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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTHERN PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS FOR 1902.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

Office of the Northern Protector,  
Cooktown, 1st January, 1903.

SIR,—I have the honour to hand you my Annual Report on the results of the operation of "*The Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897 to 1901*," for the year ending 31st December, 1902.

A total of 1,418 permits has been issued by the local Protectors. Particulars of their distribution are shown in the following table:—

Permits Issued by Local Protector in the Petty Sessions Districts of—	Males.	Females.
Somerset	148	2
Cairns, Douglas, Herberton, Mareeba, Mourilyan, Thornborough	58	49
Cook, Palmer	370	140
Burke, Camooweal, Cloncurry, Croydon, Etheridge, Norman	244	102
Mackay	10	1
Winton	20	10
Ayr, Bowen, Ingham, Cardwell	43	13
Townsville	15	1
Charters Towers, Cape River, Hughenden, Ravenswood	97	34
Boulia	50	11

Permits and  
Agreements:  
Wages:  
Certificates of  
Exemption.

At Thursday Island all the males were on articles of vessels licensed under the Pearl-shell and Bêche-de-mer Fisheries Acts. All the Cairns permits had in addition agreements attached to them. Of the Cooktown permits, fifty males and thirty females were under agreement—*i.e.*, they were sleeping on their employers' premises and were permanently employed. At Normanton, the numbers given above do not include casual or daily labour in townships by aborigines engaged in scrubbing, washing, cleaning up yards, carrying water, chopping firewood, &c. At Winton, of the ten females under permit, &c., seven are half-castes: all have given satisfaction to their employers, and appear to be contented and happy themselves. "Some old blacks and their gins who live in the Winton camp are allowed to do odd jobs daily about town for the inhabitants without any permits, such as the boys cutting up firewood, and the gins washing and scrubbing, and they are thereby enabled to support themselves without any assistance. The inhabitants are invariably kind to these old people and treat them well." Similarly, around Townsville, a good number of natives, both male and female, are employed casually for a day or two during the week, and are accordingly not placed under agreement.

In connection with the question of permits and agreements, there are not a few matters deserving of mention—*viz.*, the refusal of permits to reputed horse-thieves and cattle-duffers, restrictions on publicans, and on single men, the employment of children, and the payment of wages. There is no doubt that the discretionary power vested in the Protectors in refusing applications from the first-named class of individuals is acting as a great deterrent from the committal of offences against stock: it furthermore prevents the aboriginal from associating with undesirable companions, being put up to all kinds of villainy and mischief, and from entering upon a life of crime. Personally, I am averse to publicans employing any aborigines whatever, and in this view I have the hearty sympathy and co-operation of my

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**Protectors.** Experience of such employment teaches me that in the large majority of cases the natives' wages are paid in liquor, the aboriginal employees act as the go-betweens and decoys for supplying grog to other blacks, while the gins are employed for purposes of prostitution; I admit that to actually prove the foregoing statement as regards any one hotel is a very difficult matter. At any rate, with the sanction of the Minister, the following circular memorandum No. 4, dated 15th August, 1902, was forwarded by me to all the Protectors in the Northern Districts:—

Except under very special circumstances, it is not considered desirable that publicans should be allowed to employ aboriginals, owing to the facilities with which the latter are thereby enabled to obtain liquor. Please therefore do not issue any fresh agreements or renew any old ones for the employment of blacks at hotels. If in any particular case you consider that there are sufficiently special circumstances to warrant such employment, please furnish me with full details so that I may be in a position to judge whether the necessary permit shall be granted or not.

In comparison with what used to take place at Cooktown on his arrival there three years ago and now, Acting Protector Hasenkamp says that through the publicans not being allowed to employ aboriginals, and the police not permitting aboriginals to loaf about the hotels, an "enormous check" has been put upon aboriginals being supplied with liquor; furthermore, that notwithstanding their having money to spend, he finds very little drinking taking place amongst the blacks in the district under his charge. No small difficulty having arisen in the outside districts as to single men desirous of employing female aboriginals, I issued instructions on the following lines:—That whilst in every way desirous of carrying out the Minister's wishes *re* the non-advisability of single men employing gins, I was well aware of the difficulties attendant upon making one hard-and-fast rule in view of the many varying social conditions of life as are met with throughout the State: that great care should be exercised by the local police in their recommendations upon all such applications, and that they should not hesitate to report adversely if they had reasons for believing that the gins were being employed for any other than legitimate purposes. Applications continue to be received from individuals anxious to "adopt," &c., little half-caste or full-blood children, to obtain certificates of exemption on their behalf, to employ them without permit, or otherwise obtain their labour without paying for it. To the first I make reply that the law does not recognise any such thing as "adoption"; to the second that such certificates are granted only to those half-castes old enough and mentally able to appreciate them; to the third and last that all such employment is illegal, and carries penalties with it. It is bad enough to know that aboriginal women are being employed on stations for stock-work (mustering cattle, &c.), and to be unable to see my way clearly to checking it; but I certainly object to little children under ten or twelve years of age being hired for the purpose. Only the other day, when an application for two such infants for this sort of employment was brought under my notice, I minuted it as follows:—"I am very adverse to any little children, either true aboriginal or half-caste, doing stock-work, &c. If the police officer locally responsible is of opinion that these children are too young for such work, I trust he will not be afraid to say so, and I shall certainly defend his views. There are two or three mission stations in the Cook district where such children can always be sent, provided the police make the necessary recommendations."

Protector Galbraith says: "The permit system is working very satisfactorily, though there are still a large number of nomadic Europeans who employ aboriginals without a permit. I think it should be imperative that all employers of aboriginal labour should pay their wages into the Savings Bank, and the money be drawn out only with the sanction of a Protector. This would ensure the aboriginal getting his wages, which in many cases he does not, and also provide for the money being properly laid out for his benefit. Such an arrangement would also protect the employer against false claims, and the wage-earner from being unjustly treated. What Bench, for instance, would take an aboriginal's word against an employer's in a matter of payment of wages? Another consideration is that a small amount could be deducted for the support of his old and infirm relatives."

I am convinced that in many cases the aboriginal does not receive the wages to which he is entitled under his agreement, and with the new year I propose laying some suggestions before the Minister whereby I hope this state of affairs may be remedied. I am pleased to state that a just cause for complaint mentioned in my last Annual Report has been partly removed, and instructions given that police trackers are to be legally employed under agreement: I trust that it may not be long before the police gins are treated on equally favourable terms.

The first certificate of exemption to be granted has been issued to Annie Scott, of Canobie Station, on the recommendation of the local Protector, Inspector Galbraith.

At the present time I hold twenty-eight bonds, in amounts varying from £5 to £40, for the return within limited periods—usually a twelvemonth—of aboriginals removed from one district to another, or to beyond the State. Provided that both employer and employee are willing, and the local Protector has no objection, then bonds can be renewed from year to year. Evidence continues to accumulate of blacks in the past having been repeatedly left stranded in places far distant from their homes. As examples of the hardships to which aboriginals are liable to be exposed when not placed under proper agreements and bonds, I may mention two out of three cases reported on by Protector Martin at Mackay:—"Georgie was taken away from Cooktown when a boy by a Mr A—, and handed over to Dr. H—, in Townsville, who subsequently handed him to a man named C—, a resident of Mackay. C— left about two years ago for Brisbane, and turned the boy adrift." Here is another:—"Cameron was taken by a man named C— from Cooktown to Rockhampton when quite a boy. He was turned adrift, and remained there for some years, when he was subsequently engaged by Colonel A—, of the Percy Islands, and remained in his employ for a few years. After leaving the employ of A— he was wandering about Mackay for some time." It was here that Sub-inspector Martin found him employment, took charge of his wages, and thus afforded him the means of getting to Cooktown, where, having lost his language, and unable to discover relatives and friends, he was only too glad to find shelter with the missionaries at Cape Bedford. I may mention that this is the third case that the sub-inspector has similarly assisted.

It having come to my knowledge that employers of aboriginal labour were continuing to elude the vigilance of the police and Protectors by taking passages for their blacks on the coastal steamers without permission, and so removing them from one district to another illegally, the following memorandum was forwarded to the general managers of the A.U.S.N., Howard Smith, Adelaide, China Navigation, and Eastern Australian S.S. Companies:—

SIR,—In view of "*The Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1901*," having now become law, I have the honour to draw your attention to Sections 4 and 10, and to the penalties imposed for suffering or permitting aboriginals or female half-castes to be upon any ship, vessel, or boat. I would, therefore, suggest that you advise your local agents not to grant passages on your vessels to any aboriginal or female half-caste unless the application is accompanied with a permit from the Protector. I have, &c.

It has been laid down "that all blacks from the Northern Territory of South Australia who for the time being are within Queensland territory are considered to be aboriginals within the meaning of our Act": Bonds for their return are accordingly being insisted on. I have received application from an employer of labour in the Fijis to let him have some aboriginals for stock-work, but informed him that no North Queensland aboriginals are allowed to be taken outside Commonwealth territory. Of the three native trackers who were engaged in January, 1901, by the Police Department for a two years' service with the Victorian police, "Bosun" died in the Toowoomba hospital last May, "Ponto" is resting at Yarrabah with a diseased foot, while "Costello" is back on the Palmer. From a sanitary point of view, I do not consider it desirable that boys born and bred in the tropics should be recruited for work in a climate so temperate as that of Victoria.

On the application of Warden Lee-Bryce, I instructed the police, under Section 17 of the Aboriginals &c., 1901 Act to see that the blacks' camp at Ebagoolah was shifted from the neighbourhood of the township well, which was being thereby polluted.

The following schedule shows the convictions for harbouring or otherwise illegally employing <sup>Harbouring.</sup> aboriginals:—

	Prosecutor.	Offender.	Locality.	Verdict.
1902.				
15 January	Constable Harrington	Mourcani (Malay) ...	Ingham ...	Cautioned and discharged.
7 February	Constable Reddan ...	Jose Delacasia (Manilla)	Mazlin Creek (Atherton)	£5 19s. 6d., including costs, or 2 months.
28 " ...	Sub-Inspector Bowen	William J. Smith ...	Mareeba	2s. 6d. and 3s. 6d. costs.
3 March ...	Act. Serg. Hasenkamp	Annie Christie (pub- lican)	Cooktown	£1 and costs.
April ...	Constable Fitzgerald	Harry Ah Sing ...	Cloncurry ...	£10 and 3s. 6d. costs (P.)
9 May ...	Police ...	Ah Kee ...	Eton ...	£10 and costs, or 3 months.
16 " ...	" ...	Tommy Malay ...	Mackay ...	£10 and costs, or 3 months.
4 June ...	" ...	John McCabe ...	Herberton ...	£2 and costs, or 2 months.
26 August ...	" ...	James C. Lloyd ...	Cairns ...	Discharged, but to pay costs.
26 " ...	Act. Serg. Hasenkamp	Bridget Baker (pub- lican)	Cooktown	£1 3s. 6d., including costs.
11 September	Act. Sergeant Whelan	A. G. Madsen ...	Palmer ...	£1 and 3s. 6d. costs.
22 " ...	Constable Fitzgibbon	Ah Gup ...	Deighton (Cook- town)	£2, or 1 month.
27 " ...	Sergeant O'Connor ...	W. Edmonds ...	Boulia ...	Convicted, but not punished.
10 December	Constable McKenna	W. B. Rutherford ...	Mossman ...	5s. and costs.
17 " ...	" "	Williams (publican)	"	1s. and costs.

I am pleased to be able to state that the carrying out of Clause 14 of the 1897 Act with regard to harbouring, illegal employment, &c., has been resorted to only when, in the opinion of any right-minded individual, the circumstances justified it. In the main, the vindication of the law was sought where females were being harboured; in the case of Ah Sing, both aboriginal mother and daughter were found in bed with him. It is consequently very disheartening to find such convictions recorded as that of Mourcani at Ingham, Smith at Mareeba, Edmonds at Boulia, Rutherford and Williams at the Mossman. In the case of Smith, evidence was brought before the court to show that the half-caste girl, whom he was charged with harbouring, was sixteen years of age, and that, dressed as a boy, she had been travelling with him over the country for eight years past. My chief regret was that criminal proceedings could not be instituted against him. W. Edmonds is the manager of Alderley Station. In connection with the cases at the Mossman, Rutherford pleaded guilty, and was fined £10 and costs, or fourteen days, while Williams, who pleaded not guilty, was fined in the same amount: but the fines were reduced by the bench under Section 173 of the Justices Act to 5s. and 1s. respectively. Of the two presiding justices in these cases, one was one of the two individuals whose verdict in the case of *Rex v. Ah Duck*, I had brought under the Minister's notice last March. I accordingly reported these convictions for harbouring, with the result that the Home Secretary called upon the bench for explanations, remarking as follows in the course of his minute:—" . . . I can understand a reasonable reduction of fine being advisable in many cases, but when fines are made merely nominal under the powers given to justices by the Justices Act it may come undesirably near to an intention to not carry out the law."

The expenditure connected with the grant of food and other relief for sick, aged, or starving aboriginals, shows a comparative reduction this year, although the actual amount of money spent is increased: thus, whereas in 1901, something like £53 worth of rations was distributed monthly at fifteen relieving centres, in 1902 there was a fraction over £60 worth supplied monthly at an average of twenty-one centres. At Herbert Downs, on the representations of the local Protector, Sergeant O'Connor, 20 lb. of flour weekly have been authorised until such time as the rain comes: relief owing to the drought has

similarly been sanctioned at Glenormiston, Roxburgh Downs, and Urandangie. Acting on private advices, I consulted the Chillagoe police re rationing the blacks who were thrown out of employment by the shutting down of the works and who, owing to the bad season, were unable to obtain native food: the police reported that there was an urgent necessity for it, and I accordingly allowed rations temporarily at the rate of £1 5s. per week. In accordance with the recommendation made by Protector Galbraith, rations were authorised for some starving aboriginals at Devoncourt Station (*via* Cloncurry) where the country, whence the cattle had all been removed, was in a deplorable state. A small quantity of food, not to exceed a total of 10s. weekly, has been authorised on the recommendation of Protector McNamara for eight old and starving aboriginals at Pentland: it is intended by this means to prevent them having any excuse for pilfering from the miners' camps. An expenditure of £2 per month has been allowed for distribution by the Lappa police for fifteen to twenty starving blacks at Koorboora, who are "rather old and not well able to get about for food for themselves": to meet this expenditure I have reduced the allowances granted monthly at Atherton, Kuranda, and Chillagoe (all in the same police district). Reductions have also been made in the amounts hitherto expended on this purpose at Mein, Coen, Laura (with Musgrave), and the Palmer, while the relief has been entirely cancelled at Nigger Creek (*via* Herberton) and California Creek (*via* Irvinebank). To my own knowledge there have been two aged blind gins staying at Nigger Creek for the past two and a-half years at a cost of £18 per annum to the Government: this expenditure has now been saved by removing them to Atherton, where their friends and relatives are. Acting on my representations, the allowances for police-trackers' gins' rations (at present paid by this Department) have been reduced at Maytown, Thornborough, and Cairns. I do not hold myself responsible for the distribution of relief (over £35 during the year) to aboriginals at Thursday Island which, though paid out of the Aboriginals Vote, is under the control of the Government Resident, the Hon. J. Douglas. The amounts regularly authorised per month at the different food-relieving centres during the year just closed were as follows, the figures in italics being approximate owing to the varying number of natives seeking relief:—

	£	s.		£	s.		£	s.
Atherton ... ..	3	0	Herbert Downs ... ..	2	0	Mein ... ..	1	0
Cape Bedford ... ..	7	0	Irvinebank ... ..	2	10	Moreton ... ..	4	0
Chillagoe ... ..	4	0	Koorboora ... ..	2	0	Palmer ... ..	2	0
Cloncurry ... ..	3	0	Kuranda ... ..	3	0	Pentland ... ..	2	0
Coen ... ..	3	0	Laura ... ..	3	0	Roxburgh Downs ... ..	4	0
Cooktown ... ..	3	0	McDonnell ... ..	3	0	Thornborough ... ..	3	0
Glenormiston ... ..	4	0	Maytown ... ..	2	0	Urandangie ... ..	3	0

The only relief granted in the Townsville district was at Christmas, when £5 worth of rations was distributed amongst 86 natives. Special grants in the way of food, &c., are now and again made to the blacks as rewards for good conduct, for rendering assistance to the police in capturing "incorrigibles," for deportation, &c. "No relief was issued to any of the aboriginals in the Winton district during the year, and now that good rains have fallen all over the district they will be able to hunt and find plenty of food for themselves, and not be dependent upon station-managers, as was often the case during the recent drought."—(Protector Brosnan.)

