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QUEENSLAND.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS FOR 1905.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT.

Brisbane, 31st May, 1906.

SIR,—I have the honour to hand you my Annual Report on the results of the operations of "The *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1901*," for the year ended 31st December, 1905.

LABOUR CONDITIONS (MAINLAND).

Permits.—A total of 1,735 permits (a decrease of 128 on last year) has been issued by the local Protectors, who continue to exercise their right of refusing to grant permits to those would-be employers of black labour whom, for various good reasons, they consider undesirable and untrustworthy. In one case, a permit was refused where the applicant intended engaging a native for foot-racing. An application was received from the Ipswich district for aboriginals to be allowed to compete in Sheffield handicaps, but the Minister was furnished with reasons, detailed in my last Annual Report, why the request should not be granted. The local Protector at Cooktown cancelled the agreement between Charles Thomson and aboriginal Douglas on account of cruelty.

As for employing natives in connection with hotels, all applications and recommendations for which have to be made to the Chief Protector, a few have been granted. On the other hand, a permit was refused in the case of W. E. Reilly, licensee of Laudsborough Hotel, Camooweal, to employ the aboriginal female Alice: in this case the necessity of a Northern Territory native while in Queensland being amenable to the Queensland Acts was severely felt.

Particulars of the distribution of the permits are shown in Table 1, together with the appointments of all the Protectors to their respective districts up to date. In Protector White's area it would appear that the natives are, in the main, in more or less casual employment, and do not seem to have been placed under permit.

Permanent Employment. — Agreements. — Wages.—I regret having to report that in certain districts there continues to be a strong opposition both to the signing of the agreements and to the payment of wages through the Protectors; in other words, employers refuse to pay for their black labour. In the case of male aboriginals, the Protector *may* direct the wages to be paid to himself, to be expended on the native's behalf (sec. 12, subsec. 2, "The *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1901*," and sec. 12 of the 1904 Regulations). In the case of female aboriginals and half-castes under agreement, wages *must* be paid direct to the Protector (sec. 11, 12, of the 1904 Regulations). So far I have not instructed the Protectors to insist upon the wages of male aboriginals being paid through them simply on account of the extra work and time involved, without being able to offer them extra remuneration. On the other hand, I have instructed certain Protectors to issue summonses if the employers fail to pay up the wages due to their male or female employees. The curious part of the matter is that employers both recognise and appreciate the value of aboriginal labour: the blacks are better than ordinary white stockmen—they know the country better, and are more reliable and obedient.

Difficulties having arisen as to the possession of the "original" agreement by the Protector or the employer, the following circular memorandum was issued (14-3-05) to all Protectors:—*Re* agreements: (a) The agreement has to be made in duplicate, by sec. 6 of the Aboriginal Regulations, 1904, not a copy. (b) The duplicate should be marked "duplicate original," and *not* "copy." (c) The "original" should be stamped, and the "duplicate original" have marked on it "original stamped." (d) Under these conditions, the "original" and "duplicate original" documents have equal legal value as evidence. (e) Provided the two documents are thus endorsed, &c., the possession of either by the official or the employer is immaterial.

C. A. 20—1906.

The Protectors have a good deal to say on this labour question:—

“There is a falling off in the number of aboriginals under permit and agreement during 1905 as compared with 1904, there being 99 for the former year as against 61 for the latter. This can be accounted for by the fact that employment was not so plentiful for them during the year under review as in previous years, owing to the reduction of the hands on many of the stations on the lower Thompson, Cooper's Creek, and the country further west towards the South Australian border, many of the holdings being abandoned consequent on the continuous disastrous drought. Of the males under permit and agreement the majority are employed on stations, and the majority of females under permit are the wives of these boys. There are no aboriginals employed in towns in the district” (Protector Dillon, Longreach).

“Many of the employers, being accustomed formerly to employ aboriginals without agreements, enter into them very reluctantly, but in all cases I insist on having the necessary agreements entered into” (Protector Sweetman, Charters Towers).

“Where aboriginals are permanently employed, both employer and employee are beginning to recognise the benefits of the agreements, although some of them are doubtful about signing them, being of opinion they are signing away their liberty: this opinion, I believe, has been impressed upon them by some unscrupulous employers and white men. The wages for this labour vary, or is on a sliding scale, and in many instances, so far as the aboriginal is concerned, it slides altogether. Boys entering into agreements are promised from 2s. 6d. to 10s. per week: the employer is the paymaster. Some of these employees get £1 to perhaps £5 when coming to town once a year, and, as they are illiterate, and have no idea of keeping a check on their employers, when asked if they have been paid their wages, say, “Oh, yes,” and produce a few shillings. I would suggest that the labour of aboriginal males should be paid to a Protector as is done with females, and placed to their credit in like manner. I have been trying to educate some of the boys up to a spirit of thrift and save their money by showing the Savings Bank Pass-books of the gins wherein some have as much as £18: they express wonder and surprise at so much money being the property of one gin. I am opposed to aboriginals having much money to squander, except a few shillings as pocket money, but the native should get the full benefit of his labour for a rainy day. There is a strong feeling of hostility amongst a great many station managers and others in this district regarding the gins' wages being paid to the local Protector, as demanded by the Regulations. There are a number of employers who pay regularly, whilst there are quite a number who only pay occasionally, and others fail to pay at all: when questioned, they state ‘You take your gins and see if you can give them better homes: the stations feed a lot of old and useless blacks that should be taken and protected, &c.’ As these gins' wages only amount to from 1s. 6d. to 4s. per week, I cannot understand why this feeling should exist: the gins in every case give good value for their wages—if not, they would soon be cleared out to the camp” (Protector Old, Normanton).

“The boys' wages are supposed to be paid to themselves, which in only a few cases is done” (Protector Joyce, Georgetown).

“Employers in some instances refuse to pay wages of female aboriginals to police, as they contend that the aboriginals should be paid themselves, and allowed to spend as they choose. Several of the station people state that the aboriginals cost more than they are worth, but when they lose a boy or a gin I notice that they go to a lot of trouble to recover them” (Protector Fitzgerald, Cloncurry).

“I have been informed by several boys belonging to three stations close to Cooktown that they do not receive their wages, and I quite believe them: in consequence, I am compelling the employers to pay the wages to me in future, which no doubt will be met with a good deal of opposition” (Protector King, Cooktown).

“Whenever any of the girls who reside in the country come to town with their employers or otherwise, or in the case of girls in town employment—when a circus, theatrical company, or other amusement is on, I invariably make withdrawals for them to enable them to attend and enjoy themselves like their white comrades. I find this is very conducive to making them very contented. . . . Another of the female half-castes got married to a European during the year, and the amount to her credit in the bank was withdrawn by me and paid over to her on the day she got married” (Protector Brosnan, Winton).

“The blacks have a decided objection to their wages or any part of it being paid to the Protector. This is due to the fact that the practice was not introduced by any of my predecessors. I have not had an opportunity yet, owing to the drought, of seeing them myself and explaining the position to them, and until I do so, and they are agreeable to it, I have not insisted on the wages or part of it being paid to me. Consequently, I have no wages account in the Savings Bank in connection with the blacks. I fear if I were to enforce this part of the Regulations trouble would arise and matters between employers and employees may become strained, a state of things to be avoided if possible. I have not had any complaints from the boys under agreement, many of whom I see from time to time in Longreach, and I am satisfied they are justly dealt with by their employers” (Protector Dillon, Longreach).

When the natives indeed have some money to spend, certain of the Protectors very kindly arrange for some responsible officer or for themselves to accompany them to the store, with a view to seeing that they get full value for their money. “When a boy requires clothing, &c., I always send a constable with him to see that he gets his money's worth, and allow him a few shillings only for pocket money” (Protector Sweetman, Charters Towers).

“When the boys are paid off from the boats, I still go to the store and see that they get full value for their money, being left with none for drink” (Protector King, Cooktown).

Every now and again, correspondence comes to hand from employers, &c., anxious to spend the wages earned by the natives and banked by the Protectors. According to sec. 12, subsec. (2), of “*The Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1901*,” it is for the Protector to expend such wages on behalf of the aboriginals concerned. The intention of the Legislature in framing this clause

was to protect the interests of the employee: with that object in view, I take it that it is for the Protector to expend only such sums out of the wages saved as circumstances and his good sense direct, the object in view being to put by as much as he can for "a rainy day."

TABLE 1.—DISTRIBUTION OF PERMITS, APPOINTMENTS OF PROTECTORS (UP TO 31ST MAY, 1906).

Issued in the Petty Sessions Districts of—	Protector—	Stationed at—	Males.	Females.
Somerset	O'Brien, Charles David, C.P.S. ...	Thursday Island	291	...
Cairns, Douglas, Herberton, Mareeba, Mourilyan, Thornborough	Durham, Hubert Rowland Pasley, Inspector	Cairns	82	40
Cook, Palmer	Carfoot, Thomas, Sergeant ...	Cooktown	251	60
Coen	Whiteford, James, Senior Sergeant	Coen	26	5
Norman, Burke	Old, James Robert Ernest, Acting Sergeant	Normanton	225	42
Croydon, Etheridge	Joyce, Patrick, Constable	Georgetown	38	9
Cloncurry, Camooweal	Quilter, John, Sub-Inspector	Cloncurry	61	15
Mackay	Martin, Edward, Sub-Inspector ...	Mackay	12	3
Ayr, Bowen, Cardwell, Ravenswood, Townsville	Galbraith, Percy Dumas Fead, Inspector	Townsville	46	6
Ingham	Connolly, Patrick, Acting Sergeant	Ingham		
Charters Towers, Cape River	Malone, Hugh, Sub-Inspector ...	Charters Towers	33	6
Hughenden, Richmond	Graham, Richard Moffat, Sub-Inspector	Hughenden		
Winton	Brosnan, Michael, Acting Sergeant	Winton	12	6
Boulia	Whelan, Daniel, Acting Sergeant...	Boulia	33	12
Adavale, Augathella, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Thargomindah	Nethercote, James, Inspector ...	Charleville	115	27
Alpha, Aramac, Barcardine, Blackall, Diamantina, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaburra, Tambo, Windorah	Dillon, Michael, Inspector ...	Longreach	48	9
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Stanthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Geraghty, James, Inspector ...	Toowoomba	9	4
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Tenningering, Tiaro	Marrett, Charles Beauchamp, Inspector	Maryborough	60	11
Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure	Toohy, Daniel, Inspector	Rockhampton	40	22
Bolon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Savage, Charles, Inspector	Roma	11	2
Beaudesert, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Dugandan, Esk, Gatton, Goodna, Harrisville, Ipswich, Laidley, Logan, Marburg, Maroochy, Nerang, Redcliffe, Rosewood, South Brisbane, Woodford	White, John Warren, Inspector ...	Brisbane ... ..	...	...
Brisbane, &c. (for aboriginal females) ...	(Vacant)	Brisbane ... ..	...	63
		Total	1,393	342

The amounts received on account of gins' and children's wages by the local Protector are banked in the Government Savings Bank, in the name of each native respectively, with the local Protector as trustee. Table 2 shows the total amount so banked as compared with the year previous. At Roma, the Protector states "there has been no money collected on behalf of aboriginals in this district, and none in the bank": his attention has been drawn to sec. 11 of the 1904 Regulations, insisting on the payment of the females' wages through him. At Longreach, Protector Dillon explains, as already reported, the absence of any wages account from various causes which I trust to see shortly removed. At Thursday Island, Protector O'Brien hopes to induce the Torres Strait islanders working boats to bank a percentage of their earnings, as suggested by me in recent correspondence.

TABLE 2.—ABORIGINALS' WAGES HELD IN TRUST BY PROTECTORS ON 31ST DECEMBER.

Government Savings Bank at—	Wages Held in Trust by Local Protector.		Government Savings Bank at—	Wages Held in Trust by Local Protector.	
	1904.	1905.		1904.	1905.
Thursday Island	£ s. d. 15 4 6	£ s. d. 18 7 11	Mackay	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. 20 3 1
Cooktown	100 5 9	136 19 0	Rockhampton	22 7 0	67 9 4
Coen ... ..	...	17 11 3	Longreach ... ..	...	...
Cairns	262 18 2	327 15 3	Charleville ... ..	...	12 1 6
Normanton	432 13 3	106 12 9	Maryborough	7 19 3	24 7 5
Georgetown		102 10 3	Roma ... ..	...	...
Cloncurry		79 12 0	Toowoomba	6 0 0	22 3 0
Townsville	6 9 6	4 1 0	Brisbane (Protector White)	...	...
Charters Towers ... ..	...	25 1 8	Brisbane (Mrs. Frew) ...	372 5 3	403 10 1
Winton	79 14 0	103 5 9			
Boulia	75 5 7	89 17 10	Total	£1,381 2 3	£1,561 9 1

Casual Employment.—The instructions on this subject that have been given to all the Protectors, with a view to minimising any alleged hardships through too literal an interpretation of the Acts, have been faithfully obeyed, the results, in most cases, proving very encouraging:—

“As has been my custom hitherto, I have permitted the camp aboriginals who are unable to obtain permanent employment to perform casual labour for the townspeople. . . . They are thus enabled to support themselves and their aged and infirm relatives without requiring any Government relief, which would otherwise be the case” (Protector Brosnan, Winton). “A large number of blacks in my district who are not under permit make their living by fishing, hunting, and doing casual work for town residents, such as scrubbing, chopping firewood, &c., in return for which they get rations” (Protector Dillon, Longreach). “There are a good number of male and female aboriginals under casual employment at all times here, such as washing and wood-cutting in town: they receive rations, &c., and are quite contented, and no complaints have been received” (Protector Fitzgerald, Cloncurry). “Apart from those who get the allowance [of food relief], the blacks get their living by doing odd jobs for ‘tucker’ and ‘opossuming’” (Protector Savage, Roma). “A great number of aboriginals inhabit the Cardwell district, none of whom are under agreement, as they prefer casual employment, so that they can go to the ranges when they like, where plenty of native food is procurable” (Protector Quilter, Townsville). “The usual practice of casual employment is carried on here to a great extent. They [the blacks] are usually paid or, if not, they change their employer very quickly. Neither the employer nor employee is interfered with in this system of casual employment, for to do so would be a hardship on the employer and more so on the employee” (Protector Old, Normanton). “There is no casual employment of aboriginals at Thursday Island. Applications for such employment are never made, and if they were, would not be granted: one of the chief aims of my predecessor and myself being to allow aboriginals to remain here as short a time as possible prior to returning to their homes after being discharged from their boats, owing to the comparatively unrestricted supply of liquor to such people at this place” (Protector O’Brien, Thursday Island). “Although the blacks here could get constant employment of a light nature, I find it a very difficult task to get them to go to work at all (with one or two exceptions): they prefer to hang round the towns” (Protector Martin, Mackay).

Absconders.—Two convictions were recorded against aboriginals absconding from their hired service—viz., Leo at Burketown, Johnny at Port Douglas: they were each ordered to return to their respective employers.

Child Labour.—I have but little to add this year to the condition of affairs regarding aboriginal children, which I detailed in my last Annual Report—i.e., I am personally averse to child labour, that when employed all children have to be put under the proper agreement, and that children are not to be brought in from the unsettled districts under any excuses whatever.

Harbouring—Illegally Employing.—The Minister approved of drastic measures being taken in the way of prosecuting trainers, &c., at Ipswich for this offence: natives were loafing about the town, and the cause was their being allowed to compete in the Sheffield handicaps. Twenty-one prosecutions for harbouring, or illegally employing (almost invariably an aboriginal female) were reported to me on the monthly prosecution returns:—

TABLE 3.—PROSECUTIONS FOR HARBOURING, ILLEGALLY EMPLOYING (MAINLAND).

