

R E P O R T

on the

ADMINISTRATION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

30th JUNE, 1946.

--- c o o ---

**COMMONWEALTH
NATIONAL LIBRARY**

C O N T E N T S.Report of the Acting Administrator.

	Page
1. General.	2
2. Resumption of civil Administration at Darwin	3
3. Return of the civil population.	4
4. Production figures.	6
5. The pastoral industry.	7
6. Marketing of fat cattle from Central Australia.	8
7. Manbulloo abattoirs.	10
8. Gold and mineral production.	11
9. Pearling and fisheries.	11
10. Native Affairs.	13
11. Education.	13
12. Police and judiciary.	14
13. Shipping service to Gulf ports.	14
14. Road and rail transport service.	15
15. The Stuart and Barkly Highways.	15
16. Municipal administration of Alice Springs.	16
17. The Alice Springs gaol.	17
18. Quarters for gaol staff.	18
19. Leichhardt Memorial at Roper River.	18
20. "Overlanders" film.	18
21. Aboriginal artists.	19
22. Wet season isolation.	19
23. The Public Service.	20

APPENDICES.Reports of -

The Chief Veterinary Officer.	'A'
The Acting Director of Mines.	'B'
The Acting Director of Native Affairs.	'C'
The Supervisor of Education.	'D'
The Superintendent of Police.	'E'
The Clerk of Courts.	'F'
The Public Trustee.	'G'
The Registrar-General, Births, Deaths and Marriages.	'H'
The Chief Surveyor.	'I'
The Sheriff.	'J'
The Gaoler, Alice Springs.	'K'

smoking. Natives readily adapt themselves to the work and, given marketing facilities, this industry should again be of great productive value without much outlay. Arnhem Land, from Coburg Peninsula to opposite Groote Eylandt, however, is an aboriginal reserve and no licences for fishing operations along this coastline would be issued except under conditions imposed by the Director of Native Affairs.

10. NATIVE AFFAIRS.

In his report for 1944-45 the Administrator dealt at length with the natives of the Northern Territory and the problem generally which is the responsibility of the Department.

The report of the Acting Director of Native Affairs, which is attached, shows how the difficult transition period, which occurred during the year, was met and the steps taken to rehabilitate full-bloods employed by the Army, those indirectly affected by the impact of the war and returning half-caste women and children who had been evacuated from the Territory.

It was difficult to predict exactly the reactions of natives who had been employed by the Army. Allowances were made for a possible lag in re-adaptation. It was thought that sustenance might need to be provided until fresh employment was found. Happily, these fears were not realized; the natives, in many cases on discharge, first "went walk-about" and then found private employment themselves.

Officers of the Native Affairs Branch watched the transition period with efficient care which is reflected in the absence of problem cases. This was carried out in all districts despite lack of transport and, at one stage, a temporary shortage of funds. The latter was speedily remedied by the Treasury.

The return of half-caste families from southern States was no mean undertaking, but which, with sound staff work and complete co-operation, was effected without mishap of any kind.

The patrolling of reserves, inspection of Missions, staffing of settlements and general administration carried out during the year reflect great credit on the officers concerned who have performed the difficult task of adapting their interpretation of policy to each individual problem. The native, for his part, philosophically accepts what is being done for him as in his best interests and Native Affairs officers, on the whole, endeavour to maintain a rising standard of service designed to justify and consolidate this faith.

11. EDUCATION.

Mention has already been made of the re-opening of northern schools during the year. The reports of the Supervisor and the Assistant Supervisor deal very fully with education and the staffing of schools.

The arrangement with the South Australian Government for education administration in the Territory is proving most successful and of great benefit to all concerned.

The approval given for the erection of additional buildings at Alice Springs for the Higher Primary school is proving well justified by increasing attendances.

Ealing Studios. The picture was produced in the Northern Territory under the direction of Mr. Harry Watt with an all-Australian cast. It has a purely local theme and setting and good use has been made of the uncanny beauty of the country in the vicinity of the MacDonnell Ranges, the limitless horizon and wide open spaces of Central Australia as well as the tropical Roper River near Elsey station.

It is hoped that this film will be the forerunner of many others as the Territory has many points of interest including the natural setting of aboriginal life and the historical background of early exploration and settlement.