It should be remembered that returns are forwarded to me monthly concerning the nature of all this relief, the number of persons benefited, name of officer responsible for its distribution, as well as the vouchers, which have to be certified to by me before payment.

Blankets were distributed in my district to a total of 5,855 aboriginals (2,777 men, 2,311 women, 765 children under sixteen years of age, 2 unspecified) at 62 centres, full particulars of which have been kindly furnished me by Mr. McLennan, the Government Storekeeper. There was no distribution at Mari Yaamba, the mission having been closed and the blacks transferred to Cape Bedford, whither the blankets were forwarded on. It is proposed to close Cooktown next year (1903) as a centre for blanket distribution, the usual supply being given out at Cape Bedford, the Eight-mile, and at the Bloomfield: there will thus be no excuse for the blacks, who have been kept out of Cooktown, to congregate in the outskirts of the township as they have been hitherto accustomed to do for weeks beforehand.

Correspondence has passed between the Storekeeper and myself, whereby an all-round reduction of 25 per cent. will be made this year at all the distributing centres, except the Mission Stations, where it is proposed to have biennial distributions in future. Under date of 30th December, 1902, Rev. N. Hey writes:—"I do not think it will be detrimental to our people if they have to learn to take care of their blankets so as to last for two years." It is unnecessary for me, as a Protector, to reiterate my views concerning these gifts of blankets to aboriginals: had I my own way I would not supply *healthy* blacks with any at all, but I am afraid the general public would misinterpret my motives. Furthermore, so far as any extremes of climate in North Queensland are concerned, I cannot believe that the non-possession of blankets will prejudicially affect the physical condition of the blacks—except, of course, those who have been permanently accustomed to them. Indeed, so soon as the present contract for the supply of blankets to the Government terminates, I shall suggest an alternative and quarterly distribution of "fish-hooks, fishing lines, rod-iron, files, tomahawks, and other articles likely to be of use in procuring food, &c., supplemented by a little tobacco," and some loin-cloths—articles which will prove equally effective and far more economical. I have received some correspondence through Protector Galbraith as to the question of supplying blankets to Northern Territory natives, whose hunting grounds and other circumstances regularly bring them over the border. We have quite enough to do with our own Queensland natives, and in my opinion no encouragement should be given to any Territory blacks coming into Queensland. I consider that Sergeant Quain's difficulty will be met next year by supplying the infirm and sickly ones (only) amongst the Kalkadun of Lawn Hills and Undilla, and refusing blankets to the Workai-a (Camooweal tribe), who principally frequent Avon Downs and the Rankin Desert, *i.e.*, Northern Territory: as a matter of fact, the "home" of these Workai-a is in Central Australia, where Professor Baldwin has worked amongst and described them as the "Waagai" tribe: of course, common humanity may prompt the sergeant—and in such a case it is needless to say his action would be approved—to supply any really infirm Workai-a aboriginal with a blanket.

## RETURN OF BLANKET DISTRIBUTION TO ABORIGINES NORTH OF THE 22ND PARALLEL OF LATITUDE FOR THE YEAR 1902.

Name of Centre.	Distributing Officer.	Pairs standing over from previous Year.	Supplied this Year.	Total Pairs.	NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF PERSONS SUPPLIED.					Total Pairs Issued.	Pairs Remaining.
					Males and Females under 16.	Men.	Women.	Un-specified.	Total.		
Atherton ...	T. Reddan, first-class police constable	...	250	250	45	117	133	...	295	250	...
Ayr ...	A. Fraser, sergeant, police	...	80	80	4	39	31	...	74	72	8
Boutia ...	F. J. O'Connor, sergeant, police	...	120	120	11	68	65	...	144	120	...
Bowen ...	D. Keane, sergeant, police	46	150	196	19	92	83	1	195	185½	10½
Burketown ...	S. Behan, acting sergeant, police	...	136	136	21	62	63	...	136	129	7
Cairns ...	J. D. McGuire, acting serget., police	...	450	450	101	241	186	...	528	442	8
Cumooewel ...	P. Quain, sergeant, police	...	50	50	2	29	32	...	63	50	...
Cape Bedford Mission Station	G. H. Swarz, Superintendent	...	50	50	16	45	39	...	100	50	...
Cape Grenville ...	G. H. Bennett, Protector	26	...	26	10	10	11	...	31	26	...
Cardwell ...	W. Horan, acting sergeant, police	...	150	150	36	116	148	...	300	150	...
Charleston ...	P. Joyce, first-class police constable	11	20	31	...	17	14	...	31	31	...
Charters Towers	J. McNamara, sub-inspector, police	14	50	64	6	40	21	...	67	64	...
Claremont Light-ship	W. J. Ramsey, lightkeeper	...	50	50	14	22	25	...	61	50	...
Clarke River ...	J. Woolly, post and telegraph officer	2	22	24	2	10	5	...	17	16	8
Cloncurry ...	J. Healy, sergeant, police	0½	90	90½	21	38	37	1	97	85½	5
Coen ...	J. Whiteford, sergeant, police	...	100	100	...	115	59	...	174	100	...
Cooktown ...	H. Hasenkamp, acting sergt., police	...	150	150	2	77	71	...	150	150	...
Cooktown (for N. Protector)	Dr. Roth, Protector	6½	...	6½	...	...	...	...	...	...	6½
Croydon ...	T. Henderson, sergeant, police	25	70	95	10	48	37	...	95	90	5
Cumberland	E. Toomey, first-class police constable	17	16	33	1	18	14	...	33	33	...
Eight-mile ...	J. M. Kenny, police constable	...	115	115	2	63	50	...	115	115	...
Einiasleigh ...	H. P. Hansen, first-class police constable	...	27	27	4	13	6	...	23	21	6
Eton ...	J. Sargent, acting sergeant, police	...	20	20	...	12	8	...	20	20	...
Georgetown ...	J. E. Old, acting sergeant, police	10	40	50	5	36	13	...	54	50	...
Geraldton ...	D. Casey, sergeant, police	...	200	200	40	185	152	...	377	200	...
Halifax ...	T. Hornibrook, police constable	...	25	25	1	7	16	...	24	24	1
Herberton ...	J. O'Donnell, sergeant, police	...	150	150	36	71	79	...	186	150	...
Hillgrove ...	T. J. Fury, post and telegraph officer	...	25	25	...	17	8	...	25	25	...
Hughenden ...	H. Blyton, sergeant, police	1½	22	23½	1	17	6	...	24	23½	...
Ingham ...	P. Connolly, acting sergeant, police	...	300	300	26	167	119	...	312	300	...
Irvinebank ...	M. J. Murray, first-class police constable	...	20	20	1	13	6	...	20	20	...
Junction Creek...	C. Woodland, post and telegraph officer	...	25	25	4	16	7	...	27	25	...
Laura ...	R. Garraway, sub-inspector, police	5½	70	75½	14	62	49	...	125	75½	...
Lucinda Point ...	F. Kimbell, Customs officer	3	13	16	2	7	8	...	17	16	...
Mackay ...	E. Martin, sub-inspector, police	...	50	50	...	32	18	...	50	50	...
Mackinlay ...	J. Fitzgerald, first-class police constable	...	12	12	4	4	5	...	13	12	...
Mapoon Mission Station	N. Hey, Superintendent	...	50	50	28	26	10	...	64	50	...
Marceba ...	T. Clines, first-class police constable	...	100	100	24	46	40	...	110	98	2
Marie Yamba Mission Station	Rev. Schwarz, Superintendent	2	15	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Maytown ...	D. T. O'Regan, first-class police constable	...	50	50	18	21	14	...	53	44	6
Mirani ...	A. McBride, first-class police constable	...	29	29	4	17	8	...	29	27	2
Mount Douglas...	P. Welsh, police constable	...	35	35	8	16	15	...	39	35	...
Mount Garnet ...	T. McKiernan, acting sergt., police	20	50	70	9	36	29	...	74	70	...
Nebo ...	T. J. Balaam, first-class police constable	...	80	80	10	49	26	...	85	80	...
Normanton ...	J. King, sergeant, police	...	150	150	15	86	88	...	189	150	...
Palm Islands ...	W. J. Romer, pilot, Townsville	...	33	33	2	14	15	...	31	30	3
Palmer ...	D. Whelan, acting sergeant, police	...	75	75	1	70	52	...	123	65	10
Pentland ...	E. Fox, first-class police constable	...	25	25	...	16	9	...	25	25	...
Percyville ...	Wm. Stockwell, police constable	3	32	35	3	21	13	...	37	35	...
Port Douglas ...	B. Conway, acting sergeant, police	8½	80	88½	8	59	67	...	134	88½	...
Ravenswood ...	M. O'Donohue, acting sergt., police	...	30	30	...	17	10	...	27	27	3
Richmond ...	R. Bell, acting sergeant, police	...	50	50	7	30	17	...	54	50	...
Tangorin ...	J. Dunlea, police constable	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Tate ...	J. Ford, first-class police constable	...	32	32	3	18	17	...	38	32	...
Thornborough ...	P. J. Colahan, first-class police constable	...	100	100	25	47	39	...	111	100	...
Thursday Island	M. J. McCreery, senior-sergt., police	...	100	100	20	45	55	...	120	96	4
Townsville ...	D. O'Sullivan, sergeant, police	...	118	118	6	79	36	...	121	118	...
Turn Off Lagoons	G. Dwyer, police constable	...	20	20	8	8	8	...	24	20	...
Urlandangie ...	J. McNamara, first-class police constable	50	25	75	4	36	55	...	95	68	7
Weipa Mission Station	E. Brown, Superintendent	7	21	28	18	38	...	...	56	28	...
Winton ...	J. Quilter, sub-inspector, police	10½	30	40½	3	20	19	...	42	40½	...
Yarrabah Mission Station	E. R. Gribble, Superintendent	...	120	120	80	46	45	...	171	120	...
Total		269	4,571	4,840	765	2,777	2,311	2	5,855	4,718	122

In view of the abuses which are known to exist, but which cannot legally be proved, in connection with the recruiting of native labour for the work of the pearl-shell and bêche-de-mer fisheries, Protector Bennett again suggests whether it might not only be advisable, but practicable, to make provision (by regulations) for controlling the trade in the same manner as the Pacific Island labour trade is controlled by law. The main feature of any such enactment should be that the native labourers are recruited by licensed (or permitted) vessels sailing under Government supervision, and returned to their homes under the same conditions. Mr. Bennett, to whose remarks on this very question I drew attention in my last Annual Report, is prepared to go into working details of a scheme whereby he believes he can remedy a very undesirable state of things.

At Thursday Island, Protector Bennett says:—"During the year ended 31st December, 1902, I issued 130 permits to recruit in the aggregate 990 aboriginals. The recruiters succeeded in obtaining 340 or about 34 per cent. of the number for whom permits were granted. Consequent on the revival of the bêche-de-mer fishing and the temporary stimulus given to swimming-diving by the high prices ruling for pearl-shell, the demand for aboriginal labour has been very keen, and the inducements to recruit held out to aboriginals in the way of bonuses of flour, tobacco, trade, &c., has had rather a demoralising effect on them. They have taken to accepting the bonuses, and afterwards clearing out. The would-be employers complained to me, but I pointed out that the remedy lay in their own hands. If the bonus (or advance) system, which is generally a bribe to the elders of the tribe for their services in *inducing* the younger men to recruit is discontinued, the desertions will probably cease, and the aboriginals will come in to sign on and fulfil their engagements." [For other reasons for ship desertions, *see* Aboriginal Crime.] "Subsection (5) of section 10, 2 Ed. VII. No 1—(the payment of wages of alleged deserters to the local shipping master)—has had a very salutary effect in checking bogus desertions."

In connection with the suggestion of the Hon. John Douglas, that an endeavour should be made to ensure that when aboriginals are signed on there should be a mixture of tribes, &c., I find that while Mr. Bennett urges employers to mix their crews, he has no power to insist on their doing so.

The knowledge was forced upon me that several of the Cooktown bêche-de-mer men were evading the provisions of the different Acts (about the signing-on of their boys on articles), by getting a permit to recruit, which is available for a month, going out to sea, picking up boys and women along the coast-line, getting them out on the reefs to fish, dropping them again on the way back, and coming into port to the local Protector—sometimes long after the month allowed for recruiting was up—and telling him that they could not get any boys to recruit; although they invariably come back with the fish. I therefore gave the following instructions to the local Protector:—

- (a) No permit to recruit is to be extended for a further period than the one month for which it is issued.
- (b) No permit to recruit is to be issued to the same applicant within a period of two months from the time of expiry of the previous permit to recruit, except with the sanction of the shipping master.
- (c) In the case of any recruiter, with a permit to recruit, failing to return to port within the date mentioned in his permit, you will please notify the shipping master, and communicate with me by wire.

As shipping master at Cooktown, Mr. Rich has, of course, the best facilities for knowing what amount of bêche-de-mer these boats, when they finally return to port, do actually bring with them, and gauging it with the number of boys on the articles; he is also the best judge as to whether stress of weather—the commonest excuse—is really the cause of the delay in not returning within the month which is allowed the owner for recruiting purposes. He willingly consented to help me in this matter—a very difficult one to deal with—and his assistance promises to be of great value. The permits to recruit here are practically identical with those issued at Thursday Island, save in the description of the area from along which the boys may be recruited; in the former case this extends from Cape Tribulation to Cape Grenville, in the latter along the east or west coast, Cape York Peninsula, north of Cape Grenville and Mapoon respectively. These geographical limits are dependent upon the petty sessions districts over which the local Protectors have control. It is expressly stated on the Cooktown permits that "the aboriginals are not to be employed until thus engaged before the Protector of Aboriginals, Cooktown, or shipped on articles before the shipping master, Cooktown."

The late Captain Almond, Portmaster, forwarded the following memorandum to the Treasury at the beginning of the year in connection with the position of the Thursday Island pearl-shell and bêche-de-mer fisheries at the close of 1901:—"I have already directed your attention to the number of Torres Strait and mainland natives employed in the fisheries, and pointed out that they number 21 per cent. of the whole of the men engaged. As the total amount paid to the men employed in the pearling industry amounts to £30,824 12s. 2d., it is evident that a large proportion of this must be paid to these natives, and it would be interesting to know how this money is disposed of by the men, and whether they take any of it to their homes and receive full benefit for the wages paid to them. This is a question, I think, that might be referred to Dr. Roth for investigation." I am only too glad to take this opportunity of giving the information asked for. During the year ending 31st December, 1901, the total number of Torres Strait Islanders signed on articles at Thursday Island was 336, while in the same period the number of mainland natives signed on was 314. The average rate of pay for these mainland boys is 10s. per month, with a length of service not exceeding six. The wages of such boys have to be paid in full, without deductions of any description, when signed off before the shipping master. The total amount earned by these mainlanders for this same period was £736, but of this money I had indirect control only over the wages received by the 105 boys recruited from Mapoon (Batavia River). For reasons detailed in my Annual Report (1899), the wages of these Mapoon boys are handed over by the shipping master, without deductions of course, to the local (Thursday Island) police. The latter have instructions that out of each £3 so earned, not more than 10s. is to be spent under their supervision in the stores, and not more than 5s. is to be given to each boy to spend locally as pocket-money; the balance of £2 5s. is banked to

the credit of the Mapoon natives' store account, a store having been specially established on the Batavia by the Rev. N. Hoy for their separate use. The money so banked by the police to the credit of this natives' store during the past twelvemonth was £254 0s. 6d. The blacks, under the present system, on arrival at Mapoon, do thus possess something useful and lasting as the result of their six months' labour. Since the total wages of the Mapoon boys amounted to £315 (calculated on a basis of 10s. per month for six months for each of the 105 boys), the money received by the remaining 209 mainlanders must have been £421 (approximately). Again, the Straits islanders during the same period had paid to them, when signed off, wages to the amount of £1,788, but this does not nearly represent the total wages earned, for, in their case, they can draw goods from the "slop chest," and "cash on account," during the currency of their terms of service. Their wages are also higher than the mainlanders, and their length of service is not limited to six months. It will thus be seen that there was a total of over £2,200 paid at the Thursday Island shipping office amongst the 336 Straits islanders and 209 mainland natives. The following extract from an official report, dated 8th January, 1902, will probably give a clue as to where and how the major portion of this £2,200 odd is spent. From it I find that the sale to these islanders, &c., of intoxicating liquor at Thursday Island "continues open and unrestricted. . . . Liquor also finds its way to the Straits Islands, and its evil effects on the natives are very visible. . . . The licensed victuallers make no secret that all of them could not make a living if deprived of the custom of the South Sea Islanders, Straits Islanders, and Binghamis (*i.e.*, mainland aboriginals), and have come to really consider themselves as having a vested interest in the paltry earnings of these poor creatures."

