THE SEASON.

Rainfall for the twelve months ending the 30th June, 1957, totalled 9,123 points. Rainfall for the six months of 1957 totalled 8,043 points, the months of February and April accounting

for 51 inches with only 92 points recorded for the months of May-June. The rain of February and April fell, in falls of mostly over 1½ inches, and caused heavy local flooding in all creeks. Damage was done to all roads, the Cowal Creek road being impassable for heavy traffic for some weeks.

SAWMILLING.

Production.—

Logs milled	1,146	super. feet.
Log gross	319,788	super. feet.
Recovery net	160,500	super. feet.
Sawn timber used Bamaga and Cowal Creek	32,000	super. feet.
Sawn timber supplied to Weipa Mission	15,000	super. feet.

TIMBER.

Pending the installation of immunising tanks, the bulk of the logs cut have been of species non-susceptible to the Lictus borer. Any timbers' sapwood susceptible have been milled clear of sap and the resulting off cuts put to uses other than permanent buildings.

The reports of the District Forester and Botanist have been of great assistance to us in determining these timbers. It is hoped that the immunising tanks will be completed within the next three months.

The available millable timbers on the Bamaga and Cowal Creek reserves are now nearly cut out. Logging will commence in the Cody Hill area later on this year.

Log supplies to the mill during the year have been above requirements. Four cutters have been kept employed with occasional assistance from additional men as available.

The Caterpillar D4 tractor and two jinkers have provided satisfactory transport for logs to the mill.

MILL IMPROVEMENTS.

Installation of a new countershaft with a vee belt primary drive to the engines. This has greatly increased the efficiency of the power drive to both saws. Belt slip and loss of horsepower almost non-existent.

New semi-Canadian saw spindle installed with a larger diameter collar to take saws up to 6 ft. We can now handle logs of over 100-inch G.B.H.

Mill workshop shed built containing the gulleting machine double head grinder. Modifications to the Knock Down Knees and log skids. Installation of 2,000 gallon water tanks in place of 400 gallons. Extension of the 3-in. water main into the mill which now provides ample volume and pressure to control any fire risk. During the year the two Southern Cross 40-h.p. engines have been given a major overhaul at approximately 6,000 hours.

A sawdust removal unit is now being installed to remove the sawdust from both saws into a hopper. When completed this will save approximately 1½ man hours a day which in the past has been spent in the manual removal of the day's work.

During this wet season local flooding in the mill stopped work for several days, check drains could not handle the volume of rain.

LABOUR.

An average of ten men has been employed during the year and have proved satisfactory. Our best No. 1 benchman is in hospital but satisfactory replacements have been trained. Mr. C. F. Andersen, benchman in charge, resigned in May.

BUILDING.

The following buildings were completed during the year:—

Bamaga.—

- Branch store 20 ft. x 60 ft. cement floor.
- Two native cottages 26 ft. x 28 ft.
- Extensions to pig yards. Feed shed.
- Repairs to 2 staff residences.

Cowal Creek.—

- Nine 24 ft. x 26 ft. native cottages.
- Branch store 20 ft. x 60 ft. cement floor.
- Three Native cottages partly completed.

All cottages and stores were completed by a gang of six to seven men working under a native foreman with periodical inspections by the Department's Building Officer. The work done by these men has been excellent. The buildings are timber, sheeted in fibro with an iron roof.

WATER SUPPLY AND IRRIGATION.

Bamaga.—

- Installation of 40-h.p. Southern Cross engine and pump to deliver 20,000 gallons per hour.
- 500 yd. 4-in. galvanised iron main.
- 200 yd. 3-in. galvanised iron main to sawmill.
- Auxiliary mains where required in the farm area
- 3 in. 5 in. x 4 in. force pump for domestic water supply.

Cowal Creek.—

Installation of 3 in. x 3 in. force pump and engine unit, on new well at the northern end of the township.

20,000-gallon galvanised iron tank on a cement base completely cemented inside.

Work is going forward on the reticulation pipe line to all houses, church, school, M.A.P., and sanitary depot.

This will be completed in the next two weeks.

A 20,000 gallon tank will provide domestic water and also supply a surplus which can be used for irrigation of a community garden, school and house gardens. The pump can be coupled direct to a Skinner spray line for watering more extensive crops. Good soil is available near the tank and pump. At a later date a windmill will be put up to supply direct from the well and old dam to the tank.

The heavy flood rains this season brought the worst floods in the Nona and Mosby creeks for several years. Flood waters ran two feet over the top of the weir but no damage was done to pumps and engines. Ample volume and pressure of water is now available for irrigation over the present cleared area of the farm.

SOMERSET.

Coconuts mostly in copra form have been brought down for pig feed.

A caretaker has been in residence most of the year, some repairs have been done to the house.

Following on this wet season there is a prolific growth of grass and natural herbage. As soon as this gets dry enough to take a slow fire it will be burnt. Damage to the trees will result if fires are left too late.

AMUSEMENTS.

The 16-mm. picture plant run by the Bamaga Welfare Club is giving good service. Subject to transport of films from Thursday Island a weekly programme is screened. Health films have been received and it is hoped in the near future educational films will come forward.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS.

Totals.	Bamaga.	Cowal Creek.	Red Island Point.
In-patients	199	..	..
Out-patients	12,052	11,986	4,182
Sent forward medical check	44	69 (to Bamaga)	6 (to Bamaga)

Sent forward X-ray, &c.—162 (includes other areas).

Sent forward dental—47 (includes other areas).

There were no serious outbreaks during the year. The month of November was marked by a small outbreak of influenza. The usual periodic cases of minor illness are always coming in. Any case thought to be serious is ordered to Thursday Island Hospital by the Government Medical Officer after the case has been reported to him by telephone.

A complete case history card is kept on every patient and is available for the doctor.

Cowal Creek and Red Island Point are visited weekly or as often as necessary. Aged people who are unable to get about are visited regularly. Instruction is given to mothers on food problems and personal hygiene.

The school children are taken to the sea once weekly during school hours for a salt water bathe.

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC STATISTICS.

Average monthly attendances.—

Bamaga—					
Babies	..	..	..	..	6
Toddlers	..	..	..	..	41
Cowal Creek—					
Babies	..	..	..	..	10
Toddlers	..	..	..	..	27
Red Island Point—					
Babies	..	..	..	..	2
Toddlers	..	..	..	..	8

Every child is weighed and examined each week and the mothers instructed in the care of the child and in the preparation of meals. Bamaga and Red Island Point children received Hypol, Colliron and Pentavite.

Cowal Creek children receive in addition a daily issue of milk. Fruit and farm produce are issued to all mothers as available. The mothers are becoming more co-operative and are becoming clinic minded.

ANNUAL REPORT—RADIO.

(Engineer-Operator—J. McKenna.)

(Assistant—I. Mullins.)

During the past year efforts have been directed towards improving radio medical service.

Facilities have been provided to enable the Government Medical Officer to speak direct to the outstations from his office. This provides a closer liaison between doctor and patient and greatly speeds rendering of assistance.

The Base Station is now available for calls from outstations hourly from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. This is done by means of a time switch which switches receivers on for a period of ten minutes each hour. Remote speakers are located in workshop and duty crew quarters. This system has, on several occasions, indicated its usefulness.

Equipment.—All outstations have been visited twice during the past year with the exception of Mornington Island and Lockhart River. Thus a good standard of serviceability has been maintained.

An experimental transmitter-receiver has been installed in the pearling lugger "Petta." This was done with a view to possible fitment in key vessels of the fleet for use in cases of emergency. As no commercial unit is available which gives required simplicity of operation for unskilled native operators a unit was constructed in our workshop. The unit has been quite satisfactory.

A completely new installation has been installed at Yarrabah Mission. This has given reliable communication with Cairns.

Traffic Analysis.—

Total outward messages for year	..	..	14,700
Total inward messages for year	..	..	13,970
Total radio medicals	..	..	1,260
Total cases treated by radio	..	..	387
Daily average of words	..	..	4,800

Communication is available with Cairns Ambulance and Flying Doctor Base Station, Charters Towers, in cases of emergency.

BUILDING PROGRAMME—THURSDAY ISLAND, TORRES STRAIT, ISLANDS AND PENINSULA.

Under foreman carpenter, Mr. E. Niblett, an excellent mobile team operates. This team of 20 tradesmen have been trained by Mr. Niblett and building undertakings carried out by them are a credit to all concerned. The following work was performed during the year:—

Badu Island.—Dismantling and demolition of old school structure (in sections) and the erection and completion of a new school building (in sections) approximate floor space of 3,600 sq. ft. Repairs to hospital building and Government Teacher's house. Pegging, setting floor of cottages. Six cottages in course of erection. Two cottages completed.

Murray Island.—Repairs carried out on Government Teacher's residence. Plumbing and tank installation and guttering on residence, medical aid post, school, branch store, and Branch Manager's residence.

Darnley Island.—Erection of new school and lavatories. Four cottages in course of erection.