Date.	Situation.	Defendant.	Result.
23 January, 1905	Atherton	Ah Sun	£20, or 6 months.
19 February, 1905	Cloncurry	Wm. T. Wright	£5.
28 February, 1905	Atherton	Jacob (Malay)	£10, or 3 months.
7 March, 1905	Betoota	John Harding	£10
1 April, 1905	Cairns	Morihama (Japanese)	£2, or 2 months.
1 April, 1905	Cairns	Metaki (Japanese)	£2, or 2 months.
9 April, 1905	Stonehenge	Tommy Ah Sue	£2 10s. and costs.
7 July, 1905	Bercaldine	A. Holscher	£1 and costs.
10 July, 1905	Springsure	T. Hill	3 months.
12 July, 1905	Cairns	Ah Wong Jack	£10, or 3 months.
14 July, 1905	Nelson	Maikmon	£1 10s. and costs.
14 July, 1905	Nelson	Ah Lin	£1 10s. and costs.
25 July, 1905	Atherton	T. Knox	£2 and costs.
25 July, 1905	Atherton	Ah Hing	£2 and costs.
28 July, 1905	Nelson	Thomas Fuller	Dismissed.
22 August, 1905	Aloomba	Dong Sing	£1 and costs.
25 August, 1905	Atherton	Davie Williams (Malay)	£2 and costs.
16 September, 1905	Boulia	Robert Montgomery	£10 and costs.
25 September, 1905	Ingham	Son Lee (4 charges)	10s. on each.
20 October, 1905	Ingham	Suggama (4 charges)	10s. on each.
20 October, 1905	Ingham	Hori (5 charges)	10s. on each.

LABOUR CONDITIONS (ON THE BOATS).

(Somerset Petty Sessions District).—It is in this district comprising the Torres Strait Islands and the Cape York Peninsula, with the centre of supervision at Thursday Island, that natives are principally employed on the boats, and it is with extreme satisfaction that I can testify to the excellent administration and supervision of the local Protector, Mr. C. D. O’Brien. I append his report on native affairs, as follows:—

“Permits.—Two hundred and ninety-one permits to employ mainland aboriginals were issued during the year, 6 of these being for employment as labourers, &c., ashore, and 285 for employment in the pearl-shell and bêche-de-mer fishery, all of these being males. No permits for the employment of females were applied for during the year. The decrease (92) in the number of permits issued, as compared with the previous year, may be ascribed chiefly to two causes. First: the withdrawal of many of the smaller employers, owing to the decrease in the price of pearl-shell; and second: the large number of East Coast natives who are induced by various methods to work on boats without going into Cooktown

or Thurslay Island to sign on before the proper officials. A third cause may have been the closing of the Mapoon Reserve to recruiters in July, 1904; but I think that the shrinkage through this cause has been to an extent balanced by the increase in the number of East Coast natives who have come in to sign on. The matter of natives working on boats without coming in to be signed on in proper form is a serious question. That the practice exists to a very large extent is beyond doubt, so much so that the term 'passenger,' meaning a man who is working but has not been signed on the articles of the boat, is a technical term well understood and commonly used in the trade; a properly engaged man being called a 'signed crew.' That this practice has increased enormously during the year is wholly due, in my opinion, to the large number of Japanese who have gone into the *bêche-de-mer* industry. Many of the boats now working between here and Cooktown are captained by Japanese, and I doubt whether there is one against whom some serious complaint has not reached me. Full reports on this subject were forwarded to you under date 11th December, 1905, revealing a highly undesirable state of affairs, both from the point of view of the Department and of the employers.

"The extraordinary feature of the new development is that nearly all of these Japanese rent the boats in which they are working: some of them are purchasing their boats with the proceeds of their produce. In both cases there can be no doubt that a breach of section 2 of '*The Pearl-shell and Bêche-de-Mer Fishery Acts Amendment Act of 1898*' is being committed, since such men undoubtedly acquire a 'beneficial interest' in the boat. This matter is identical with the trouble which threatened the pearl-shellers here some years ago, and which led to the passing of the Act just mentioned. It seems to me to be sufficiently important to justify the intervention of the Treasury officials, as unless some immediate action is taken to enforce the provisions of that Act, I do not think that very many months will elapse before practically the whole of the *bêche-de-mer* industry will pass into the hands of the Japanese. Already this year (17th February, 1906) seven boats have been newly fitted up for the *bêche-de-mer* industry, and have gone out to work in charge of Japanese.

"Although complaints of abuses frequently reach me (in nearly all cases concerning Japanese), I cannot always verify them, and the alleged offender in such cases often escapes prosecution, frequently because my witnesses and the man complained against are not here at the same time, and I cannot, of course, keep a number of witnesses waiting indefinitely for the return to port of the offender.

"However, towards the end of the year, I secured evidence against five men, who were prosecuted for having aboriginals unlawfully on their boats, &c." (Table 4).

"**Recruiting.**—Seventy-three permits to recruit 550 mainlanders were issued during the year. Of these at least three permits to recruit twenty-eight men were not used, leaving seventy permits for 522 men used. This does not mean that actually 522 men were required by recruiters, as many permits were issued which were really duplicates and triplicates. This would happen in the case of a recruiter who would be unsuccessful in his first or second trip, and would obtain a second or third permit for the same number of men. For instance, permits were issued at intervals to one employer to recruit a total of ninety-two men, whereas thirty actually were required. In all, 189 men were recruited, and, in addition to these, a large number of men signed on with their old or, in some cases, new employers immediately after getting their discharges, before going back to their camps. The practice is for such men to be taken home by their employer who has just signed them on, and allowed a short spell (as previously agreed upon) at the camp, after which they go to work, although the practice tends to swell the ranks of deserters, the short spell at home frequently proving an irresistible temptation to enjoy the pleasures of liberty for a longer term."

"**Desertions.**—In all, 101 cases of desertion were reported during the year, an amount of £119 1s. being received on account of deserters' wages. This shows a large increase on the figures for 1904. In most of the cases in which I have been able to make sufficient inquiries from both sides, the causes of desertion seem to have been chiefly complaints about supply of food or clothing and over-working. The latter complaint is generally made against Japanese captains who, it appears, work seven days a week, a practice which the aboriginals very naturally resent. Forty cases of desertion from Japanese captains alone were reported, being only one short of the total desertions reported for the previous year. There seems to have been a marked disinclination among captains of boats to prosecute offenders for desertion, and instances have occurred when both deserter and master have been at my office together, and upon my urging the master to prosecute he has refused, as he did not wish to have trouble with the deserter's countrymen for fear that he might find difficulty in recruiting crews at a later period. Such actions, of course, have a bad effect in removing fear of punishment for this offence, although it is questionable whether the natives do fear very much the prospect of a month's imprisonment in gaol, where they receive good food and are treated as they are rarely treated on the boats. I cannot help adhering to my original opinion—viz., that as long as the master of the boat observes the terms of his agreement, and feeds and clothes his men properly, he has little to fear in the matter of desertion, although, as I stated in my last report, there can be little doubt that when the longing to return to his camp properly takes possession of an aboriginal, he will get there somehow, and neither good treatment nor fear of punishment will deter him.

"Some peculiar cases of 'desertion' were reported. In one, five men were reported as deserters from a vessel which it proved had foundered with the deserters on board. In other cases men were reported who had finished their terms of service, but ran away rather than continue working overtime. In such cases, when authenticated, I have refused further permits to the man responsible. Of the amount received—£119 1s. 10d.—£93 1s. 10d. was remitted to you, £11 was refunded to employers after reporting to you, £9 was refunded, having been paid in error, and £6 was spent in stores, which were sent to two men who had run away after finishing term of service."

"**Prosecutions.**—I regret that I cannot say of the year 1905 as I said of its predecessor—viz., that 'the year generally has not been notable for any very serious or systematic breaches of the Acts'—quite the contrary having been the case. During the past eighteen months a large number of Japanese have been sent out by employers in charge of boats. I was somewhat dubious as to the wisdom of this from the outset, and I find that my anticipations have been realised. From statements and reports to hand from

natives, Japanese themselves, and other boat masters, it is quite clear that a systematic evasion of the Acts is being practised. Both from the owners' and the official point of view it is to be deplored that so many Japanese have been allowed to enter the industry. [Protector O'Brien has been authorised to employ a private individual in securing prosecutions against Japanese captains for various typical breaches of the Act, and advised that the bench in such cases might allot moiety of fine to the informer.—W. E. R.] At least two cases have occurred of Japanese captains taking their produce (the property of their employers) in to southern ports, and after disposing of same absconding with the proceeds. Among other daring instances of defying the law, the following occurred at Cairns:—The lugger 'Nancy,' in charge of a Japanese named Gerogi Konishima, went into Cairns with a number of 'signed crew' and 'passengers' on board; she was actually boarded and searched by a police official there at a time when the 'passengers' were on board, but the presence of these men was undiscovered.

"Lately, I have obtained evidence showing that a Japanese to whom both Protector King and I had decided to refuse further permits, and to whom this decision had been communicated, came in to me and obtained permits for the employment of natives under another name. I did not know the man by sight; in any case he had disguised himself by clean shaving. He is at time of writing outside at work, and I can do nothing until he comes in. Even then I am unaware of any action which can be taken, other than cancelling his permits.

"On another occasion an official boarded a boat outside, looking for a Japanese who was 'wanted,' and to whom permits had been refused. (This man was Koiki, mentioned in your Annual Report for 1904, page 4.) He found a Japanese on board, who denied all knowledge of the 'wanted' man, and the official left. I have learned since that the Japanese to whom the official was talking was the man who was 'wanted.' To obviate such a system of deception developing, I now require Japanese who are unknown to me personally to file a photograph of themselves with me before granting permits to them: they will also be requested to carry copies of their photographs with them.

"Antonio Ebasio (also mentioned on page 4 of your last Annual Report) is likewise working outside with aboriginal crew in defiance of both the Aboriginals Acts and the Pearl-shell Acts. On one occasion quite recently he put a number of unsigned crew ashore at Port Stewart, and left them to walk to their camp, 40 miles away, without food, tobacco, wages, or clothes. Port Stewart is a favourite rendezvous for such men, on account of the fact that there is no telegraphic communication with other ports. This, I believe, is now being remedied, and I trust that a smart, active police officer will soon be stationed there.

"A complaint which is becoming more frequent is one to which I have previously referred in correspondence. There are some employers who are not antagonistic to the spirit and working of the Aboriginals Acts, and who have shown a desire to assist in the proper and impartial administration thereof. Two of these gentlemen in particular are large employers, and have frequently conversed with me on the subject generally. They admit that they can see that the proper administration of the Acts must be to their benefit, provided (and this is the important point) that it applies to all employers and to all ports alike: but they complain that there are differences between the administration here and elsewhere, and that their men in charge of boats have means of defrauding them by going into southern ports, where they sometimes are not questioned by officials. My letter of 15th December last explains the situation fully. Nothing more is required than systematic and uniform action by all coast Protectors on the lines suggested in that correspondence, and which, I understand, met with the approval of the Honourable the Home Secretary.

"All that is really necessary is that sec. 17 of the 1897 Act should be strictly enforced. The urgent need for a patrol boat of ordinary rig and size, same as other boats, to avoid identification by offenders, and having auxiliary power, is becoming daily more apparent. Under present conditions employers and captains of boats who are honestly endeavouring to comply with the law are in danger of being pushed out of the industry by unfair competition, or of being compelled to resort to the tactics of their unscrupulous competitors."

"**Inspection.**—The continuous pressure of business, which has obtained in the various offices held by me throughout the year, has prevented me devoting much time to inspection duties. During August, at your request, I visited Lockerby, Somerset, and Crab Island, to inquire into the matter of certain complaints made (1) by and (2) against the Red Island tribe. Full reports of that visit have been furnished you under dates 25th September, 1905, and 15th December, 1905; and I am glad to be able to say that my anticipations of 25th September, 1905, have been fully realised, each side having adhered to the promise made to me at the time of my visit. The excellent influence over the Red Island tribe wielded by Coxswain Smith of the Water Police contributed considerably to the satisfactory and speedy settlement of the difficulties which arose during the early part of the year in that vicinity, and which were reported on by me on the 26th April, 1905.

"During June to September serious complaints and reports reached me as to the treatment of the natives of certain of the Torres Straits Islands by one James Mills, a South Sea Island sheller at Naghir; and, as a result, I accompanied you on a visit of inspection in September to Naghir and Yam Islands, also calling at Badu Island on the way in to Thursday Island. I am pleased to say that the result of your visit has been very beneficial, and the natives of the various islands concerned have since thanked me for the action taken on that occasion. A report on this subject was furnished to you dated 30th June, 1905. In consequence of what transpired, it was found necessary to require Mills to obtain permits before engaging Torres Straits islanders to work for him.

"As mentioned in my last Annual Report, generally speaking, employers have not been required to obtain permits for the employment of Torres Straits islanders: Mills being the second employer who has been so required, the first being James Doyle, of Mabuig, also a sheller.

"Early in November, under instructions from the Lands Department, I accompanied Mr. Surveyor Greensill to Badu, in connection with the proposal of the Papuan Industries, Limited, to establish a centre of operations at that island. This company proposes conducting operations on a large scale among the islands, and I have every reason to anticipate that the result will be highly beneficial both to the natives

and to this department. On this occasion I visited the village and gardens, and interviewed the Mamoose and other natives on matters of interest. Later, in November, I went out in the "Mystic," and visited Mabuiag, Dauan, and Saibai Islands. Owing to the length of time that we were under sail on this trip, I was unable to stay very long at Dauan or Saibai, but I spent a day and a-half at Mabuiag. A copy of my letter to the Government Resident *re* this visit was forwarded to you under date 13th December, 1905.

"Frequently information has reached me which would have resulted in my immediately leaving Thursday Island to investigate serious reports had I been possessed of reliable and speedy means of locomotion; but I could not risk a possibility of an absence from my office of from seven to ten days, which might result through my having to rely on a sailing vessel. A striking instance of this happened in December last, when I had every reason to believe that the Japanese on several bêche-de-mer vessels were at the Pascoe River, supplying liquor, misconducting themselves with the native women, and taking men on board to work as 'passengers.' The sudden appearance of an official on this occasion would have been of incalculable benefit, and would very probably have resulted in several successful prosecutions."

"**Wages.**—The ruling rate of wages is still, generally speaking, 10s. per month, a few men being signed on at wages up to £1 5s. This remark applies to mainland natives. Three men were signed on at 12s., 4 at 12s. 6d., 3 at 13s. 4d., 3 at 14s., 9 at 15s., 16 at £1, and 1 at £1 5s. Torres Strait islanders command from £1 to £3; average, about £2 per month. A total of £660 1s. 5d. was received on account of wages and distributed as usual during the year."

(**Other Petty Sessions Districts.**) **Desertions.**—Outside of the Thursday Island Petty Sessions District, there have been very few prosecutions against aboriginals for deserting from their boats. Five boys who had absconded from Thomson's boat at Dunk Island were ordered by the Cairns bench (2nd October, 1905) to be returned to their vessel: George was similarly treated at Cooktown (13th December, 1905). No claim for deserters' wages was made against John McMaster, of Cooktown, whose fourteen boys all absconded from him at Schnapper Island; no work had been done through the vessel being laid up on account of the ill-health of the skipper, who had in addition been put to great expense in recruiting the boys and buying them clothes.

Miscellaneous.—As a result of two bêche-de-mer boats—the "Yano" and "Sikatuna"—having called in at Port Douglas, where the masters illegally sold the produce, amounting to £250, and absconded, thus deserting their aboriginal crew, the Minister's approval was obtained for Protector O'Brien's action in instructing the Protectors at Cairns, Port Douglas, Bowen, Mackay, Townsville, and Cooktown to prosecute those people in charge of bêche-de-mer boats with natives on board who entered their ports without his permit.

The Protectors at Cooktown, Thursday Island, Cairns, and Townsville were informed that a bond for return need not be insisted on when boys were taken on boats, as the masters were bound by the articles to return the boys.

The local Protector at Cooktown drew attention to the want of an Inspector of Fisheries there.

TABLE 4.—PROSECUTIONS FOR HARBOURING, ILLEGALLY EMPLOYING, &c. (ON THE BOATS).

Date.	Situation.	Defendant.	For Harboursing, Etc.	Result.
11 January, 1905 ...	Cooktown ...	Yamakawa Asakichi ...	Four men, four women	£20, and costs.
10 March, 1905 ...	Thursday Island ...	Bicenti Camposano ...	Female ...	Dismissed.
26 August, 1905 ...	Thursday Island ...	Gerogi Konishima ...	Unsigned crew ...	4 months' imprisonment.
26 August, 1905 ...	Thursday Island ...	Alick Williams ...	Unsigned crew ...	4 months' imprisonment.
13 September, 1905 ...	Thursday Island ...	Joe de Silva ...	Female ...	3 months' imprisonment.
13 September, 1905 ...	Thursday Island ...	Ezekiel Richardson ...	Female ...	4 months' imprisonment.
27 November, 1905 ...	Thursday Island ...	James Doyle ...	Unsigned crew ...	£5, and £8 17s. 2d. costs.