The action of one of the Thursday Island owners fining a boat's crew for persistently landing in opposition to the superintendent's wishes on one of the reserves is referred to elsewhere. [*See Mission Stations: Mapoon.*]

I have had to draw attention to the action of a certain policeman illegally arresting (*i.e.*, without warrant) and returning to his employer, an alleged aboriginal deserter from a *bêche-de-mer* boat. The Inspector to whom I reported the matter apparently quite concurred with me in the opinion that, for absconding from their hired service, the employers of aboriginal labourers can get adequate redress in the law courts.

The following cases, which have been dealt with by the courts, are illustrative of some of the abuses on the boats, which, were it not for the vigilance of the Government vessels, the "Mystic" at Thursday Island, and the "Melbidir" at Cooktown, would otherwise continue unchecked:—

"Tsuguichi Umatro" (Thursday Island, 24-2-02), for breach of section 2, Native Labourers' Act, 1884, was fined £10 and costs (over £3) or three months.

"Bicenti Camposana," a Filipino (Thursday Island, 3-9-02), was charged by Protector Bennett with permitting Caroline, a female aboriginal, to be unlawfully on board the ketch "Kestrel," of which he was master or person in charge. The case was dismissed with costs, the acting police magistrate holding the information defective because it described, as Mr. Bennett believed, the subject of the prosecution as a female aboriginal, and she stated under cross-examination that she was the daughter of a South Sea Islander by a Murray Island woman. There was no proof of the truth of the woman's statement (that she *was* a half-caste) tendered, as required by section 26 of the Aboriginals 1897 Act.

"John McMaster" (Cooktown, 10-9-02), a *bêche-de-mer* man, indebted to Burns, Philp, and Co., was proceeded against by Protector Moran for harbouring ten aboriginals without permit on his boat at Bathurst Head. He was convicted and fined one shilling, but no costs were allowed the plaintiff.

"Harry Haddee" and "Ah Wong." (Cardwell, 2-12-02). While anchored under Dunk Island on the 26th November, waiting for some boats that I heard had been seen in the vicinity, the "Agnes" and the "Goldfinch" sailed into the bay, and were immediately boarded by Fisheries Inspector Schluter and myself. We found six boys and a child from the Flinders and Night Island—none of them on articles—and neither boat licensed under the Pearl-shell and *Bêche-de-mer* Acts; the boys had apparently been on these two boats for periods varying from a year to fifteen months. The master and part-owner was Haddee, an Arab, who had his European wife with him. As the result of further conversation I learnt that there was another individual out on the Barrier—Ah Wong, a Malay—with two more boats, one of them belonging to Mrs. Haddee. Having had previous experience of Ah Wong, I knew it would be useless to go after him on to the shallow reefs; he would see the "Melbidir" miles off and be away long before I could reach him in the dinghey. I accordingly directed Haddee to take me and my seaman in his own boat (the "Agnes") out to the Barrier. We left at daybreak on the 27th, sailed all day and night, and had the good fortune to sight Ah Wong's vessels late on the afternoon of the 28th. We got as close as we could before darkness came on, and anchored that night on the reef. On the following morning we hid ourselves in the cabin while Haddee took us to within a couple of hundred yards of our destination and dropped anchor. Ah Wong had his glasses on our boat, but suspected nothing. As soon as the dinghey was got out we all jumped in, and getting the boys to pull as hard as they could, boarded both vessels, the "Yaru" and the "Bluejacket," on which we found four Flinders and Night Island boys. Ah Wong had had no license for two years past, although he had apparently been selling *bêche-de-mer* at Geraldton all the time, while his boys' articles dated back to September, 1900, *i.e.*, these poor wretches had been working continuously on these two boats for the past two and a-quarter years. Having brought the boats back to Dunk Island I had a talk with both Ah Wong and Haddee as to what future action to take. They had no money with which to pay the boys' wages, and were prepared to go to gaol, and as it was no use keeping the boys longer than absolutely necessary from their native homes, and there was the doubtful ownership of three out of the four vessels boarded, I thought it would be better to make sure of getting at least something for the lads' wages, and of considering the punishment of the employers subsequently. In terms of section 13 of the 1901 Aboriginals Act I accordingly took delivery of the cutter "Bluejacket"—the one boat which had a clear receipt—on behalf of six of the blacks in full settlement of all claims, and of about 3 cwt. of *bêche-de-mer* on behalf of the four others. [I subsequently sold the vessel and placed the balance of

the proceeds to the boys' credit in the Aboriginal Protection Property Account, Queensland National Bank, Cooktown.] I next brought Haddee and Ah Wong into Cardwell, where, as an inspector under the Pearl-shell and Bêche-de-mer Acts, I prosecuted them under section 6, 45 Vic. No. 2, for employing boats in the fisheries without licenses. The former was fined £4 and costs, the latter, against whom I pressed the charge, the maximum penalty allowable under the circumstances, £9 and costs. In the case of Ah Wong I have instructed the Protectors at Townsville, Cairns, Cooktown, and Thursday Island not to grant him permits to employ any aboriginals in the future.

"Franklin Westcott" (Cooktown, 11-12-02), pleaded guilty to a breach of section 14 of the Aboriginals &c. Act, 1897, bringing a boy "Charlie" from Cape Melville in the cutter "Rapid" without authority. He was fined a total of £5 2s. 10d., which included cost of boy's maintenance and return passage to his native home.

"Charlie Davis" (Thursday Island, 17-12-02), a Pacific Islander, was prosecuted for harbouring a female half-caste native of Mabuagi on his vessel. Pleading guilty, and fined a total of over £5.

Supply of liquor  
to aboriginals.

Convictions for supplying liquor to aboriginals are apparently difficult to obtain. Aboriginals were charged with drunkenness at Thornborough, Cooktown, Normanton, and Croydon, and yet the parties who supplied them were never brought to justice. Eight cases were brought before the courts, the particulars of each being shown in the accompanying schedule:—

Date.	Prosecutor.	Offender.	Locality.	Verdict.
1902.				
24 January	Constable McKenna	Ah Duck ... ..	Mossman ... ..	Case dismissed.
19 February	" O'Connor	Johannes (Cingalese)	Ayr ... ..	£5 3s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months.
11 April ...	" Hendle ...	John O'Grady ...	Stewart's Creek	£1 and costs.
17 July ...	" Nolan ...	Mary Edwards ...	Hughenden ...	Convicted.
17 " ...	" Noakes ...	Jane Bartell ...	" ...	"
21 " ...	" Sherlock...	Joseph Healy ...	Proserpine ...	£20 or 3 months.
17 August...	Sergeant O'Donnell	H. Algar (publican)	Herberton ...	£20 and costs, or 2 months.
17 " ...	" " ...	Kate O'Sullivan (publican)	" ...	" " "

The case of Ah Duck affords food for reflection—a Chinaman discharged on a prosecution for supplying liquor to a female native: The case was dismissed on the ground of contradictory evidence on both sides of the case, the bench expressing the belief that the aboriginal received liquor from Ah Duck, but they believed also that she got some from somewhere else too. This, of course, was another of those verdicts which, from time to time, I have had to bring under the direct notice of the Minister.

Protector Bennett in his annual report to me states that "the sale of liquor to aboriginals and Pacific Islanders at Thursday Island continues unchecked." This is practically confirmed by the following report, dated 21st May, 1902, of Senior-sergeant McCreery, who says "that liquor is supplied to Pacific and Straits Islanders more or less, and that this is very difficult to prevent, as there are such a mixture of coloured races in Thursday Island. When a boat comes in, there are probably eight men on her: two Japanese, two Malays, two Islanders, and two Manila-men or some other coloured men. When those go into a public-house together and ask for liquor to refresh themselves, it is very difficult for the bar tenders to define which can be legally served, and they certainly do not try to define, for if they refused one man liquor it is more than likely that all the crew would leave the house and go to another public-house. Or one of the Malays or some other coloured man who could be legally served would go to a spirit merchant and get a case or two of rum or some other spirits and drink it in their boats or on the beach. Another difficulty is that a number of the islanders are divers in charge of boats. Some of them even own boats, and in such cases it would be extremely difficult for a licensed victualler to refuse to serve them with liquor, or with the police to interfere if they are served when their crew or servants can be legally served. But the aboriginals of the mainland do not obtain liquor with impunity. They do sometimes get beer from the rear of public-houses, Chinamen's shops, and in other mysterious ways." On the other hand, there is not the slightest doubt in my own mind that the mainland aboriginals do manage to obtain liquor with impunity both on the Island (as I have shown when dealing with Employment of Aboriginals on Boats) and on the mainland when the recruiters come down to obtain their labour. The refusal of permits to publicans acting as a severe check on aboriginals being supplied with liquor has already been commented on. [See Permits and Agreements.]

"There is only an occasional case of drunkenness amongst the blacks, and the liquor is generally supplied by the lowest class of whites." (Protector Martin, Mackay.)

"A large number of station-owners and their managers, with more generosity than judgment, give their boys large sums of money at a time (*i.e.*, £2 or £3), when they visit town: result—a drunk." (Protector Galbraith, Normanton.)

The following convictions for supplying opium to aboriginals in the Northern districts have been reported to me:—

Supply of opium to aboriginals.

Date.	Prosecutor.	Offender.	Locality.	Verdict.
1902.				
7 February	Constable Reddan ...	Padmore (Malay) ...	Martintown (Atherton)	£7 19s. 6d., including costs, or 2 months.
17 "	Sergeant King ...	Ah Tye ...	Normanton ...	£7 10s. 6d., including costs. (P.)
11 March	Police ...	*Ah Bow ...	Nebo ...	£10.
23 "	Constable Fitzgerald ...	Harry Ah Sing ...	Mackinlay ...	£10 9s. 6d., including costs.
31 "	Constable Stockbridge ...	Ah Long ...	Percyville ...	£20, or 1 month. (I.)
14 April	Police ...	Lic Sing, <i>alias</i> Ah Waugh	Ingham ...	£20, or 1 month. (I.)
15 "	Constable Hansen ...	Charley Ah Say ...	Einasleigh ...	£20 8s. 6d., including costs, or 1 month. (I.)
8 May	Constable Luck ...	Hoo Bun ...	Bowen ...	£23 7s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months.
9 "	Constable Reddan ...	Ah Sing ...	Herberton ...	£10 15s., including costs, or 3 months.
9 "	Constable Barson ...	Ah Chong ...	Kuranda ...	£10, or 3 months.
16 "	Police ...	*Tommy (Malay) ...	Mackay ...	£10, or 3 months. (I.)
13 "	" ...	George Kong Fung ...	Winton ...	£20, or 3 months.
2 June	" ...	*Tommy Ah Choy ...	Winton ...	£10, or 2 months. (P.)
7 "	Constable Burke ...	Ah Hock ...	Merinda (Bowen)	£25, including costs, or 3 months. (P.)
13 "	" ...	Joe Tong ...	"	£24 17s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months. (P.)
20 "	" ...	Ah Hock ...	"	£30 9s. 6d., including costs, or 6 months. (P.)
25 "	Constable Price ...	*Ah Sing ...	Bowen ...	£10, or 2 months. (I.)
29 "	Constable Fitzgerald ...	Harry Ah Sing ...	Mackinlay ...	£20, or 3 months. (I.)
30 "	Constable Luck ...	Ding Gah ...	Bowen ...	£22 1s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months.
3 July	Constable Long ...	Ah Sin ...	Normanton ...	£7 7s., including costs, or 3 months. (I.)
8 "	Police ...	Tommy Ah Bung ...	Chillagoe ...	£15 14s., and £4 Gs. costs, or 3 months. (P.)
10 "	Constable O'Hara ...	Ah Bang ...	Ayr ...	£25 and costs, or 6 months. (I.)
11 August	Sergeant Healy ...	Jimmy Ah Quee ...	Cloncurry ...	£20, or 3 months. (P.)
13 "	Constable Reddan ...	Ah Sam ...	Herberton ...	£20, or 3 months. (I.)
15 "	Constable Parker ...	Ah Lee ...	Brookville (Ravenswood)	£10, or 3 months.
23 "	Acting Sergeant Old	Charlie Hoy ...	Georgetown ...	£20 3s. 6d., including costs, or 2 months. (I.)
29 "	Constable Reddan ...	Ah Lin ...	Herberton ...	£20, or 3 months. (I.)
1 September	" ...	Ah Mung ...	Ingham ...	£20, or 1 month. (I.)
1 "	Constable Reddan ...	Ah Foo ...	Herberton ...	£22 17s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months.
15 "	Constable O'Connor ...	Low Chow ...	Brandon ...	£20 3s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months.
15 "	" ...	Ah Chong ...	"	£20 3s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months.
23 "	Constable Gamble ...	Tommy Ah Hee ...	Winton ...	6 months' imprisonment.
24 October	Constable Regan ...	Ah Geung ...	Charters Towers	£20 13s. 6d., including costs, or 2 months. (I.)
24 "	" ...	Sic Chew ...	"	"
24 "	Constable Clare ...	Ah Way ...	"	"
29 "	Constable Reddan ...	Ah Bow ...	Herberton ...	£20 14s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months.
31 "	Constable Maher ...	Low Kor ...	Chillagoe ...	£23 1s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months. (P.)
1 November	Constable Reddan ...	Kong Yen ...	Herberton ...	£21 10s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months.
7 "	" ...	King Sun ...	"	£21 6s., including costs, or 3 months.
11 "	Police ...	Tom Komil (Cingalee)	Mackay ...	£50, or 6 months. (I.)
14 "	Constable Cowell ...	Tommy Ah Quay ...	Winton ...	£50, or 3 months. (I.)
15 "	Police ...	Kitchel Ramny (Cingalee)	Mackay ...	£50, or 3 months. (I.)
15 "	" ...	Ah Woy ...	Thornborough ...	£10 9s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months.
15 "	" ...	Ah Lee ...	"	"
15 "	" ...	Tommy Ah Gee ...	"	"
17 "	Constable Noakes ...	Jimmy Ah Sue, <i>alias</i> Ah Gim	Frairie ...	£20, or 2 months. (I.)
17 "	Constable Cowell ...	Ah Gin ...	Winton ...	£20, and costs, or 2 months. (I.)
20 "	Police ...	Sun Kee ...	Mareeba ...	£20, or 3 months.
29 December	" ...	Ah Chong ...	Bamboo Creek (Geraldton)	£50, or 6 months.
30 "	" ...	Ding Gah ...	Bowen ...	£22 1s. 6d., including costs, or 3 months. (I.)

\* The names with an asterisk denoting illegal possession of opium only.

I drew the attention of the police and the clerk of petty sessions to the cases of Ah Mung, at Ingham, on 20th August, and of those of Ah Woy, Ah Lee, and Ah Gee, at Thornborough, on the 15th November, where the justices had illegally reduced the minimum term of imprisonment and amount of fine, respectively. Although the Amending Act of 1901 came into force during last May, the ignorance shown by the police and the justices concerning its provisions is astonishing. The case of Ah Bung, at Chillagoe, on 8th July, I brought under the notice of the Minister: I could not but consider that there was an intended evasion of the minimum penalty of £20. Tommy Ah Quay, prosecuted on 14th November, was also sentenced to six months' imprisonment for vagrancy; he had one previous conviction for unlawfully supplying opium. In the Winton district, Protector Brosnan says that "the heavy penalties inflicted for breaches of the Act have minimised to a very great extent the sale of opium to the aboriginals, together with the zeal and vigilance exercised by the police in its detection: in this respect, special credit is due to Constable Cowell, of this station, for his efforts, and the success attending them." Ah Lee, on 15th August, was also charged with the illegal possession of opium, and fined £6 18s., or three months. The two convictions of Ah Hock, on 7th and 20th June, are interesting, while the *ninth* similar conviction of Tommy Ah See, at Winton, on 23rd September, renders the pertinacity of this individual more than remarkable. Experience teaches me that this vice of supplying opium to blacks is only a bait for the latter's prostitution. Protector O'Connor reports that the blacks do not use opium in the Boullia district.

My attention has again been forcibly drawn to the necessity of carrying out the suggestion made by Protector Martin, mentioned in my last Annual Report, that "under clauses 18 [illegal possession of Government blankets], 19, and 20 [supply of liquor and opium to blacks] of the 1897 Act, the police

should have the same power to arrest as they have under Section 24, as it frequently happens that offences under those sections are committed by coloured persons (Chinese and others), and to serve a summons on them is simply a notice to them to quit the district, and that is generally the last that is seen of them, unless the country is put to the expense of bringing them back on warrant." Thus, Acting Protector Hasenkamp, at Cooktown, reports: "On two occasions here the police caught two Chinamen supplying charcoal opium to aboriginals, and although summonses were issued they have never been served."