Yam, Coconut, Mabuiag and Yorke Islands.—Repairs, alterations and maintenance carried out. Supply of steps, tank stands and installation of iron guttering and down pipe. Supply of stove piping, copper boiler, stand flu piping, water fittings for tank house supply. Repairs and painting of Government Teachers' residences.

Boigu Island.—Erection of new school building and two cottages.

Naghir Island.—Erection of new school building.

Stephen Island.—Erection of new school building, new branch store building and two cottages.

St. Paul's Mission.—To allow for proper construction of a new school to be erected, a building to standard specifications was set out and is now completed.

Bamaga Settlement.—Completion of new branch store building. Erection of four single men's dormitories (two completed). Re-sheeting and lining of staff quarters. Setting out for continuation of village area. Supply hardware roofing sheeting for all buildings.

Cowal Creek.—Erection of new branch store building, 12 cottages and lavatories. Siting for further 14 and Government Teacher's residence. Supply materials for water supply, cement, iron piping, fittings, &c.

Red Island Point.—Setting out for erection of eight cottages.

Aplin Hostel.—Erection of new ward, male lavatory ablution block and children's lavatory ablution block. Installation of kitchen range hot water and septic systems, tanks for above blocks. System kitchen area tank stands. Re-roofing of men's ward building, domestic staff building, office staff building. Installation of sink for medical aid post section. Drainage sullage pits. General maintenance to hostel area building.

Thursday Island Area.—

Tamwoy Suburb.—Eleven cottages erected this area. Six are in course of construction. New branch store building has been erected. Water supply main laid down. Water supply installed to cottages.

Staff Quarters and General.—Installation of septic tanks, ablution blocks, wash houses, &c. General maintenance and repairs to all departmental buildings. Construction of water tanks (rain), 1,000-1,500 gallons. Supply to various Islands.

Construction to specification of ship's tanks, exhaust funnels and ships' plumbing was carried out on "Melbidir" and "Gelam." All waste scrap iron was used for stump cap making. Pre-cutting out of buildings for transport to various Islands was carried out.

The manufacture of standard E.C. cabinets, vents, &c., repairs and re-conditioning of furniture, &c., completion of native accommodation and hospital outpatient section were also carried out. A Department of Native Affairs tip truck timber body was completely rebuilt. Fences were erected and repaired for staff quarters. Timber, hardware, sheeting and other materials were stacked and distribution of same was effected.

Island Industries Board.—Shell store building was completed. Completion of rebuilding of slipway buildings; completion of re-roofing and strengthening of installation extensions in bulk store including erection of roller shutters, better lighting facilities and truck bays into store; culvert crossings and approaches were built, as were shell store staff (native) quarters ablution blocks. Blocks were erected for staff quarters, and the shipwright's cottage was provided with septic sullage and washhouse installations. All staff quarters were inspected and repairs and termite treatment were effected. new branch stores were built at Bamaga Stephen and Tamwoy. Rebuilding was effected at Kubin and Mabuiag Island and various repairs on other Island bulk stores were carried out.

Church Missions.—During the past year technical and material assistance has been provided. Shipment of materials for various stations has been checked and forwarded. A building was pre-cut and erected at Edward River Mission for radio installation. Assistance was given in erection of a new school at St. Paul's Mission and in setting out of the proposed college.

Maintenance.—A rigid control is exercised in this respect with all buildings being retained in first class condition.

Materials.—A regular supply of both timber and necessary hardware and roofing sheetings has been forthcoming, enabling the continuation and carrying out of extensive projects as herein quoted.

Thursday Island Hospitals Board.—An extension to kitchen block has been completed. This has been constructed on lines to ensure maximum natural lighting and ventilation additional to badly needed space.

PATROL VESSEL "MELBIDIR."

(Master—Captain A. Mellor, M.I.N.)

(Engineer—Mr. A. E. Brown.)

General.—With the exception of three months repairs and slipping for survey in Brisbane in the early part of the financial year, the ship has been actively engaged in her normal administrative patrols in the Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsular waters.

Except for medical emergencies, these patrols are worked in conjunction with carrying of rations and general cargo on behalf of the Island Industries Board, transporting of all timber and building materials for the Director of Native Affairs cottages, &c., medical supplies, mails and fresh food for white Government Teachers and Government Nurses in the Islands.

Medical and Emergency Voyages.—Approximately 80 per cent. of passengers carried both inwards and outwards, are Islanders requiring medical attention at Thursday Island Base Hospital or maternity or tuberculosis cases.

Emergency medical cases often require the ship to proceed from Thursday Island immediately with a doctor and sisters.

Tuberculosis medical teams under Dr. G. Hales have been taken to the Eastern and Central Islands. Arrangements are now in hand to take Dr. R. Patrick, School Health Services, Brisbane, to all Islands for the Salk anti-poliomyelitis immunisation campaign early in July.

The Government Dental Officer has been taken to the Eastern Islands.

Staff and Crew.—The ship is manned by the Master, Engineer and fourteen Islanders. The conduct of the crew generally has been good. They are willing and cheerful and are a credit to the Department.

Annual Mileage.—

Torres Strait	..	..	..	..	2,800
Queensland East Coast	..	..	..	..	2,850
Gulf Waters	..	..	..	..	500
Total	..	..	..	..	6,150

Passengers.—

Islanders	..	..	..	..	750
Mainlanders	..	..	..	..	150
Doctors-sisters	..	..	..	..	12
Government officials	..	..	..	..	22
Approved passengers	..	..	..	..	20
Total	..	..	..	..	954

<i>Cargo Carried.</i> —	Tons.
Island Industries Board	500
Department of Native Affairs	350
Medical-private	25
Islanders, goods-chattels	100
Private authorised	24
Dress timber	130
Firewood ex Bamaga	200
Total	1,329

APPENDIX 9.

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

(Acting Manager—P. J. Killoran.)

CONSTITUTION.

The Island Industries Board is a Corporation established and maintained under "The Torres Strait Islanders Acts, 1939 to 1946," for the furtherance of trade and the advancement of the material welfare of the Torres Strait Island people. The Board comprises:—

Chairman—Mr. P. J. Killoran.

Members—Mr. C. V. Daly, Mr. A. G. F. Kirk.

Secretary and Accountant—Mr. P. P. Hanley.

The Board's functions as set out in the Schedule to the Act, give the Board authority to:—

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, iron worker, joiner, labour agent, lighterman, manufacturer, mineowner, money lender, plumber, shipping agent, ship's chandler, shipbroker, shipbuilder, shipowner, shopkeeper, stevedore, storekeeper, timber merchant, tinsmith, trustee, warehouseman, wharfinger, or any other trade or business incidental or ancillary to any such business, trade, or occupation as aforesaid, of which in the opinion of the Board can be effectually carried on in connection with any such business, trade or occupation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

GENERAL TRADING.

As the Board is specifically concerned with the promotion of trade and the material welfare of the Torres Strait people it is pleasing to record that in the year under review a marked progress has been made towards the furtherance of the Board's aims. The following facts and figures are indicative of the support given by the people; and the determination of the Board through its officers, both white and coloured, to make available to its customers an organisation that will fully satisfy the Torres Strait people in their every material need:—

- (a) A nett turnover of £276,764 from its retail stores as compared with £238,138 last year.
- (b) A gross profit of £54,287 as against £40,614 last year.
- (c) Sales of Marine Produce totalling £160,440.

The Board throughout the financial year ended 31st March, 1957, operated sixteen retail stores and in February this year opened a seventeenth store at Tamwoy suburb on Thursday Island. There branch stores, which are operated and maintained entirely by the Torres Strait Islanders handle a range of goods consistent with the needs of a modern and discriminating customer. The Board and its officers are aware of the dual responsibility of maintaining a stock that is competitive and at the same time selecting stock that will go towards the advancement of living conditions in Torres Strait. The result

of this awareness can be seen in the type of items which now make up the greater portion of the Board's expanding turnover. And it must be here stressed that whilst this expansion proceeds a rigorous check is kept on the costing of items for resale in order that the Board's policy of

providing the best at the lowest price is maintained.

Set out hereunder are branch store trading figures and comparisons which will illustrate the scope of retail activity and progress that has been made in the last financial year.

ISLAND INDUSTRIES BOARD.

STATEMENT OF STORE TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1956-57.