21. ABORIGINAL ARTISTS.

Albert Namatjira, the now famous Arunta artist, continued to have great success with his work during the year. Mr. Rex Battarbee reports that the demand for Albert's pictures in Australia and overseas far exceeds the artist's ability to supply it.

In March, 1946, an exhibition of Albert Namatjira's water colours was held in Adelaide at the Royal South Australia Society of Arts Gallery when the whole collection of fortyone water colours was sold at catalogue prices to the value of £1,008. The attendance at this one-man exhibition averaged over one thousand persons daily.

The artist's interests are managed by "The Albert Namatjira Advisory Council" which advises him on the use of his money which is all paid into his bank account. Albert has invested in the Commonwealth Loans and, during the year, he bought a motor truck from the Army Disposals sales. This will help him in his work.

While Albert Namatjira is the first Australian aboriginal to hold a one-man exhibition there is a group of native artists painting at Hermannsburg who are already making a living out of their art. Edwin Pareroultja, one of the three artist brothers, is booked to hold his first exhibition of water colours at the Athenaeum Art Gallery, Melbourne, in November, 1946.

22. WET SEASON ISOLATION.

An instance of the complete isolation of certain Police posts in the northern part of the Territory during the monsoonal period occurred in February, 1946, when the wife of Constable Fitzer, the Police officer at Daly River, became seriously ill.

The pedal wireless was out of order and the road to the railway line was closed by flooded rivers and bog. Constable Fitzer therefore sent an aboriginal on foot with a letter to the Adelaide River Police for medical assistance.

Many stories have been told of the devotion to duty of aboriginals in emergency and the succouring of airmen shot down on the coast during the war. This blackboy covered a distance of about 70 miles in record time, swimming flooded rivers and negotiating country which was otherwise impassable.

There is no landing ground at Daly River except a small dry weather strip for Moth planes fifteen miles below the Police Station. This was under water at the time.

REPORT ON NATIVE AFFAIRS 1945-46.

During the war years approximately 1,000 aboriginals were employed by the Armed Services on work about camps and on general labouring work. The duty performed by natives was excellent and resulted in the release of an equal number of enlisted men for fighting service. Separate camps were established for natives and they and their dependants were maintained as part of the remuneration paid. The actual cash payment amounted to only ten pence per head per day. Amongst those employed were many who had had little previous contact with the white population and who had not previously been in employment.

In March, 1946, the Army abandoned all its native settlements and the Branch was faced with the problem of absorbing and rehabilitating approximately 1,000 natives. This task was rendered difficult by almost complete absence of any accommodation and staff, and the extreme difficulty in obtaining supplies of foodstuffs. However, these difficulties were overcome in most part by resorting to expedients, which conditions still obtained at the close of the year under review.

Lack of shipping, the withdrawal of Army supplies and disorganisation in local merchant circles imposed severe disabilities not only on the Branch but on private employers who desired to employ aboriginals.

Many natives from control camps chose to return to their country. Some elected to proceed immediately to private employment.

The transition from Army control to departmental control, despite the difficulties enumerated herein, was without incident and natives generally adapted themselves well, to the changed conditions. A few displayed acute restlessness and would not remain in employment for any long period.

Food and clothing rationing did not impede the Department's efforts as complete co-operation was obtained from the Rationing Officer in Alice Springs.

At the close of the year the Branch succeeded in acquiring an extensive range of valuable equipment which will assist in the Department's development of the various native settlements.

However, the provision of accommodation on settlements for married officers is a matter of urgency. At present the staff are compelled to live under conditions both primitive and uncomfortable and with an entire lack of any amenities such as refrigerators and wireless communications, etcetera.

From the industrial aspect natives are enjoying conditions much more favourable than those existing prior to the war. Natives engaged in Government employ are receiving a minimum of 30/- per week and found. Others employed in domestic duties are now being paid rates varying from 10/- to 30/- per week.

The Branch has been unable to meet all demands for labour and no change in this position is expected especially so when industrial enterprises are established by the Government on the reserves which will provide not only avenues of employment for a large number of natives but will tend to stop the drift of aboriginals to Darwin and other towns.

A number of tribal murders were reported in northern areas and these were investigated by the Police and officers of the field staff for the Branch.

Snake Bay Native Settlement.

During the war the three Services, Navy, Army, and Air Force were represented in the Snake Bay area. A jetty and an extensive aerodrome were constructed in close proximity to the depot.