NOTE.—Asakichi, a Japanese, had landed the men and women from his lugger "Ignacio" at Walker's Bay, 5 miles south of Cooktown. He had been carrying women on his boat for the past two years, but could never be caught. Camposano has had his permits cancelled, being believed on good grounds to harbour gins on his vessel; Johnny Murray, for aiding and abetting him, was similarly dealt with. As regards Konishima, Williams, and de Silva, Mr. O'Brien says: "I have issued permits for recruiting and employing aboriginals since their release from prison, as I believe they will remember the lesson they have been taught, and furthermore, having suffered imprisonment themselves, I believe that they will be anxious to see other offenders brought to justice similarly. Already two of them have furnished me with valuable information which I hope to put to good purpose shortly." Of Richardson, the same protector says: "He was guilty of conduct which rendered it impossible for me to extend the same consideration to him. In fact, shortly after his release from prison, I was waited upon by a small deputation of mainland natives, who desired me not to allow him to go down about their camp again. 'That man no good, he steal woman,' shows clearly the sort of man Richardson is. In future I propose to refuse permits to all men against whom complaints reach me on reliable authority, without waiting to secure a conviction, also to all men who are convicted of any breach of the Acts." Doyle has also had all his permits withdrawn.

THE "MELBIDIR."

In addition to performing her routine duty of patrolling the coast-line, this vessel has been utilised by the Government Resident, Thursday Island, for visiting the various Torres Strait Island schools on inspection work. She was also loaned to the Home Department to take three lepers (two at Geraldton and one at Cairns) up to Friday Island. A claim of £31 5s. was paid for her use in connection with collecting the federal rolls. She was also sent to the Mitchell River with supplies for the Bishop of Carpentaria, whose mission boat had failed to reach her destination. Both the Government Resident and Protector at Thursday Island urge that the "Melbidir" should be fitted with oil engines.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Certificates of exemption from the provisions of the Aboriginal Acts have been granted during the year to the following five half-castes, on the recommendation of the local Protectors:—Fanny Die Sing, about seventeen years of age, of Tambo; Maitland Madge, ten years, whose birth has been registered by his father; Frank Baker, about thirteen years, who for four years has been touring with Baker's circus;

Jack Street, nine years, of Nocundra; and Clara, a New South Wales native, of Mungindi. I was, unfortunately, away on a tour of inspection when the child Jack Street was exempted, the policy of the department in connection with these certificates being only to grant them to those old and able enough to appreciate them, or to those children residing with their admitted parents. The application on behalf of the child Aleck Woodley, of Normanton, was not recommended.

The Acts do not at present give power to any full-blood aboriginals to be exempted. This has proved a hardship on more than one occasion, as in the case of Jimmy Ranji, of Bundaberg, and Jimmy Collins, of Capella. In the latter case it was represented that employers would not engage him if they had to sign an agreement, because they paid him as much wages as a white man: the Minister, however, approved of the recommendation that, upon Collins securing permanent engagement with an employer who is unwilling to sign an agreement, he communicate with the Chief Protector, with a view to the case being specially considered.

RECOGNISANCES. ILLEGAL REMOVALS.

Fifty-six bonds were issued during the year for the return of natives removed by permission of the Protectors from their respective districts, in terms of sec. 9 and 10 of the Aboriginal Regulations, 1904.

In connection with the boats, there were five prosecutions for illegally removing aboriginals from one district to another: Douglas Pitt was sentenced to £1 or seven days at Cairns (2-9-05); Kusutaro Oki was fined £5, with 5s. 8d. costs, at Thursday Island (9-1-06, the offence occurring in 1905); Pausto Billows received sentence of £2 and costs at Cooktown (30-8-05); while Charles Watamabe was fined 10s. and costs at Port Douglas (3-10-05).

On the mainland, with regard to the forcible removal of aboriginal Jimmy from Lakefield Station, a drover, John Gliddon, was summoned under sec. 17, at Ingham (3-12-05). "The defendant was fined £1 and costs, also paid the wages owing, and the cost of Jimmy's fare to Laura. Owing to the circumstances under which the boy was removed, I consider that the fine did not meet the case. . . . However, the boy has been paid his wages . . . and there is little chance of redress for him for the treatment he alleged he received, which I do not doubt" (Protector Quilter). The following extract from the prosecuting acting-sergeant's report forms sad reading:—"Jimmy, in the presence of drover Gliddon, made the following statement to me: 'When the cattle was mustered at Lakefield Station, I no want to go long way from my country, and when he want me go, I run away. Mr. Donkin follow me, and catch me alonga paddock. He have em rope, and he beat me with it. Then he tie me up alonga hands and body, then he drive me alonga horse to the station. Then he give me supper, and tell me go alonga cattle. When I come a long way alonga Palmer, I want to go back. Mr. Gliddon say, 'I can't let you go back, you must go alonga Rockhampton, and go back alonga boat.' Then I go alonga Tate and Dry River, I think it. I run away alonga mountain, and I get frightened, and come back alonga cattle again; too far strange blackfellow kill em me. Gliddon then beat me alonga whip, and I come alonga Ewan. I stop there alonga cattle two moon, and then come alonga Francis Creek. I hear em Ingham, and police sit down, and I run away and catch em Ingham alonga night, and tell em altogether alonga policeman. He keep me alonga station, and look out Mr. Gliddon.' During this statement made by Jimmy, Gliddon made no attempt to contradict him, but held his head resting in his hands while Jimmy stated being tied up at Lakefield Station. The drover Gliddon is only a weekly wages man, and, in my opinion, the person who tied the aboriginal up and compelled him to go against his will is responsible for all his unjust treatment. F. L. Donkin, who is described and mentioned by Jimmy as having tied him up, is said to be on Meteor Downs Station, near Springsure."

The boy Billy, mentioned in my last Annual Report, page 5, as having been stranded at Nanango, whence he had made his way northwards as far as Mackay, was sent to his home at Cooktown on 13th February last, he taking with him his sister Nellie, who was left stranded in Mackay some years ago.

Cases such as these naturally lead me to appeal to all Protectors to see that no blacks are brought into their respective districts, except under bond, and to prosecute all employers who attempt to evade the provisions of the Act in this respect.

FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

Except at those centres where there is a more or less fixed monthly distribution (Table 5), which, wherever possible, is always carried out by police officers, the nature and amount of temporary relief, of course, varies with the local requirements—*e.g.*, special distress, epidemics of sickness, scarcity of food. The opinions of the Protectors are worth recording. The blacks, "especially around Cooktown, have always plenty of food; having been casually employed in the day by the townspeople they return to the camp in the evening loaded with provisions, and any old or sick blacks at the camp are always provided for in this way" (Protector King, Cooktown). "The material supplied to them last year for fishing purposes has been a great boon to them, and has materially assisted those on the river frontages to make a good living by the sale of the surplus fish caught" (Protector Dillon, Longreach). "All bucks over forty years ought to get a tomahawk annually" (Protector Joyce, Georgetown). "£1 10s. per month has been spent in relief from this station, the blacks getting flour and tobacco as they required it, so far as the relief would allow. Last May tomahawks, knives, pipes, fish-lines, fish-hooks, and tobacco (received from Government Storekeeper) were distributed to the blacks, and were very much appreciated by them" (Protector Whiteford, Coen). "I have made minute inquiries into the condition of the aborigines of all ages and sexes, and gave instructions to police that should any case of destitution come under their notice amongst the blacks, relief was to be afforded, and an immediate report rendered" (Protector Toohey, Rockhampton). "The total number of blacks receiving relief are twelve old and feeble ones at Burketown, to the amount of £80 11s. 6d. per annum. This, at one small portion of the district, is rather excessive when no relief is issued elsewhere throughout the district. I think a saving could be effected if these aboriginals were removed to some home or mission station" (Protector Old, Normanton). "Relief by way of food and tobacco has been expended to the amount of £49 5s. 3d. through the

(so-called) Mainland Natives' Account by Sub-inspector Macreery. This relief has been distributed chiefly among the various village native constables on the islands, and to the natives of Red Island and Seven Rivers, and a small amount to the East Coast natives" (Protector O'Brien, Thursday Island). "In one instance, rations which should have been supplied to the aboriginals had been improperly dealt with by the distributing police officer, who, after inquiry, was dismissed from the force" (Protector Durham, Cairns).

TABLE 5.—PERMANENT CENTRES OF RELIEF DISTRIBUTION, APPROXIMATE MONTHLY EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Atherton ...	2	0	0	Marnhull ...	1	10	0	St. George ...	3	0	0
Birdsville ...	4	10	0	McDonnell (E.T.O.)	3	0	0	Southwood ...	1	10	0
Burketown ...	7	0	0	Maytown ...	2	0	0	Stannary Hills ...	2	0	0
Butcher's Hill ...	1	0	0	Mein (E.T.O.) ...	1	0	0	Tallwood ...	4	0	0
Cape Bedford ...	7	0	0	Moreton (E.T.O.)	1	0	0	Taroom ...	0	10	0
Cloncurry ...	2	0	0	Mungindi ...	4	0	0	Thornborough ...	2	0	0
Coen ...	1	10	0	Musgrave (E.T.O.)	1	0	0	Thylungra ...	2	0	0
Irvinebank ...	2	0	0	Myora ...	3	0	0	Thursday Island ...	4	0	0
Kuranda ...	0	10	0	Pentland ...	2	0	0	Welltown ...	1	10	0
Laura ...	2	0	0								

BLANKETS.

The Government Storekeeper, who kindly supervises the despatch and distribution of Government blankets for the natives, reports under date of 23rd October, 1905:—"Last year, on the recommendation of Dr. Roth, a change in the distribution was made so far as the Northern division of the State was concerned, in that tomahawks, knives, pipes, tobacco, print dresses, fishing lines, and fishing hooks were substituted to some extent for blankets, as it was thought then that these articles would be more acceptable than blankets to the recipients. This year, however, the substituted articles were not supplied to the same extent as last year, as the distributors reported that, in most cases, the aboriginals preferred the blankets. The substituted articles, therefore, were only supplied this year to those centres (eight in all) where the blacks expressed preference for them. Yet, as regards these eight centres, and notwithstanding that I had been previously advised that the blacks preferred the substituted articles, and after forwarding them on to their respective centres, I had subsequently to forward a supply of blankets to some of them, owing, apparently, to the blacks having changed their minds. In order, however, to obviate a repetition of the difficulty next year, I propose forwarding a circular to the distributing officers, requesting to be supplied with information as to whether the blacks at these particular centres prefer blankets or substituted articles. . . . In almost every instance I have supplied blankets when asked for, on applications recommended by the police officers in charge of centres or other responsible persons, the only exceptions being those received *after* the close of the cold weather, and those I purpose dealing with next year *before* the cold weather sets in, as my experience has been, in such cases, that it is useless to provide the blacks with blankets in the summer months, as they are either thrown aside or bartered away. . . . The recipients were: 2,513 men, 2,192 women, 858 children, and 31 unspecified persons; total, 5,594. The number of centres of distribution was 145, and the total number of blankets issued was 4,652½ pairs. As near as can be ascertained, the cost of the distribution this year, and the attendant expenses, are £2,073 3s. 8d."

Statements continue to be given publicity in the Press and elsewhere as to the shortage or insufficiency of blankets distributed at different centres: when inquired into, however, such statements are found to have no foundation.

For being in unlawful possession of a black's blanket, Henry Fletcher received a sentence of £5 or one month—(Duarina, 10th March, 1905).

SUPPLY OF LIQUOR TO BLACKS.

The Protectors' reports show that the vice varies greatly in different districts. "The same state of sobriety still exists amongst the Cooktown blacks as in the previous year" (Protector King). At Charters Towers, "Very little trouble arises from liquor being supplied, though a few cases of drunkenness occurred during the year. The blacks will always indulge in liquor when procurable, but will not divulge the source from whence it is obtained" (Protector Sweetman). At Thursday Island this offence, in my opinion, and in that of the Government Resident, is nothing less than a public scandal: Protector O'Brien writes:—"As stated in my last Annual Report, the supply of liquor to aboriginals is a practice which continues practically unchecked here, and the remark applies possibly more to the year 1905 than to the previous year. During the year there was one prosecution for this offence. In that case the husband of the aboriginal woman who was supplied complained to me of the offence. I prosecuted the offender, a Cingalese named Doolah, who was convicted and sentenced to three months' imprisonment. The longer one resides here, the more astounding becomes the fact that for over two years no conviction against any hotelkeeper has been obtained for this offence. During the year I frequently saw aboriginals in or about the bars of at least four hotels, and the fact that drunken aboriginals in the streets are by no means uncommon, shows that their applications to be supplied with liquor are not always unsuccessful.

"Although not within the period covered by this report, the incidents of January, 1906, might well find a place here. One day I was standing near the Imperial Hotel, kept by C. R. Langman, and saw the captain of one of the Murray Island *bêche-de-mer* boats go into the hotel. I followed him in, and was just in time to secure evidence which resulted in the barmaid being fined £20 for supplying liquor to an aboriginal. A fear of complications resulting from technical difficulties prevented the prosecution of the licensee. I have since learned that the barmaid was frequently reprimanded by her employer for refusing to serve prohibited people, and thereby turning custom away from the house. In support thereof, a week later I again secured evidence which led to the prosecution of the licensee for supplying liquor to a Pacific Islander. The prosecution failed on a technical point, and the actual supplier of the

liquor—the same barmaid—was prosecuted and fined £10. Should there be a reasonable chance of securing a conviction, I propose to prosecute licensees for 'harbouring' aboriginals found in bars of hotels. The Police Magistrate, Mr. H. Milman, has on two occasions at least stated from the bench that 'the supply of liquor to aboriginals and other prohibited persons on Thursday Island is a public scandal.'

Forty convictions for drunkenness have been reported to this office, distributed as follows:—Thursday Island, 10; Charters Towers, 7; Townsville, 4; Cloncurry, 4; Ayr, 2; Bundaberg, 2; Charleville, 2; Cooktown, 2; Barcaldine, 1; Boulia, 1; Burketown, 1; Eidsvold, 1; Jericho, 1; Muttaborra, 1; Ravenswood, 1. For supplying liquor to aboriginals (Table 6) the full penalties of a £20 fine or imprisonment were imposed except in one or two cases, where the attention of the Justice Department was drawn to the ignorance of the law shown by local benches, as to a minimum fine (sec. 8, Act of 1901). Europeans are undoubtedly the worst offenders in respect of supplying liquor.

TABLE 6.—CONVICTIONS FOR SUPPLYING LIQUOR TO ABORIGINALS.

Situation.	Date.	Defendant.	Situation.	Date.	Defendant.
Ayr	6 Mar., 1905	George (Aboriginal)	Beaudesert	28 Sept., 1905	John Cusack
Eidsvold	13 April, 1905	Thomas Walsh	Mackay	1 Oct., 1905	Woomera (S.S.I.)
Bundaberg	13 April, 1905	Ellen Gorey	Mackay	2 Oct., 1905	Marrigan
Bundaberg	13 April, 1905	M. L. Klein	Mackay	10 Oct., 1905	Thomas St. Ledger
Bundaberg	26 April, 1905	Jullah (? S.S.I.)	South Townsville	20 Oct., 1905	Mary J. Tucker
Pimpama	23 May, 1905	A. Schilling	Mackay	1 Nov., 1905	William Silver
Proserpine	29 July, 1905	P. Hegarty	Thursday Island	8 Dec., 1905	Doolah (Cingalese)
Charters Towers	5 Aug., 1905	Sebastian Jacobs	Cloncurry	29 Dec., 1905	William Macdonald

NOTE.—In the prosecution against St. Ledger, the defendant was bound over to be of good behaviour for three months; in that against Macdonald, for supplying liquor to a female aboriginal, "Kitty," the defendant was released under section 656 of the Code, although the police report that "this man and two others went to the camp with a bottle of whisky."

The cases were dismissed, or accused discharged, at:—Brisbane (11-1-05), Mrs. Pendock; Ayr, (7-2-05), Harold Martin, William Coleman, Joseph Sommer; Nebo (21-3-05), Fred. Brown; Ingham (20-10-05), Duncan Simpson, Albert Griffith.

OPIUM TRAFFIC.