Island.	Turnover 1955-56.			Turnover 1956-57.			Cash.			Stock.			Total Cash and Stock.			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Badu	24,069	13	3	23,437	7	8	89	9	8	3,274	5	4	3,363	15	0	
Bamaga	16,573	8	8	17,436	14	9	99	17	0	2,901	3	1	3,001	5	2	
Boigu	6,069	7	11	7,143	14	6	196	16	7	1,827	3	6	2,024	0	1	
Coconut	10,840	14	0	11,619	15	4	157	18	3	2,240	1	0	2,397	19	3	
Cowal Creek	10,610	17	2	13,825	5	1	95	8	8	2,451	4	1	2,546	12	9	
Darnley	13,770	13	2	17,819	3	11	96	2	11	4,160	8	0	4,256	10	11	
Dauan	3,500	14	4	4,940	8	0	94	12	11	1,034	0	3	1,128	13	2	
Kubin	6,392	16	5	6,362	7	9	47	18	4	1,278	7	11	1,326	6	3	
Mabuiag	12,433	3	1	14,030	3	0	177	11	9	2,522	4	4	2,699	16	1	
Murray	19,451	17	2	22,637	7	1	371	17	5	5,855	17	4	6,227	14	9	
Naghir	1,509	1	1	1,421	8	1	72	16	11	878	4	4	951	1	3	
Saibai	9,903	4	7	12,121	4	1	59	0	11	1,953	14	2	2,012	15	1	
Stephen	4,053	11	1	4,416	17	1	216	9	1	903	7	10	1,119	16	11	
Yam	10,112	0	11	9,923	16	10	343	9	7	3,127	9	11	3,470	19	6	
Yorke	9,934	10	6	12,729	11	1	134	18	11	3,237	13	4	3,372	12	3	
Thursday Island Store	51,270	6	9	57,046	5	5	..	..	..	10,514	5	5	10,514	5	5
Kennedy Store	27,642	4	11	34,379	8	2	..	..	..	32,783	19	4	32,783	19	4
Bulk Store .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	83,855	1	9	83,855	1	9
Tamwoy Store .. .. .	..	..	..	472	14	8	..	..	..	828	13	6	828	13	6
	£	238,138	5	0	276,763	12	4	2,254	8	11	165,627	4	5	167,881	13	4

REBUILDING PROGRAMME.

During the year under review the Board has continued its policy of modernising its retail stores and of rebuilding its offices and warehouses to provide for quicker and more efficient handling of stock generally; bringing to the Island people facilities equal to those that they would find in any Southern centre. Thus it can be reported that during the year new retail stores were built at Tamwoy suburb on Thursday Island, Bamaga, Cowal Creek and Yam Island, whilst at the same time the bulk store has been renovated and extended. A new shell store and offices have been built on the waterfront of Thursday Island and the reconstruction of the slipway is well under way.

These new buildings are designed to suit Torres Strait conditions and are cool and airy and provide storage conditions consistent with the requirements of a tropical climate.

Credit must be given to the construction gangs responsible for these buildings and in particular to the Director of Native Affairs' Works Supervisor, Mr. Niblett. The shell store in particular, with its large floor space, stock rooms and offices is a fine example of how native people can be trained to provide modern necessities.

MARINE PRODUCE.

As the greater portion of the earning power of Torres Strait people is dependent upon mother-of-pearl and trochus fishing the Board is vitally interested in the operation of the Torres Strait pearling fleet. Although weather and conditions militated to an extent against shelling operations it is pleasing to record that mother-of-pearl production increased during

the year. And although trochus production dropped slightly the overall value of shell production for the year showed an increase on previous years.

A major production factor in an industry such as this is the efficiency with which pearling luggers can be overhauled and repaired. The Board's slipway, which is responsible for the maintenance of the entire Torres Strait fleet, overhauls each vessel annually and carries out mid-season running repairs expeditiously.

Consistent with the Board's interest and desire to further the Marine Industry wherever possible the Board has always been concerned with the betterment of conditions of the pearling luggers and the welfare, health and safety of the native crews. During the preceding twelve months two important steps have been taken in this regard. In the first place a tutor-diver, Mr. G. W. J. Wilkins, commenced duty on 12th March, 1957. Mr. Wilkins is a highly experienced R.A.N. diver and has commenced teaching lugger crews the theory and practice of safe, modern diving. This teaching is carried out on the luggers whilst actually working pearling grounds so that the instructions can be applied under normal diving conditions. It is to be expected that this training will have a two-fold result; an increased knowledge shared by divers, tenders, and crew of the proper safeguards for the protection of divers engaged in this arduous industry and in the second place increased efficiency leading towards greater production.

Secondly, the Board's slipway has installed three separate compressor units on pearling

vessels during the year and plans are in hand for the modernisation, in this direction, of all pearling luggers under the control of the Director of Native Affairs. These separate units assist towards the overall safety of the

divers and are the modern method of ensuring his protection whilst on the bottom.

Hereunder is a statement of boat catches for the year ended 31st March, 1957.

MARINE PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1956-57.

Name of Vessel.	Mother-of-Pearl.			Trochus.			Total Value.					
	T.	C.	Q. L.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q. L.	£	s.	d.
Petta Nona	26	8	1 14	13,259	19	6	..	..	..	13,259	19	6
Naianga	25	6	3 12	12,055	17	6	..	..	..	12,055	17	6
May Nona	22	9	2 16	11,114	15	10	..	..	..	11,114	15	10
Relsie Nona	22	18	3 21	10,652	1	11	..	..	..	10,652	1	11
Mosby	18	2	2 25	8,044	17	0	..	..	..	8,044	17	0
Tilona Nona	15	6	0 9	7,268	17	8	..	..	..	7,268	17	8
Maria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	2	1 3	6,780	10	5
Sarah Nona	13	2	1 6	6,453	1	7	..	..	..	6,453	1	7
Annie Nona	13	2	2 12	6,398	18	7	..	..	..	6,398	18	7
Caroline	0	8	0 16	216	13	2	18	16	1 19	6,148	3	9
Ella	7	12	2 5	4,013	16	6	5	6	2 9	1,492	2	6
Rebecca .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	7	2 20	5,066	10	7
Cessa	10	3	1 23	4,901	6	6	..	..	..	4,901	6	6
Macoy	8	0	0 15	3,782	15	3	0	18	0 23	254	17	6
Adai .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	0	3 23	3,979	5	0
S.S. Dona .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	12	2 11	2,819	2	1
Adiana .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	17	0 2	2,564	12	6
Loyalty .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	3 10	2,316	14	2
Yaza	3	10	1 3	2,072	0	8	..	..	..	2,072	0	8
Wadumo	0	8	1 3	197	11	4	4	13	2 23	1,530	10	5
Dinghy	0	13	3 16	152	5	11	26	19	2 1	10,113	3	3
Price Adjustments, &c. .. .. .	..	..	..	14,376	15	1	..	..	..	11,260	10	7
	187	14	1 0	104,961	14	0	129	16	3 4	54,326	2	9
										159,287	16	9

SLIPWAY.

The Board owns and operates a modern slipway capable of handling vessels up to 65 feet, staffed by a white shipwright-in-charge and fourteen native boat builders.

During the year vessels to a gross tonnage of 473 tons were slipped and overhauled where necessary. During the lay up season every vessel of the Director of Native Affairs fleet was examined, slipped if so required, and repaired in readiness for the new season. The extent of these "lay-up" renovations is considerable in that pearling vessels are heavy duty all-weather craft and must stay at sea ten months of the year meeting the strains of all types of weather.

The Board's slipway works to the maxim that loss in time is loss in production and accordingly tackles repairs with maximum efficiency.

During the year a further twenty dinghies of sharpie design were constructed. Of these eight were produced as required and twelve were built on mass production lines, all parts being cut prior to assembly. The success of this method and the cheapness of the resulting craft has resulted in an increased drive to adopt more modern and efficient production ideas.

During the year the slipway was without a white shipwright for six months and during that time the slipway continued without technical supervision. It is greatly to the credit of the native employees that work progressed as usual and the slipway continued to operate in an efficient manner.

Native employees are paid full Award wages and some of them have been with the slipway for more than ten years. Training schemes are operated to teach the theory of boat building and repairing and all staff are familiar with

modern aids such as the electrically operated tools that are part of the slipway. The native employees are skilled in rigging work and carry out the replacement of slings, standing rigging, block strops, long splicing of hawsers, &c. Sails and hatch covers are made occasionally. In short, there are no boat repairs that cannot be undertaken by the slipway and staff on vessels up to 65 feet.

In conjunction with the slipway operations the Board maintains a Hardware and Ships Chandlery Store located alongside the slipway. This store provides for the marine supplies, timber, tools, &c., required by the slipway together with a stock of building hardware designed to meet the needs of the Torres Strait people. It is operated by coloured store men.

The slipway yard consists of three slipping cradles, one derrick capable of lifting up to 3 tons, circular saws of various sizes, planing machines, emery grinding wheels, gulleting machines, electric drills, &c. All machinery and equipment is carried out by the leading hands under the supervision of the shipwright-in-charge.

VESSELS "GELAM" AND "KEBISU."

The Board operates two transport vessels, the m.v. "Gelam" (Master—Captain T. N. Le Grand) and the m.v. "Kebisu" which is at present inoperative.

The "Kebisu" is undergoing major mechanical repairs and it is hoped that in the near future this vessel will again be running. The m.v. "Gelam" has continued to operate throughout the year carrying the endless chain of supplies to Island branch stores. In October, 1956, it was completely overhauled and a new Gardiner 6LW marine engine installed.