The area reverted to civil control in late 1945 when a temporary Superintendent was appointed.

Surplus Service equipment, including motor vehicles, tractors, wireless equipment, saw-bench, buildings, power-plant, stationary engines, horses, and other sundry items were acquired from the Disposals Commission. These purchases combined with port and aerodrome facilities will greatly facilitate the development of the resources of Bathurst and Melville Island aboriginal reserves.

A timber survey of Melville Island was made and as a result it is proposed to recommend the establishment of one or two saw-mills which should produce adequate timber supplies for local building requirements and for export to the mainland. A project of re-afforestation is contemplated also.

The industrialisation of Melville Island will provide lucrative and worthwhile employment for natives on this important island. The population of the island has been steadily drained over a period of years by migration to the mainland. The establishment of industries will arrest this drift and will encourage many natives to return to their tribal lands.

During the year an area in the south-west portion of the island was selected as the site for a new leper hospital where aboriginal and half-caste inmates from Channel Island will be accommodated.

Some fiftythree female half-caste children who were evacuated to Carrieton, South Australia, during the war returned to the Roman Catholic Mission at Garden Point.

Work at the Snake Bay depot was confined to gardening, the erection of a small house for the Superintendent, and the commencement of a road to connect with Cockle Creek situated on Apsley Strait. The completion of this work will enable stores to be brought overland, and will eliminate the long sea route around Cape van Dieman and the Mermaid Shoals.

Some 250 natives visited the depot during the period of civil control.

Delissaville Native Settlement.

Army occupation denuded this area of practically all of the limited facilities existing there before the war.

In March a commencement was made to re-establish the depot. Lack of building material retarded progress. However, a number of native huts were constructed from salvage material and an extensive area was prepared for gardens.

A saw-bench and engine and power-plant for water reticulation purposes were purchased, which equipment will be installed early in the new financial year.

One hundred and fiftyseven natives were residing at the settlement on 30th June. Many of these inmates, who were noted methylated spirit addicts in previous years indicated a desire not to return to Darwin and expressed willingness to construct their homes and work on the settlement without pay.

It is intended to develop this settlement along communal lines, providing employment for inmates in gardening, firewood cutting, poultry and goat raising, and fishing, profits from which will be shared by those engaged therein.

Bagot Aboriginal Reserve.

The many and modern buildings erected on the reserve during the early stages of the war were not occupied by the native population until the Army Native Unit transferred there from Koolpinyah in 1944. During the war the buildings were used as an Army hospital and as barracks for various units engaged in the defence of Darwin.

In March, 1946, the reserve reverted to the control of the Native Affairs Branch which was confronted with the problem of rehabilitating the 400 natives residing there.

Dispersal of two hundred and ten natives was effected by repatriation to their country and by transfer to Delissaville native settlement. All remaining able-bodied natives were absorbed in employment provided by civilians who had returned to Darwin.

The buildings and facilities on the reserve deteriorated considerably during Army occupation, but the installation of electric light and a septic sewerage system by the Army compensated in part for this.

The Native Hospital and Clinic which was staffed by a nurse appointed by the Native Affairs Branch in October, 1944, continued to function under civil control. Army and other Service Medical Officers supervised treatment and rendered excellent service to the aboriginal community. This Hospital accommodates infectious and contagious cases and convalescents on their discharge from the Darwin Hospital. It consists of two blocks of modern concrete wards and is equipped with all facilities to enable proper treatment of thirtytwo patients.

The Bagot Reserve functions as a place of residence for natives employed in Darwin and as a dispersal depot for natives discharged from gaol and hospital. The number of inmates registered in the institution at 30th June, 1945, was 315.

Maranboy Native Settlement.

This settlement which was established during the war period for the purposes of controlling drift of natives from Arnhem Land Reserve to town and military centres along the North-South Road and for preventing contact of natives with miners and A.W.C. camps in the Maranboy district, was used as a dispersal depot for natives when they were discharged from Army native settlements at Larrimah, Mataranka, and Katherine.

Before the war no supervised depot existed in this area and abuses of native employment and undeterred drift to town centres were rife. At Katherine uncontrolled native elements were addicted to opium and methylated spirits drinking and undesirable contact with Europeans was rampant. These abuses have been entirely eliminated by the establishment of this depot.