The suspicion attaching to some of the mail-carriers supplying opium to aboriginals has been reported to the Federal Postal Department: Protector Martin, of Mackay, still has reason to believe that the practice exists. Although the discontinuance of the issue of all permits to sell opium has been decided upon by the Minister, the [illegal] permits already issued by the Collector of Customs are still in existence and, as they are apparently not limited to any stated period, will require cancellation. A sample specimen of one of these, type-written and dated 14th April, 1898, is worded as follows:—

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that I approve of your selling opium wholesale and retail, on your undertaking to keep the necessary books, and furnish a monthly return, in duplicate, of all wholesale transactions, and to carry out any further directions in connection with the sale of opium, which may be given you from time to time. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

Collector of Customs.

I would suggest that, after suitable warning, all the present Customs permits be cancelled, and the opium taken possession of on behalf of each separate owner, and exported under the supervision of the State Revenue Department. An important difficulty that presents itself, however, is that no officer of the Revenue Department can enter, &c., search for, or seize, the opium under Section 28 of the 1897 Aboriginals Act—the power to do this being limited to any member of the Police Force. I have consulted with Inspector Gabriel, who concurs with me in the belief that, provided the power of seizure, &c., be granted to the Revenue officers, the limitation of vendors of opium to the lawfully authorised people, could be quietly arranged without giving cause for any popular outcry or demonstration. Furthermore, if the restrictive clauses (Sections 20 to 25) of The Principal Act of 1897 be put into force, it will mean that even if these Asiatics insist on importing the drug they will not as a body be able to take possession, but that the opium will be sold and retailed by European medical practitioners, pharmaceutical chemists, or wholesale dealers in drugs. I feel confident that the initiation of some such protective measures will prove of inestimable benefit to the aboriginal population, whose chances of obtaining opium I am so anxious to minimise. According to the latest reports available, there are at present 107 so-called permits to sell opium in force in the Northern, as compared with 48 in the Southern (aboriginal) Districts: the former are distributed as follows:—

Atherton ... .. 3	Hambledon ... .. 1	Montalbyn ... .. 1
Burketown ... .. 5	Herberton ... .. 4	Mossman ... .. 2
Cairns ... .. 7	Hughenden ... .. 1	Pentland ... .. 1
Charters Towers ... .. 4	Ingham ... .. 4	Percyville ... .. 2
Cloncurry ... .. 4	Irvinebank ... .. 1	Port Douglas ... .. 4
Cooktown ... .. 16	Lower Burdekin ... .. 1	Ravenswood ... .. 2
Croydon ... .. 4	Lucinda Point ... .. 1	Richmond ... .. 1
Dungeness ... .. 3	Mackay ... .. 2	Thornborough ... .. 2
Georgetown ... .. 1	Mareeba ... .. 2	Thursday Island ... .. 10
Geraldton ... .. 1	Maytown ... .. 1	Townsville ... .. 4
Halifax ... .. 6	Millechester ... .. 1	Winton ... .. 2

It seems extraordinary to me that places like Cooktown and Thursday Island should have a greater number of "permits" in force than Brisbane which only has nine. During the past four years, the quantity of opium imported into Queensland for home consumption has been as follows:—24,512 lb. (1899), 22,461 lb. (1900), 20,900 lb. (1901), and 20,884 (1902). The duty on the drug under the new Federal tariff is now 30s. per lb.

In the matter of the children [see "Permits and Agreements"] I must premise my remarks by stating that all action taken by me is done with a view to ensuring the future welfare and happiness of the children themselves; it is not a case of whether a child is willing or unwilling to leave its present environments, whether "much bitterness" is raised in the district or not, &c. The fact itself of a child being removed is not necessarily to be interpreted as the slightest slur on the characters of its present employers. As things are at present, the half-caste female children are brought up mostly as nurse-girls, kept in a false position by being temporarily treated as "one of the family, &c.—a fact which will probably account for their receiving no wages—and then, when they get into trouble, are packed off to camp. I am therefore now insisting that wages are to be paid in all those cases where otherwise the children would have been taken to the mission stations or reformatories. I am well aware also that considerable discrimination must be exercised in all these cases of removal, and while recognising the desirability of protecting girls with as little inconvenience as possible to reputable employers, we have at the same time to bear in mind that it is far better to remove such young girls before danger has befallen them than to remove them after they have been tampered with. Where girls in the company and employ of whites have reached unscathed the age of 15 or 16—a period of life when they are most impressionable and most liable to yield to temptation—it is perhaps as well to leave them where they are, provided they are properly treated of course, are under the required agreement, and have wages paid them. Where half-caste (and, for the matter of that, full-blooded) girls of tender years are found

Half-caste and other children; unprotected women.

with European employers, I must be perfectly satisfied that the latter are suited for the care of such children, and are able to prevent loose behaviour on their part. Whilst the status and occupation of the employer have thus to be carefully considered, allowance must also be made for the length of service already past and gone: if this is found to have been satisfactory, so much better will the present employer's chances be of being permitted to retain such service. In the case of half-caste children, especially girls, already living in camps, it is desirable that these, where old enough, should be removed at once to the mission station or reformatory: on no account should they be allowed to be given into private hands. The State takes upon itself the responsibility—a serious one to my mind—of taking such children from their aboriginal environments, but at the same time hands them over to the various mission stations, which are now under direct Government supervision and control. No girls or women are allowed out into service from any of the Northern mission stations. It is known that in past years a most obnoxious practice grew up of the police supplying their friends, &c., with aboriginal children: I trust that this is now put a stop to. Should any cases of aboriginal waifs or strays be brought under my notice, I am always ready and glad to make arrangements for their transfer to where no pains will be spared to make their future a happy and a useful one. This "trucking" in children is still going on. "Settlers in outside districts"—I am quoting Protector Galbraith—"who have plenty of myalls about their country are often importuned by town residents and others to bring them in a boy or a girl. In due time the child arrives. How the children are separated from their parents is a subject of conjecture and surmise. Most people will tell you that the child is better off with Europeans: in my opinion the contention is absurd. Most of the children will bolt (if old enough, and the distance not too great), and then they are termed ungrateful by *their owners*. This practice has been going on for years, and, with the exception of one or two cases personally known to me, without good results to the children: they change masters and mistresses, prostitution and disease follow, they can only speak pidgen English, and finally become pariahs amongst both whites and blacks."

In view of all aboriginal and half-caste children being amenable to the Education Acts, and the employers (as "guardians" of such children) being responsible for their attendance at school, Protector Galbraith makes the very wise provision that, conditionally on his granting a permit, the child is to attend school.

The following are notes concerning the half-caste and other helpless aboriginal children and young women who have been forwarded during the course of the year to Yarrabah, (Y), (Mapoon (M)), and Cape Bedford (C.B.):—

A little aboriginal girl, four years, with C—, of Georgetown, in whose service the mother (a Croydon native) used to be. C—, who had reared it ever since its mother died (two years ago), "wished to be relieved of the child on account of his wife not taking kindly to it." As the child's mother did not belong to any of the Etheridge tribes he did not feel disposed to send it to the camp, and run the risk of its being killed. (M.)

"Harry Brown," half-caste, twelve years, from Cloncurry, for alleged indecent practices. It was rather on account of the filthy surroundings in which this child had been living, and the treatment to which he had been subjected that I recommended the removal. His employer's wife puts this boy on a chain occasionally when he misbehaves himself." (M.)

"Dolly," half-caste, about thirteen years, lately in service at Normanton with Mrs. M— in whose employ she has been for ten years past. Before leaving for Cooktown, Mrs. M— asked permission from Protector Galbraith to send the girl to a neighbouring station, as she feared the responsibility of taking her away with her to Cooktown, where she proposed residing, but never mentioned or hinted anything concerning her condition. Permission being refused, Dolly was accordingly handed over to the police, who had her examined by the doctor, when she was found to be seven months pregnant. The girl having been with her mistress so many years without receiving any wages, and only possessing the two articles of clothing which she stood up in, the Protector asked Mrs. M— what she was prepared to do for her, but could get no satisfaction. [Until the Amending Act of 1901 received the Royal Assent in May, 1902, I had no power to insist on the fulfilments of agreements, the payments of wages, &c., in the case of children already in employment at the time of the passing of the original (1897) Act.] Dolly was thereupon ordered to Yarrabah, but gave birth to a daughter soon after reaching Cooktown on her way south. The child died before the mother resumed her journey. I instructed the local Protector not to allow Mrs. M— any aboriginals, and to refer her to me if she applies for a permit. (Y.)

"Tommy," half-caste female, about sixteen years, who has been travelling over the country dressed as a boy, in the company of a stockman, W. J. Smith, for eight years past. In her evidence before the police court [See *Harbouring*], where Smith was charged with "harbouring," she admitted camping at night with defendant. (Y.)

"Dora," half-caste, about ten years, amongst the Melvor blacks. "It is a pity to see her grow up in a camp. Could you not have her removed? I think it would be good for her if she could be taken away soon. Her mother's husband is Matji, the rain-maker." (C.B.)

"Lily," half-caste, five years, in good health and condition, living with her mother in the McKinlay camp. "She is fairly well looked after; but of late is inclined to visit the Chinese camps." (Y.)

"Flora," half-caste, about eight years. "Given' to Mr. W—, about twelve months ago by Mr. M—, of N— Station. She has lately become unmanageable by her employers." (M.)

"Lucy," half-caste, eleven years, has been living with the Etheridge blacks up to a month or two ago, when a Mrs. S—, of Georgetown, applied for permission to employ her. The child was then stolen by the blacks, with whom she did not wish to stay, and so got into the hands of the police. (M.)

- "Lucy," another half-caste, twelve years, "running wild" amongst the Charlston blacks. (M.)
- "Rosie Murray," a little half-caste girl from Maytown, charged with being a neglected child, was sentenced to the reformatory for seven years. The police reported: "The half-caste is about ten years of age, and is a prepossessing and intelligent child. She is credited with cohabiting with Chinese. She has been given as a wife to an aboriginal boy named Jimmy, who is about thirty years of age, and is very cruel to her. She has no protection from the boy's ill-treatment because she will not leave her mother, and go with him as his wife. The constable is of opinion that if the half-caste is not already violated by Chinese she will be, if allowed to return to the blacks' camp." (Y.)
- "Minnie," a young half-caste, in the service of Mr. Connolly, the police magistrate, Port Douglas, having given birth to a child, arrangements were made by her employer for the Rev. E. Gribble, of Yarrabah, to take charge of her. Owing to the letter intimating her arrival going astray, she arrived in Cairns without the Mission people knowing of it, and it was quite unexpectedly that the superintendent came across her. She surprised him by at once saying: "I am a Roman Catholic. I will not attend the Mission Church, and will want to be brought to Cairns once a month to attend chapel." Mr. Gribble of course hesitated to take her over to Yarrabah, as she had herself brought the matter up, and advised her to see the priest. Father Downey promised to get her a situation in Cairns if possible. His efforts, however, were unsuccessful, so Minnie, with her baby, finally went over to the Mission on her own account. (Y.)
- "Rosie," twelve years, and "Jack," eight years, two half-caste children, their reputed father (John Creed, a native of the West Indies) in gaol, and mother dead—were found unprovided for in the Winton camp. On the expiry of his sentence Creed sent in an application for the return of the boy, but I have declined to allow this. No proof is forthcoming that he was legally married to the woman, while the police reports showed that he was not fit to be entrusted with the custody of any children. There are three convictions against him for receiving stolen property, it has been clearly proved that he used to induce his children to steal from travellers' camps near his garden, and he was in the habit of receiving and planting the stolen property. The applicant has also been convicted of an aggravated and unprovoked assault on his granddaughter, aged two years, by lifting her up and throwing her down on the ground, causing a broken arm and contused face. He is a man of a violent and uncontrollable temper at times, and his children invariably leave him and frequent the camps. (Y.)
- "Lena," a little half-caste child from Normanton. Her employer had to get rid of her owing to her thieving propensities. "Only the other day she stole 15s. from her mistress and gave it to the blacks." (M.)
- "Paddy," half-caste, about seven years, from Normanton. His mother, a fairly civilised (kanaka-aboriginal) woman on leaving with her employers for the South soon after he was born, gave him to Ah Sam, a Chinaman, who has had the child ever since. The foster-father, leaving now for his own country, handed Paddy over to the police. (M.)
- "Lily," half-caste, five years, mother dead, living with a Chinaman at Normanton. The back-rooms of the Chinaman's residence are used by the Asiatics for smoking opium, and Lily is to be constantly seen amongst them, and also with the blacks in the yard at the back of the hotel. (M.)
- "Jessie," half-caste, six years, from Normanton. Her would-be employers had made application for her on permit as "general servant." (M.)
- "Sammy Mathers," half-caste, about five years, from Normanton. His mother, gin "Alice," was living on Sweer's Island at the time of her death (about May, 1901): the child was given to one of the local publicans, who finally handed him over to the police. (M.)
- "Lizzie," half-caste girl from Kynuna. Her late employer having declined to enter into an agreement, and wishing the police to take her away, instructions were given for the girl's removal to Yarrabah. On arrival at Winton she was offered a good engagement, and finding that she wished to accept it, I acted on the local Protector's recommendation and allowed her to: the only stipulation I made was that her new employer should pay her coach fare from Kynuna and other petty expenses incurred up to date.
- "Otto Adkins," a young half-caste boy, was sentenced by the Ebagoolah Bench to two years at the Yarrabah Reformatory for breaking, entering, and stealing from a dwelling. (Y.)
- "Harry," a dumb aboriginal, twelve years, from the Winton camp. For some time past this boy has been a regular pest to the town, owing to his thieving propensities: he has been frequently found in bedrooms, making his escape through windows, &c., but owing to his youth and natural infirmity nobody would prosecute him. He already has a sister, "Edie," at Yarrabah. (Y.)
- "Ida," half-caste, about seven years of age, from Gregory Downs. The manager of the station says "the blacks knock this child about very much." (M.)
- "Rosie," half-caste, about six years of age, from the Brook Hotel, *via* Burketown. . . .  
"Camped with a very old black boy who is in a state of destitution. . . . without care or treatment, and requires to be looked after." (M.)
- In view of a police report that there was a little female half-caste baby, twelve months old, in the Kuranda camp running a risk of being injured by the other blacks, I instructed that if the child could be brought to Cairns without much expense it should by all means be sent over to Yarrabah. This has been done. (Y.)
- "Polly," a young woman for many years in domestic service at Port Douglas, having got into trouble, has been sent with her baby to the nearest Mission. (Y.)

"Polly Tadrane," a young half-caste woman with baby, was taken to Yarrabah. This was a case in which I had refused permission to a kanaka, Jimmy Rooker, to marry her.

"Minnie," eighteen years, a native of Normanton, brought up by Europeans but finally stranded at the Salvation Army Maternity Home, Charters Towers, where her illegitimate child died. In view of the inability of the local Protector to find her employment, Rev. Gribble has taken charge of her. (Y.)

Baby "Brady," a little female, four months old, whose mother, a native of Bowen, had met her death by a burning accident at Milroy Station. The baby was being looked after at the Salvation Army Maternity Home, whence it was taken by "Minnie," the aboriginal above referred to, to Yarrabah.

The death of "Larry," apparently from earth-eating, has been reported from the Yarrabah Reformatory. This child was sentenced in Cooktown in 1900, when only thirteen years of age, after three convictions for larceny.

I felt very bitterly over the case of "Nellie," an aboriginal girl with Jackson, a publican at Geraldton: she was to have been sent to Yarrabah, where her infant child (about two years old) was. The latter had been handed over to the missionaries last May (1901) by Jackson, who had given them to understand that the mother had left the child on his hands. It was subsequently reported, however, that Jackson (in whose employ the girl was) had himself forcibly removed the child from the mother, who begged to be taken with her baby. Acting on the Home Secretary's minute, I notified Inspector Marrett re sending "Nellie" to Yarrabah. The Inspector instructed the local police by memo. on 4th January, 1902, but on the 11th Sergeant Casey replied stating that the gin had been "married on the 8th to a man named William Kareine, a native of Ceylon. The marriage was celebrated by the Rev. T. M. Teale, C.E. Minister." [Such marriages cannot now be celebrated without my permission.—W.E.R.]