Apart from the ever present necessity of maintaining supplies to the outer Islands of the Torres Strait the Board's vessels have been made available for mercy runs, medical survey trips, dental trips, &c., whenever called upon. The extent of this assistance, the number of lives which have been saved, cannot be reckoned. The Board, however, can say with pride that never has a call for help gone unanswered and that, through the selfless and willing co-operation of the masters, assistance has been given under the toughest conditions.

During the year arrangements for the services of Mr. T. Dunwoodie from the Commonwealth Department of Health to be loaned to the Board have continued and Mr. Dunwoodie, as acting Master-Engineer, has greatly assisted in both the general running and emergency calls.

The Board's interest in the overall welfare of the Torres Strait people extends to every field and nowhere is it more noticeable than in this, the assistance in times of stress and the unflinching determination to do all in its powers to promote the health and welfare of the people.

MANUAL TRAINING SCHEME.

Towards the close of the year the Board, in conjunction with the Department of Public Instruction, turned its attention to the necessity of a manual training section being established at the Waiben State School. To initiate and promote this project the Board donated the tool and equipment requirements. The scheme provides for training in woodworking, plumbing and design. This section is now operative and the benefit that will accrue in years to come will reflect itself in the hands of youths trained in the use of tools and capable of being apprenticed to a trade, and eventually to assist in the raising of housing standards throughout the islands.

The operation of a trading concern in an area as remote as the Torres Strait is dependent upon co-operation of officers at sources of supply. The Board, then, places on record its appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Director of Native Affairs and his staff and the staff of State Stores Board. To the buying officers in particular a special word of thanks is due for their splendid efforts during the year.

To The Commonwealth Department of Health the Board also extends its thanks for the services of Mr. T. Dunwoodie as relieving Master-Engineer.

APPENDIX 10.

EDWARD RIVER MISSION (CHURCH OF ENGLAND).

(Superintendent—G. C. Pidsley.)

STAFF.

- Rev. D. Scott-Halliday, Chaplain and Teacher.
- Mrs. D. Scott-Halliday, Dispensary and Pre-School Clinic.
- Mrs. G. D. Pidsley, Book-keeper.
- N. Wheeler, Head Stockman.
- Sister I. B. Johnson, Church Army Welfare Worker.

STATISTICS.

Population—			
Full-bloods	..	..	285 (approximately)
Half-bloods	..	..	1
Births	..	..	9
Deaths	..	..	10
Marriages	..	..	1

CHURCH.

Attendance at daily services is improving. Ten people were admitted to full membership of the Church by confirmation. The first Christian marriage was a time for rejoicing. The Christmas Tree was well supplied with gifts from generous supporters in parishes in the South. A Sunday School and a Sunday School Teachers' Class have commenced. Here they learn, mostly by visual aids, flannelgraphs and pictures which help more than talking for these people. There is also a singing class at night, once weekly when the young men and women come to learn and to sing sacred songs. Slowly these people's lives are becoming centred upon God.

SCHOOL.

School attendance averages 27 out of 35 children on the roll. This shows an improvement which it is hoped to continue as the people become more settled. Parents could show more co-operation and interest in the education of their children and in encouraging regular attendance. With the assistance of two native helpers it is hoped to raise the standard of work, which at present is approaching Grade 5 in the highest grade.

WELFARE.

Much has been done in the way of welfare work, during the past year. Most of the people now do regular washing of tables and clothes, and keep the house surrounds clean. The young women are learning to use the sewing machine; better quality dresses are now being made. Previously hand sewn dresses came to pieces soon after completion. All the people are better dressed and look after their clothing better due to Sister Johnson's training. In October, school meals were started; as there was no school kitchen these meals were served at Sister Johnson's house. In February the school kitchen was completed and now two meals a day are served to approximately 40 children. The kitchen has a roster system going, whereby the children are taught to wait on tables, scrub tables and floors and to wash up the dishes.

A Girls' Club has been formed, which is attached to the Church. They meet weekly for Bible Readings also for quiet games, craft work and sewing. It is hoped later to get a Women's Club going, which should help them tremendously with the spiritual side of things and also teach them a few things necessary in their everyday lives.

HEALTH.

There has been a considerable improvement in the general health of the Mission during the last twelve months. This is due mainly to the establishment of a school kitchen for the children under the care of Sister Johnson and to the attention of Mrs. Halliday. The greatly improved scale of rations which includes the State Government supplied goods has also contributed to the better health of the Mission.

During the year several epidemics occurred; whooping cough which resulted in the deaths of four children, although 47 suffered; followed by measles, 74 cases, then influenza from which several elderly people died. Hookworm is being combated by regular treatment.

The month of June is to see the beginning of a Pre-school Clinic entailing daily meals for the toddlers in addition to the present issue of milk twice daily. This clinic is to be run by Mrs. Halliday.

BUILDING.

General repairs and maintenance work have occupied the men with the rebuilding of the few houses. The arrival of a truck due this month will be of great assistance in hauling timber and other materials. A large stove has been installed in the school kitchen. Toilets have been erected for the use of the school and kitchen. In the plans for the future are a new church, a school, hospital and the construction of a new Mission House. The need for a proper meat-room, too, must not be forgotten.

CATTLE.

The introduction of regular supplies of fresh meat has also contributed to the better health of the Mission. Some mustering and branding has been carried out by the head stockman under the direction of the cattle manager from Mitchell River Mission.

GENERAL.

The retirement of Mr. J. W. Chapman was marked by a widespread expression of appreciation for his untiring work and devotion to duty. He is held in great affection by the people of not only Edward River Mission but by most of the Gulf population and Thursday Island. It is due to his gentle but firm training that there is such a solid foundation ready for future progress at the Mission. His many friends wish him well in his new home at Mitchell River Mission.

The arrival of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Pidsley in April was the occasion for a welcome gathering under an enormous fig tree which is a prominent feature of the Mission scenery.

APPRECIATION.

We cannot fully express our gratitude to the following people who have given such valuable service to the Mission. The part played by the Department of Native Affairs radio operators in the epidemics and other emergencies has been truly wonderful. The Deputy Director of Native Affairs has always given much appreciated assistance, as have the Medical Superintendents of Thursday Island and Cairns Base Hospitals; while the work of the Aerial Ambulance has been noteworthy.

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APPENDIX 11.

MITCHELL RIVER MISSION (CHURCH OF ENGLAND).

(Superintendent—Mr. F. W. Currington.)

STAFF.

Mr. A. J. Warman.
Rev. D. M. Sutherland, Chaplain.
Miss S. M. Card, Head Teacher.
Sister J. Methven, In Charge of Hospital.
Mrs. M. H. Warman, Dormitory Matron.
Mr. H. Gunther, Cattle Manager.

STATISTICS.

Number of full-bloods	..	..	..	708
Number of half-bloods	..	..	..	23
Total Population	..	..	..	731
Number of births	..	..	..	13
Number of deaths	..	..	..	12
Marriages	..	..	..	3

AGRICULTURE.

The gardens are showing good results for the work performed in them. Good crops of fresh green vegetables are at present being harvested.

INDUSTRIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Satisfactory progress has been maintained during the year. Mr. H. Gunther has taken the place of Mr. K. Hobson as Cattle Manager. A new harness room has been built and the usual fencing, mustering, and branding have been carried out. The Mission has been well supplied with killers of the usual high standard; while a further sale of bullocks is pending. A new truck has been purchased for the use of the Mission and the old one is going to Edward River Mission.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Village and staff houses have been repaired where necessary, the house of the School Teacher has been rebuilt. The dormitory has been greatly improved by a coat of paint throughout. Air-strip maintenance has been carried out to the required specifications of the D.C.A.

EMPLOYMENT.

Once again the demand for labour has been exceeded by the existing supply.

CONDUCT.

General conduct is satisfactory.

RELIGION.

During the year church services were maintained as usual except during July and August when the Chaplain was absent in hospital. The services during these months were held on Sundays and were conducted by the Superintendent and other staff members. Religious instruction was also continued in the Mission school. Adult and children's confirmation classes were held regularly and 26 natives were confirmed in September by the Bishop of the Diocese.

The Church building was improved during the wet season by the laying of the concrete floor and the installation of new altar rails.

Frequent visits were made by the Chaplain to the villages and the sacraments taken to the sick and aged. An outbreak of measles in the wet season caused a drop in church attendance but services were held frequently in village houses.

There were ten baptisms, three marriages and eight burials.

HOSPITAL.

Baby Clinic.—A baby clinic and distribution of milk and oatmeal to all pre-school children is carried out weekly.

Immunisation.—Combined whooping cough and diphtheria, tetanus vaccine given again this year. Also this year mass immunisation against tetanus was carried out on the older children and adults. In addition all children between the ages of six months and 14 years were vaccinated with the Salk vaccine.

Ante-Natal Clinic.—This clinic is conducted weekly with the monthly visit of the Flying Doctor in addition.

Hookworm Treatment.—Mass treatment for this infection is carried out twice yearly.

Infectious Diseases.—An outbreak of measles occurred in January but no deaths resulted from this.

In-patients.—These showed an increase during the year.