I supplied evidence before the Royal Commission on the Commonwealth tariff—item, "Opium"—during its sittings at Brisbane (20-6-05), and pointed out the abuses to which the distribution of the drug amongst Europeans and natives was giving rise. Amongst other matters, I recommended that opium, except for medicinal purposes, should not be allowed to be imported into the Commonwealth. I accordingly note with very keen satisfaction that my labours in coping with the evil for many years past should have at last borne fruit, in so far that my work in this direction has encouraged others in the cause, with the result that sufficient pressure was brought to bear upon the Federal authorities to warrant them proclaiming the importation of the drug, except for medicinal purposes, illegal. It is to be presumed that legislation will be forthcoming for preventing the cultivation of the poppy of commerce, which would do well in many parts of Australia: indeed, it used to be successfully grown by the German farmers in the Angaston district, South Australia. A communication has been received from the Queensland Treasury office (14-3-06) to the effect "that a notice will appear in the next issue of the *Government Gazette* cancelling all permits for the sale of opium as from 30th June next": these are the illegal permits against which I have annually and respectfully protested.

Certain of the local Protectors express themselves on this opium traffic as follows:—"There is very little drinking amongst the blacks, but the majority of them are perfect slaves to opium: they never loiter about the hotels except when boys come in with a few shillings from a station. The opium traffic is a curse amongst the natives here, who will resort to all sorts of tactics to obtain it. The Chinese, and, I am of opinion, some unscrupulous whites, are in the habit of supplying it: sometimes in water, sometimes in tea, the latest move being to make a hole in a loaf of bread, filling it up with opium charcoal, and then plug up the hole again. So far as the aboriginals are concerned, the opium traffic is on the increase in these Northern districts: the evil will not be properly controlled so long as the 'permits to sell' are in existence. The greatest offence, to my idea, in this district, is the supplying of opium which is slowly but surely killing the blacks" (Protector Old, Normanton). "It is gratifying to be again able to report that no cases of supplying opium to aboriginals have been reported during the year. In December, in company with Coxswain Smith, I went to Hammond Island to investigate a rumour *re* supplying of opium. I found that a Chinaman, Ah Man, was living at a garden with a (lawfully married) aboriginal wife, and although I found a small quantity of opium, I could find nothing to justify the belief that his wife had taken to the habit. In fact, she expressed her disgust at the idea of her husband smoking. I have not prosecuted the husband for being in possession of opium, mainly on account of the difficulty of maintaining his wife during any term of imprisonment to which he might be subjected. She is a Burketown woman, and has no tribal friends here" (Protector O'Brien, Thursday Island).

"Some complaints have been made of aboriginals getting opium from Chinamen, but I trust that the operation of the Act for the total prohibition of that drug in Queensland will have the desired effect of stamping out the use and abuse of it" (Protector Durham, Cairns). "I hail with delight the announcement that the importation of opium for smoking is prohibited by the Federal Government, as I am sure that it will better the condition of the aboriginals, and make them more useful to the white man, as in this district the blacks are very fond of opium, and their liking for it has been considerably on the increase" (Protector King, Cooktown). "Very little trafficking is now done in opium, and any cases detected are chiefly at Tambo and Muttaborra, where the blacks obtain it from Chinese gardeners" (Protector Dillon, Longreach). "The blacks prefer to hang round the towns, where they generally manage to get a supply of charcoal opium from Chinamen and other aliens: consequently they give the

police a good deal of trouble" (Protector Martin, Mackay). "Substantial convictions . . . for supplying aboriginals and . . . for being illegally in possession of opium, has had a very deterrent effect on the law-breakers. Scalpers, &c., are supposed to be supplying blacks with opium up about the heads of the Warrego: the police have been instructed to pay careful attention to this" (Protector Nethercote, Charleville). "There seems to be little opium smoking indulged in, although a few of the old camp blacks that do casual labour about town may get some opium charcoal from the Chinamen" (Protector Sweetman, Charters Towers) "The opium and liquor traffic continues in certain places, although some convictions are recorded" (Protector Fitzgerald, Cloncurry). "Although there are a few individuals selling the drug in the Mitchell district, the police are almost powerless, as they exercise great care and ingenuity in carrying out their business: the blacks who are 'possuming,' and to whom they sell the stuff, are afraid to give information; in fact, they give the offenders warning when the police are about" (Protector Savage, Roma). "During the year there were a number of convictions at Clermont, Emerald, and Duaringa for opium traffic with the blacks. . . . A number of complaints were made relative to the wholesale opium traffic by stations and others to the blacks. I inquired closely into these complaints, and found them to be much exaggerated. As the importation of opium into the Commonwealth, except in limited quantities to qualified persons, is prohibited from 1st January, 1906, it is to be hoped that this trouble is overcome" (Protector Toohey, Rockhampton).

TABLE 7.—RETURN SHOWING PROSECUTIONS FOR SUPPLYING OPIUM TO ABORIGINALS.

Situation.	Date.	Defendant.	Situation.	Date.	Defendant.
Nelson ...	6 Jan., 1905	Ah Sing	Hughenden ...	31 July, 1905	Lin Dow
Emerald ...	14 Jan., 1905	Geo. Lamb,* of Blackwater	Bowen ...	3 Aug., 1905	Ah Yow
Ravenswood ...	18 Jan., 1905	Ah Hoong	Winton ...	7 Aug., 1905	Tommy Ah Quee†
Atherton ...	30 Jan., 1905	Ah Young	Proserpine ...	12 Aug., 1905	Ah Lup
Charleville ...	13 Feb., 1905	James Joseph Newman	Eidsvold ...	18 Aug., 1905	Tommy You
Cooktown ...	20 Feb., 1905	Ah Ging	Cardwell ...	18 Aug., 1905	Ho Hing
Normanton ...	— Feb., 1905	Len You	Cardwell ...	18 Aug., 1905	Charlie (Aboriginal)
Ayr ...	2 Mar., 1905	George (Aboriginal)	Alpha ...	30 Aug., 1905	Charlie Ah Day||
Duaringa ...	10 Mar., 1905	Susan Jane Titmus	Barcardine ...	8 Sep., 1905	Tommy Chong
Duaringa ...	10 Mar., 1905	L. Yee Kew||	Burketown ...	15 Sep., 1905	Chen Chow
Ravenswood ...	22 Mar., 1905	Ah Gow	Burketown ...	18 Sep., 1905	Tommy Ah Gow§
Winton ...	28 Mar., 1905	Tommy Ah Hee	Ravenswood ...	26 Sep., 1905	Wong Pen, alias Chong Lee
Charters Towers	2 April, 1905	Lung Chung	Normanton ...	5 Oct., 1905	Ah Bow§
Winton ...	3 April, 1905	Willie Young†	Clermont ...	9 Oct., 1905	Charlie See
Mackay ...	26 April, 1905	Jemmy Ah Yet	Mackay ...	11 Oct., 1905	Ah Foo
Tambo ...	20 May, 1905	Tommy Chit||	S. Townsville	20 Oct., 1905	Ah Kwong
Mackay ...	1 June, 1905	Ah Tim	Ingham ...	20 Nov., 1905	Suggama
Mackay ...	5 June, 1905	Ah Sing	Cloncurry ...	23 Nov., 1905	Ah Gun
Mackay ...	11 June, 1905	Ah Sam	Cloncurry ...	23 Nov., 1905	Ah Que
Winton ...	7 July, 1905	Tommy Sue	Atherton ...	23 Nov., 1905	Ah Won
Nelson ...	14 July, 1905	Ah Gun	Cloncurry ...	29 Nov., 1905	Ah Chong
Winton ...	29 July, 1905	Ah Gee	St. George ...	21 Dec., 1905	Charlie Ching

* The police inspector reported of this individual that his "operations in opium alone are sufficient to poison a whole district."
 † A second offence. ‡ Case withdrawn by the police, the half-caste female, Maria Jeffery, whom he was alleged to have supplied, admitting that she had falsely accused the Chinaman. † Case dismissed. || Also prosecuted for illegal possession of opium.

TABLE 8.—RETURN SHOWING PROSECUTIONS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF OPIUM.

Situation.	Date.	Defendant.	Situation.	Date.	Defendant.
Springsure ...	25 Feb., 1905	Willie Ah Yuk	Muttaborra ...	5 April, 1905	Ah Look
Clermont ...	2 Mar., 1905	Sun Wah	Tambo ...	20 May, 1905	Tommy Chit†
Emerald ...	4 Mar., 1905	William Dobbs	Hughenden ...	31 July, 1905	Pemberdy
Duaringa ...	10 Mar., 1905	L. Yee Kew†	Blackall ...	13 Aug., 1905	Jimmy Wing
Duaringa ...	10 Mar., 1905	Henry Fletcher	Blackall ...	14 Aug., 1905	Jacky Fye, alias On Gong
Charleville ...	21 Mar., 1905	Charlie Sang	Alpha ...	30 Aug., 1905	Charlie Ah Day†
Capella ...	27 Mar., 1905	Charlie Ah Shin	Nebo ...	18 Sep., 1905	James Carroll*

* The case was dismissed on a technical ground, the prosecuting constable having omitted the word "unlawful" when laying the information. Carroll is the Clermont, Bowen, and Nebo mail contractor.
 † See also under Table 7.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF HALF-CASTES AND QUADROONS.*

Since my appointment as Chief Protector, when I first came to have better opportunities of acquainting myself with the conditions of life existing amongst half-castes in the Southern part of the State—conditions which I regret do not compare favourably with the North—I have become more and more convinced that: (a) the administrative legislation dealing with these people is inadequate; (b) the social ostracism to which they are subject is tending to the development of a very undesirable element in the community; (c) the rearing of half-caste children amongst aboriginal children is a mistake, and tends to retrogression rather than to progress, and that, consequently (d) a valuable asset is being lost to the State.

A half-caste—i.e., any person being the offspring of an aboriginal mother and other than an aboriginal father—whether male or female, whose age, in the opinion of the Protector, does not exceed sixteen, is deemed to be an aboriginal, and all the provisions of the Acts relating to an aboriginal relate to such half-caste (sec. 4, "The *Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act, 1897*")

* The original notes upon which this section of my Report is based were collated in June, 1905, when I first drew the Minister's attention to the subject: since then, many new cases have come under notice, with the result that, so far as the general statistics are concerned, an all-round additional 5 per cent. may at least be allowed for.

—*e.g.*, a half-caste under sixteen may be removed to a reserve, on the order of the Minister, the reserve being in connection with an aboriginal mission, home, or settlement. A half-caste under sixteen, whether male or female, is legally a "neglected" child, and as such can be sentenced to an industrial school (sec. 6, subsec. 7, of the "*Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act of 1865*"), most of the aboriginal missions being now so proclaimed. After sixteen years of age, unless he or she is habitually living or associating with aboriginals, the half-caste cannot be removed to a reserve under the order of the Minister.

Acting under these powers, at least 126 half-caste nomads under sixteen years of age—45 boys and 81 girls—have been brought under the controlling influences of the Northern missions during the quinquennium ending June, 1905. Another 41 half-caste children—13 boys and 28 girls—have been similarly dealt with in the Southern districts during the eighteen months immediately preceding the same date. The Aboriginals Department has, so far, borne the cost of removing these waifs and strays from the degradation of camp life, and in the case of reformatory children, paid from 2s. 6d. to 5s. 10d. each weekly for their keep. The degradation referred to is their ultimate development into prostitutes and stock thieves. Through the action of the churches in allowing their missions to be proclaimed reformatories, the Executive has been saved a very large expenditure and responsibility. Again, on their own initiative, the missionaries have themselves collected numbers of half-caste children.

Not a few half-caste children, male and female, under sixteen, have been placed under agreement with employers, but the supervision exercised over these infants is necessarily very imperfect, and incomparably inadequate, as judged by the supervision controlling State orphanage children. Aboriginal and half-caste children are amenable to the Education Acts, and the employers, as "guardians" of such children, are responsible for their attendance at school; provision has here and there been made that the permit to employ is conditional on school attendance. Indeed, one of my main reasons for being usually personally averse to the legal employment of half-caste children is, that I have no power to enforce their secular or denominational education, in the absence of which I am satisfied nothing of lasting benefit can be done with them.

Where it has been deemed advisable to remove half-caste children from their would-be employers, the opposition that has been met to such proposed action is extraordinary. People fail to recognise that at the mission stations the life-long welfare and happiness of each child sent there is assured: this most certainly cannot be said of any so-called civilising influences elsewhere. As one of the Protectors very forcibly states: "Employers object to half-caste children being taken away to missions, &c.; they assume that they have a right to employ them; that as their station has fed them in infancy, they have a prior right to them when useful. My opinion is, that the stations do very little to ameliorate the condition of the blacks either young or old, and get well remunerated for anything they may have done for such children."

In the North, owing, perhaps, mainly to the fact that its settled occupation is of recent date, comparatively few adult half-castes habitually associating with natives are to be met with, and the very fact of this association, as already explained, makes them legally "aboriginals," and consequently amenable to the Aboriginals Protection Acts: it is also very possible that some of them in early life are wilfully destroyed by the full-bloods.

There does not appear to be any marked tendency for the half-castes on the Northern missions to return to centres of European civilisation: their ignorance of the outside world, their almost complete isolation from the whites, the comparatively large areas comprising the reserves over which they have a free run, their training for settled agricultural work, and a school education of purposely not too high a standard, are all of them factors which are concurrently bringing about this desirable state of affairs. So far, they are apparently content to live, marry, and die there: their life is simple, happy, useful, and God-fearing: they marry amongst themselves and with the full-bloods, though I understand that the latter unions are not encouraged.

In the South, on the other hand, we have at least two, and a commencing third, generation of mixed half-castes and quadroons to consider: their more or less close association for years past with Europeans makes their administrative control under the Aboriginals Act (even admitting that, under the circumstances, they are subject to it) a matter of supreme difficulty. This is well instanced at Myora (Stradbroke Island), on the conditions of which I have lately reported, and at the Aboriginal Girls' Home, Brisbane. From the latter institution, for instance, we have sent about forty half-caste girls, over sixteen years of age, into service, who, on account of that same service, are unconsciously freeing themselves from the very control which the Act intended should be exercised over them for their particular benefit. Even when absolutely necessary, we have no legal power to send such girls to a reserve.

As to how many half-caste children there are in Queensland, it is impossible to speak definitely. According to the last census, 1,530 half-castes of all ages are recorded as being under civilising influences. Were this population a European community, two-fifths might safely be taken as a fair proportion representing the number of children: with a polygamous race, however, it may be assumed that at least half, say 800, are infants under sixteen years of age. To estimate the number of half-caste children outside civilising influences as another 800 does not seem extravagant.

Where a half-caste girl over sixteen has been in European service perhaps since early childhood, perhaps only for a year or two, has been betrayed, and as a result cast adrift, the hardship now arises from the fact that, in consequence of such employment, in not having been habitually living or associating with aboriginals, she cannot, as already mentioned, be legally deported against her will, and for her own sake, to a home or to a reserve. I could cite many cases where, owing to the absence of such powers, the woman has been allowed to drift still further downhill. Furthermore, and speaking in a general sense, as the result of service amongst Europeans, especially where the religious training and general education have been neglected, the end of these half-caste girls is prostitution, though there are undoubtedly many exceptions. While in such European employment, the half-caste girl develops that veneer of civilisation which teaches her to regard the full-blood with contempt, and the half-caste male as her inferior: she consequently falls an easy prey to the white man whom, except in rare instances, she knows she can

never marry. Each year we have cases reported of young half-caste girls being seduced by Europeans, but no corroborative evidence forthcoming to warrant taking further action. Once fallen, and unable consequently to obtain regular employment, she refuses, as a rule, to consort with full-bloods in the camp, and is thus forced into prostitution. The police cannot deal with her, as she is legally not a "vagrant," and so, like a pariah, she is to be pitied and not blamed. It might be just as well to mention here that all the labour, anxiety, and expenditure entailed on looking after these half-caste and quadroon girls is entirely a work of supererogation on the part of the Aborigines Department. This picture of the life-history of these half-caste women (other than those sinking direct into the scum of camp life) has been drawn from official records during the past five years.