With the Royal Assent given to the *Aboriginals, &c., 1901 Act*, gazetted on 16th May, restrictions were at last placed on the marriages of native women to others than aboriginals, and the attention of all clergymen and marrying justices drawn to them. In addition to being appointed a magistrate for giving consent to the marriage of minors in all the Northern registry districts, I have been authorised (*G.O., 30-8-02*) by the Home Secretary to give the required permission in writing for the celebration of these mixed marriages. Acting on the recommendation of the local Protectors, &c., permission was thus given to José da Silva (a native of Brazil, but resident in and about Thursday Island for fourteen years), Edward Blundell (a Scotchman), and Jeremiah Garnier (a Frenchman). In connection with the two aboriginal women on whose account Edmonds was prosecuted at Boulia in September, the half-caste, "Craigie," has been granted permission to marry "Linda" and keep the children: "Lawn" is similarly allowed to marry "Polly," but the disposal of the latter's children is to be a matter for future consideration. I objected to the marriages proposed to be celebrated by Jimmy Rooker (kanaka), of Townsville, and Tommy Ah Toy (Chinese), of Maytown. I find that "marriages between full-blooded aboriginals are registered, but in a marriage register specially provided for recording marriages between such persons." Protector Bennett, writing from Thursday Island, says: "There have been several marriages of men of various races, including one European, with aboriginal women. Section 9 of the new Act has been very beneficial in its effects and has worked smoothly. I would here remark that applications for the necessary permission are generally made by people who have come in to Thursday Island for the purpose of getting married, and any long delay is both vexatious and costly to them. I would, therefore, most respectfully suggest that such applications be dealt with as expeditiously as possible, and by telegraph." Recognising the force of this suggestion, I have fallen in with it.

The number of marriages solemnised last year with aboriginal women totalled fourteen for the whole of Queensland: thirteen of these, particularised in the accompanying table (kindly furnished by the Registrar-General), came from the Northern Districts:—

Registry District.	Number of Marriages.	Wives.	HUSBANDS.	
			Race or Birthplace.	Occupation.
Bowen	1	Aboriginal	Queensland half-caste	Stockman
Burke	1	"	Chinaman	Gardener
Cairns	2	"	Cingalese	Labourer
		"	New Hebrides	"
Croydon	1	"	Scotchman	"
Somerset	5	"	Solomon Islands	Seaman
		"	Loyalty Islands	Fisherman
		Half-caste aboriginal	Samoa	Sailor
		Aboriginal	Brazilian	Labourer
		"	French	Diver
Townsville	3	"	New Caledonia	Fisherman
		"	Cingalese	"
		"	South Sea Islander	Labourer

My action with regard to relief, &c., in cases of sickness and disease, is summarised in the following excerpts, month by month, from reports regularly furnished to the Minister:—

Two gins were brought in sick from Clarendon (near Delta Station) to Normanton. One died on the road, the other could only crawl on her hands and knees. "Topsy," a little aboriginal girl, twelve years of age, from Magoura Station, suffering with syphilis, has been brought into Normanton, where she has joined her sister in the local camp. In reply to Protector Galbraith's inquiries as to whether she should be sent to Mapoon, I advised him to report as to the ability of the sister to provide for Topsy's wants, informing him, at the same time, that "I do not care to trespass too much on the kindness of the Mapoon Mission people, to whom we have already sent some diseased half-caste children; and if, ultimately, it may be desirable to send her there, I think it only fair that the Superintendent be consulted beforehand." (January-February.)

Instructions have been given for sending gin "Kitty," in a very bad state with chronic venereal, to Ingham Hospital. In the meantime, she has been rationed by the Cardwell police. Some interesting reports have come in from Rev. E. Gribble, of Yarrabah, with regard to the prevalence of the earth-eating disease amongst certain of the children brought from particular districts. He has been instructed as to how best to cope with the evil, and suggestions have been offered him with regard to proper disposal of the sewage, one of the main agencies by which the worm (*Anchylostoma*) is supposed to be carried. A supply of medicines has been sent him. (March.)

The attention of the Queensland Society for the Prevention of Consumption having been drawn to the prevalence of this disease at certain of the Northern Mission Stations, I was interviewed by their honorary secretary, Dr. Hirschfield, to whom I gave some further particulars concerning its ravages on the béche-de-mer boats. He has forwarded me some printed instructions, *re* prevention and cure of phthisis, for distribution amongst the superintendents of the various Missions—which has been done. (April.)

A supply of medicines (cough mixture and quinine) has been requisitioned by Rev. N. Hey at Mapoon: in view of there being a daily average of three people down with colds, and one with fever, I handed the order on to the Government Storekeeper for completion. The Rev. Gribble reports one of his Mission inmates to be suffering from uterine cancer: as it is a case not suitable for treatment at Yarrabah, I have suggested his making arrangements for getting her into the Cairns Hospital. (May.)

I have instructed that a young female, suffering with venereal, be treated as an out-patient at the Cloncurry Hospital. (August.)

The death of "Maggie," a tracker's gin, has been reported from Cardwell. (September.)

The following aboriginals have died during their period of hired service, and their deaths reported by the employers:—"Freddie," from horse-accident, at Coolullah (*via* Cloncurry); "Pointy," from earth-eating (P), at Merluna (*via* Mein E.T.O.); and "Nowri," of Nagi (Torres Strait), from fever on board the "Thistle." The police report the death, from venereal, of aboriginal "Alice," at Ross River. Some medicines have been sent to the Urandangie police for the benefit of certain sick natives at present camping at Roxburgh Downs. (October.)

A female aboriginal, "Lizzie Baker," who was in want of immediate treatment, paralysed on one side and near her confinement, has been sent into the Cooktown Hospital. The Normanton police report that the Government Medical Officer has successfully operated on a little boy, seven years of age, for bone disease. (November.)

Accounts have come to hand concerning a young aboriginal male dying of venereal at Camooweal, where he has been rationed with cooked food by the local sergeant.

From all parts of his district, says Protector Galbraith, "comes the same tale: venereal and ophthalmia. . . In outside places away from civilisation . . . there is a certain amount of freedom from disease. There is no way of combating this evil, except by quarantine: to point out my reasons for same would only mean reiterating your arguments and bringing forward facts that you are obviously acquainted with."

"The health of the aboriginals in the Winton district is on the whole good, though a few deaths took place during the year from pneumonia." (Protector Brosnan.)

In terms of Section 3 of the 1901 Act, instructions for the removal of the following incorrigibles to districts (Fraser Island, Durundur, Mapoon) far removed from their native haunts, have been given by the Minister upon my recommendation:—

"Missie," of the Starcke River. First reported on by Constable Kenny to his sub-inspector on 20-7-00. "Daring and treacherous disposition; believed to be the murderer of the civilised aboriginal Fred Fooks, on the Starcke last October. A great deal of influence over his tribe, and quite capable of using it against white men as well as aboriginals." The Minister gave the order for his removal to Fraser Island on 4-1-01. "Missie" however managed to elude capture by Kenny until the beginning of last March.

"Charlie Bushman," of Barrow Point. Two or three murders of others than members of his own tribe—as well as threats to Europeans—are recorded against him. [His removal has not yet been effected.]

"Paddy," a myall belonging to Camooweal country. Charged with having murdered his gin "Rosie"; one white witness to the fact. Was charged before the Normanton Supreme Court last September, (1901); remanded to the next court (March) and a *nolle prosequi* entered. "His own tribe fear him, and the white people consider him dangerous."

"Darkie" was arrested at Cairns for escaping from Fraser Island. It would appear that he had served nine years at St. Helena for murdering a European (Hobson) in the neighbourhood of Cairns, but was released during Jubilee conditionally on his remaining at Fraser Island. His return to his native country was fraught with great danger.

"Jimmie Donga," "Toby," "Jerry," "Tommy Neil" (ex-tracker, and leader of the gang), "Paddy" and "Jack," all from Atherton. The first three have already been caught. The trouble with them is that they have been continually breaking into, and stealing from the settlers' huts, and then hiding away in the scrub. The three captured have declared their intention of not doing any work, but of continuing to steal what they can. All have been in the habit of camping by themselves away from the other blacks, so it may prove some little time before the other three are arrested. To prevent any subsequent trouble or collusion, it has been arranged that two are to be deported to Fraser Island, two to Durundur, and two to Deebing Creek.

- "Sandy" (aboriginal name "Wambo"), for the alleged Lollyfish murder in the neighbourhood of the Pascoe River last August. He was originally brought up before the Coen Bench, but there being only the evidence of two aboriginals—even if they were to be found—the warrant was cancelled.
- "Charlie," for spearing the aboriginal "Charlie Ross" on the Cooktown Railway Line in June.
- "Andy," of the Endeavour River, whose deportation was authorised in January, 1901, has finally been captured and sent down. It was he who was responsible for the murder of aboriginal "Breeza" at Hidden Valley.
- "Pumpkin" and "Jimmy," two young men from the neighbourhood of Moreton E.T.O. Warrants were out against them for attempted murder—the throwing overboard of a Japanese from a *bêche-de-mer* boat (the "Hiroshima"); but there was not sufficiently reliable evidence forthcoming for a conviction.
- "Joe" has been similarly sent away from the same district. It was he who last year, in company with "Handsome Harry" (still at large), treacherously speared a Cooktown boy, "Tommy," employed by the Moreton E.T.O. officials.
- "Harry," an incorrigible, who had already served two sentences for larceny, was deported on the application of the Herberton justices.
- "Cook" (ex-tracker), charged at the Coen with breaking, entering, and stealing, and was reported to have skeleton keys in his possession.
- "Dough-boy," for the murder of gin "Binger," at Bailey's Creek. (Mossman Police District)
- "Pinoe," against whom the Crown Prosecutor entered a *nolle prosequi* for attempting to carnally know a white girl under ten years, has been deported to Mapoon, and the Superintendent fully warned as to the boy's character.
- "George," sentenced at Townsville on 2nd June to nine months for being on premises for an unlawful purpose, and for being in possession of stolen property for which he could not give a satisfactory account. He is an old offender, and it was only two or three days after serving a six months' sentence that he was rearrested on the present charge. He will be sent to Fraser Island or Durundur when he comes out of gaol.

With regard to ex-trackers "Waiamara" and "James," of Red Island, whose deportation had been authorised over a twelvemonth ago, Protector Bennett has expressed the opinion that such a length of time having now elapsed, he does not consider it advisable to take any further action at present: if, however, these two boys give any more trouble, he will report the matter, and ask that the Minister's order be given effect to.

A few serious cases have been dealt with in the courts, &c.:—

- "Tommy Townsville" (ex-tracker), for attempted murder of a Chinaman at Charleston in May last, received a sentence of five years at the last Normanton Circuit Court.
- "Joe" and "Billy," at the same court, were sentenced to death for the murder of "Long Barney" at Telovera Creek, Percyville, in April last: the death penalty was commuted.
- "Willie," an aboriginal, charged with murder at Ingham last March, was sentenced to death but the extreme penalty commuted.

At Liverpool Creek (Geraldton) one "Ningie" is alleged to have been murdered by aboriginals "Papa" (deaf and dumb) and "Mick," for whom warrants have been issued.

Boat-stealing (in the *bêche-de-mer* trade), with perhaps attempted murder of the masters, occurred on two different occasions at the beginning of the year. On 23rd February two Japanese were thrown overboard from the lugger "Hiroshima," but they managed to swim to the Piper Island Lightship. It was two of the offending crew ("Pumpkin" and "Jimmy") whom, much against my wishes, I felt myself morally bound to entrap at the Moreton for deportation to Fraser Island. On 13th March, while the ketch "Spede" was getting under way near York Island, the aboriginal crew, six in number, threw overboard the Japanese master, Tomita, and a Japanese passenger, Wakamatsu. Both men reached the island, notwithstanding that one was struck while in the water by the blacks, but not seriously injured. There is no doubt that boat-stealing by the aboriginal crews has become comparatively frequent during the past year, and requires checking. It was, consequently, very satisfactory to learn that at Thursday Island, on 4th July, for stealing one of Cowling's cutters, of the six blacks arrested ("Charlie," "Bosun," "William," "George," "Pilot," and "Aaron") one got three months, while the remaining five received two months each. So again on the 7th of the same month one "Jimmy Eginga" got three months for stealing Embley's dinghey. At Cooktown, on 11th February, an aboriginal, "Ned," *alias* "Norman," was arrested for having in his possession a cutter, of which he could not give a satisfactory account. Inquiry elicited the fact that the vessel was stolen from Darnley Island, but as the owner (F. E. Morey) declined to prosecute, the offender was discharged. I have reason to believe that in the immediate future there will be a diminution in the frequency of this particular offence. On more than one occasion, in the Peninsula, boys, for whose arrest warrants on this charge had been issued, have told me that the reason for their clearing out with the boat was that they had signed on at the local (Thursday Island) Shipping Office with an individual for whom they were quite willing to work, but had subsequently found themselves put on to a boat with a master whom they perhaps had never before seen, and whom they didn't care about: the result was that they took the first opportunity of getting home again. While not for one moment approving of the methods adopted by these natives for gaining their ends, I can quite understand their raising such objections, for until the Aborigines 1901 Act received the Royal Assent last May, and remedied the cause of complaint, the master or owner of the boat could sign the boys on at the Shipping Office (under Sections 3 and 4 of "*The Native Labourers Protection Act of 1884*"): the power is now confined, and rightly so (Section 10, subsection (1) of the Aborigines, &c., 1901 Act), to the master of the vessel whom the boy himself sees and can please himself whether he cares to join him or

not. On the other hand, I am equally convinced that the treatment meted out by the coloured aliens in charge of these boats has a very great deal to do with the insubordination of the crews. Protector Bennett's views *re* ship-desertions [*see* Employment of Aborigines on Boats] are well worthy of attention.

Amongst other crimes against property, the following particulars concerning convictions have been forwarded me:—"Peter" for stealing rations at Barrow Point was sentenced at Cooktown (18-1-02) to six months' hard labour: "Charley," at Croydon (10-4-02), and another at Mackay (19-5-02), received six months and three months respectively for stealing: "Tommy," of Burketown (28-4-02), a similar punishment for wilful destruction of property: "Tommy," of Atherton, three months (9-7-02) for breaking and entering: "Tommy, of Mackay (8-12-02), one month for stealing. A half-caste woman (West Indian father and aboriginal mother), Maria Jeffery, nineteen years of age, was sentenced at Winton (25-2-02) to six months' imprisonment for stealing, but was released under Section 656 of Criminal Code. Complaints every now and again come to hand concerning blacks stealing rations, &c., from miners', prospectors', and travellers' tents: if these people would only insist on keeping the natives always at a distance, and avoiding all social intercourse, I feel confident that much less would be heard of such alleged offences, At Cloncurry (5-1-02) "Joe" was cautioned and discharged for "being in a dwelling-house for an unlawful purpose." In October Sub-Inspector Garraway forwarded a report to the effect that the blacks had set fire to Strathleven Station on both sides of the river (Palmer), and that Meta Downs, on Fish Creek (a southern tributary of the Palmer), had also been burnt out. [These fires were in all probability lighted for hunting purposes, for driving the game out.—W.E.R.] For drunkenness: "Jimmy Combo," "George," "Tommy Dodd," and "Charlie" were discharged at Thornborough (27-5-02), Cooktown (28-8-02), and Normanton (11-12-02, 14-9-02) respectively, while "Polly" was fined 5s., or 24 hours, at Croydon (20-9-02). None of the individuals supplying liquor to these aborigines were apprehended.

At the Coen, "Monkey" received fourteen days for a common assault (24-12-02), while "Tiger" served a term of three weeks' imprisonment at Cooktown (9-2-02) for disorderly conduct and assault. "Echo," for disorderly conduct at Georgetown (11-11-02), was fined £1, or 48 hours. "Nipper" received seven days in the Cloncurry Lock-up (18-8-02) for obscene language.

Four deserters from the "Thistle" (R. McMaster in charge), at Bathurst Head, were ordered back to their vessel by the Cooktown Bench. For absconding from his hired service at Barclay Downs, "Diger" was discharged and his agreement cancelled at Camooeweal (15-2-02), while the Thornborough Bench (8-5-02) cancelled that of "Jimmy Burley," whose employer wanted to remove him against his wishes to another district. The Department paid the return fare home (Townsville to Cairns) of the discharged prisoner "Spider," of Herberton, who was afraid to travel overland for fear of being killed by tribesmen of a district strange to him.

Protector Galbraith is "glad to report that no complaints have been made (nor in any way brought under my notice) of offences against the person or stock by aborigines. This is a silent and undeniable testimony of the efficacy of the Act, when it is remembered that there are several thousand uncivilised blacks in the Gulf districts. . . . About 150 aborigines are employed at daily work in Normanton, and in a less degree at Burketown, Croydon, Georgetown, Camooeweal, and Cloncurry, yet there have never been any charges of theft against them. On the other hand, numerous instances have been cited to me by employers of money being found in clothes, &c., and returned."