CHEST PATIENTS.

These patients visit Thursday Island for periodic checks as often as their condition warrants.

DENTAL SERVICE.

A Dentist and his mechanic visited here twice during the year.

ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE.

The Doctor conducts a monthly routine visit, and is always ready to respond to radio calls and give his advice on cases. The services of Thursday Island Hospital and Dental Service and that of the Flying Doctor are greatly appreciated.

DORMITORY.

Thirty-seven boys and sixty-seven girls were registered in the dormitory this year, many boys having reached the leaving age being the cause for the low number registered this year.

Beds have been procured for the inmates, twenty-four in number and the girls have worked hard making mats in lieu of mattresses for these.

The gardens have not been quite so successful this year mainly due to the absence of the Matron on furlough, but it is hoped that they will soon produce again.

SCHOOL.

At the end of 1956 there were ninety-three children on the roll with an average attendance of 90·75. The children have worked well in their lessons during the year. The following teachers have been in attendance for the whole or part of the time:—

Leah, Venus, Jessie, Susan, Maureen, Nancy and Florence.

The newcomers to the teaching have been very conscientious and are proving their worth. Special praise is due to Leah for her long period of service and her ability to carry on in the school during the absence of the Head Teacher on furlough.

Venus too has given ten years service to the school. She was farewelled prior to one of her periodic visits to Thursday Island. At a unique ceremony in June, Leah was present and called the roll which contained the names of most people on the Mission whom she had taught during her thirty-five years service either at the present site or at the old site of Belburra. She is an excellent teacher of her own people and would rank among the good teachers anywhere and will be greatly missed here in the School.

APPRECIATION.

We tender our grateful thanks to the Director and Deputy Director of Native Affairs for their valuable help and co-operation during the year. The new medical schedules involving the constant standing by of the Base Radio Operators is greatly appreciated by us, as is the willing co-operation always experienced from them. We are very appreciative of the work of the same operators during the recent mishap to our boat when they were always most helpful arranging schedules.

APPENDIX 12.

ST. PAUL'S MISSION.

(Priest in Charge—Archdeacon C. G. Brown, B.A.)

STAFF.

Rev. Father Rechnitz, Ph.D., Tutor.
Mr. D. Hooper-Colsey, Teacher.
Miss P. Duncan, Teacher.
Mr. K. Green, Store and Radio.

STAFF CHANGES.

Rev. Father Rechnitz left the Mission on transfer to Murray Island. Mr. Hooper-Colsey left the Mission.

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE.

Thirteen students were enrolled and two discharged during the year. Rev. Masepah Banu, Deacon was ordained priest in December and is stationed at Yam Island. Ephraim Gebadi was made a Deacon.

SCHOOL.

The number on the roll reached 61, the school was open 207 days. In the absence of a Head Teacher, the priest in charge acted as such, but the teaching was mainly given by Miss Duncan and her three village assistants.

VILLAGE.

The Council with the full support of the people has formed a Welfare Society with a fund to which all workers contribute, the object of which is to provide amenities for the benefit of the community.

HEALTH.

The health of the people has been generally good, without any outbreak of serious sickness. The visit of the Health Inspector (Mr. J. O'Shea) was of great benefit to the Mission and much appreciated. All residents, numbering 179 were examined for Hookworm of whom 60 received treatment.

BUILDING.

The new school provided by Government grant was completed under the supervision of Mr. F. Ayre, the Diocesan builder. He has also begun the construction of the new college with the assistance of the students. One village house was completed.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

Weekly adult classes for both men and women were conducted during the year in preparation for the founding of a Co-operative Society. One girl has been taking a commercial course in book-keeping with a view to become competent to assume clerical work when the Co-operative Society is formed.

THANKS.

As usual, but not as a mere formality, this report ends with an expression of sincere gratitude to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director and their staff for their constant and courteous help.

APPENDIX 13.

AURUKUN MISSION, CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

(Superintendent—Rev. W. F. MacKenzie, B.A.)

STAFF.

Mrs. MacKenzie, B.A., Dip. Ed., Matron and Head Teacher.

Sister A. A. Cameron, S.R.N., Medical Work.

Mr. J. Henderson, Mission Carpenter.

Mrs. Henderson, Assistant Matron.

Mr. T. Bartlett, Temporary Superintendent.

Mrs. Bartlett, Temporary Matron and Teacher.

Mr. J. Hudson, Cattle.

The year under review has seen many changes in the Staff. Mr. W. Christie and Mrs. Christie were unfortunately forced to leave the work owing to Mrs. Christie's continued ill-health. We greatly regret losing this fine couple who were devoted to the work, and sincerely hope that their return to the South will enable Mrs. Christie to regain her health. We also lost the services of Mr. W. Stratford, the Mission mechanic, owing to family reasons. These losses

have been made good by the transfer of Mr. and Mrs. Henderson from Weipa. Mr. Henderson is in charge of the building programme. In December Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett were transferred from the agency at Thursday Island to take charge of the Mission, thus allowing the Superintendent and Mrs. MacKenzie to proceed on leave.

EMPLOYMENT.

The arrival of Enterprise Exploration Company with headquarters at Weipa to investigate the bauxite deposits in the area has shaken our Mission out the even tenor of their ways, and brought the locality into public notice. The Company wished to employ native labour from the Missions. A meeting was held at Aurukun between the Superintendent, Native Councillors and all the men to work out a policy for work. It was felt that the Mission work should continue to be kept in the fore-front as we want to develop the Mission for the good of the people and their children. All present agreed to this. It was further agreed that a roster should be drawn up so that Mission activities in building, agriculture and cattle work should always have their full complement and all should in their turn have the opportunity of working with the Company. Twenty-two men are working on various jobs at the Mission, sixteen are engaged in cattle work, twenty with the Company, while fourteen are signed on at Thursday Island in the Marine Industry or in pastoral work.

AGRICULTURE.

During the dry season eight acres were heavily manured with compost, dairy manure, and humus gathered from the dry swamp. This was all ploughed in, three acres were planted with sweet potatoes, two acres under pigeon and cow-peas. The remainder was left for hay which was cut and cured and stacked for the dairy cows. As the sweet potato cuttings were planted they were treated with a light dressing of super-phosphate, blood and bone and boron trace element. The rains were good and over 10 tons of potatoes were dug, providing valuable fresh food for the children and workers. In addition, cassava, cow-peas and produce from the fruit and the vegetable gardens was also used to supplement the children's meals. All these crops were of great assistance in providing a well balanced diet.

DIET.

As will be seen from the above, every care is taken to provide a balanced and nourishing diet. The people, in the village have been encouraged to grow papaws. The surplus fruit is traded at the store and given to the children. In addition fish, crabs, shell-fish, roots and yams are also traded and given as a variation in diet. A food-grinder has been installed and the meat of fresh dried coconuts from the plantation at Wutan is ground up each day and mixed with the flour in making damper. All flour used is fortified with Cerevite and only brown rice is used on the Mission for health reasons.

DAIRY.

Good quantities of milk, up to 30 gallons per day in the wet season, are obtained from the dairy. Last year through hand feeding with hay and sorghum we were able to keep some of the cows in milk right through the year. A young Illawarra bull was obtained for the Mission by the committee and the old Illawarra bull was sent to Mapoon. Through most of the year there was ample milk for the school children and the small children in the village. To help with feed for the cows, experiments were continued with various grasses and legumes. Centro, Puro, Stylo and Townsville lucerne are doing exceptionally well. Of the grasses Buffel Grass was fairly good especially the Queensland strain. Guinea grass, Para grass, and Molasses grass were very vigorous. Three varieties of sorghum, Hegary, Martin and Great Alpha were also tried and at the time of writing give good promise; unfortunately the rains cut out a little too soon, consequently the crop was not quite as good as hoped for. We plan to use the grain and stalks in the green stage, also the ripe grain for the milkers, while some of the grain will be used for the children's porridge.

CATTLE.

Jerry Hudson and his men have done excellent work. Fifteen yards were built at different places for mustering. Over 300 head were brought from the northern end of the Reserve and taken over to the main paddocks at Bamboo. In addition 500 have been branded. Over 400 head of bullocks were put on the road for sale. To assist in transport up the Archer River to Bamboo cattle camp a strong work-boat was built at the Island Industries Board slipway at Thursday Island for the Mission. This boat, powered by a 5-h.p. diesel engine is very helpful for transporting men and supplies. A fence 14 miles in length is in the process of construction from the Kendall River to an arm of the Kirke River. This fence will give us a large holding paddock with a frontage on to the Gulf. The paddock is well watered and on the marine plains there are many swamps with an excellent growth of good fattening grass.

WUTAN PLANTATION.

Eighty more young coconut seedlings were planted out, mainly the three-year coconut which, as the name suggests comes into bearing much sooner than the ordinary coconut. The tree is a very heavy bearer, and while the nut is a little smaller this is more than compensated for by the thickness of the meat. Many more of the older trees are coming into bearing. This plantation is still a very popular camping place for the children on their holidays.

SCHOOL.