It appears to me a matter of urgency that more stringent measures should be insisted on with a view to raising the social status of the half-caste children (both male and female), and with this object in view I can recognise no better plan than that, *in the future*, all such infants taken from the camps should be brought up as white children, and not in the aboriginal mission reformatories as black ones. Legislation should be on the lines of raising, and not of lowering, their positions: and especially so, with a view of preventing the inbreeding of half-castes with full-bloods. What should be aimed at is the opportunity of getting half-castes to marry either half-castes or Europeans. The number of half-caste children under sixteen admitted into aboriginal institutions is approximately as follows:—

	Females.	Males.
Girls' Home, Brisbane	17	—
Barambah	35	29
Deebing Creek	32	22
Mapoon	27	9
Yarrabah	57	54
Weipa	3	1
	—	—
	171	115

I am well aware that the Aborigines Department is responsible for the admission of a large proportion of these children into the aboriginal missions, &c., but had I not taken action in the matter, in raising them to at least one step above ordinary camp life, apparently no one else would have. Surely there must be remissness somewhere, when cases like that at St. George come under notice, where it was reported last May that there were 10 half-caste children (7 boys and 3 girls) varying from seven to fourteen years of age, in the local camp: these, like others, have since been sent to an aboriginal mission reformatory. A still more disgraceful state of affairs is reported from Beaudesert, where 38 half-caste children under sixteen are to be found in the surrounding camps. I am helpless to remedy their condition.

The charges at present made against the Aborigines Department for the care of half-caste reformatory children at the aboriginal mission reformatories is 2s. 6d. per week for boys until twelve years of age, and for girls until thirteen, the idea being that the labour of such children might then fairly be considered remunerative to the institution. The (mostly half-caste) aboriginal reformatory children at Yarrabah, Deebing Creek, and Mapoon, cost this department last (financial) year £431 0s. 5d. As compared with the 7s. per week charged for white children at the State industrial schools, it must be remembered that at the aboriginal missions, as a rule, the Government makes an initial grant for buildings, an annual grant for rations, and pays the salary of the school teacher. St. Vincent's Orphanage, Nudgee, is paid 5s. 10d. per week for a few half-caste children on the same conditions as above, but is in receipt of no other initial or annual subsidy; nevertheless, it received £137 7s. 6d. from us last year. St. Mary's Home, Taringa, and the Infants' Home, for similar services, were paid £6 12s. 6d. and £6 respectively during the same financial period.

At the Deebing Creek mission is the curious anomaly of this department paying for some kanaka full-blood and half-caste children. Tommy Howden is a full-blood, eight years of age, and sick (skin disease), which has prevented him attending school: he seems to have been sent here about five years ago, but no particulars or papers appear to have come with him. Nellie and Alice, about eight and twelve respectively, are the children of a white woman (deceased) and Sam Tanna, a kanaka. On the matter being referred to the Inspector of Pacific Islanders, whom I suggested should pay at least some proportion, if not the whole, of their cost of maintenance, he states (2-12-05): "I think that these children are all natural born British subjects, and that the Orphanage Department is liable for their maintenance. . . . The Pacific Island Fund, at any rate, is not liable." The Inspector of Orphanages, being appealed to, writes (23-3-06) that his "department is in no sense 'liable' for the maintenance of these children, and, in view of the Minister's decision of the 18th July last in reference to some similar cases, I do not see that I can do anything in the matter." Even in a worse plight than the half-castes are the quadroons—*i.e.*, the offspring of half-caste women by white, &c., fathers. The Orphanage Department has been approached on some of these cases, and action occasionally taken—*e.g.*, Walsh (two boys) from Brisbane. On the other hand, application has been made to the same department in vain for the admission into some orphanage of four quadroons (Mavis Embry, Clara and Ruby Conlan, Ruby Law), at the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, and some others at the Deebing Creek Mission; these quadroons most certainly should not be brought up as black children. The Inspector of Orphanages wrote (18th July, 1905) that "the question opened up by their admission is too wide a one to be dealt with under any existing orphanage arrangements." Another sad case was that of a little girl in the blacks' camp at Wonga, *via* Dalby: "she is quite white, and has white hair, and the senior sergeant believes she has blue eyes. She is the daughter of Clara, who is a half-caste. It is a pity to see a child like her in the blacks' camp, whereas if she was taken away now she might be brought up and trained to be a good serviceable girl." I drew the Under Secretary's attention (15th July, 1905) to this particular example as typical of many

that are now gradually coming into prominence: "the Inspector of Orphanages, whom I have personally consulted this morning, expresses his sincere regret that the matter is not within his province. Legally speaking, it is certainly not within mine, though I feel morally bound, as a collateral duty in administering the Aborigines Act, to enter a formal protest against that absence of official responsibility, provision, and machinery, which allows such a condition of affairs to exist. In my opinion, these quadroon and half-caste children constitute a special class, for whose benefit and welfare special provision will have to be made."

What I cannot help venturing to note as a very unhealthy sign of the times is the spread of a false "White Australia" policy throughout the community, which has found expression in rather unexpected quarters—*e.g.*, objections by a State school committee and the authorities of a charitable institution to the admission of half-castes. In this opinion I am borne out by the Inspector of Orphanages, who expresses himself as follows:—"I wish to point out that, in cases of this kind [half-castes, quadroons, &c.] institutions decline to take in such children; and, with regard to boarding out, foster-mothers entertain a similar feeling of repugnance to taking them into their families; so that I am left with no adequate means for dealing with the children. As a matter of fact, there is an increasing indisposition on all sides to take in coloured children as members of families; and in this connection I last week lost what has long been an excellent foster-home through this same repugnance to taking in two nice and well-behaved (slightly coloured) children that I wished to place there."

The Hon. J. F. G. Foxton, when Minister administering the Act, apparently intended, should circumstances arise, to insist upon half-caste boys being brought up on European lines and admitted into the Westbrook Reformatory: in his minute upon certain Deebing Creek papers he says (10th September, 1903):—"There is the alternative of transferring these young aboriginal 'neglected children' to Westbrook with a view to giving the superintendent there an opportunity of placing them in service if they are boys."

Fortunately for all such half-caste and quadroon children, the Salvation Army authorities have offered to bring them up as white children at 5s. 10d. per week, but on the distinct understanding that, in consequence of their accepting such reduced fees, the Government will not curtail the present rate of capitation granted them for the white children placed under their supervision. From what I have already seen of the Salvation Army, both here, at home, and abroad, I am perfectly satisfied that the work once undertaken, will be conscientiously carried out. Brought up as European children, these half-caste waifs and strays will be the better enabled to battle for themselves in their journey through life, they will have greater chances of improving their condition, raising their status in the community, and so becoming more useful to the State. I sincerely pray that the Salvation Army's offer be accepted.

DEPARTMENTAL ACTION *RE* CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

The following are notes concerning the helpless aboriginal and half-caste children and women who have been dealt with by the department, and sent to one or other of the missions or reformatories, or otherwise arranged for:—

Annie, half-caste, twelve years of age, born and reared on the coast near Lloyd's Bay. She can speak very little English. Her mother, "Sarah," was brought down to Cooktown amongst some other aborigines by a Japanese fisherman, who was fined £20 for having them on board his boat. Committed as a neglected child to Yarrabah (13th January, 1906).

Peter Graham's three half-caste children at Roma were sent to Deebing Creek, with the father's consent, he being anxious to give them a little education, and to remove them from their camp-life surroundings.

Hilda Gordon, aboriginal, having died at Charters Towers, four of her children (John, eleven; Lizzie, eight; Lily, six; Harry, two and a-half) were committed to Yarrabah. The half-caste father, Archie Gordon, handed an infant six months old, who was too young to accompany the others, over to Mrs. Plant, president of the local Benevolent Institution.

Aggie, half-caste, about thirty, moves about on the boundary between Surat and Condamine districts. She has four children: May, ten; Thelma, six; Kitty, four; and a baby a few months old. For the sake of her own interests, she was removed to Deebing Creek. Two other cases of young half-caste women from the same district were reported along with the above: that of Lucy, about nineteen, with an illegitimate child, whose employer at Rosslyn Park, Surat, is fortunately willing to keep her in his employment, but without agreement; and that of Nellie Dungalli, with three daughters attending the Surat State school, who is receiving 4s. per week for the maintenance of her last child.

Ada, half-caste, thirteen years, Cloncurry. Being out of employment, she was sent to Yarrabah, and the money to her credit expended on her fare.

Nellie, half-caste, four and a-half years, an orphan, Rossville. The woman in charge of her was stated to have been "in the habit of drinking too much occasionally." Sent on the Minister's order to Yarrabah.

Julia, half-caste, nine years, an orphan, Rossville. Sent as a neglected child to Yarrabah.

Kate, half-caste, seven years, with her own consent, was sent to Yarrabah from Mount Amos, where she had been running about with the blacks. Mother dead. On arrival at the mission she was found to be an earth-eater, and anæmic.

Jack Baker, half-caste, twelve or thirteen years, travelling with a circus company, the proprietor of which had adopted him some seven years ago. Having developed thieving propensities and getting beyond control, he was committed by the Thursday Island Bench to Yarrabah.

Johnny, aboriginal, fourteen. Convicted at Cooktown (3rd March, 1906) of stealing, was sentenced to four years' detention at Yarrabah.

- George Singleton, half-caste, was committed by the Herberton Bench (13th March, 1905) to Yarrabah Reformatory, for stealing a quantity of stream tin. About two months previous to his arrest, his employer (who had reared him from infancy, and sent him to school) took her departure for Stannary Hills, leaving the boy in her house practically by himself, and neglected: he started stealing, and complaints had been made against him.
- Ada, half-caste, between sixteen and seventeen, of Charleville. Arrangements were made, and the cost of her confinement paid for at Charleville, before sending her on to Deebing Creek. Inquiry for the reputed father proved unavailing.
- Black Nelly, aboriginal, who had been found unconscious at her camp at Box Gully, was sent on to the Dalby Hospital for treatment. She was subsequently given a pass to take her to Barambah. There were a few shillings to her credit from the estate of her late husband, "Yellow Peter."
- The half-caste wife and quadroon child of half-caste George Brown were rationed at Ruthven Station during the latter's incarceration at Rockhampton Gaol for assault.
- Lily, aboriginal female, living with a South Sea Islander at Nambour. I could not see my way to approving of the recommendation that she should be removed, the evidence showing that she was suffering ill-treatment at the hands of certain kanakas, who, if anything, ought to have been punished for harbouring her. She wished to remain where she was.
- Jimmy Ouse, *alias* Howis, a kanaka, of Port Douglas, who was about to leave for the Pacific Islands, asked whether he could take his half-caste daughter, about nine years of age, with him. As he had been legally married to the aboriginal mother (Maggie) now dead, I saw no objection to his proposed action.
- Rosie Homalee, of Saltwater Creek, Port Douglas, who was left money by her late husband, a South Sea Islander, and who has over £30 to her credit in the bank, has been allowed to draw 10s. a month up to £5 for the support of herself and son.
- The quadroon child of May Dawes, half-caste, is being maintained by the department at St. Mary's Home, Taringa.
- Baby, Sarah, Bella, three aboriginal women, living with kanakas at Goodwood, Childers, were on the Minister's order removed to Durundur. Their three children accompanied them.
- Tottie, half-caste, fourteen years, was sentenced as a neglected child at Cooktown (14th July, 1905) to three years at Yarrabah.
- Nora, half-caste, fourteen years, Morestone Downs, where the present manager no longer requires her services, was sent on the Minister's order to Yarrabah.
- Fannie and Queenie, aboriginals, between fourteen and fifteen years of age, in the aboriginal camp at the Bluff, Central district. Acting as prostitutes to the whites, and both suffering with venereal disease. Sent on the Minister's order to Barambah.
- Lizzie, half-caste, between nine and ten years, was sent on the Minister's order from Bowen Downs to Barambah. She was addicted to the opium habit.
- Six half-caste girls (Amy, twelve: Esther, thirteen: Queenie, thirteen: Theresa, nine: Clara, seven: Tottie, nine), one aboriginal girl (Amy, fourteen), and four half-caste boys (Dick, fourteen: Niney, eight: Norman, seven: Fred, nine) were brought up before the St. George Bench as neglected children and committed to Deebing Creek.
- Jessie Mathews, aboriginal female, for continued defiance of authority, which went no further than trying to keep her off the Brisbane streets at night, was sent to Barambah on the Minister's authority. She is a Charleville native.
- Ruby Wall (twenty-four), Ida Rigby (twenty-five), and Beatrice Turner (thirty-four), three half-castes in service in Brisbane, were reported upon by the local Protector (Mrs. Frew) as incorrigible, and walking the streets at night. For their own protection they have all been sent up to Barambah. Ida Rigby's quadroon child is being maintained by the department at St. Mary's Home, Taringa.
- Lizzie Anderson, a young half-caste. Five children of this woman are already being supported by the State, and as she was about to become the mother of a sixth, she was sent to Barambah. She had been in service in Brisbane. The department is maintaining one of her quadroon children at St. Mary's Home, Taringa.
- Rosey, aboriginal female, twenty-two years of age, who had been in service for the past ten years with the one family, who had originally brought her from Maytown, on getting into trouble was sent from Toowoomba to Deebing Creek. As usual, there was no corroborative evidence as to the paternity.

It will be seen, therefore, that during the year upwards of seventy children and young women have been rescued from undesirable surroundings.

MIXED MARRIAGES.

Under the Act, my written permission is necessary for the celebration of mixed marriages between aboriginal females and others than aboriginal males. So far, I have always used this power in the interests of the native women, and particularly of the children, in trying to obtain for them equal rights as could justly be extended to European women and infants under similar circumstances. It is a practical impossibility to prosecute all the men—Europeans, Asiatics, and Islanders—living with aboriginal females, under the harbouring clauses of the Act, and hence my action has been to encourage marriage where the parties persist in cohabiting, rather than lay my department open to the reproach of sanctioning concubinage and prostitution.

At the same time, my permission for such mixed marriages has only been granted on the recommendation or consent of some reliable official or responsible layman who is acquainted with the local circumstances. Acting on the advice of such people, the permission, on not a few occasions, has been refused.

In several other cases I have assumed the authority and granted the permission when it really was not required of me, sometimes giving it in the negative form of offering no objection. For example, this applied specially to half-caste women who, except under certain circumstances, are not legally reckoned as aboriginals. I originally issued permits in these instances with a view to checking what otherwise might have proved an abuse: it made the persons interested think a little before rushing blindly into a life-long contract.

With regard to the celebration of mixed marriages officially sanctioned by the State, as above mentioned, I am naturally anxious concerning the future of the women legally married to Pacific Islanders who are liable to deportation under federal authority, at the end of 1906. If the deportation of islanders so circumstanced is insisted upon, the very pertinent question suggests itself as to whether these women should be allowed to accompany their husbands, and run risks of the gravest nature amongst a foreign semi-savage population. Should it be decided that the wives are to remain—and on purely humanitarian grounds I shrink from recognising the possibility of the alternative—a difference of opinion will naturally arise between State and Commonwealth as to which is to hold itself responsible for the cost of their maintenance.

My permission for the celebration of marriage was granted to—

Risil, daughter of a Mabuia woman and a South Sea Islander: Billy Rotumah (S.S.I.), Thursday Island.

Declassie, half-caste: Sevivu, a Rotumah man. Thursday Island.

Sarah, aboriginal: Burke Attenborough, half-caste. Burketown.

Mary, aboriginal: Jimmy Motloff (S.S.I.). Mapoon.

Libby Savage, half-caste, of Moa: Charles Corrie, half-caste, Gilbert Islander. Thursday Island.

Annie, aboriginal: Joseph Connolly. Normanton.

Susie Roonie, half-caste: Bob Dow (S.S.I.). Childers.

Mary Gala, half-caste: Bob Rumbo (S.S.I.). Maryborough.

Louisa Forbes, half-caste: Charlie Tarrashool (S.S.I.). Childers.

Susie, half-caste, of Wide Bay: Bob Ambrym (S.S.I.). Childers.

Caroline, half-caste: Willie Api (S.S.I.). Childers.

Nelly Sykes, half-caste: Samuel Sullivan (S.S.I.). Thursday Island.

Alit, half-caste, Mabuia native: Jimmy Yevie, Tanna Islander. Thursday Island.

Helen, half-caste, of Charlotte Plains: W. B. Hamilton, of Bindebango West.

Tangua, half-caste: Nelson, a fisherman. Ayr.

Dinah Henry, half-caste: John Ah See, half-caste. Taroom.

Toney, aboriginal: Edward Davis, shearer, of Nappamerry.

Lucy Bolton, half-caste: John Nip, half-caste. Taroom.

Genua, half-caste, a minor: Charlie Wollie (S.S.I.). Thursday Island.

Louie Hickson, half-caste: W. Kruger. Winton.

Lizzie Sullivan, aboriginal: Thomas Hill. Rockhampton.

Ah See, half-caste: Peter Rouse. Deebing Creek Mission.

Jessie Pig-Pig, half-caste: Bob Terare, half-caste. Bundaberg.

Lizzie, half-caste: Ah Sam. Boulia.