A small civil native settlement established in 1943 some eleven miles east of Katherine, which was supervised by staff provided by the Aborigines Inland Mission was closed and inmates removed to the Maranboy settlement.

In March, 1945, the Maranboy settlement was moved to a site some six miles away from the original location.

/ At

At the close of the year a commencement had been made on the construction of essential buildings and the laying out of garden plots. Large quantities of piping, building material and kitchen equipment were salvaged from abandoned Army native settlements and were transported to the settlement.

The number of natives maintained at 30th June, 1946, was 420.

During the year all demands for labour were met. All remaining employable natives were engaged on work connected with the establishment of the new depot.

Tennant Creek.

With the advent of extensive mining operations at Tennant Creek, an area including the town and the mining field was declared a prohibited area for natives and the natives were congregated in an area about a waterhole on the Telegraph Reserve. The area, although the best available in the vicinity, was unsatisfactory and efforts were made to locate a more suitable place for the establishment of a permanent depot. Finally approval was obtained to establish a settlement in the vicinity of the Phillips Creek stock route bore until such time as a suitable area can be found for a permanent settlement. This area is much more suitable than that formerly occupied and has a distinct advantage in having the natives further from the mining field and from undesirable contact with the white community.

The settlement is controlled by staff attached to the Aborigines Inland Mission. A number of essential buildings have been erected; a herd of goats for milk supply and a motor truck for transport purposes have been provided and telephone communication with Tennant Creek will be available in the near future.

The inmates of the settlement are 78 men, 94 women, and 103 children. In addition to their physical welfare, the Missioner in charge attends to their spiritual needs and imparts education to the children.

Bullocky Soak.

Because of reports received by this office and by the Police of nuisance caused by natives congregating about road maintenance camps, station homesteads, etcetera, begging, stealing, and worse, it was found necessary to establish a depot where control could be maintained. Mr. C.L. Carter, of Mt. Esther Station, gave permission for a depot to be established temporarily on his property at Bullocky Soak. The number of natives placed at this depot was approximately 120. Various localities were inspected with a view to establishing a settlement and when a successful bore was obtained in a suitable locality on the stock route between Alice Springs and Granites, permission was obtained for the establishment of the settlement there. This bore is approximately 200 miles north-west of Alice Springs and approximately 40 miles east of Mount Doreen Station. The surrounding area of 400 sq. miles was held under grazing licence by Mr. Russell, who on representations from this office surrendered his licence so that the land could be made available for the native settlement.

As soon as the bore was equipped with windmill, tank and troughing, the natives from Bullocky Soak were transferred there.

Granites - Tanami.

Owing to the arid nature of this area, it became necessary to establish a ration depot at Tanami to alleviate

/ distress

distress amongst the natives. Rations supplied by this Section were formerly issued in necessitous cases by Mr. Harris who carried on mining operations at that place. During the war, mining operations ceased and it then became necessary for a departmental officer to be stationed there.

Unfortunately, the well collapsed and the natives had to exist on water from a natural rockhole. Owing to shortage and poor quality of this water and lack of native foods, a minor outbreak of scurvy occurred. This was very quickly overcome by the provision of suitable vitamin-containing foods and the transfer of the depot and the natives to Granites where ample potable water was available in a bore owned by Mr. Chapman who willingly gave permission for the supply of water for the depot. This was a temporary expedient only. Pending the selection of a suitable permanent site, the natives, numbering approximately 150, have since been transferred to the depot in the Mount Doreen area (Yuendumu).

Yuendumu.

The settlement in the Mount Doreen area has been named Yuendumu which is the native name for a line of hills in the immediate vicinity. The water supply was tested to 20,000 gallons of water per day but that is not the maximum quantity available. The quality of the water is good. The country is well covered with timber, mostly mulga, and the site is very suitable.

A 20,000 gallon tank has been erected and an additional 5,000 gallon tank on a high stand is at present in the course of erection. Several hundred feet of water reticulation has been laid. A garden area has been fenced and planting has been carried out. A number of fruit trees (mostly fig) have been planted and a considerable number of citrus trees are on order. A flock of 150 goats for milk supply has been obtained.

Two Sidney Williams huts each 60 ft. x 20 ft. have been erected and a baker's oven has been constructed. A large building suitable for a community kitchen has been landed at the settlement and is awaiting erection. Other buildings formerly used by Army at Alice Springs and purchased by this Administration are awaiting transfer to this settlement.