There are 127 children on the roll at the time of writing this report. There has been a marked improvement in the ease with which the children write English this year. Letter writing out of school hours has become a hobby. At the end of the school year an exhibition of all the best school work, including the senior girls' fancy work was held, and was attended with great interest by the children's parents and relations.

A number of pastel and indian ink drawings, water colours and poster pictures was sent to the Empire Child Art Exhibition held in Melbourne in April and May this year.

HEALTH.

The general health of our people is good. There have been 10 babies born. One old woman died of cardiac failure, and one middle aged man died in the Charters Towers Hospital where he had been taken by the Flying Doctor. We continue to have regular monthly visits from the Flying Doctor, Dr. T. J. O'Leary. He gave polio immunisation to 169 children under 14 years of age.

The Aerial Ambulance continues to be of invaluable assistance and flew out five patients during the year.

T.B. patients go to Thursday Island regularly for check up and three patients who were sent as suspects proved clear, so that we have no known new cases.

During July we had an epidemic of heavy colds, which went right through the village and dormitories. At the present moment we have the remains of a whooping cough epidemic. All babies, as they reach the age of three months are vaccinated with Triple Antigen, so that the trouble was not so bad as it could have been.

In November, Mr. John Elliott examined the eyes of all the Mission people and as many of the bush people as we could get up to the Mission. Glasses were sent where necessary, mainly for the older people for reading and sewing.

There were three marriages at the Mission.

DISCIPLINE.

The behaviour of the people has on the whole been very good. All cases were dealt with by the Mission Council, presided over by the Superintendent.

BUILDING.

With the appointment of Mr. J. Henderson as Mission carpenter, the building programme was started. The first half of the new girls' dormitory has been completed, and the whole structure is now well on its way to completion. The material for the dormitory was provided by the Health and Home Affairs Department through the Native Affairs Department. When completed the dormitory will be a splendid building with plenty of room for the girls, also for lockers for clothing. While the dormitory was being built the children were taken down to Wutan coconut plantation and holiday camp. School material and desks and forms were taken down by boat and school work continued under Mrs. MacKenzie's supervision. Lavatory and bath-room blocks were also built for the girls' and boys' dormitories.

Ten new houses were built in the village from adzed bush timber. All the huts are set on stumps to avoid dampness during the wet season. The walls are of bark for coolness.

Through the help of the Native Affairs Department corrugated iron and ridge capping is bought for roofing to ensure dryness in the huts during the heavy rains. Each new hut has mango trees and coconut trees planted alongside. Many of the people are growing papaws and planting cassava and sweet potatoes in their gardens. One man has cleared a patch down near the river and has planted a large number of coconut trees and bananas.

HYGIENE.

Cement blocks were cast for lavatories in the village. Large 44-gallon drums were cut in half and fixed to make flyproof seats over the pans. The pan system is used and the pans are emptied regularly in a special fenced-in enclosure away from the houses. Pans are cleaned and washed each day with disinfectant, and tarred regularly.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

Daily week day services are held, also the regular Sunday service. The attendance is good and interest is shown. The older men and women are encouraged to take part, which they do, and the illustrations they use when giving a talk are surprisingly good and to the point. The widow of our native missionary, Uki still carries on the work in the bush areas. A native Christian couple from the Mission go down voluntarily every few months to help her. Visits are made by the Superintendent periodically to help and encourage this remarkable woman. At the Mission classes are held for those who wish to join the Church. Last Easter six of the senior girls and eleven of the older people, including one old man, joined the Church.

CARPENTRY CLASS.

Mr. Henderson kindly undertook to take the older boys for two nights a week for training in woodwork. The boys are most enthusiastic, and are learning well. During the day these boys help Mr. Henderson in the building work and are able to put into practice what they learn in the evenings.

NEEDLE WORK CLASS.

The older girls are taught fancy work by the ladies of the Mission. Many of the girls are showing themselves as being very skilled in this work.

ARTS AND CRAFTS.

The village women make table mats and serviette rings from prepared pandanus which is dyed with dyes obtained from plants. The finished articles are very pleasing in appearance and command a ready sale, the women receiving the full price less a percentage for handling.

THANKS.

Our grateful thanks are given to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs and the Department, also to the Director of Native Affairs, the Deputy Director and their respective staffs in Brisbane and Thursday Island, the General Secretary for Missions and his staff, the ladies of the Church organisations, the Flying Doctor and the pilot, the Medical

Officers and Nurses at Thursday Island Hospital, Waiben and Aplin, the Cairns Aerial Ambulance for great help and encouragement, also to all friends who have in many ways helped the work to go forward and build up a strong Mission for the people of Aurukun.

APPENDIX 14.

MORNINGTON ISLAND MISSION (PRESBYTERIAN).

(Superintendent—Rev. D. L. Belcher)

STAFF.

W. D. Page, Acting Superintendent.
Mrs. D. L. Belcher, Matron.
L. J. McMillan, Builder and Agriculturalist.
Mrs. L. J. McMillan, Assistant.
Sister N. Graham, Hospital.
Miss M. S. Bain, B.Sc., Teacher.

During the past year there has been a number of alterations and additions to the staff.

On the 31st October, 1956, Miss Margaret Bain arrived to take up her duties as Teacher and Assistant Bookkeeper.

At the beginning of February, 1957, W. D. Page, Esq., was appointed Acting Mission Superintendent to take over the work which the Rev. D. L. Belcher was forced to relinquish for a time, owing to ill-health. Mr. and Mrs. Belcher have not yet been able to return but we hope that they will be able to resume their duties early in the New Year.

During April, 1957, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. McMillan were appointed to the work. Mr. McMillan, as a builder and agriculturalist, has a big programme before him.

STATISTICS.

Births	14
Deaths	6
Marriages	1

RELIGION.

Sunday and daily services have been held throughout the year and attendances have been good. It has been noticeable that more of the Bentinck Islanders are coming to Church in addition to attending meetings in the village arranged by Elder Gully Peters.

AGRICULTURE.

The vegetable garden has been re-established and increasing quantities of sweet potatoes, turnips, tomatoes and cabbages are being grown for the children's and workers' kitchen. Every effort is being made to enrich the soil with manure and rotted seaweed but there is very little vegetable matter available for composting.

The people are encouraged to grow their own vegetables and many of them have gardens of their own for this purpose. In addition a number of them keep fowls.

CATTLE.

A comprehensive survey has been completed by the native stockman. In a series of working trips all the cattle were mustered; a seven-mile fence was built across the Island to make a paddock for wild cattle brought in from the more remote areas and stockyards were erected thirty miles from the Mission to assist mustering.

The regular musters have ensured a good supply of beef for domestic use.

Milk is available from the dairy herd to provide each pre-school child and the hospital with daily milk for several months of the year.

EDUCATION.

One hundred and twelve children are on the school roll, and 10 native women are employed as teachers. One of the pupils has reached Grade VII, standard and twelve are studying Grade VI. work.

Generally the standard is fair but the children are in lower grades than their ages would indicate. English continues to be the weakest subject.

BUILDING.

Eight of the people have purchased prefabricated houses. Of these, two are completed and work has commenced on four more.

In addition portion of the materials for the new assistants' cottage has been received and work will commence on the erection of this building on the new site in the near future.

A new ward has been built for the hospital for the male patients. It is a corrugated fibro building with an ant bed floor. The additional ward has made it possible to segregate men and women patients and has considerably eased the strain on the hospital accommodation which is however, still inadequate, particularly during the wet season when it is often impossible to transfer patients to the mainland.

HEALTH.

The health of the people has been good generally, but the hookworm infestation is a matter for concern. Three mass treatments have been completed and almost half the children are receiving additional iron and some are receiving Imferon injections.

It is greatly regretted that the first case of active tuberculosis has been confirmed. To date there is no indication that the disease has spread and it is to be hoped that the case proved to be an isolated one.

The special diet for the pre-school and kindergarten children has been improved. All children who are losing weight or who are not gaining sufficient weight receive additional meals twice daily. The supplementary food includes liver, dried fruits, extra milk and vegetables, custard, Milo and wholemeal bread.

All pre-school children, school children and expectant mothers have received their initial injections of Salk anti-poliomyelitis vaccine.

The Flying Doctor from Cloncurry, Dr. Neill Duncan, continues to visit regularly for his monthly clinics and in addition has attended a number of emergency cases. His work is of incalculable benefit to the people; the improvement in the general health being directly attributable to his efforts.

GENERAL.

The Bentinck Islanders are playing an increasingly large part in the life and work on the compound. Several of the women now take their turn in the kitchen, cooking the children's food and all the women have joined in the work in the garden. In addition, many men have worked extremely well helping to maintain the airstrip and in assisting in the initial resurfacing of the strip with laterite. This is a long-range project and will, it is hoped, transform one runway into an all-weather strip.

There are encouraging signs that the people are making every effort to take advantage of the opportunities offered them. Several families have bought wood stoves this year and the standard of village cooking is slowly improving. This is partly due to the simple domestic science training which the older girls receive. It is hoped to extend this work in the coming year.