In the Winton district the general conduct of the aborigines during the year has been good, only three convictions having been recorded—two for petty larceny and one for unlawfully using a horse. None of these offenders were natives of the district. (Protector Brosnan.)

On the 31st January I received the papers relative to an inquiry that had been held by Inspector Meldrum during the month before, *re* the complaint made to me by Dr. Thomas, of Chillagoe, of the local police firing at a black boy near his residence. Inspector Meldrum found that the one constable had instructed the other to take his revolver and ammunition, and proceed on horseback to shift the blacks in consequence of complaints made against them for petty thieving, and polluting the water in the creek which the people had to use. The individual who had been so instructed admitted riding after the blacks, and firing a shot in the air to frighten them. The inspector further found that both constables were equally blameable. The policeman who gave the original order to take the revolver, &c., was cautioned. Chief Inspector Douglas, acting for the Commissioner of Police at the time, reported that he did "not think any further action is necessary."

In May, one Ah Sue, Chinaman cook at Maggieville, *via* Normanton, was arrested for the murder of an aboriginal, Kitty: the jury returned a verdict of "Not guilty."

On the 1st June I made a report to the Minister *re* a police-party "shooting aborigines Peter Johnny, Old Bob, and Topsy's father at a waterhole about 20 miles N.E. of Moreton E.T.O., on or about the 8th April, 1902." The Minister deemed it best that the Commissioner of Police should go North and hold a magisterial inquiry after the nature of an inquest of death. I accordingly arranged to meet the Commissioner, Inspector Marrett, and other witnesses, at the Moreton, where, on the 16th September, an inquiry was opened, the Commissioner explaining the delay in taking action as due to his inability to go North earlier, and to the difficulty in dealing with the matter at such distance and under peculiar circumstances without sacrificing the secrecy which was so essential. Several witnesses were examined during the four following days, and the inquiry finally adjourned to Cooktown on the 2nd and 3rd October, when the evidence of two native trackers was taken. The depositions were forwarded to the Attorney-General, who, in the course of his minute, dated 1st November, 1902, stated "I am satisfied, though the evidence is not sufficient to justify a conviction on a charge of murder or manslaughter that the deaths of at least two (and probably four) aborigines, whose remains were found, were caused by one or more of the native troopers who accompanied Constable Hoole on the 8th April last. . . ." I am glad to learn that this constable has been dismissed the service, and the four trackers deported to a Southern reserve. An important outcome of the inquiry has been that instructions have been given *re* ammunition served to native troopers, the officer in charge being called upon to account accurately for every cartridge issued.

Offences  
committed on  
aborigines.

Wilkinson, an "African," has been committed to stand his trial on a charge of murdering an aboriginal at Escott, *via* Burketown, on 13th December.

Johnson, employed at Kangaroo Hills, was charged at Cardwell (12th November) with assaulting two aboriginals, Alick and Wena (female): he was fined a total of £3 3s. 6d. It would appear from the evidence that Johnson tried to take the gin by force out of the camp at night, putting a revolver close to her face. The police accordingly originally proceeded against the defendant by summons under Section 69 of the Criminal Code, but the Bench discharged him on this count.

Amongst less serious offences committed on aboriginals may be mentioned the case of Thomas Tweed, who was fined £5 or two months (P.) for assaulting one "Paddy" at Ebagoolah last February.

The following table shows the average daily number of natives connected with the various Mission Stations, according as they are permanently resident (P.), or temporarily visitant, casual (C.). In order to preserve uniformity in the returns I have instructed the different superintendents to record as permanents only those aboriginals who have continuously resided at the Mission, and have been continuously and entirely supported with rations for a period of at least six months. Tobacco, of course, does not count as the rations above referred to. Mission stations and reformatories.

AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF ABORIGINALS AT MISSION STATIONS.

1902.	YARRABAH.			MAPGON.			WEIPA.			CAPE BEDFORD.		
	£200.			£200.			£200.			£250.		
	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.
January ... ..	190	6	196	80	22	102	59	16	75	65	14	79
February ... ..	190	8	198	72	19	91	17	27	44	69	16	85
March ... ..	180	10	190	69	16	85	17	77	94	70	18	88
April ... ..	175	8	183	70	18	88	15	21	36	70	16	86
May ... ..	156	8	164	83	30	113	16	47	63	70	15	85
June ... ..	156	10	166	82	16	98	16	51	67	89	Nil	89
July ... ..	156	10	166	80	15	95	16	38	54	87	Nil	87
August ... ..	156	10	166	80	11	91	17	56	73	89	Nil	89
September ... ..	156	14	170	80	18	98	18	81	102	92	Nil	92
October ... ..	160	13	173	80	19	99	18	59	77	92	23	115
November ... ..	185	8	193	85	18	103	18	47	65	92	Nil	92
December ... ..	168	13	181	91	14	105	18	80	98	92	Nil	92

The apparent and sudden decrease in permanents after January for Weipa (*see table*) is due to a misapprehension in the way of classification, which has since been rectified.

In their monthly reports which are regularly furnished me, the superintendents keep me informed of all deaths, and any other important items of interest occurring on the stations.

In reply to inquiries from the Registrar-General's Department, I have received the following information:—

Births and deaths of full-blooded aboriginals are not registered, whether residents at Mission Stations or elsewhere. Births of half-castes are registered only when certified to by the white parent, and the matter of civilisation would be considered when deciding whether or not the death of a half-caste should be registered.

As foreshadowed in my last Annual Report, the Mission (Marie Yamba) on the Andromache River has been closed, and the twenty-four inmates forwarded to the Cape Bedford Station last June. Seven adult malcontents had to be subsequently returned to Bowen: these spoke English well and were cheeky enough for anything: they had evidently been too much encouraged in competition with Europeans in the way of cricket matches, &c., and had been treated socially far above their natural station in life: two or three of them were addicted to opium: and one had the impertinence to offer Rev. Schwarz to do some stealing of other people's cattle on the Cape Bedford Reserve for him. Towards the end of the year a legally-married half-caste couple also took their departure South, paying their own passages.

It was with great regret that I was compelled to recommend the closing of the Bloomfield Mission, which event took place in November. As the Superintendent, Rev. W. Poland, pointed out, the blacks had no incentive to come into the Mission where, unless work was done, no food was distributed. On the other hand, the surrounding scrubs are so rich in native foods that the daily wants of the aborigines can be supplied with the minimum of physical exertion. Furthermore, there are several settlers and miners in the district from whom the natives can always get tobacco in return for very light services, as also for the loan of their women. During the past year there were rarely more than ten or twelve, usually under half-a-dozen, men present at the station, the rest being made up of women and children: even these, however, were continually changing—they might stay a very few weeks at the most, but would suddenly take their departure one morning and be replaced by another crowd a few days later. It was also impossible to keep the school going: the children might put in an appearance for a few days, but would then be taken away on the peregrinations of their elders. Only two men and one woman have been residing there permanently—*i.e.*, since Mr. Poland took charge just a year ago. At the time of my visit there were 5½ acres ready for the plough with a view to planting sweet potatoes, but there was no labour available to do the work. It might be urged that the Cape Bedford blacks should be brought down here for a month or two at a time to carry on the agricultural work, but two things militate against this—(1) A very much larger boat than is at present possessed would be required for the transport of the labourers and their supplies; (2) Owing to the proximity of other settlements and the mining camps, there is too great a risk of control being lost over the Mission inmates.

The next table will give an idea of the attendances, &c., at the schools established in connection with the Northern Mission Stations on the mainland, the salary of the teacher being paid by the Government in addition to the Mission subsidy:—

## ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS—1902.

Situation.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION—BOYS.		CLASSIFICATION—GIRLS.		No. of Days School Open.	ATTENDANCE.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	I.	II.	I.	II.		Total Attendance.		Average Attendance.	
										Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Cape Bedford, £60	31 March ...	17	7	24	17	...	7	...	48	753	294	15.6	6.1
	30 June ...	20	11	31	20	...	11	...	60	1,063	486	17.7	8.1
	30 September ...	20	11	31	20	...	11	...	60	1,197	645	19.9	10.7
	31 December ...	22	13	35	22	...	13	...	51	1,100	643	21.5	12.6
Mapoon, £100	31 March ...	30	37	67	30	...	37	...	47	954	1,573	20	33
	30 June ...	28	44	72	23	5	29	15	51	1,134	1,901	22	37
	30 September ...	37	47	84	32	5	33	14	51	1,022	1,922	20	37
	31 December ...	28	44	72	23	5	30	14	46	1,031	1,730	22	37
Yarrabah, £50	31 March ...	55	42	97	55	...	42	...	39	1,620	1,251	41	32
	30 June ...	54	49	103	54	...	49	...	47	2,214	1,835	47	39
	30 September ...	53	42	95	53	...	42	...	50	2,280	1,714	44	33
	31 December ...	58	42	100	58	...	42	...	43	1,978	1,490	46	34
Weipa, £80	31 March ...	56	37	93	56	...	37	...	48	972	981	20	20
	30 June ...	39	30	69	39	...	30	...	48	767	830	16	17
	30 September ...	33	27	60	33	...	27	...	53	907	1,002	17	19
	31 December ...	36	27	63	36	...	27	...	47	944	823	20	18

Although within my jurisdiction, more important duties on the mainland preclude my visiting the schools connected with certain of the Torres Strait Islands where, according to the latest returns available, some 340 children are receiving "regular instruction which will be useful to them in their future lives," at a cost of a little over £800. The Hon. John Douglas has always taken a kindly and personal interest in the welfare of these islanders, whom he visits regularly and reports on annually.

At the Mission Schools, &c., connected with the Southern districts I learn that 88 aboriginal children (Fraser Island 40, Deebing Creek 37, Nudgee Orphanage 11) are receiving instruction. Thus, for the whole of Queensland, during the past year, the State has extended the benefits of a provisional-school education to at least 743 children.

The following are reports, already forwarded to the Minister, dealing with my annual visits of inspection to the various Mission Stations. These reports have been revised up to 31st December, 1902:—

**YARRABAH (Cape Grafton, Cairns).—**Since the beginning of the year there have been twenty-two admissions, these including three Reformatory children. The general health of the 200 odd inmates has been good, though during the first few months of the year there was a certain amount of sickness, and not a few deaths from consumption and earth-eating (*Anchylostomiasis*) amongst the adult women and half-caste children respectively. All such deaths, however, were confined to recent importations, especially those from Charters Towers and Ayr, who arrived in a filthy and sickly condition. Indeed, taking them all through, and leaving out of account all deaths occurring within six months after arrival, the Yarrabah birth-rate, since the inception of the Mission in 1892, shows an increase over the death-rate. There have been five births and five marriages since last January. Amongst the total of seventeen Reformatory children—children sent here on magistrates' orders since August, 1900—there have been two deaths: Susanna, a young girl, and an opium drinker, whom I rescued from a life on the béche-de-mer boats, died from the effects of venereal, and Larry, a young Cooktown aboriginal, succumbed to earth-eating. There are ninety-three pupils attending school, presided over by Miss Gribble, who is assisted by five aboriginal teachers; amongst the latter I noticed the two half-caste girls, Annie Noble and Lizzie Johnston, taking infants' classes. I am pleased to report that the standard of education attempted is purposely not a high one, more value being set on the entailed habits of discipline, obedience, and routine. The gymnastic exercises, to which I drew attention in my last report, have certainly given rise to a smarter appearance amongst the inmates, and done away with that appearance of indolence which is so characteristic of the savage when brought under civilised conditions. In reply to inquiry, I find that in the majority of cases it is extremely difficult to get these children to take up gymnastics at all, but that when once the natural repugnance to active exertion has been overcome there are none so keen as they are. Physical exercise is compulsory on all sections of the community—Indian clubs and wands for the younger married women and girls, Indian clubs and horizontal bars for the men and boys. In addition, there are two companies for military drill. Two innovations since my last visit are a brass band, consisting of three cornets and a trombone, and a fire brigade. To test the qualities of the latter, I purposely rang the fire alarm without the slightest warning, and found that my summons was answered within two minutes by the first-comer with a bucket of water. In dealing with so large an aggregation of individuals, and ensuring that all duties are fulfilled within certain allotted hours, and the general routine of the Mission kept going as regularly as clockwork, it is interesting to note how each branch of the work has its own organised system. In this connection I learnt much that was worthy of note in the system connected with the clothing and cooking departments, and in the organisation and maintenance of discipline. There is a clothes-room where, on

Sabbath mornings, the Sunday clothing is hung out on a rail from whence the single men and boys fetch it; then comes the matutinal bath from which they return, leaving their dirty garments at the door. On Monday mornings the clean week-day clothes are hung on the rail again, and the Sunday ones left at the door, where all the things are sorted at 9 a.m. for the wash. This washing is done by the dormitory girls, and when they are finished with it the clean clothes are handed on to the married women, who meet at 11 o'clock daily to mend and patch them before being returned to the clothes'-room. Married women wash and mend their own and their husband's garments. If a married man is in want of a coat, trousers, &c., he must produce his entire wardrobe in order to satisfy the storekeeper that the article is really needed; furthermore, from time to time parades are held for these benedicts, when each man falls into line with his bundle, which is examined, any requirements noted, and given to his wife subsequently. Garments unfit for further use are burnt. The womens' and childrens' clothing is attended to by the ladies of the Mission; each girl has three dresses at least. The culinary department is similarly organised on regular lines. Bakers' bread is baked three times a week for the dormitories, the single men, and the hospital, while tea and hominy for the whole establishment is boiled twice daily—morning and evening. Married couples used to make their own tea, but some would waste it, and others save it, with the result that the thrifty were expected to supply the wants of the improvident; to prevent all these little heart-burning and jealousies, the present system was instituted. The only cooking which these married people do during the week is to make their own damper, for which they get a daily ration of 1½ lb. flour; on Sundays they are provided with yeast-bread. At each meal the housewife proceeds with two cans to the kitchens for tea and hominy, or anything else, fruit, soup, &c., that may be going; it is she also who gets the daily rations from the store. Perhaps the most interesting matter from a sociological point of view is the maintenance of law and order by means of a Government and Police Court, to which I have drawn the Minister's attention in previous reports, and the gradual evolution of definite regulations and a kind of General Council. The twelve members of the Government are elected annually during the first week of January by the adult men and women on the station, the only qualification of the candidates being that they must be church communicants. Together with the missionaries these twelve aborigines constitute the court which tries all cases of misconduct, and awards punishments varying from a strapping to imprisonment, keeps careful records, and publishes a weekly black-list. The sittings are presided over by the "King," who is by hereditary right chief of the local (Yarrabah) (tunganji tribe; it is he who signs the minutes. The only real source of trouble and anxiety to the superintendent has been due to certain young women, sent here as incorrigible, who, having hitherto led a life of licentiousness amongst South Sea Islanders, and low-class Europeans, naturally resent the restraint, both physical and moral, to which they are now being subjected. I have every reason to believe, however, that they will soon become amenable to discipline. The General Council, in the form of a public meeting, meet on the first Friday of each month, when all matters relating to discipline, routine, future work, &c., are discussed, and any new rules (suggested by the court, or initiated here) are debated, explained, and passed. After being finally publicly promulgated in church, these rules become law, and are carried into execution by the court. Amongst such laws I have noted the following:—

- (a) Any man, a member of the Mission, wishing to marry a Mission girl, and the girl being a willing party, he must promise at a meeting of the court to remain permanently a member of the Mission, and in no way whatever seek to remove his wife from the Mission settlement.
- (b) The old rule that no birds are to be shot or molested near the settlement, nor bird's nests nor their young to be interfered with, to be enforced without regard to persons.
- (c) Any one showing disrespect to the "King" or to any Mission officer to be severely punished.
- (d) If any person creates a disturbance and refuses to stop, any member of the Government can order the court officers to lock the offender up at once.
- (e) All letters from and to members of the Mission to pass through the hands of the head of the Mission or his representative for perusal.
- (f) All men joining the Mission and used to tobacco will receive the usual ration. Lads growing up on the Mission will never be supplied by the Mission with tobacco. Any man found supplying his wife with tobacco will in future receive only half the usual ration.
- (g) Visitors to be requested not to make presents to, or purchase anything from, members of the Mission. All gifts for the Mission and any purchases to be made through the head of the Mission or his representative.
- (h) All coral, shells, turtle-shell, and curios to be sold on behalf of the Mission; the missionaries to receive all such as gifts, to be sold through the proper channels for the general good, and not for themselves.