Mr. McGarry, an officer of this Section who was in charge of the depot at Tanami and Granites, is now in charge of this settlement. A truck has been stationed there and Mr. Hewitt is employed as truck driver and assistant to Mr. McGarry. A wireless transceiver which will work with the Flying Doctor Service Base at Alice Springs is on order for the settlement.

In addition to the natives from Bullocky Soak and the Tanami-Granites area, a number of natives indigenous to the area have moved to the settlement and the population is now approximately 400, comprised of 127 men, 149 women, and 101 children.

The Baptist Home Mission is interested in spiritual and welfare work amongst the natives and it is anticipated that they will station missionaries and welfare workers at the settlement in the near future.

Haasts Bluff - Areyonga.

At Haasts Bluff a depot was established some years ago to alleviate distress amongst the old and infirm aboriginals in the western area and to combat the drift of natives towards white settlement where they quickly absorb vices and rapidly degenerate. Only the old and the infirm are assisted at this depot and supervision and control is maintained by the Finke River Mission at

Government expense. Little advance has been made at this depot owing to lack of water. Unsuccessful efforts were made some years ago to obtain water by boring. Last year a boring plant was again made available and there are now four bores tested to practically unlimited supplies on the reserve. It is felt certain that a progressive policy for the area will be placed into operation during the coming year.

The Finke River Mission authorities have already carried out considerable building improvements and this Branch has assisted by the provision of transport of additional buildings for such essential items as store, hospital, school, etcetera.

Wire has also been made available for the fencing off of areas about the settlement site for the conservation of timber and for the prevention of soil erosion. It is also intended to fence portion of the eastern boundary of the reserve as soon as possible with a view to stocking portions of the reserve with cattle for beef supply after the bores have been equipped.

There are 198 adults and 40 children maintained at this depot.

Areyonga depot which is approximately 80 miles southerly from Haasts Bluff and an equal distance by road from Hermannsburg was established more recently for similar purposes. There is a well which gives ample water for local requirements but the surrounding country is not suitable for development on a large scale. Seventy-five adults and 18 children are maintained here.

In addition to rations which are provided to alleviate distress, trading stores are maintained by the Mission authorities at both Haasts Bluff and Areyonga where natives may dispose of kangaroo skins, dingo scalps, weapons, etcetera, and purchase foods luxuries, etcetera, with the proceeds. This serves a most useful purpose in encouraging self dependence and industry, and avoids the necessity for natives to come to settled areas to dispose of such items.

Jay Creek.

At Jay Creek the depot has been carried on as formerly with Mr. Ringwood, of this Branch, as Superintendent. Rationing of natives, maintenance of garden and similar work has been continued but no progress has been made due to insufficiency of water. Mr. Ringwood has, with the assistance of natives, continued the search for water with only moderate success. It is hoped that efforts will be continued with boring until an adequate water supply is obtained.

The reserve has recently been increased by the addition of land resumed from an adjoining lease. It is anticipated that essential fencing will be erected during this year to enable stock to be carried for local consumption, but only a very limited number can be carried unless the water supply is increased.

The natives at this depot are 33 men, 46 women, and 25 children. Although the number of natives is relatively small, this is an important depot as the area is traversed by the road between Alice Springs and Hermannsburg and the branch road to Standley Chasm which is extensively used.

Missions.

Various Church bodies control and operate stations for full blooded aboriginals. Those in the northern area are :-

/ Roman

Roman Catholic.

Bathurst Island, Port Keats.

Church of England.Oenpelli, Roper River, and
Groote Eylandt.Methodist.Millingimbi, Goulburn Island,
Yirkalla, and Elcho Island.

Those in the southern area are :-

Roman Catholic.

Little Flower Mission, Arltunga.

Lutheran Church.

Finke River Mission, Hermannsburg.

These are quite apart from Missions maintained solely for half-caste people.

Northern Missions.

All northern Missions, particularly those situated on the northern coast, suffered severely by impact with the war. These coastal missions became the centre of aerial defence activities, and suffered severe disabilities relating to supplies and communications owing to their isolation and dependence on sea transport.

Millingimbi Methodist Mission was bombed and severe damage inflicted on mission buildings.