APPRECIATION.

We wish to express our grateful thanks to all who have assisted us during the past year: to the Minister, the Director of Native Affairs and his staff for their continued personal interest and help; to the Protector of Aborigines, Burketown, for the assistance he renders our people who have gone out to work on the mainland; to the Church Mission Committee for their planning and encouragement; to the Flying Doctor and his pilot, who have come to us at all times as we had need; and to all our kind friends who have sent us gifts at Christmas and throughout the year.

APPENDIX 15.

HAMMOND ISLAND MISSION (ROMAN CATHOLIC.)

(Priest in Charge—Rev. O. McDermott.)

STAFF.

Resident Priest—Rev. A. J. Collins.
Two Sisters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.
Lay Worker—Francis Dorante.

STATISTICS.

Births	..	..	..	..	..	5
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Marriages	..	..	..	..	..	1
School Children	..	..	..	..	..	38

DISCIPLINE.

Discipline during the past year has been quite satisfactory. The Mission residents co-operate well with the staff and manifest a good community spirit. Church services are well and regularly attended.

HEALTH.

The health of the people of the Mission is excellent. No epidemic nor outbreak of serious illness occurred during the year. The babies and school children benefit from the fortnightly visit of the Sister from the Thursday Island Children's Clinic. Her kindly interest and expert attention evoke the gratitude of parents and staff. The adults readily avail themselves of the facilities provided by Thursday Island Hospital Outdoor Department. Dental service is obtained at Thursday Island. Mr. O'Shea, Health Officer, stayed for a time on the Mission making a survey of Hookworm infestation and a study of health matters generally. His visit was deeply appreciated and steps will be taken as soon as possible to give effect to his recommendations. This officer commented favourably on the good standard of housing.

Two new homes were built during the year and one home enlarged. The interest taken in homes and the standard set by home builders in recent years augurs well for the future.

EDUCATION.

Satisfactory progress is reported in all branches of school work, in instrumental music and in the arts and crafts. Sister M. Anastasia who taught at Hammond Island for six years was at Christmas transferred to Alice Springs and was replaced by Sister M. Cabrini, formerly of Port Keats Mission, Northern Territory. Two of the older school girls are boarding at Thursday Island Convent and one will sit for the scholarship examination at the end of the year.

The new school should be ready for use before the hot weather comes and will be a great boon to teachers and scholars.

EMPLOYMENT.

The majority of the Mission's employable males are engaged in the pearling industry and prove themselves efficient seamen and divers. Last season after a very late start, Francis Sabatino's boat brought in 24 tons of pearl-shell. A boat under the captaincy of Lui Garnier working on a share basis, returned good dividends, firstly from trochus and later from pearl-shell. Men not employed at sea, work as carpenters, shipwrights and labourers on Thursday Island and return home each evening.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Hammond Island Mission extends its sincere and hearty congratulations to the Most Reverend John Doyle, M.S.C., D.D., who on 25th February, 1957, was consecrated as first Bishop of Samarai in his former parish church at Randwick, Sydney. Bishop Doyle founded the Mission in 1929 and has retained a lively interest in its welfare. We wish him many years of health and prosperity and pray that the Eastern Papua Mission will flourish under his wise rule. Father McDermott, first resident priest at Hammond Island Mission, represented Torres Strait at Bishop Doyle's consecration and remained in the south for a short time on leave.

CONCLUSION.

We wish to record our appreciation of the valued assistance the Mission has received from many friends and supporters, and in particular we offer our sincere thanks to the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs, to Mr. C. O'Leary to Mr. Killoran and his staff for their courteous and valued assistance. We would like to take this opportunity of giving public expression of our gratitude to the Doctors, Matron and Staff of Thursday Island Hospital, whose skill and unselfish devotion to duty ever give the best of assistance to our sick and ailing.

APPENDIX 16.

LOCKHART RIVER MISSION, IRON RANGE, VIA CAIRNS.

(Superintendent—John A. Warby.)

STAFF.

Reverend J. B. Goodman, B.A. (Chaplain).
Miss A. Hann, Th. L. (School Teacher).
Mr. M. R. Freeman (Engineer).
Mr. J. Kaines (Cattle Manager).
Mrs. R. L. Ewin (School Teacher).
Mrs. J. A. Warby (Bookkeeper).
Sister H. D. Conn (Medical Sister).
Mr. R. L. Ewin (Agriculturalist).
Mrs. T. Freeman (Social Worker).
Mr. W. Namok (Carpenter).

GENERAL PROGRESS.

The progress of the mission has been good during the past year. There have been various set-backs, but these have been of a temporary nature, and served to spur staff and people on to higher endeavours.

THE LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL CHRISTIAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.

The progress of this aboriginal business has been most marked. The Board of Directors, especially, have shown very considerable advancement in the carrying out of the duties involved, and a real sense of responsibility is developing. The Directors are:—

Frank O'Brien, President.
Peter Creek, Secretary.
Charlie Clarmont.
Furry Short.
John Butcher, Manager.
Alick Sandy, Public Officer.
David Marrott.

Mrs. J. Warby is Treasurer.

The first audit of the Co-operative was held as at 30th June, 1956, and this revealed that a profit of £5,396 had been made since the formation of the Society. A dividend of 7½ per cent. was paid to full members and also a bonus of 50 per cent. was paid to all members whether fully paid up or not. These payments greatly stimulated contributions to share capital by members.

The second annual general meeting was held last September at which we were fortunate to have with us the Director of Co-operatives for A.B.M., the Rev. A. Clint who has done so much in advising on ways and means of running the Society.

TOTAL LOSS OF "FRANCIS PRITT."

This historic boat foundered on the night of 3rd October and came to rest on a large rock in four fathoms of water. Strenuous efforts were made to float her but, being subjected to continuous pounding by heavy seas, the starboard side of the boat was smashed in by the rock, which, as the boat slowly drifted off it, tore out the entire side of the boat for two-thirds of its length. This made the work of recovery difficult and it was only after five days continuous work that we managed to beach the wreck in front of the mission, where the engine was salvaged. Insurance claims including salvage have been met.

COLLAPSE OF TROCHUS MARKET.

The Co-operative derives most of its income from the sale of trochus shell. When the market for this collapsed recently, the future looked rather poor. However steps were taken to extend the fishing of blacklip shell and it is hoped that this shell will compensate largely for the loss of the trochus market.

It seems obvious that further steps to divert the co-operative business activities from trochus and blacklip shell should be taken. Such steps however, will necessitate considerable capital from outside sources, either Governmental or private, and this could be a limiting factor.

SINKING AND RECOVERY OF "MARY LOCKHART."

This mission boat which is used for cargo carrying was swamped at Cape Direction, ten miles north of the mission during November. The recovery of this boat was accomplished in less than 24 hours, mainly due to the wide experience gained during the salvaging of "Francis Pritt." Unlike this boat, "Mary Lockhart" was fortunate in coming to rest on a sand bottom. The hull itself was almost undamaged but the Ruston diesel engine was almost wrecked due to water stopping the engine as the boat sank. The boat was towed to the mission where, after the engine was removed, reconditioned and replaced, she resumed her cargo carrying. This boat and her crew are doing a sterling job carrying hundreds of tons of cargo a year in all weathers.

WATER LAID ON TO ALL HOUSES.

The 3-inch pipe line which Mr. G. Pidsley had been constructing from Coutha Creek to the mission is now completed. Water is pumped through this line to a 35,000-gallon tank mounted on a concrete base. A base for a second tank has been constructed but this tank is not yet complete. Water is reticulated from the completed tank to all staff houses and to every house in the new village. Showers have also been laid on to these houses. The advent of copious supplies of water to everyone's door is a great boon, and cleanliness has increased accordingly. The water supply has been further improved by the erection of a 30-foot diameter windmill on a 60-foot stand. This large mill was erected in a week by two trained erectors assisted by the staff and people. Our thanks are due to the Director of Native Affairs Department for its assistance in supplying most materials for the water project.

SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

Fifty flyproof earth closet cabinets and pans were secured and a tarring depot for pans was organised. Old communal lavatories were abolished and all houses now have private lavatories. The advantages of this system are most marked.

HOUSING—OLD VILLAGE.

Six new houses are under construction. A large community dining room and kitchen is also being built. This village is now a centre for old people. A communal kitchen run by themselves has been organised, lavatories improved and shower rooms erected. Old people are not forced to live at this centre, but every encouragement is given them to do so. As a result they are becoming increasingly proud of their own village.

NEW VILLAGE.

One large house has been completed. This is floored of course, and has masonite walls and iron roof.

A further seven permanent houses are under construction. A determined effort is being made to provide permanent houses. With soaring costs, it was considered that earth wall houses are the answer. The first method attempted was the mud brick system. This provides an excellent house, but after the first house, it was considered that the repeated handling of the blocks involved too much work. As a result the pise de terre or rammed earth system was adopted. This has proved much quicker to build, while the finished house will be just as good. The walls of these houses are one foot in thickness, the exteriors will be treated with cement, and the interiors plastered and painted. It is confidently expected that when completed these houses will last 50 to 100 years with little in the way of maintenance.