As regards industrial work, there must now be quite thirty substantial buildings on the Yarrabah settlement. Since the occasion of my visit last year, I have to note the erection of a hospital with two wards, each containing three beds; the enlargement of the girls' dormitory; enlarged kitchens, and a brick oven built; the construction of a large building of four rooms, to serve as a boys' home; three new huts; a long jetty for the launch (which is now weekly expected); a three-roomed cottage and hut at the farming settlement on Reeve's Creek (where an acre of land is already under cultivation); and a barn at the plantation. The cultivation of the soil is being actively pursued, over 100 acres of scrub land being now cleared. Since last year 3,000 banana suckers, 300 cocoa-nuts, and 25 Parramatta orange-trees have been planted, while during the past twelvemonth the supply of fruit and vegetables has been the most prolific known. The yield of Indian-corn alone was about 30 tons. Stock-raising has not been neglected. There are at present 30 head of cattle, 11 horses, 14 pigs, and a large number of poultry. A start has been made in the direction of breeding Angora goats, and an out-station is to be formed on the reserve, 6 miles to the south of the Yarrabah settlement, where these animals will be shepherded. Numbers of wild pigs have been shot and used as food; they are found to be splendid eating. These

creatures are not likely to prove troublesome here, as they are never to be found away from certain low-lying, swampy country some considerable distance from the settlement. Turtle-fishing has been very successfully carried on by the local "King" and two of the younger men. I note that the Rev. Gribble's chief object and aim is the evangelisation and elevation of the aboriginals by the preaching of the Gospel, and by teaching them habits of industry. He believes that this can be done by—

- (a) Gathering them into communities, surrounding them with Christian influence, and protecting them from evils too often associated with European service;
- (b) By getting them to take an interest in themselves as a people. . . .

During the past five years I have had special opportunities for watching the gradual development of the Yarrabah Mission, and, judging by practical results, I am perfectly satisfied that the Rev. E. B. Gribble is correct in his belief.

Mapoon (Batavia River).—The following reports, with which I entirely concur, relative to Mapoon and Weipa, were written by the Rev. Jas. B. Russell (as visitor for the Presbyterian Assembly's Mission Committee), who, together with Bishop White, accompanied me on my last visit. "For a general view of the work at Mapoon, I think I cannot do better than give some extracts which Bishop White kindly permitted me to make from his diary:—

'The Mission Station has been in existence for ten years, and is practically the work of Mr. Hey. Originally he had with him his brother-in-law, the Rev. J. G. Ward, but since his death, six years ago, Mr. Hey has had no assistance whatever save his wife, sister-in-law, and one South Sea Islander for part of the time. The soil is sandy and the natural advantages very few indeed.

'The work accomplished by Mr. Hey and his few helpers, both in regard to material adaptations and influence on the natives is simply marvellous. Comparison with Yarrabah is immediately suggested, especially as the Missions have been started about the same time. I cannot believe that any work can be more astonishing than that done at Yarrabah, but I am free to confess that it does not exceed what Mr. Hey has accomplished, when we remember how much fewer the natural advantages have been, and that he has had no white assistant. . . .

'Both stations alike are a complete answer to the foolish statements that have been made about the impossibility of inducing the aboriginals to settle down to any steady work.

'There are some 150 aboriginals living permanently on the station, about fifty married couples, in twenty-six good houses, a number of young and of old men, and the boarded children. Most of the young men go *bêche-de-mer* fishing and earn a few pounds. All their money is put into a common fund, and they are supplied with tools, &c., as they want them. Before a man can marry he has to give six months' work in the garden or at timber-getting, and a house is then built for him. The hours of work are four in the morning and four in the evening, and the men work well and steadily. All the timber is got and sawn and dressed by the blacks, almost without direction.

'Great precautions are taken to secure the safety of the children, especially the girls. The gardens where they work, playsheds and dormitories are all surrounded with wire netting so that no one can get in or out, and all the doors are controlled by wires from the superintendent's house. The children, and indeed all, seem as happy as the day is long.

'The soil of the garden has all been made by seaweed manure, carried from the beach with incredible labour. It is now very productive.

'I was amazed at the proficiency of the children in school. The English was perfect, and the writing, reading, and arithmetic good. A geography lesson was given. I doubt if any white children would have answered so well. They could not have done better, for out of some 100 questions on the geography of South America and Australia, there was not one mistake, in fact, I only detected one mistake in the whole lesson, which covered the whole world. . . .

"It was part of my duty, as visitor for the Assembly's Mission Committee, to examine the school. We have, in Mrs. Ward, a lady exceptionally well fitted for the work she has to discharge. I am happy to report of this school in the highest terms. The attendance numbers fully sixty, of whom over fifty are housed in dormitories, and, therefore, under the completest supervision. The small remainder live with their parents out of school time. Two hours of instruction are given in the morning and two in the afternoon, on four days a week; Wednesdays and Saturdays being 'spell' days, in which employment on or about the premises is found for the scholars.

"I examined the scholars in the subjects of religious instruction, reading, writing, arithmetic, drawing, and singing. The most advanced scholars read simple narratives with ease; write very decent composition; count money in all the four rules; answer questions in general geography, and draw simple figures. Their knowledge of religious elements is precise, and of scripture history is considerably in advance of that possessed by the majority of white children."

The following notes on the working of the Mapoon Mission for the year ending 31st December, 1902, are extracted from the report of the Rev. N. Hey, the superintendent:—"The number of aboriginals who have come under notice, and received rations and medicine, was about 400, of whom 182 are *bonâ fide* residents. The monthly returns show the average number benefited by the daily rations issued; of course, only those who are employed at the Station receive rations. Whenever the native-food supply in the lagoons, rivers, and scrub was plentiful, I encouraged all the adult natives to seek it for themselves. The school is in a healthy condition—discipline and order being maintained without any special efforts. The behaviour of all the natives, whether local or not, has been quite exemplary, and with the exception of fines of a few spears for disturbances at night, no punishment of any

importance is to be recorded. My assistant, a South Sea Islander, but born in Queensland, has been of great help to me in keeping the blacks continually employed—the whole secret of their good behaviour. Owing to the severe drought, the various gardens have not had much to show, but what was obtained has been most useful in preserving the health of the young people. The health of the natives in the village and neighbouring camps has not been what one would have desired. It seems that the adult blacks, especially the women and young men, have less power to withstand climatic changes than formerly. It is a very serious fact that the death-rate continues to increase, whereas the birth-rate is on the decrease. The recruiting of male aboriginals for the boats still continues, the demand having been enormous. Personally, I would wish that no boats came near the reserve, but under the new Act the evils arising from the system are at a minimum. There were 123 males recruited here—the largest number on record—seventy by eight Europeans, and fifty-three by nine aliens; the recruiting area extended along the coast-line and hinterland, from between Cullen Point and the Embley River. Out of the boys' wages paid into the Shipping Master, at Thursday Island, £256 15s. 9d. was banked to the credit of the Natives' Store Account, which showed a balance to the good of £22 0s. 6d. on the 31st December. Owing to the large demand for black labour, the recruiters were very liberal in distributing "gifts"; the consequence of this, however, was that quite a number of the more influential aboriginals along the coast became labour agents for the boats, while the parasitic system itself had a demoralising effect upon all. In spite of the available labour at the Mission being unsuitable (*i.e.*, most of the younger men finding employment on the boats), many improvements were made: a large girl's dormitory and an extensive workshop was erected at the Station, and six new cottages at the village. All the timber required was obtained from the reserve; some 2,000 feet of it was sawn and prepared under my supervision. There are about eighty head of mixed cattle belonging to the Mission—any herding or milking being done by the natives themselves. Neither milk nor cattle have been sold. Two miles of rail-fencing have been put up, and various repairs effected in the stockyards. During the course of the year I was able to undertake several journeys—both coastal and inland—as far as the Weipa Station. I am now personally acquainted with all the natives between Cullen Point, Albatross Bay, and the telegraph line. I also paid a visit to the blacks in the vicinity of the Archer River, fixed a suitable site, 4 miles from the coast, for a third Mission Station, and established friendly relations with the still wild tribes in the neighbourhood. I furnished the Lands Office with sketches and soundings of the river. I again desire to express my best thanks to the Government, without whose help it would be impossible for me to educate and train so large a number of people."

[Owing to repeated complaints made to Mr. Zarcal, of Thursday Island, that certain of his boats' crews were persistently landing on the Mission Reserve and interfering with the natives, he made an example and fined the crew of the "Esperanza" £5, which he donated to the hospital.—W.E.R.]

**WEIPA (Embley River).**—Rev. Mr. Russell says—"Compared with Mapoon this is a far more favoured locality. The ground is real loam, and water is plentiful. There is a chain of fresh-water lagoons about a mile from the house. These are well stocked with water in the driest weather. The site of the Mission is the best possible. It is on a ridge, quite dry, and very healthy. It is about a mile from the jetty. The Mission buildings are similar to those at Mapoon, comprising Mission house, church, dormitories, and natives' houses. The latter are less developed in point of construction than those at Mapoon. They are still in the bark and thatch stage, which those at Mapoon have now outgrown. Casual groups camp in the neighbourhood, using bark gunyahs for shelter; in some cases merely a breakwind; in others a sort of bark tunnel; in still others a two-storied erection in which the man occupies the upper story or berth, while his gin lies below by the fire. One essential difference between Mapoon and Weipa lies in the fact that Mapoon is a seaside place and Weipa an inland. There is fishing to be had at Weipa in the river, but on the whole the blacks are bush blacks. At Mapoon two days a week—Wednesday and Saturday—are given up to hunting and fishing, and on these days no rations are given. This would be impossible at Weipa. Agriculture is therefore the mainstay of the life at Weipa. There is a large house garden, planted out with sweet potatoes, yams, and cowpeas, as well as with other plants of a fruitbearing kind. There is also a kitchen garden and a small coffee plantation, still in the experimental stage, from which Mr. Brown hopes great results. The Government rations are quite insufficient to meet the people's needs, and even with the garden produce it often becomes necessary to send the natives into the bush. The religious side of the work at Weipa is not nearly so well ahead as at Mapoon, which is natural, as Weipa has been established little more than half the time since Mapoon was started. The physical wants of the natives are as well looked after as they could be, and their sufferings at a time of epidemic, like the recent epidemic of influenza, must be greatly mitigated by the assiduous attentions they received from Mr. Brown and the ladies. I saw the school in unfortunate circumstances. Owing chiefly to an epidemic of influenza most of the children had gone off into the bush, and whereas, during the first quarter of the year the attendance was over sixty, only seventeen presented themselves while I was at Weipa. The highest scholars here are considerably behind those at Mapoon in every respect. Their reading is confined to simple sentences, and the other branches are in proportion. A pleasant feature is the affectionate relations which subsist between Miss Schick and her charges."

**HOPE VALLEY (Cape Bedford, Cooktown).**—This Mission now presents the appearance of a thriving and busy little settlement. The huts and houses have all been kept in good condition and repair, and Mr. Foxton's wishes put into execution in that school, dormitories, and church all occupy separate buildings. School is progressing satisfactorily under Mrs. Schwarz, with her sister, Miss Lucy Allan, and regularly attended by over thirty children, all in the first class, as based upon the State school standard. I made a point of examining their progress and work. The seven Marie Yamba children know practically nothing, but this is not to be wondered at, considering that the only instruction (*sic*) they had hitherto received was from one of the more civilised black boys—one of those malcontents whom I had no choice but to send back to Bowen. Of the total scholars, the girls, as a whole, seem far brighter and more intelligent than the boys. The experiment mentioned in my last Annual Report, of getting all the local camp children (*i.e.*, those of suitable school age) to attend lessons, has proved both beneficial and successful. Among outdoor sports, cricket has been introduced with excellent results. There are

sixty-five aboriginals (thirty-six males and twenty-nine females) permanently residing on the Mission premises, and from twenty-five to thirty permanently residing in the adjacent camp, which they only leave now and again for a day or two at a time on some special hunting excursion. As Mr. Foxton well knows the nature of the country at Cape Bedford—a succession of sandhills with scanty vegetation—it is needless to point out that what there is of native foods is insufficient to support these camp blacks; hence there are upwards of 100 people whose wants have to be daily supplied, and for this purpose the Rev. G. Schwarz has both to grow and purchase food. In addition to the two gardens reported on last year, another has been fenced in around the Mission house, and it has been the chief aim of the superintendent to grow as many sweet potatoes as possible. Great difficulties have been overcome in blasting the solid rock in order to clear the ground for the latter garden, and in bringing good soil—which all had to be carried in bags—from a considerable distance. It might be argued: Why was the garden not made where the good soil was to be found? This is, indeed, what was first attempted, but experience taught that, notwithstanding the suitability of soil, nothing would grow there owing to the propinquity of the salt water and the exposure during eight months in the year, consequent on the prevailing south-easterly winds. On an average, a bullock is killed every three weeks, but what with the price of cattle (£7 to £8 at Cooktown) this is found to be too expensive. Furthermore, the advent of the Marie Yamba blacks has necessitated the killing of more cattle than the station can really afford: accustomed as these latter aboriginals were to eating meat daily—(coming as they did from a cattle-raising country where native game is plentiful)—they naturally felt resentment at first at not having similar food here, though I am thankful to state that what with the summary dismissal of the seven undesirable malcontents, the remaining ones are quite happy and contented with their lot. Another and important difficulty which Rev. Schwarz has had to contend with is that all the elder ones had been accustomed to work for wages (some making as much as £1 5s. weekly), and consequently no little tact and judgment had to be exercised in explaining to them that such a practice could not be continued here. The superintendent has also in every way tried to meet their wishes, so far as his means will allow him, and is killing more station cattle than he has hitherto been accustomed to do. The pigs which were running wild have all been disposed of and eaten, with the exception of a few (carefully shut up) which have been retained for fattening. It is to be regretted that the goats still suffer from the depredations of the dingoes. The fishing-net has been utilised on all occasions possible, and has proved of great utility. I can certify that every penny of the Government subsidy, hitherto allowed to Cape Bedford, has been spent on rations wholly and solely. During the past few months flour has been raised from £10 to £12 10s. per ton. Out of the Mission Society's funds, a considerable item has to be spent on clothes—(the sixty-five permanent inmates must be lightly though decently dressed)—while the station premises, boat, &c., have all to be kept in good order and repair. At present there is nothing reproductive at the Mission in the sense of obtaining funds to benefit it, the only item on this account for the past year being £5 for half-a-ton of copra. Of course, so far as the cocoanuts are concerned—and the plantation on the North Cape is gradually increasing—the copra will show good results as the years roll on. About 800 trees are now planted, and in this portion of the work, the seventy or eighty blacks who have been turned out of Cooktown (but supplied through the superintendent with Government rations) lend no small assistance. The sisal-hemp received from the Agricultural Department is so far doing well, but any returns will not be evident for another four or five years. I might also mention that certainly up to the time of my inspection last August these Lutheran missionaries, whose central committee is in Germany, have not received a single private subscription from Australian sources. They are thus at a great disadvantage as compared with the Presbyterian and Anglican missions, whose comparatively affluent congregations at Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and elsewhere make themselves responsible for collecting local subscriptions. I do not for one moment wish to make this statement in the form of a complaint, but only to indicate the absence of an important source of income which all the other Northern Mission Stations are in the fortunate position of enjoying. In this connection I need hardly point out that the efforts of the Hon. J. F. G. Foxton in inviting subscriptions from the public and drawing attention to the work of the different Missions in the little brochure on the aboriginals, lately published, are sincerely appreciated, both by Rev. Mr. Schwarz and by myself. With a view to helping the superintendent out of his difficulties, and to defray the cost of keeping the blacks removed from Marie Yamba, the amount of the Government subsidy has been increased by £100 per annum. The hopes which had been entertained with regard to the Bloomfield Station acting as a farm, &c., for the supply of produce for Cape Bedford, and to the Mission boat as a means of conveyance from the one to the other were destined, for reasons already detailed, not to be fulfilled. Except for a few months in the year, the Mission boat is found to be too small to stand the seas met with between the Cape and Cooktown, whence all supplies are obtained; on the other hand, the departmental lugger "Melbidir" is placed at the disposal of the missionaries during the three months (North-West season) that she is in port. Furthermore, I have been instructed to consult with the superintendent as to the requirements and probable cost of a craft suitable for the special work required of it. Complaints have been received concerning certain individuals trespassing upon the Mission Reserve, and utilising portions of it for illegal purposes in connection with horses and cattle; the matter is in the hands of the police.

Reserves.