Large numbers of natives from the various Missions were employed by the Services. These contacts have created a problem not existing before the war and which will require sympathetic treatment to restore to the native his proper and normal perspective and an appreciation that benefits bestowed by Service occupation were only transient and could not be perpetuated after the war.

Labouring as they were under severe handicaps and almost insurmountable difficulties, northern Missions could not hope to achieve anything other than to keep their organisations intact and to dispense essential aid and spiritual advice to natives visiting their missions.

The Methodist Mission which controls Goulburn Island, Millingimbi, Elcho Island, and Yirkalla Stations acquired valuable equipment from Disposals including a large schooner which will facilitate development and considerably reduce transport difficulties. Activities on these Missions have been confined to repairing the ravages of war, and preparatory work to enable the normal functioning of the institutions. Education, spiritual teaching and minor industrial enterprises and general welfare were carried out, but as stated herein, lack of staff and facilities and other obstacles retarded usual progress in these directions.

The Roman Catholic Church, which controls the Bathurst Island and Port Keats Missions, purchased valuable equipment and building material from Disposals which will be of great assistance in future development of these Missions. These Missions too are passing through the recuperative stage and hope to emerge as progressive institutions in the near future, aided as they will be with extra facilities and staff. Routine work on the Missions was carried out and at Port Keats an exceptionally extensive garden and the nucleus of a cattle herd were established.

Groote Island, Oenpelli and Roper River Missions, which are conducted by the Church Missionary Society, functioned throughout the year on more or less normal lines. These Missions too

/ purchased

purchased a new boat and motor vehicles which will tend to remedy transport problems. Both Groote Island and Roper River Missions were centres of defence activities and in consequence suffered disabilities as were inflicted on other Missions in the northern area. Certain new buildings were erected at Groote Island to house the native population.

The Aborigines Inland Mission conducted spiritual and welfare work amongst natives residing at Katherine, Delissaville and Bagot Compounds.

Child endowment in relation to Missions.

The Department of Social Services requested this Branch to supervise the expenditure of child endowment moneys paid to Missions. Shortage of field staff precluded a thorough survey, but it is noticeable that the diet and general welfare of native children have been considerably improved.

During the war period Missions were unable to expend the full amount of endowment moneys, owing to the absence of a purchasing medium, and transport difficulties preventing supplies being delivered at the institutions. Surplus moneys were funded and will be expended now that normal conditions are returning.

Payment at the rate of 7/6d. per week was made to Missions in respect of 1,100 native children maintained.

The half-caste Missions at Garden Point, Croker Island and Mulgoa (in New South Wales) are also paid 7/6d. per week child endowment in addition to 7/- per week paid by the Administration in respect of all half-caste children maintained.

Next year when the field staff is augmented a more intensive investigation will be conducted into this aspect of Mission finances.

In addition to child endowment an amount of £2,700 was authorised to be paid to aboriginal Missions during the year. All Missions were required to furnish detailed returns depicting various phases of Mission activities.

Southern Missions.

The Roman Catholic Mission was originally located in Alice Springs where a large number of natives, including many employed in the town who were under Roman Catholic influence were camped. The Mission staff erected a school where the children received education and also gave medical relief where necessary. When large numbers of Service personnel were stationed in Alice Springs and its environs, it became necessary to transfer the Mission in toto to Arltunga.

The staff consists of a Missionary, a lay Brother and several Nuns, amongst whom are a qualified nurse and school teacher.

The buildings include a Presbytery, Convent, Church, School and a dormitory for girls.

A successful bore has been sunk and equipment is available for erection. Only a small garden has been made as yet but this is to be increased when the bore is equipped. A flock of goats is also maintained by the Mission. The Mission is operating very satisfactorily.

/ Hermannsburg.

Hermannsburg.

This is an old established Mission which is conducted by the Lutheran Church. A cattle station is run in conjunction with Mission activities. This provides work for a considerable number of natives, provides a beef supply for them, and produces revenue to assist in the general maintenance of the Mission.

The Mission not only attends to the spiritual needs of the aboriginal community but maintains the old, infirm and children, provides education for the children, provides work for many and medical assistance where required.

The staff which attends not only to the Mission proper but also to Haasts Bluff and Areyonga, includes three Pastors, a school teacher, stockman, and other white people, as well as many natives, and it is intended to still further increase it in the near future.