My permission was refused in the case of—

Rosie, aboriginal, of Noble Island: Pausto Billows, Manila man, of Cooktown.

Alice, aboriginal: Charles Ross, a German, of Amby.

Maggie, aboriginal: Ah Soon. Burketown.

Yambatonga, aboriginal: Tom Solomon (S.S.I.). Archer River Mission.

Alice Free, half-caste: N. C. Hood. Claverton.

—— half-caste, of Fossilbrook: Charlie Out Fong.

GENERAL HEALTH: DISEASE, ACCIDENT, DEATH.

Various hospitals have assisted in alleviating the sufferings of sick natives, whilst the aboriginal missions and settlements have in many cases provided permanent homes. I regret that disputes continue to arise in connection with the cost of treatment of aboriginals at hospitals. The Boulia institution, for instance, made a claim of £36 14s. 2d. for treatment of aboriginal Tommy (a case of broken leg, which subsequently had to be amputated), but was informed that the department could not entertain it: the black not being under agreement, could only be considered a pauper patient. Correspondence of a similar nature has passed between the Nanango Hospital. I have often objected to paying hospitals for the treatment of aboriginal paupers, and cannot understand why a charge should be made for them when none is insisted upon for Europeans similarly circumstanced. By "aboriginal paupers" I understand those natives who are not in legal employment—*i.e.*, under agreement in accordance with the Aboriginals Protection Acts—because, if in legal employment, the employers are responsible for maintenance during sickness in terms of the agreement.

The Barambah Settlement provided a home for a little girl suffering with skin disease, and whose admission to the hospitals was refused; for an old paralysed gin from Duaringa; and for Jack, of Longreach, who, owing to injury, was hardly able to walk. The Yarrabah Mission received aboriginal George, of Cooktown, who is subject to fits, and whose hands are deformed, &c.

The Government Medical Officer at Longreach was instructed to send medicine to blacks at Betoota and Windorah suffering from venereal disease. A few cases of dengue were treated at the Cairns Hospital. Two male lepers from the Tate district were removed South: a third suspected case at Weipa succumbed before a pathological examination could be arranged for. Jeanie was successfully operated on for cataract at the Cooktown Hospital. The death of Prince Jimmy, of Cardwell, is supposed to have been due to excessive drinking of charcoal-opium water.

An aboriginal, Tommy Murray, died in Charters Towers Hospital of malarial fever, and an expense of £3 7s. 6d. (contract price) was incurred over his burial: the patient had been in employment prior to being sent to hospital, but the employer refused to pay the cost of burial. In other cases, the cost of burial has fallen upon this department, but the matter is now, I understand, under official consideration—namely, such expenditures to be defrayed out of the "Burial of Paupers" vote.

There seems to have been quite a rush on mental cases during the year: Paddy was brought up at Ravenswood on suspicion of being of unsound mind, but was discharged. Frank, *alias* Tommy, of Cooktown, was ordered to be sent to Goodna Asylum. Carlo was brought before the Cloncurry Bench, but discharged, it appearing that "he was suffering from a fit of temper, caused by jealousy over a gin." Serico, who was remanded for eight days' medical treatment at Taroom, recovered, the cause of the apparent mental unsoundness being probably explicable by the fact that during the following month a European was convicted of supplying him with liquor. Far more serious, however, was the case of the aboriginal, supposed to have been out of his mind, and armed with a rifle, who had been at large in the Mount Britten ranges: he was shot in self-defence by the constable sent out to arrest him. Lizzie Buffham, a young half-caste woman, committed suicide at Rockhampton under somewhat tragic circumstances: her employer had left her in charge of the children, and upon being reprimanded by a neighbour for slapping one of the youngsters for disobedience, she went inside the house, and, in front of a mirror, drank a quantity of white-ant poison.

Generally speaking, the health conditions of the natives are reported as being satisfactory. "The blacks of this district, and especially about Cooktown, are in good condition, being happy and contented" (Protector King, Cooktown). "Their condition as to bodily health, except in the case of a few old people, was reported as good" (Protector Geraghty, Toowoomba). "Health of the blacks as a whole is good, with but few exceptions. . . . There were four deaths during the year, from natural causes . . . but no births" (Protector Dillon, Longreach). "The health of the aboriginals for the year was good: there has not been one case of sickness reported to me for the past twelve months" (Protector Whelan, Boulia). "I have supplied a little medicine to several blacks about here who were very ill, but are now recovered: on the whole, the natives are in fairly good health, and very few deaths come under my notice" (Protector Old, Normanton).

ABORIGINAL CRIME.

Reports received from the various districts all tend to show that, as a whole, the natives are law-abiding, serious crime being rare.

"The aboriginals at the Pascoe and Ebagoolah have committed a good deal of petty thieving from the diggers' tents at those places; but, as usual, the diggers are to blame for encouraging the blacks around their camps. Taking the blacks' behaviour all through the year, it has been very good" (Protector Whiteford, Coen).

"There has been no serious crime amongst the blacks: two or three minor offences only have taken place" (Protector Nethercote, Charleville). "The blacks cause no trouble in this district" (Protector Savage, Roma). "There has not been any case of murder or serious crime reported in which aboriginals were concerned or suspected" (Protector Quilter, Townsville). "There is little or no crime committed by aboriginals, though during last April, in the course of a fight, a gin was murdered" (Protector Old, Normanton). "There has not been one single complaint to me from station-owners and others, since my appointment six months ago, of blacks killing cattle" (Protector Old, Normanton).

Analysis of Offences, as based upon the prosecution returns, which have to be forwarded monthly, gives these results:—

Disorderly conduct, creating a disturbance, 17: Thursday Island 5, Townsville 3, Burketown 2, Eidsvold 2, Hughenden 2, Childers 1, Isisford 1, Normanton 1.

Obscene language, 7: Alpha 1, Barcaldine 1, Childers 1, Eidsvold 1, Halifax 1, Hughenden 1, Townsville 1.

Stealing, 30: Cooktown 8, Thursday Island 5, Kilkivan 5, Camooweal 3, Herberton 2, Mackay 2, Nelson 2, Burketown 1, Cloncurry 1, Geraldton 1.

Illegally using cattle: Thornborough 2. Unlawful destruction of property: Hughenden 2.

Breaking open a railway truck: Cooktown 2. Found on premises for an illegal purpose: Cooktown 1.

Resisting arrest, 4: Thursday Island 3, Isisford 1.

Assault, 8: Mackay 4, Burketown 1, Charters Towers 1, Coen 1, Isisford 1.

The only case of rape brought before the courts was that of Frank Johnston, a young half-caste, who received a sentence of ten years at Brisbane (16th September, 1905): he had been publicly dismissed

from the Aboriginal Settlement, Durundur, the year before on account of attempting a similar offence. Jimmy Too-Too (aboriginal) for unlawful and indecent assault on a female received one month's hard labour at Richmond (31st January, 1905). For murder of a gin at Normanton, Wallaby received a sentence of death (22nd September, 1905), which was subsequently commuted.

Deportations.—Under the powers given to the Minister to deport undesirable and incorrigible natives to reserves far removed from their present haunts, and to order their detention therein, the following individuals were dealt with:—George, of Chinchilla, who was reported by the local police as becoming unmanageable and dangerous, was sent on the Minister's order to Durundur. Charlie and Frank, together with their gins, were similarly removed to the same settlement from Blackwater: these blacks had acted as agents for George Lamb (European) in connection with opium selling, and it was considered desirable to remove them from his influence. Darkey, an old offender, who was lately at Deebing Creek on the Minister's order, escaped from that place, and a Minister's order was issued for his return to it. Charlie Samuels, Maggie, and their two children, were removed on the Minister's order from Brisbane to Barambah. Tommy Tomahawk and Tommy Morrijie were removed from Cairns to Barambah: the former is a well-known incorrigible, who has been twice removed South on the Minister's orders, and has twice made his escape back.

Discharged Aboriginal Prisoners.—Prisoners, discharged from the Brisbane Gaol and from St. Helena, were returned to their homes or sent to the various settlements at the expense of the department, as follows:—Alick Robertson to Deebing Creek, Albert to Roma, Alfred Chapman to Deebing Creek, Frederick Narell to Beaudesert, Doughboy to (?) Rockhampton, Charlie Beatty to Barambah, Arthur to Roma, Harry Patterson to Barambah, and Mitchell to (?) Dalby. Tommy Georgetown, who had served a sentence of seven years, was sent back to Georgetown, he paying his own steamer fare as far as Townsville. The Salvation Army officers continue to meet all aboriginal prisoners on their discharge from gaol.

Communications on various items of personal interest continue to pass between the department and confinees at St. Helena.

OFFENCES ON ABORIGINALS.

For assaulting a gin at Geraldton, Meebaagull (S.S.I.) received a sentence of £3 or one month (7th June, 1905). An aboriginal named Paddy was alleged to have been killed by a Chinaman in the Geraldton district, but although the suspected man was arrested, his identification could not be established. Action was taken against a European for rape on a gin at Adavale, but the evidence was so weak that the case fell through. "The past year has been remarkable for the paucity of offences committed on aboriginals, although a few reports have been lodged and inquiries made. I have cautioned one employer in this district about his treatment of his employees" (Protector Old, Normanton). For assault occasioning bodily harm on Peter Hegarty (half-caste), John Williams, of Ayr, was committed for sentence to the Supreme Court, Townsville (28th February, 1905), and imprisoned until rising of the court.

The following prosecutions were undertaken against individuals for being unlawfully in aboriginals' camps, the charges all coming from Mackay:—Memeendie, a South Sea Islander, fined £5 (12th February, 1905); Frank Moran and Edward Quinn, seven days' hard labour (19th October, 1905); and Marvis, a Malay, discharged (26th November, 1905).

MISSION RESERVES, REFORMATORIES, SCHOOLS, HOMES.

Table 9 shows the daily average number of natives connected with the various mainland mission reserves, according as they are permanently resident (P.) or temporarily visitant—i.e., casual (C.). Permanents are those who have continuously resided at the mission, and have been continuously and entirely supported with rations for a period of at least six months. These missions are all annually subsidised out of the Aboriginals vote. Deebing Creek, Barambah, Yarrabah, and Mapoon are proclaimed reformatories under the "*Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act of 1865*," so that aboriginal and half-caste children under fifteen years can be brought before a bench of magistrates and ordered for detention at either of the missions named, where they can be adequately dealt with on the most economic lines. Visiting justices for these industrial schools were gazetted on 5th November. Regulations for maintaining discipline and good order upon a reserve were gazetted on the 9th of the same month. Table 10 represents the attendance, &c., at the schools established in connection with the Missions, the salaries of the school teachers, with one exception, being paid by this department: the exception is at Deebing Creek, which is defrayed out of the Education vote. Table 11 gives the attendances, &c., at the departmental schools on certain of the Torres Strait islands, the whole cost of which—salaries, buildings, &c.—is charged to the Aboriginal Department; these institutions are visited as opportunity occurs by either the local Protector or Government Resident, Thursday Island. I am strongly of opinion that the teachers on these island schools should receive a minimum salary of at least £100 per annum: the work is trying, the life lonesome, and the cost of living makes it difficult to put by for a rainy day. Over £1,160 is spent out of the Aboriginal vote in extending the benefits of a provisional school education to at least 934 children, and I have annually to respectfully protest against this expenditure not being made a charge upon the Education Department. I know of no Queensland Act which limits the application of its educational system to white children only: indeed, the Crown Solicitor (13th February, 1903) has given the opinion that all children are amenable to the Education Act, and that half-caste and aboriginal children are therefore included.

The following are extracts (with additions up to date) from my own and the superintendents' reports concerning the working of the stations on the mission reserves, &c., during the course of the year:—

TABLE 9.—AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF ABORIGINALS ON MISSION RESERVES, &c.

Annual Govern- ment Subsidy }	ABORIGINAL GIRLS' HOME (Brisbane).			DEEBING CREEK (Via Ipswich).			BARAMBAH (Via Murgon).			YARRABAH (Via Cairns).			HOPE VALLEY (Cape Bedford).			MADPOON. (Batavia River).			WEIPA. (Embley River).			AURUKUN (Archer River).			TRUBANAMAN CREEK (Mitchell River).		
	£ †			£200.*			£ †			£450.			£250.			£250.			£120.			£150.			£150. †		
	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.
January ...	4	4	8	135	21	156	142	22	164	302	4	306	97	...	97	82	10	92	27	22	49	5	17	22	...	...	...
February ...	4	4	8	135	16	151	136	...	136	308	6	314	97	...	97	80	13	93	27	30	57	15	17	32	...	...	...
March ...	4	3	7	135	17	152	300	6	306	304	6	310	97	...	97	92	12	104	27	28	55	10	27	37	...	...	...
April ...	4	2	6	135	26	161	330	1	331	309	6	315	91	20	111	85	17	102	27	47	74	9	24	33	...	...	...
May ...	3	3	6	135	26	161	330	3	333	309	6	315	97	...	97	85	17	102	27	42	69	3	11	14	...	...	...
June ...	3	2	5	135	40	175	336	1	337	304	6	310	95	...	95	91	12	103	27	65	92	4	27	31	...	...	...
July ...	3	4	7	135	30	165	338	1	339	297	...	297	95	...	95	91	16	107	42	6	48	...	22	22	...	...	...
August ...	3	3	6	135	15	150	290	...	290	320	...	320	95	...	95	88	17	105	42	12	54	4	52	56	...	...	...
September ...	3	4	7	135	12	147	266	2	268	320	...	320	95	...	95	88	16	104	42	10	52	5	34	39	...	...	...
October ...	3	4	7	135	14	149	260	1	261	325	...	325	95	...	95	88	17	105	42	11	53	5	8	13	...	...	30
November ...	3	4	7	135	10	145	240	1	241	325	...	325	95	...	95	88	19	107	42	31	73	4	26	30	...	...	33
December ...	4	4	8	135	3	138	250	...	250	325	...	325	95	...	95	88	33	121	43	38	81	3	43	46	...	...	33

* Exclusive of £10 per annum allowance to Superintendent and Matron respectively.

† Entire cost of this settlement provided by the Department.

‡ Owing to this Mission having been only recently established, no complete returns available.

TABLE 10.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (MISSION RESERVES, &C., MAINLAND)—1905.

Situation, Teacher, and Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION—BOYS.			CLASSIFICATION—GIRLS.			No. of Days School Open.	ATTENDANCE.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	I.	II.	III.	I.	II.	III.		Total Attendance.		Average Attendance.	
												Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Deebing Creek. Miss Bain, £*	31 March ...	15	20	35	4	6	5	9	6	5	49	628	916	13	19
	30 June ...	19	31	50	8	6	5	20	6	5	58	734	1,235	13	21
	30 September ...	17	32	49	9	4	4	22	6	4	57	795	1,665	14	29
	31 December ...	16	32	48	9	4	3	22	6	4	54	760	1,536	14	29
Barambah. Miss M. Kennett† £40	31 March ...	8	48	56	8	...	...	48	...	...	32	201	1,522	7	46
	30 June ...	20	45	65	20	...	...	45	...	...	22	393	945	18	43
	30 September ...	20	44	64	20	...	...	44	...	...	61	1,078	2,403	17	39
	31 December ...	19	40	59	17	2	...	32	8	...	52	799	1,851	15	35
Yarrabah. Mrs. Reeves, £70	31 March ...	80	78	158	80	...	...	78	...	...	44	2,674	2,346	60	53
	30 June ...	77	70	147	77	...	...	70	...	...	40	2,739	2,358	68	58
	30 September ...	85	71	156	85	...	...	71	...	...	41	1,578	2,233	38	54
	31 December ...	79	71	150	79	...	...	71	...	...	43	2,738	2,304	63	53
Hope Valley. Mrs. Schwarz, £100	31 March ...	21	16	37	20	1	...	12	4	...	59	1,233	944	21	16
	30 June ...	21	16	37	19	2	...	12	4	...	60	1,245	930	21	15
	30 September ...	19	13	32	17	2	...	9	4	...	64	1,216	808	19	13
	31 December ...	19	13	32	17	2	...	9	4	...	48	911	604	19	12
Mapoon. Mrs. Ward, £100.	31 March ...	21	46	67	18	2	1	25	7	14	52	739	2,358	14	45
	30 June ...	22	51	73	17	2	3	24	8	19	54	904	2,506	16	46
	30 September ...	24	53	77	19	2	3	26	8	19	46	882	2,239	19	48
	31 December ...	30	53	83	25	2	3	26	8	19	48	1,069	2,346	22	48
Weipa. Miss Schick, £80.	31 March ...	27	28	55	27	...	...	28	...	...	48	840	1,209	18	25
	30 June ...	42	30	72	42	...	...	30	...	...	48	1,302	1,292	27	27
	30 September ...	39	26	65	39	...	...	26	...	...	48	752	1,202	16	25
	31 December ...	44	31	75	44	...	...	31	...	...	48	1,077	1,289	22	27
Aurukun. ‡	31 March ...	29	18	47	29	...	...	18	...	...	40	308	288	8	7
	30 June ...	23	13	36	23	...	...	13	...	...	30	109	96	4	3
	30 September ...	36	18	54	36	...	...	18	...	...	31	437	277	14	9
	31 December ...	15	7	22	15	...	...	7	...	...	26	190	125	7	5
Trubanaman Creek. §	30 September ...	19	6	25	19	...	...	6	...	...	52	900	38	17	1
	31 December ...	27	6	33	27	...	...	6	...	...	50	1,300	106	28	2

* Salary paid by Education Department. † Allowed ration ‡ No teacher specially provided for at present.
 § £100 per annum is to be allowed a teacher when appointed.