RELIGION.

The Chaplain, the Rev. J. B. Goodman, reports as follows:—

During the year the services of the Church have been carried on as usual. Mass is said each morning and evensong each evening. On Sundays mass is sung and later in the day, there is Morning Prayer and Sunday School and Evensong is sung. On greater festivals the mass is solemnly sung.

At St. Jamestide last July the Lord Bishop blessed a new mat and altar frontal and the Church pews which the people had made.

In January an informal service was started on Monday evening in the old village followed by mass on Tuesday morning. Most of the old village people attend these services.

In November, 1956, a Bible Study Group was started with five natives and the Chaplain and three other members of the staff. It has grown to three groups with an average attendance of 15 natives each week.

On 20th May a beautifully carved cedar plaque commemorating the dedication of the chapel to the memory of Rosslyn Keith Matthews, Assistant Superintendent, who died here on 20th May, 1952, was dedicated.

Four of the natives have offered to be trained as lay readers of the Church and the first aborigine, Roy Sandy, has left the mission to attend the Theological College at St. Pauls, Moa. If he is made a priest, he will be the first aborigine ever to be ordained.

During the year, there were 18 baptisms including two adults, three marriages and four funerals.

We look forward to the future as there is a growing realisation by the people for a fuller understanding of the faith as seen in the numbers coming to Bible Study and wishing to be trained to take the services of the Church.

ADULT CO-OPERATIVE SCHOOL.

Attendance during the year has been irregular owing to various factors. A series of short term lessons are being given such as Public Speaking as well as the more usual Arithmetic and English. The Secretary of the Co-operative is given specialised training. The class of illiterates has been discontinued this year to enable extra lessons to be given to younger members of this school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

In 1956 two of the senior boys attended school at All Souls, Charters Towers. It is considered that this training is a great incentive to pupils and of very considerable benefit to those boys who have the chance of attending, even though such students find the higher standards difficult to master.

Miss Hann reports as follows on the Primary School and Kindergarten—

School was opened 204 days. Number of children on the roll was 70. During the year, twenty-two school children attended Thursday Island Hospital for medical attention.

During the year the kindergarten room was painted by the senior school boys. At the beginning of this year the old store building was taken over for use as an Infant School. Grade II. already occupied one section of the building; Grade I. and Prep. I. moved into the other section of the building. This has eased the overcrowding in the primary school. The school buildings are to be painted in the near future. Our thanks are due to the Director of Native Affairs for the paint.

The kindergarten caters for the four-year-olds. It functions mornings only and is in the charge of a native teacher, Jane King. There are three grades in the infants' school and five in the primary school. The senior grade is Grade V. standard. Manual work for the senior grades is held twice weekly. The girls learn needlework and basketmaking.

INFANTS' SCHOOL.

Mrs. R. J. Ewin reports as follows:—

With the formation of a separate infants' department working conditions have been greatly improved for teachers and pupils alike.

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The arrival of paint is an added feature and will make immediate surroundings more pleasant after the forthcoming vacation.

Attendance has been excellent and progress in work, particularly Grade I., very pleasing. Of note, also, is the fact that many of the behaviour problems have been overcome.

Basins and towels have been provided for the kindergarten as an added step in personal hygiene. Since the commencement of both boys' and girls' dressing and shower rooms, there is a great improvement in the general outlook and self respect of these small youngsters.

HOSPITAL AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE.

Sister H. Conn who is in charge of Hospital and Children's Centre reports as follows:—

Medical Survey.—An investigation into an unknown fever was carried out by Drs. MacKerras and Marks of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research, when at least ten known types of leptospirae were isolated and it was considered possible that we may have a special type of leptospirae which has not yet been isolated. Fifty varieties of mosquitoes were identified.

Our sincere thanks are due to these two doctors for their painstaking research and conclusions.

Births—15 (males 8, females 7).

Deaths—4—

- 1 old man due to heart failure.
- 1 old woman due to old age.
- 1 woman, Hodgkinson's disease.
- 1 infant, collapse of lung, complication of Pertussis.

Admissions—98 cases—

- 10 obstetrical cases.
- 19 Bacterial Dysentery (Epidemic adults only).
- 22 Pertussis.
- 6 Torres Strait Island men—crew members of passing boats.
- 4 Leptospirosis.

Transferred to Thursday Island General Hospital—18 cases—

- 5 obstetrical cases for confinement.
- 2 severe anaemia from heavy hookworm infestation.
- 11 General cases (4 Torres Strait Islanders).

Transferred to Brisbane General Hospital—1 Hodgkinson's Disease.

All babies regularly attend the Baby Health Clinic each week. Also, all pregnant mothers are regularly examined.

Hookworm Treatment.—Treatment has been given as a routine to all children at a six months interval and repeated when necessary. Haemoglobin percentages are regularly taken and children watched for signs of anaemia.

General Health.—General health of the people is very good. During the year we have had two visits from the Flying Dentist and a visit from the Optometrist. These visits and their results were very much appreciated.

The new radio service instituted by Director of Native Affairs of direct contact with the Thursday Island General Hospital is of untold benefit and greatly appreciated.

Children's Centre.—The general appearance and health of the children is proof of the success of the centre. All school children continue to have breakfast and dinner at the centre and any child who so wishes may also have supper. Iron mixture and vitamins A, D and C are given every child after each meal. A specially designed kindergarten dining room has been added to the larger dining room for the forty pre-school children who have dinner and supper there and in special cases, breakfast also. The pre-school children have Pentavite and colliron added to their milk; each individual child is fed according to his age and his requirements. A monthly weight record is kept of each child.

The two new dressing and shower rooms (one for girls and one for boys) have now commenced functioning much to the delight of the children. These large structures are of masonite with concrete floors and aluminium roofing.

AIM FOR YEAR.

The year's aim has been to discover the best and quickest way of developing the dairy and beef cattle on the mission. Also to work out what areas should be paddocked and laid under improved pasture. Both long and short range plans have been made. The long range plan covers a period of five years, and work is now proceeding along lines laid down.

BEEF CATTLE.

A muster was carried out at the end of last year at which 420 were branded. An out-station at Sefton has been reopened to fatten horses, and keep an eye on Wenlock area. A small mustering plant working throughout the year has been started. A set of stock yards at the mission are being rebuilt. Forty new horses were bought as well as a fine new stallion.

DAIRY CATTLE.

This part of cattle is being developed first as it is capable of bringing in substantial returns in a shorter period of time. The dairy paddocks have also been commenced and should be finished by the beginning of the wet. A new dairy should be completed at the same time. A Farmall tractor, a Blue Streak power saw and a post drilling machine have been acquired and these have considerably speeded up the work in hand.

FENCING.

The mission area has been fenced off, permanent gates and cattle ramps constructed and this area is now considered cattle proof. An area of 10 acres on the Lockhart River flats was ploughed in preparation of a pasture grass bed this season.

ENGINEERING.

With three marine diesels, one diesel tractor, two stationary diesels, three trucks, one petrol tractor, one rotary hoe, four stationary petrol engines and one power saw on the mission, and all in constant use, it will be seen that the engineer and staff are kept busy with maintenance and repairs. Many jobs have been carried out and the native mechanics are steadily increasing in knowledge and experience.

AGRICULTURE.

Irrigated Market Garden at Coutha Creek.—The quantity and quality of produce of this garden showed an improvement over previous seasons. A variety of vegetables in good quantity were grown, including tomatoes, silver beet, turnips, cabbages, carrots and sweet potatoes. The Chinese cabbage was especially prolific, more than could be eaten being grown. The sweet potatoes, pumpkins, and bananas, however, suffered severely as a result of the record flood, the greatest in living memory, when the entire garden was submerged to an average depth of twelve feet. The garden has recovered well and is again under crop. The area was extended during this year, and it is intended to continue this development.

POULTRY.

Day-old chicks from Cairns were successfully reared. In the last three months 60 dozen eggs have been produced from 40 hens. These eggs have gone to the children's centre, which has also benefited by 45 prime roosters.

PEOPLE'S GARDENS.

A large area for these was twice ploughed this year, but owing to straying stock these gardens were unsuccessful, but now that the area has been fenced we look forward to better results this year. About 100 acres of rain forest behind the mission is being cleared by collective effort and when shared will be planted and maintained by individuals. This should yield large quantities of bananas, papaws, pumpkins, and water melons.

AIRSTRIPE NEARS COMPLETION.

About 1,000 yards has been cleared and levelled and it is expected that this will soon be ready for ambulance planes.

APPRECIATION.

Our thanks are due to the many people and organisations who have assisted during the past year, especially to the Director of Native Affairs and his staff, the Australian Board of Missions and all helpers, and the Superintendent and staff of Thursday Island Hospital.

Native Affairs - Annual Report of Director of Native Affairs for the year ended 30th June 1957

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aboriginals

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