During recent years the Mission property has been considerably improved by the provision of water supplies and conservation.

Education has been one of the important activities for many years and practically all the children at the Mission proper as well as many of the adults can read and write.

An extensive garden is maintained which enables quantities of vegetables to be supplied to the natives at Haasts Bluff and Areyonga as well as at the Mission.

Industrial activities provide work for many natives. Some are employed as stockmen and labourers, others tan hides and skins, others manufacture whips, belts, boots, etcetera, from the leather, while rugs are made from the tanned kangaroo skins. Wooden ornaments, weapons, etcetera, are also manufactured for sale and needlework of high quality is performed by the women.

To enable the natives to spend their earnings to advantage, trading stores are maintained at Hermannsburg, Haasts Bluff and Areyonga.

This Mission and the staff are performing most useful work in the interests of the natives and continues to be most progressive.

An establishment is maintained at Alice Springs also where a native missionary is in charge, but which is visited weekly by a Missioner from Hermannsburg. This is very well conducted.

Aborigines Inland Mission.

Although this body has no establishment of its own, it has provided staff who have controlled departmental settlements. Their work has been of inestimable assistance to this Branch, particularly during the war years when it was impossible for us to obtain other suitable staff. The depot at Tennant Creek (later Phillips Creek) has always been staffed by this Mission. For a time the settlements at both Katherine and Bullocky Soak were also staffed by the Mission. This assistance is gratefully acknowledged.

Education.

The education of native children has been undertaken to varying degrees at all the settlements which have been controlled by Church bodies. Proposals for the education of children in Government establishments are under consideration.

/ Employment.

Employment.

Employment of aboriginals can be allocated into three main classes, i.e. pastoral, mining, and general town work.

An extensive investigation into conditions prevailing in the pastoral industry has disclosed many shortcomings and a comprehensive report embodying recommendations for improvements has been submitted by me to the Government. The report has been made available to Pastoral Associations for consideration and the Minister has decided that a conference between departmental officers and Pastoral Lessees' representatives will be held when the views of the latter have been expressed.

There is no legal enactment to prevent the employment of aboriginals in the mining industry; to adequately remunerate them for such work or to protect them from dangerous work such as underground mining, which because of their lack of education is more hazardous to them than to white employees. An investigation was conducted into this matter and recommendations have been made that only aboriginals considered suitable by the Director may be employed underground and that natives employed in this industry be adequately remunerated and given the benefit of Workmen's Compensation.

The conditions under which natives (particularly women) may be employed in towns have recently been reviewed and certain decisions have been made by the Minister. Suitable legislation is now in the course of preparation to enable these to be put into effect.

HALF-CASTES.

Early in 1942, with the advent of Japanese air raids on Darwin and the northern coastal areas, all half-castes from the various Missions were evacuated to southern areas.

The Missions which were operating were transferred as under :-

Garden Point (Melville Island) ..	Carrieton, S.A.
Croker Island ..	Otford, N.S.W.
Groote Eylandt ..	Mulgoa, N.S.W.

Half-castes living in towns and not attached to Missions were transferred to Balaklava, S.A., where a departmental institution under the charge of a Superintendent and his wife was established.

On 27th April, 1946, half-caste children under the care of the Roman Catholic Mission authorities at Carrieton, S.A., were returned to Alice Springs by train, from where they were transported by Army convoy to Larrimah and thence by train to Darwin. From Darwin they completed their long return journey to Garden Point, Melville Island, by boat. This movement was executed without incident.

Later in the year Methodist half-caste children were returned to Darwin from Sydney by the s.s. "Reynella". They completed their journey from Darwin to Croker Island by Naval vessel.

Children of the Church of England Mission at Mulgoa had not been repatriated at the close of the year for reasons that essential buildings had not been erected for their reception at Groote Eylandt.

All half-caste evacuees from the northern areas who were accommodated at Balaklava and other centres in South Australia returned to Darwin by train and private motor transport provided by the Branch. The Bagot Aboriginal Reserve was utilised as a reception and dispersal depot and provided accommodation for families until their next-of-kin could obtain residences for them in the town.

Miss Shankleton, of the Aborigines Inland Mission, who had cared for a number of half-caste children at the Saints Farm in Balaklava, established her Mission in a section of the Bagot reserve.