TABLE 11.—ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (DEPARTMENTAL, TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS)—1905.

Situation, Teacher, and Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION—BOYS.			CLASSIFICATION—GIRLS.			No. of Days School Open.	ATTENDANCE.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	I.	II.	III.	I.	II.	III.		Total Attendance.		Average Attendance.	
												Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Murray Island. John S. Bruce,* £200	31 March ...	57	63	120	29	15	13	28	14	21	35	1,588	1,901	45	54
	30 June ...	59	62	121	32	15	12	26	15	21	62	3,024	3,295	48	53
	30 September ...	58	58	116	29	18	11	27	13	18	60	2,767	3,027	46	50
	31 December ...	56	56	112	28	18	10	27	12	17	54	2,527	2,689	47	50
Darnley Island. Miss A. Huddy, † £96	31 March ...	32	29	61	32	...	...	29	...	...	40	1,172	1,121	29	28
	30 June ...	32	32	64	32	...	...	32	...	...	22	672	638	30	29
	30 September ...	29	27	56	29	...	...	27	...	...	60	1,697	1,568	28	26
	31 December ...	42	29	71	42	...	...	29	...	...	52	1,830	1,403	32	27
Mabuiag Island. A. S. Cairns, ‡ £114	31 March ...	48	56	104	32	9	7	44	7	...	34	1,427	1,612	42	47
	30 June ...	50	60	110	34	9	7	46	9	...	51	1,917	2,282	37	44
	30 September ...	41	51	92	24	8	9	44	5	2	72	2,331	2,987	32	41
	31 December ...	42	54	96	18	7	17	26	19	9	57	2,265	2,821	39	49
Badu Island. Mrs. Minshull, § £84	31 March ...	31	24	55	31	...	...	24	...	...	52	1,430	1,161	27	22
	30 June ...	31	22	53	31	...	...	22	...	...	55	1,578	1,118	29	20
	30 September ...	30	21	51	30	...	...	21	...	...	46	1,279	932	28	20
	31 December ...	30	21	51	30	...	...	21	...	...	46	1,279	932	28	20
Naghir Island. Miss W. Steele|| £84.	31 March ...	22	26	48	10	8	4	8	14	4	49	546	501	11	10
	30 June ...	23	23	46	11	8	4	8	11	4	56	1,249	1,261	22	22
	30 September ...	23	21	44	11	3	6	10	6	5	50	1,023	866	20	17
	31 December ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saibai Island. D. Campbell, ¶ £84.	31 March ...	31	24	55	22	4	5	18	6	...	35	936	781	27	23
	30 June ...	31	25	56	22	4	5	19	6	...	55	1,568	1,259	2	2
	30 September ...	30	27	57	22	4	4	21	6	...	65	1,783	1,520	2	23
	31 December ...	29	26	55	21	4	4	20	6	...	44	1,276	1,144	2	26

* Allowed £26s. per annum for office cleaning and postage also, two monitors at £5 each per annum. † Now transferred to Yan
 Island, her place being temporarily filled by Rev. Mr. Butcher. ‡ Allowed 10s. per week sustenance; also, two monitors at £
 per annum. § Since replaced by Mrs. L. C. Weston. || The school here was closed in December, and is now transferred to Yan
 Island, with Miss Huddy as teacher. ¶ Allowed 10s. per week sustenance.

Trubanaman Mission (Mitchell River).—I visited this settlement during August, when I reported upon it as follows:—"About 11 miles south of the opening of the South Mitchell River, on the lower Gulf coast, is a comparatively narrow channel, the mouth of Trubanaman Creek. After rowing up in the dingey for some 6 miles, we reached its junction with Topsy's Creek, and landing here awaited the horses which the Acting Superintendent, Mr. A. Millar, was bringing down, a ride of 5 miles or so taking us to the Mission. The site chosen is on the upper reaches of Trubanaman Creek, where it enlarges into a fresh-water lagoon. Work commenced here on 2nd June, and the buildings are making good progress, all available local timber being utilised. A boys' dormitory is already erected, and a large quantity of material is in preparation for others. Tents at present are the order of the day, Mr. Millar only awaiting the arrival of nails, galvanised iron, &c., so as to have everything comfortable and snug before the advent of the wet season. The store-room will have to be fairly solidly constructed to withstand the bush rats, which are very plentiful: to find one or more of these creatures running over one's blankets at night is of no uncommon occurrence. Trunks of a species of pandanus are being utilised for roofing purposes, each trunk, after splitting, having its sap removed so as to form a kind of gutter: on being placed one inside the other, by turning the concave sides alternately upwards and downwards, they together form a covering somewhat after the nature of a corrugated-iron roof. I am given to understand that a structure of similar material is to be met with in the Solomons. A well has been sunk to a depth of 16 feet, already partly timbered, with a view to insuring fresh water all the year through. The ground has been all cleared round the future permanent settlement, while a horseyard and paddock have been erected about a mile away. A certain amount of fencing will shortly be found necessary in order to keep back the cattle straying into the reserve from adjoining stations; indeed, there is reason to believe that other people's stock are already on it. The complaints made to me by natives with regard to the kidnapping of their little children by stockmen, even during the past twelve months, matters to which I am giving separate attention, convince me that no stone should be left unturned to obviate any excuse whatever for outsiders entering upon the reserve. There are twenty-two inmates, nine of them under sixteen years of age, being fed at the settlement: these are all males, the mission staff very wisely deeming it inadvisable to have too much to do with any women and girls until such time as the services of a white matron are available. The food supplied daily for each inmate includes 1 lb. of flour ("damper"): this is supplemented with meat and rice alternately for breakfast and dinner, with tea for the evening meal. Twice a week the boys have to go and hunt for their own native food. Seventeen of the inmates are attending school, which takes up about two hours daily, and is at present being held under a bough shed: thanks to the teacher, Mr. Williams, they are already fairly conversant with the alphabet. Arrangements are being made for sending up the necessary provisional school apparatus, primers, &c., as soon as possible. A short church service is held morning and evening. With the exception of four very small boys, all the inmates assist in the general work of the station, such as cutting timber, splitting slabs, fetching bark, looking after the horses, and helping in the garden: six hours are thus occupied daily, except Wednesdays and Saturdays, which are the two days, as already mentioned, on which the lads have to seek food for themselves. The Mission owns about fifteen horses, which give the youngsters plenty of healthful recreation, as well as the opportunity of getting used to future stock work. The vegetable garden and cooking is in charge of Bob Ling, a South Sea Islander, whom I originally met at Mapoon, and whose history is somewhat eventful, in that he was on board the 'Southern Cross' when Bishop Patterson was murdered: he has been twenty-eight years in Queensland, but is in ignorance as to whether he will be deported at the end of next year or not. With regard to the number of local blacks, whom it will be one of the chief duties of the mission to protect and benefit, over 400 have been present here on the one occasion: there are more men than women, the former being, apparently, freer from private disease than the latter. Everything is being done for the sick and afflicted. [The department has since forwarded a supply of medicines.] No wild fowl or game of any description is allowed to be destroyed in close proximity to the settlement: this is no hardship, as native food is everywhere plentiful on the reserve, and the creeks are full of fish. Coming up the main channel we were able to spear a couple of large crabs with one of the legs of my camera stand. Nature has also been very bountiful with her timbers, of which the main varieties are ironwood, bloodwood, yellow-wood, and cotton-wood. The yellow-wood is closely grained and hard, logs being obtainable up to as much as 15 inches diameter. Whether the so-called cotton-wood is of any real economic value remains to be seen: I am bringing specimens of it down to the Colonial Botanist for purposes of identification. It is very necessary that a superintendent be duly gazetted as soon as possible, in order to have the necessary powers for dealing with questions of discipline, taking action against trespassers, and acting as the official channel of communication with the various Government departments."

Under date of 16th April, 1906, on his return from the reserve, the Bishop of Carpentaria forwarded a report on the working of the station, from which the following notes are extracted:—"I found all well at the station on my arrival, and that very great progress had been made since my visit to start the mission in June last. At that time, there were no buildings erected: now there are a dwelling house and store containing three living rooms, store-room, and temporary chapel; a new house, on high blocks, with frame and roof finished, a kitchen, a schoolroom, and small-boys' dormitory, a men's dormitory, and two cottages for married couples. These buildings all stood the wet season well, except the bark roofs, which let in the wet and spoiled a lot of flour. The permanent residents are now 21 men and youths, 10 boys, 2 women, and 3 girls, or 36 in all, exclusive of the staff. . . . Most of the men are, I should say, between eighteen and twenty-two. All have attended school regularly, and been constantly at the Mission. . . . [With regard to school attendance] I think that real, though slow, progress has been made. The small boys, and a number of the men, know their letters and figures, but the good discipline, order, and attention strike me as of even greater value than what they have actually learnt. In singing, their progress has been remarkable: they can sing well and sweetly in English, and though I do not suppose they understand much of the meaning, it must be a help in learning. I think Mr. Williams has worked very hard and sympathetically with them. The conduct of all has been excellent. Only one serious case of insubordination has occurred. Our chief difficulty is having no lady to take charge of the women and children. . . . The matter of the survey of the southern border is

very pressing. The stations wish to push it north up close to the mission, and as long as it is undecided we cannot tell the natives when they are off their own land, and it is a cause of trouble. I am told that one man destroyed all the weapons of a party of natives on what we believe to be the Reserve."

Some idea of the lonesomeness of this mission, especially during the wet season, may be gauged from the fact that the first mail to arrive during the present year was on 11th April.

The Rev. E. S. Chase was gazetted superintendent of the reserve on the 28th October, 1905; the experience gained by him at Yarrabah will undoubtedly prove very beneficial.

Aurukun Mission (Archer River).—I called in here with the "Melbidir," the depth of water allowing of our taking up an anchorage close to the landing stage, and can confirm the difficulties mentioned by Rev. A. Richter in his account (dated March, 1906) of the work carried on by him during the year just closed. This account is given in his own words:—"The year 1905 is the first full year our infant station has lived through, and, looking back, I feel joy and sorrow at once; joy about everything that has been accomplished during the year, and sorrow that not more could be done, for the first look to the place gives you at once the impression of unfinished work. Still, we will be glad that so much health has been granted to us that the work always could go on, though sometimes slowly. We feel that if the station could be built up in one year it would be a great advantage in every respect, but this is impossible for two men only (missionary and his assistant), so we have to be contented with the slow progress.

"As we regard the school as the most important branch of work among aboriginals, we have tried all that was in our power to prosper it. The results, however, were very unsatisfactory, and the average attendance of children has seldom reached the appointed number, though we have had 82 children altogether in school—56 boys and 26 girls—not including two boys which we intend no more to take to school, because they have grown rather big now). I believe it necessary to mention here some reasons for the low attendance: first, the children come and go with their parents, and the latter I can never keep long at the station working. As we have no income except the Government grant of £150, I can only feed fifty or sixty people half a day, or twenty-five or thirty people daily. These daily rations would suffice for about forty children if I keep no man at the station working, but the men are at the commencement of a new station of the greatest importance for building up the settlement, and without men I have no children. Knowing this, we have hastened to make arrangements to take children in as boarders, and we hope soon to be able to show a higher average number. Secondly, another great drawback was the want of water, so that we were unable to take new children in. We have also tried to keep school for the young men and women (for the former with interruptions). There is not much progress to be seen, as they change almost more than the children. Since New Year Mrs. Richter is giving lessons in needlework to women and girls. I take the opportunity to express here once more my heartiest thanks for your kindly having forwarded a large case of school requisites for our station.

"This year has been a very busy one. At the beginning of it the place looked quite different to what it is now. The mission house, which was only roughly erected, has been built out and made habitable. The place underneath the dwelling-rooms was turned into a native store, which was shut up with bark. Later on, however, it proved not safe enough, and was giving temptation to the wild ones, who have become famous in stealing at the cattle stations. So we exchanged the bark walls for iron. With this a long-needed work was accomplished, for the white ants had already begun their destructive work. Wire-netting is all around the house. At the back of our yard there are now a number of houses—a boys' dormitory, fowlhouse, girls' dormitory, the girls' kitchen, &c. The latter house, though not a beauty at all, has the privilege of being entirely made by natives. A paddock was fenced in for horses just between our yard and the lagoon. Around the mission premises about 1,350 feet of fencing of a very massive kind is almost finished. This took away most of the time. Also, the yard of the assistant is fenced in in the same way.

"The garden did not yield the fruit last year as we first expected. We might find the cause in the want of rain (the north-west rain ceased at the end of January). Also, the ground was not sufficiently worked through. A great number of mango and cotton trees died during the year, which have been replanted now; also a trial is made to plant orange-trees and date palms. The garden has been more carefully prepared this year, though not so much time could be spent upon it as would have been required because of the other work.

"During the past year there was much sickness here. We had to fight with malaria, dengue fever, sore eyes, and the people's worst enemy, syphilis. Some of the syphilitic people are in an awful, undecipherable state. Unfortunately, the native way of living together favours the infection, and we feel that we are powerless in fighting against that evil. Of those who suffered from dengue, several died, but none of those who were at the station under our care, except Jimmy Gilly Motloff, an islander of the Solomon Archipelago. I am unable to give a proper account of deaths and births among our people, because they are not settled enough yet. Interesting may be the fact that we have nothing to do here with consumption. This seems to state that this sickness was entirely caused by the boat life, and our people, who had nothing to do with the boats, or at least very little, are free from consumption. Spear wounds were seldom during the last half of the year, but open sores of any kind appeared, and were in most cases successfully treated.

"The behaviour of the people, on the whole, was comparatively well, though the wild inland tribes were ready to fight almost every minute when they were at the station. It seems as if they find it most convenient to finish their quarrels here. Once several tribes from east appeared, some even from the east coast. They always like to work here at the station for a week or more, and therefore I keep some heavy work in store for them. As mentioned before, we were in great trouble about water. Owing to the short rainy season last year our water-level was much lower than other years, and in November the water was already useless even for washing. Fortunately, in this month a few small showers of rain supplied us and our three boarders, as well as the assistant, with water for drinking and cooking, but we had to be very economical in using it. For the people and horses there was nothing left in the

lagoon but mud water, and about Christmas the people started digging for water. Our large lagoon was dried up now, and as this is the largest supply of water in the distance of 15 miles around the station, we feared that all our people would have to leave us. The blacks stated that this lagoon was never entirely dry before, even not in the times of the great drought some years ago. But things got worse. After Christmas, instead of rain we got very hot and dry weather, and on 26th January there was not a single drop of water in any of the dug holes. So we had to make another strong effort. Our assistant went down with all hands (about thirty people) and tools to dig some kind of a well in the lowest part of the lagoon. They had come about 6 feet deep, not having found water, when a heavy rain came, and we were out of trouble for the present.

"Visits were paid to the station by Dr. Roth, the Rev. P. Robertson of Ipswich, and twice by the Rev. N. Hey. On occasion of these visits, the station received the name of 'Aurukun,' proposed by the Rev. P. Robertson, and confirmed by Dr. Roth (this being the native name of the large lagoon at the back of the Mission). Police Inspector Garraway was hindered to come near to the place. He could not cross the river on which the station is situated, which, he states, is Watson's Creek, the Archer River entering into it on the southern side: I would rather say that the station is not situated on either stream, but on a bay into which these rivers enter.