The inclusion in the Bluff Downs Aboriginal Reserve of the area of land held by the licensee of Occupation License No. 5, Charters Towers District, has been proclaimed (*G.G.*, 11-1-02); it was this piece of land to which I referred in my last Annual Report:—"At Bluff Downs and Southwick, consisting of almost impenetrable scrub situated on what is known as the 'Wall'—an extraordinary basaltic mass—there is the anomaly of an aboriginal reserve entirely surrounding a piece of country hitherto held under occupation license. The portion thus held comprises two grass pockets of about 8 and 12 square miles respectively, each containing a sheet of water." The Tinaroo Divisional Board made a proposition for an aboriginal reserve to be proclaimed on the water reserve, Atherton. The District Lands Commissioner, with whom I fully concur, expressed himself to the effect that a place so near a town was most unsuitable and undesirable for such a purpose. Application has been made for an aboriginal reserve on the coast land lying between the Mitchell and Nassau Rivers. The country was visited, and favourably reported on for the purpose by the Bishop of Carpentaria, Rev. E. Gribble, Inspector Galbraith, and Sub-inspector Garraway.

The time has, in my opinion, now arrived when it is imperative that various areas in the extreme Western and Gulf districts be dedicated wholly and solely to the natives. A reserve half full of occupation licenses (*i.e.*, annual leases held by private occupiers) will not answer the purpose. The whole question resolves itself into one of either sacrificing many human lives, or losing a few pounds derived from rents. So long as the land can be taken up at a few shillings per square mile, and no provision made for the dependent blacks who can and are being hunted off it, there certainly will be trouble. The stockowner naturally does his best for his cattle—one cannot for a moment blame him—while I do the best I can for my blacks. The value of one human life, no matter the colour of the skin which clothes it, is more to me than that of all the cattle in creation. Here, for instance, is the official correspondence from the Camooweal district *re* stockowners complaining about blacks camped on the waterholes during the drought, and “frightening” the cattle. I blush in shame that I should be personally powerless to remedy such a state of affairs:—

- (1.) Sergeant Quain, Camooweal, 19-11-02: “Stockowners in district complain blacks camped waterholes frighten stock causing many perish. Owing scarcity of water and absence aboriginal reserves am unable suggest remedy.”
- (2.) Inspector Galbraith, Normanton, 19-11-02: “Inform stockowners that matter has been referred to Northern Protector. Also inform them that I will not recommend blacks be hunted from water under present conditions, but will be perfectly willing to forward any merciful recommendations suggested by stockowners that will preserve stock, and also prevent blacks from perishing for water.”
- (3.) Sergeant Quain, Camooweal, 21-11-02: “. . . . During the sergeant’s recent visit to Morstone, Mr. Murray complained about a mob of blacks who were camped at a little spring on Undilla run, 3 miles from his boundary fence. He stated those blacks entered his paddocks hunting for kangaroo, sugar-bag, &c., that they frightened his sheep, and that he also suspected they killed an occasional one, but he had no evidence of this. He wanted these blacks shifted about 25 miles down, at the junction of the Shannessy and Harris, where he stated there was plenty of water and game, and no cattle belonging to anybody. As the spring was a very small one, the sergeant advised the blacks to go down to this place. He has since received a letter from Mr. Kenny, manager of Undilla, who states he has a large body of weak cattle at this junction, and complaining of the blacks being shifted to there, as he had specially desired them to camp at the springs, where they would not be a trouble to anybody. J. McNally, overseer for Mr. Kilgour, of Herbert Vale, also writes complaining of the blacks recently shifted up the Gregory from Riversleigh, that they had got amongst his cattle recently shifted over there, and that he feared they would have big losses over it, and asking that the blacks be shifted. Mr. Kilgour has since called at the office; he states this country does not belong to him, being vacant Crown lands, but that it was the only place he could shift to to save his herd. [The Hon. the Home Secretary, inserts this minute here: “*The aboriginals therefore had far more right to be there than either Mr. Kilgour or his cattle.*”] These complaints come almost every year. They are more numerous now owing to this disastrous drought. There are no complaints of blacks killing either cattle or sheep. The sergeant is of opinion that the only remedy lies in aboriginal reserves being proclaimed in the district, where the blacks could go at any time and be put on in a dry season—if necessary—and where the squatter or no other person would have power to interfere with them. Four reserves would be sufficient—one on Barclay Downs, one on Undilla or head of O’Shanassy, one about junction Harris and O’Shanassy Rivers, and one about the Thornton.
- (4.) Inspector Galbraith, 10-12-02 (in forwarding the sergeant’s report for my information), says: “The only remedy is reserves. Gulf land is much sought after. If country is not alienated for aboriginals very great difficulties will arise.”

It was this same gentleman, Protector Galbraith, who over eighteen months ago drew a vivid word picture as to the imperative necessity for proclaiming reserves. On the 25th April, 1901, he wrote as follows:—“Another contentious matter which must be approached with great care is the right of the aboriginals to hunt and fish on the watercourses. It is their right, and it is their only means of existence when in their natural state. They must camp by water to appease their thirst. . . . Their food (*i.e.* game) is nearly always found by or in the water. To deprive them of this right simply means wiping them out or driving them into the smaller townships, where the women must prostitute themselves in order to enable the men and children to live. Those that are myalls will naturally kill cattle, or even commit murder, if driven away from their hunting grounds. The station owner or manager claims that his stock have to go to water—so have the aboriginals’ game—and that the sight of the blacks disturbs his cattle. The result is that the blacks are often dispersed by the station hands. Of course, such dispersals are not reported to the police.”

The lugger “Melbidir” works practically for two Departments—the Treasurer’s and the Home Secretary’s (Aboriginals)—her master, John Schluter, being, like myself, an inspector under the Pearl-shell and Bêche-de-Mer Fishery Acts. The whole of my cabin fittings, furniture, &c., has been paid for out of my private pocket. It is with this vessel that all the coastline between Burketown and Cardwell has been patrolled at least twice during the past year; she has also been utilised before now in carrying stores for the Mission Stations, removing lepers to Friday Island, and assisting the Agricultural and Mines Departments and the police. She has been found extremely useful in many other ways: As an instance, she was made use of by Mr. John Hamilton, M.L.A., during his Northern visit in connection with the last elections. With her help, a large number of fishing-boats were boarded, the articles, &c., examined, and, where necessary, the vessels searched: four prosecutions, particularised elsewhere, resulted. Together with Protector Bennett’s boat, the “Mystic,” at Thursday Island, she proves herself a very great check on any abuses that are going on amongst the aboriginals employed on boats. Mr. Bennett says: “I have been unable to devote as much time as I would like to inspection work, and did not visit the extreme southern limit of this district on either side of the Peninsula during 1902. However, I have boarded and inspected over 100 different boats at various places, and checked the crews, &c.”

“Melbidir” and  
“Mystic.”

Executive.

The Aborigines Bill of 1901 having received the Royal Assent was gazetted on 16th May. The complete set of Acts, &c., under which my Department works now includes the following:—

- (1) (2) "*The Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1901.*"
- (3) Regulations, G.G. 23-9-99, dealing with protectors, duties, &c., permits, agreements, recognisances on removal, register, &c.
- (4) Regulations made, 15-11-99, dealing with districts assigned to the Northern and Southern Protectors, &c. In terms of the above, the following local Protectors act as my deputies and assistants in the petty sessions districts over which they are appointed: all communications and inquiries dealing with aboriginal matters in these particular districts should in the first place be forwarded to the officers respectively in charge:—

Local Protector.	Stationed at—	For Petty Sessions District of—
Bennett, Geo. H., Sub-Collector of Customs ...	Thursday Island...	Somerset
Galbraith, Percy D. F., Inspector ...	Normanton ...	Burke, Camooweal, Cloncurry, Croydon, Etheridge, and Norman
Marrett, Chas. B., Inspector ...	Cairns ...	Cairns, Douglas, Herberton, Mareeba, Mourilyan, and Thornborough
King, James, Sergeant ...	Cooktown...	Cook and Palmer
Graham, David, Inspector ...	Townsville ...	Ayr, Bowen, Ingham, and Cardwell
Quilter, John, Sub-Inspector ...	Townsville ...	Townsville
Brosnan, Michael, Acting Sergeant ...	Winton ...	Winton
O'Connor, Francis J., Sergeant ...	Boullia ...	Boullia
Martin, Edward, Sub-Inspector...	Mackay ...	Mackay
McNamara, James, Sub-Inspector ...	Charters Towers ...	Charters Towers, Cape River, Hughenden, and Ravenswood

I am proud to be able to state that all these gentlemen are giving me every assistance in the way of loyal co-operation and hearty support. The work, time, and trouble involved in conscientiously carrying out their duties is thoroughly recognised and deeply appreciated by me. An officer whom I particularly miss is Inspector Meldrum, who has retired from the service. Protector Galbraith testifies to the valuable assistance received from all ranks of the police in his district, and especially from his clerk, Constable O'Shea, who keeps the records, correspondence, &c.

The Treasury Department has made the necessary arrangements whereby a cash credit, to the extent of £100, is opened in my favour at the Queensland National Bank, Brisbane, for the purpose of enabling me to pay accounts in connection with the Northern aborigines. Vouchers for the relief of aborigines and trackers' gins (in the Cook district) are paid by the various police inspectors on my certificate.

Under the powers vested in me by 2 Edw. vii. No. 1, Section 13, with a view to managing the property of aborigines, I opened a trust account, "Aborigines Protection Property Account," in the Queensland National Bank, Cooktown. From its inception on the 7th August, until the end of the year, over £200 were placed to its credit. The very fact of so large amount being entirely made up of wages due to natives, affords food for reflection as to what would have become of all these moneys had not "Government" intervened. The account has been audited.

Itinerary.

I was away from Brisbane for the whole of January and a portion of February. After attending the Science Congress at Hobart, where I gave the presidential address in the Ethnological Section, I waited another week to give evidence before the Statistician's Conference. At Adelaide I saw the authorities with regard to certain action being taken along the Queensland-Northern Territory border, and did my best to impress upon the public the urgency of carrying out certain measures for the benefit of the Territory natives on lines similar to what is being done in Queensland. At Melbourne I was given a very hearty welcome by the Aborigines' Protection Board, who took me out to one of their Stations—Corranderrk—some 40 miles distant; this served as a very good object lesson to me, in more ways than one.

In company with Fisheries Inspector Schluter I left Cooktown in the "Melbidir," on the 18th April, on our Northern coastal patrol, calling at Cape Bedford Mission Station *en route*. We were travelling the whole of May. At Thursday Island we took on board one of the Assistant Government Geologists (Mr. Jackson), and his Lordship Bishop White. After visiting Mapoon, the Rev. Mr. Russell joined us. Both the former accompanied me overland from Weipa to the Moreton, and thence southward and northward to meet the Mein and Macdonnell telegraph officials respectively. From Weipa we sailed down the coast to the mouth of the Mitchell, to keep our appointment there on the 28th with Sub-inspector Garraway and Rev. Mr. Gribble. We waited and cruised around until the morning of June 1st but, unfortunately, missed them. During June I visited Normanton, Burketown, Bentinck, and Sweer's Island. Being prevented travelling across country from Burketown *via* Camooweal, Urandangie, and Boullia, &c., like last year, owing to the drought, we returned to Normanton during the first week of July; sailed up the coast to the mouth of the Mitchell, where some of the party landed, and then on to Mapoon. Proceeding on our journey, we landed the Assistant Government Geologist at Vrilya Point, Possession, and Horn Islands, arriving at Thursday Island on the 28th of the month. August was spent in the neighbourhood of Cooktown, Cape Bedford, Laura, Maytown, and the Palmer. The whole of September was occupied in travelling to and from the Moreton E.T.O., in connection with the inquiry held there into the shooting of four aborigines by the police party last April. Acting on instructions, I came down to Brisbane during the latter end of October, so as to be present in the House when the estimates for my department were under discussion. I left Brisbane again, on 8th November, for Cooktown, whence I proceeded to Port Douglas, the Mosman, Cairns, and Cardwell, returning once more to the capital on 18th December. I was thus travelling over eight months out of the twelve.

My fourth scientific bulletin dealing with the ethnography of the North Queensland aboriginals, <sup>Scientific.</sup> "Games, Sports, and Amusements," was published in April. Correspondence passed with the Brisbane branch of the Royal Geographical Society *re* the fencing-in of the Investigator-tree on Sweer's Island. The South Australian Premier asked whether I might be allowed to render assistance to Mr. Charles Winnecke, who proposed continuing some explorations in the Northern Territory just west of the border. A series of gum-cements manufactured by the North Queensland natives was forwarded for chemical analysis to the Director of the Sydney Technological Museum. During the Easter holidays I took the opportunity of visiting Mr. Thos. Petrie, at North Pine, and obtained much material of scientific interest relative to the old Brisbane and surrounding coast-line aboriginals. A set of anthropometric instruments has been ordered through Dr. Giglioli, of Florence; this will enable me to carry on more accurately the measurements that I commenced taking some five years ago.

The past year shows a large increase in my correspondence, which came to a total of 2,240 <sup>Office work.</sup> communications—1,114 inward, and 1,130 outward. Hitherto, all the official papers relative to my department have been kept partly in Brisbane, partly in Cooktown, and partly with me while travelling on patrol and inspection work. This arrangement is found to be far from satisfactory, and accordingly all papers will in future be kept in Brisbane. In view also of the payment required for official telegrams, it will be necessary to have someone at headquarters to act for or communicate with me in matters of urgency. Hitherto, the Home Secretary has approved of Mr. E. A. Blackboro being entrusted with the duty of attending to my official correspondence, a duty which, so far without any increase of salary, has been performed most conscientiously and satisfactorily. I have again to thank Mr. Geo. Boddington, of the Cooktown Post Office, for all the trouble and attention consequent on reposting official mail-matter.

The following opinions on the working of the Aboriginal, &c., Act for the year just closed are worth recording:— <sup>Opinions on the working of the Act.</sup>

"As to the general working of the Act, I consider that I am justified in reporting that it has worked smoothly and that the employers of aboriginal labour are, as a body, satisfied." (Protector Bennett, Thursday Island.)

"The general working of the Act in this district is progressing satisfactorily." (Protector Marrett, Cairns.)

"Though the Act is working well, yet it still requires assistance in the matter of reserves, quarantine stations, education, and suitable employment. . . . On many occasions I have asked opponents [to the provisions of the Act] to give me suggestions; when given, I have found that their ideas are on all fours with the Act, and in conformity with what I can gather are the Minister's views. . . ." (Protector Galbraith, Normanton.)

The following excerpts are from the various reports forwarded by police officers in Protector Galbraith's districts:—"The aboriginals have materially benefited by the Act. They are healthy with the exception of those about Burketown, who suffer from venereal and sore eyes. Suggests that money earned [by the blacks] be paid into bank" (Acting Sergeant Behan, Burketown). "Act works fairly well. The relations between employers and employed are good. Aboriginals free from the vices of opium and drink. Immediate necessity for a reserve in the Camooweal district" (Sergeant Quain, Camooweal.) "The present Act is a good one" (Sergeant Healy, Cloncurry.) "The Act works well. For supplying opium, would suggest that a constable be empowered to arrest instead of proceeding by summons" (Sergeant Henderson, Croydon.) "The Act in this district decidedly beneficial to aboriginals, who are beginning to understand that the police are their friends, although there are some employers dissatisfied, terming it useless and harsh legislation; aboriginals in many cases do not receive their wages. Suggests payment through some reliable person. For supplying opium, asks that the police be empowered to arrest" (Acting Sergeant Old, Georgetown.) "The Act seems to give general satisfaction" (Constable Fitzgerald, McKinlay.) "The Act is working admirably" (Sergeant King, Normanton.) "Agreements seem to be satisfactory to employer and employed. Suggests that police be empowered to arrest when opium is supplied" (Constable Stockbridge, Percyville.)

"The Act is working satisfactorily in this district with one or two exceptions, and is a great benefit to the aboriginals. . . ." (Protector Martin, Mackay.)

"The Act operates successfully in this district, the employers of aboriginal labour in all cases willingly complying with it, while, on the other hand, the aboriginals prefer now to be under agreement in all cases and look to the Protector as their friend. During the year there has not been a single complaint from an employer or an employee." (Protector Brosnan, Winton.)

"I have heard no complaints about the agreements, and the Act seems to work admirably here." (Protector Quilter, Townsville.)

"The Act has worked well in my district during the year." (Protector McNamara, Charters Towers.)

I have, &c.,

WALTER E. ROTH,

Northern Protector of Aboriginals.

# **Annual Report of the Northern Protector of Aborigines for 1902**

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aborigines

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