The Church of England Board of Missions also established a half-caste hostel at the Lady Gowrie Hostel in Alice Springs.

No returns have been received from the half-caste Missions concerning their activities since the return of inmates from southern States. However, Patrol reports have revealed that considerable progress has been made at Croker Island where commodious and well constructed buildings have been constructed on modern lines to accommodate the 78 inmates. A full European staff has been appointed and the position of permanent Superintendent is waiting to be filled. An extensive garden has been planted and a beef herd established. Education is of a high standard and the Mission has purchased a travelling workshop which will be utilised for the technical training of male inmates. A departure has been made by the Mission from the obsolete dormitory system. The inmates are now housed in cottages. Wireless communication has been established with Darwin thus ensuring prompt medical aid in the case of emergency. The island is also particularly well serviced with sea transport, the Mission having two schooners at their disposal.

At Garden Point Roman Catholic Mission, 99 inmates are now in residence and the Mission is planning additions to existing accommodation. Normal school routine has been followed during the year. The children generally are settling down quite well in their new environment and few of them have expressed any longing to return to Carrieton. The health of inmates has been good.

No returns have been received from the Mulgoa Church of England Mission in Sydney. Twentyfour children are being maintained in this institution. Their return to the Territory will be arranged as soon as practicable.

The experiment conducted by the Aborigines Inland Mission in Darwin and the Church of England Board of Missions in Alice Springs, whereby children are cared for in the institution but receive their education at the public school along with European children and half-caste children not under the control of the Branch, will be watched with interest. This innovation eliminates the institution school and is calculated to inculcate confidence in the children by their association with European children.

General.

It has become increasingly evident that if the half-caste Missions at Melville Island, Croker Island, and Groote Eylandt cannot absorb in employment all adolescents after they have completed their education, they will have to seek employment on the mainland, particularly in town centres such as Darwin.

This fact calls for the establishment of hostels to house these inmates during their period of employment in town centres. The Methodist Mission authorities are alive to the question of establishing hostels for their inmates and overtures have already been made in this direction.

Half-caste girls, formerly inmates of Government institutions who were too old to be transferred to the care of Missions in 1940 and who are employed in the town of Darwin at present, are either accommodated by their employers on their premises or at the Aborigines Inland Mission hostel at the Bagot reserve.

Male half-castes of whatever age experience no difficulty in obtaining employment in any industry for which their qualifications fitted them at Award rates of pay. Female half-castes, who prior to the war worked for comparatively low wages, were found employment mostly at Award rates of pay.

As a step towards uplifting half-castes in the scale of our social structure, it was decided to grant full exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Ordinance to all half-castes who served in the Armed Forces and who could produce clean discharges.

Administration.

The administration of the Branch, involving supervision of employment, protection of aboriginals, and other matters which are regulated by law, has been inadequate owing to the present shortage of staff and transport. To improve the position it is proposed to constitute six Patrol districts, each of which will be controlled by an officer resident in the district.

Four cadet patrol officers have already been appointed. These are very suitable young men who after a period of training will be given a course in anthropology and who will then be appointed as Patrol Officers in charge of districts.

The office staff is also being built up. It is anticipated that in the near future the full complement of staff will be available.

The Director of Native Affairs (Mr. E.W.P. Chinnery), who is also the Commonwealth Adviser on Native Affairs, will be returning to New Guinea shortly and a permanent Director of Native Affairs is to be appointed. Applications have already been invited for appointment to the office.

The Patrol staff which has been available during the war has made extensive inspections. They have compiled much valuable information; have rectified matters needing attention and generally ensured the welfare of natives to the limits of their capacity. It was not possible, however, to cover the whole of the Territory. Pending provision of new vehicles, inspection work has been and still is severely hampered.

In addition to patrols which were made in settled areas, extensive investigation was made in the search for areas of Crown lands on the outskirts of settlements suitable for reserves for aboriginals. In the course of these investigations many nomadic natives were contacted.

Patrol Officer Sweeney also made investigations into the native food supplies in the area north-west of Alice Springs. A similar investigation was made by Pastor Albrecht in the area west of Alice Springs.

The whole of the staff has given exceptionally fine service during the very difficult and trying period, not only of war activities, but the unsettled era subsequent to the abrupt cessation of hostilities.

(SGD). V.G. CARRINGTON.

Acting Director of Native Affairs.