"Christmas was spent in the usual way, with sports and other enjoyments, the happy festival for our blacks, to which they always look forward with pleasure, even for months. This year some wild ones from South joined the festival. We are glad for every opportunity to show them that they are welcomed at the station, though we sometimes have to deal very strictly with them when they are fighting."

Weipa Mission (Embley River).—Rev. E. Brown forwards this Annual Report, dated 4th January, 1906:—"During the year under review there has not been much change in the number of people who have been fed by us, and the proportion of adults and children has also been about the same—nearly three-fourths children. The number usually residing on the station is in the sixties, augmented frequently by a few families who come and go, and on special occasions by a larger number who stay a few weeks with us. There were 248 in for the opening of our new church in June, and 233 for Christmas. The birthrate (twelve for the year) seems small when the number of women (about 100) is taken into account. When we have a large number in we generally find that the numbers of men, women, and children (the latter including all under a marriageable age) are about equal. There were six deaths during the year, all under twenty-two years of age, and four of them under five. Three young men were baptised at Easter, and two others are under preparation therefor. A new church (60 feet by 28 feet) was opened in June. The walls are pine, and the roof covered with ruberoid. This building also serves as a school. Not much calls for special mention under this heading. Hardly a day passes without some attendance (sometimes many, sometimes few) at the dispensary for treatment for the various ills that flesh is heir to, some even seeking a cure for old age. A few peace-disturbing teeth have been removed, both for blacks and whites. The health of the staff has not been too good, amongst other things the dengue fever attacked some members, as well as some of our people.

"The day school has been maintained without interruption, except when two or more members of the staff have been laid aside at same time, and as the continual dropping of the water wears away the stone, so some progress has been made.

"With the few men at our disposal, not much can be done besides keeping things going. One new industry was added—viz., that of brickmaking. The men soon got into the way of this, and though they do not make a great number in a day, they make them very well. A quantity (air-dried) were used in building the gable of the church. Houses and sheds have been repaired, and new ones built. Owing to the last wet season being a peculiar one—very heavy at the beginning, and of short duration—our garden crops were not nearly so good as usual. However, we dried a good quantity of sweet potatoes, and made a large quantity of arrowroot.

"In December, paint was received from Brisbane, and the outside and verandahs of the mission house were painted. As usual, many kind friends in the South remembered us and our people for Christmas, and some also, recognising that a suit of calico will not last a year, sent boxes at mid-year. Several friends also sent us donations toward our new church. A neighbour gave two bullocks for the church-opening festivals. Then the manager for Messrs. Brown, Campbell, and Co., of Thursday Island, made us a present of a small two-masted boat, which, though rather old, will probably prove useful: she has made one trip for us to the Torres Strait in charge of some of our young men. For the first time in the history of this station, I have had to use my authority as superintendent toward two scoundrels, named Kenny and Phil Carrol. They came here during my absence in November for rations, which our boat had brought for the latter's father, and had dealings with two women, according to the husbands' statements. So I have written forbidding them to ever come here again under any pretext whatever."

Mapoon Mission (Batavia River).—The superintendent, Rev. N. Hey, thus expresses himself in his Annual Report (1st January, 1906):—"The total number of natives who have benefited by the Mission, either as permanent or casual residents, is over 200, all of whom are closely connected with the station. There are at least another 150, who only come to the station in cases of sickness and trouble, or to enjoy the sports which are indulged in during Christmas, the King's Birthday, and other such-like festivities. No difficulties have been experienced in the management of the natives. All have submitted to the discipline as a matter of course. Their health has been fairly good, and the death rate is the lowest on record, only eight deaths having taken place during the year. I am not prepared to say that the closing of the Reserve for recruiting purposes is the cause of this change for the better, but, no doubt, it has a great deal to do with it. Only four children were born on the station, and I fear that the harm which has been done by the recruiting boats will never be entirely eradicated. I do not hesitate to state that the diseases introduced are the main cause of the low birth rate. The health of the inmates of the various dormitories has been all that could be desired. Forty-two girls and twenty-two boys are housed

at the station, and are all under the entire control of the members of the mission staff. Twenty-two of these inmates are reformatory children. The education of the young has claimed a large share of our time, as we consider it of first importance. The day school under Mrs. Ward's able tuition has been a power for good, and the results attained are very gratifying. Having such a large number of young people under our care, representing a great variety in character, continual planning, arranging, and controlling are required to prevent stagnation. A boys' brigade was organised some few years ago, and the latest innovation is a brass band. Out of school hours, both boys and girls receive daily further suitable and practical instruction in the various departments of station life. The latter have greatly benefited by the domestic training they have received from Mrs. Hey. Divine services were held twice every Sunday, and every day is always commenced with a short service.

"The industrial training, not only for the young, but also for the older ones has not been neglected, and it has again proved to be the best ally in influencing the natives for good. I doubt whether we would have as firm a footing among our people without it. The live stock comprises eighty-five head of cattle, six horses, besides goats and fowls, which give suitable employment for not a few, and the benefits accruing therefrom are manifold. Twelve bullocks were killed for the natives, and a number of cows have been milked all the year round, supplying all the young people with milk. Much time and strength are inevitably spent in building operations. In a land where climate, and specially white ants, are openly and secretly seeking to destroy the labour of man's hands, there is no lack of work. A small hospital has been erected for the use of the boarders when sick, and other sanitary improvements have been made. A large kitchen, wash-house, and workshop were built, all the work being done by the natives with local timber, a pit and circular saw being more or less utilised to expedite the work. Agricultural pursuits are still carried on, although the results will always remain small. The cocoanut plantation, however, is a great boon to the station, supplementing the other products. A start has also been made with an out-station, where good agricultural land has been found. The main object in view is not so much to benefit the head station as to settle some young couples there to prevent crowding, and, above all, to develop self-reliance and energy.

"Messrs. Brown, Campbell, and Co. have presented the Mission with a little cutter, so that we have at present three boats in use in connection with the three stations. But we confine ourselves entirely to local work, never interfering with the pearl-shell or *bêche-de-mer* industry in any form. I was also enabled to visit twice during the year both Weipa and Archer River stations, when I came in contact with most of the natives residing on the two reserves."

Hope Valley Mission (Cape Bedford).—Having had an opportunity of inspecting this mission, I reported to the Under Secretary, as follows (4th October, 1905):—"This station continues to show steady signs of progress, and is a remarkable object lesson of what can be done with practically barren soil by dogged industry, patience, and perseverance. The cocoanut plantation comprises about 1,000 trees, though more have been planted, but the cattle have eaten them now, a very great difficulty having been experienced in protecting the trees during the earlier stages of growth, owing to the absence of any suitable timber for fencing purposes. There has been no increase in the sale of copra this year, the ruts being required for planting, while a few have been utilised for feeding the pigs. Some more sisal is to be planted before the end of the year. A sample of sisal fibre grown at Cape Bedford was sent to the Agricultural Department, and a reply was received to the effect that the mission might be safely encouraged to extend its operations in this direction, as the crop was apparently suited to the soil. It is understood that an endeavour is being made in Brisbane to obtain subscriptions for the purpose of the necessary machinery for treating the fibre. The labour expended in clearing, fencing, and draining the 25 acres of swamp land mentioned in my last Annual Report has been amply repaid. The draining itself has meant upwards of 3 miles of trenching, some of it as much as 7 and 8 feet deep, the chief obstacle met with being the shifting of the sand drifts, which here and there are continually blocking it up. The trouble entailed in regularly clearing the trenches on this account has been enormous, and will continue to be a source of anxiety until such time as the mission authorities can see their way to incurring the expenditure of converting the continually shifting portions of these open trenches into closed culverts with bent galvanised roofing. Owing to the absence of any local timber for supporting the walls of these trenches, no alternative, other than this, appears to be feasible. The 3 acres of sweet potatoes planted on this swamp land have produced excellent results: similar remarks may be made concerning the mountain rice and bananas, except that in the latter case the "sweet" variety alone has been seriously attacked by a green beetle, the common sorts having remained free from the ravages of the pest. So far, maize has proved a failure, but trials with it will again be made next year. There has been a slight return from the millet grown, the produce being utilised for fowls' food. The timber removed from the dismantled mission station on the Bloomfield River, and which was kindly granted by the Minister to the Cape Bedford authorities, has all been utilised for dormitories and married people's quarters. Miss Allan is getting the children along splendidly at school, which is attended by about forty pupils: after the four hours' daily instruction given here, the rest of the day is occupied in the gardens. The time of the married couples is also almost wholly taken up on the plantations, and no excuse made for idleness. English, in place of the local Koko-yimidir dialect, is becoming to be more and more generally spoken. There has been no trouble whatever in the way of discipline, and the excellent state of health easily maintains its record as being the best amongst our Queensland missions: there has still not been a single death amongst the ninety-five permanent inmates. This is in marked contrast with the death rate amongst the aborigines in and around the neighbourhood of Cooktown, where the curse of opium continues to claim a large number of victims annually: native camps which I have known up to three or four years ago, have now no occupants. The new mission boat, the "Kiora," has already proved of inestimable value, not only in bringing stores over from Cooktown, but in maintaining communication between Hope Valley and the outside world: £25 of the total cost of this vessel was defrayed by the Mission authorities. The Rev. G. H. Schwarz is at present in sole charge of the station, the Rev. W. Poland taking a well-earned two years' holiday in Europe, after upwards of sixteen years' continuous service out here."

Yarrabah Mission (Cape Grafton).—The following is my report, made to the Under Secretary (9th October, 1905), as the result of a visit of inspection here:—"The signs of material, industrial, and moral progress on this mission are unmistakable. The head station can now boast of thirty-six buildings, which comprise a church, schools, store-rooms, dormitories, stables, gasworks, engine-sheds, a Mission House, and married people's homes. Outside settlements, some of them in telephonic communication with Yarrabah, are gradually being dotted over the precincts of the Reserve: they are each of them in charge of a married native couple of known trust and ability, and are regularly visited by the superintendent. At Reeve's Creek the natives have built themselves a chapel, where twenty-four settlers daily attend morning and evening service: I noticed fourteen buildings here, plantations of pineapples and bananas, and a flock of Angora goats which are being shepherded. Karpa Creek, on the shore of the bay, comprises eight buildings, including a church, and constitutes the home of ten people, who look after a cocoanut plantation and poultry farm. The six inmates at Bakki Creek, with four tenements, in addition to their responsibilities in looking after the yam plantation and bananas, are felling and clearing about 20 acres of rich scrub land. Girragah Settlement, on Cape Grafton, occupies the attention of about six people in oyster-picking, fishing, planting cocoanuts, and breeding fowls. With the furthest removed out-station at Buddabadoo Creek, which is to be immediately formed, at the southern end of the reserve, all the best portions of the reserve will thus be availed of. Fitzroy Island has recently been leased by the mission authorities, and here the principal malcontents removed last year from Fraser Island, when the mission there was disbanded, have at their own special request made their home. These nine are breeding goats and poultry, planting cocoanuts, and curing fish for the other mission inmates: they are visited weekly, the opportunity being taken of bringing over their rations from the main store. Their sojourn in an island home has in the main removed all causes for grumbling on their part; they show no sign of repeating their attempts at absconding, and are gradually becoming more and more contented with their lot, and more and more amenable to discipline. I have already made application for the addition of Fitzroy Island as part and parcel of the Yarrabah Mission Reserve, and suggested, with good reason, that the opportunity might be seized of including Rocky Islet, in Mission Bay, in the same proclamation. Owing to the havoc caused by dingoes on the mainland, it is intended to form a large poultry run on the islet in question. At Yarrabah head station, the old plantation has been divided up into paddocks for the cultivation of cotton, which it is intended to grow on a large scale. Every effort is being made to plant as many cocoanuts as possible. Owing probably to the lateness of the wet season, the potato crop has failed this year, though the loss has been amply compensated for by a very successful growth of yams. A separate vegetable garden has now been formed. Poultry have done very well, and an incubator has given very good returns during the season. Redwater has, unfortunately, made its appearance in the cattle for the first time in the history of the mission, and though since the beginning of the year seven cows have been in full milk, most of the calves have died. Arrangements are being made to make up for the deficiency consequently entailed in the meat supply by investing largely in goats. All industrial work is now carried out by the aboriginals themselves, a development of the principle regularly inculcated, that if the inmates wish to make a success of their mission they must rely on their own resources. No surprise need, therefore, be felt at finding the men and boys daily working, thoroughly and well, too, at one or other of the following occupations:—building, steam-milling, wire-fencing, ploughing, carting wood, felling scrub, cotton-picking, &c. So again, women and girls may be seen engaged in minding and nursing the small children, sewing, washing, baking, scrubbing, or general housework at the Girls' Home or Mission House. No person at the mission does any work on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, while frequent outings for a day or two at a time are made to Cape Grafton, Fitzroy Island, and elsewhere. The hours of work are from 9 till 12 in the mornings, and from 2 to 4 in the afternoons: the nature of the labour is changed each day, if possible. I am quite satisfied that no complaints can reasonably be made on the score of insufficient food. Maize meal, ground on the premises by steam power, is made into porridge, and forms the staple article of food. Every married couple receives a daily ration of flour, and at the kitchen receives porridge, and any cooked food that may be on as well. Pigs, goat, poultry, as well as fish, oysters, dugong, and turtle are often in evidence. It must be borne in mind that hooks and lines are supplied, so that never a day passes but fish, of which there are plenty, can be caught by the residents. The general conduct of the inmates has proved excellent, notwithstanding the arrival of the Fraser Island contingent, some of whom have given a great deal of trouble and anxiety. As already mentioned, however, the removal of the ringleaders to Fitzroy Island, at their own request, has been followed with beneficial results, the Yarrabah residents gladly availing themselves of the opportunity of ridding themselves and their children from the evil influences exerted by these thieves and opium-smokers. To maintain discipline amongst 320 inmates, some of them garnered from the very dregs of the lowest class of natives, is no easy matter, but that it has been accomplished reflects the highest credit on the personal influence of the superintendent, the Rev. E. R. Gribble. It is only to be expected, however, that now and again cases will arise where more forcible measures will have to be resorted to, especially with absconders, drunkards, opium-smokers, &c., and it is essential that the regulations for the maintenance of order and discipline on reserves, which I have recently framed, should, after their approval by the Department of Justice, &c., be proclaimed as early as possible. [This has since been done.] At least fifteen incorrigibles sent here on the Minister's order have absconded, and though notice has immediately been given to the local police at Cairns, none have been returned: at present there is no legal machinery to deal with these escapees. Mrs. Reeves is responsible for the teaching of the children, whom she is getting along splendidly: the tuition of pupils is no sinecure, though she has the assistance of six native boys and girls as pupil-teachers. The church service is fully choral, and the organ played by aboriginal children. During the past six months a Girls' Ambulance Brigade has been in full swing, and great interest taken in it. To test their proficiency, I notified Mr. Gribble that one of the children had supposititiously fallen from a tree and broken his jaw, collar-bone, and leg. The superintendent blew a whistle, and within seven minutes of the call, the "patient" was satisfactorily bandaged and carried away on a stretcher. The Church Lads' Brigade is also doing excellent work here. The health of the settlement, in spite of diseases, often incurable, brought in with new admissions, remains good. Earth-eating, introduced with the new-comers from Fraser

Island, the Burdekin, and elsewhere, has proved a terrible scourge, but is now being satisfactorily dealt with. I regretted my inability to recommend the superintendent's application for the periodical visit of a medical officer: at the same time, the department is willing to supply all medicines within reason. So that the missionaries may be forewarned of any disease, the local Protector has been reminded of the Minister's directions (1st August, 1901), that blacks arriving at Cairns for Yarrabah, in charge of police, be examined by the Government Medical Officer. During the period extending from the inception of the mission to the end of last year, thirty-eight marriages have been celebrated. Half of these women so married who had borne illegitimate children or who had led immoral lives previous to their advent to the mission have, with one exception, not been blessed with a single infant since: on the other hand, the remaining half, who had been on the settlement for years, and who had led decent lives, have borne forty-nine children between them. When I look upon the results of this and kindred missions, I realise the good work the clergy are doing in rescuing so many children from a life of shame and misery, and giving them a permanent home, where they can work out their own destiny under proper guidance, adequate protection, and loving sympathy. I will even go so far as to express my conviction, gained after many years' experience, that the lives led by the natives on these mission reserves are incomparably better, happier, and productive of higher ideals than any to be met with in the so-called service of Europeans."

Since the above was written, the mission staff has sustained a severe loss in the death of Mr. W. Reeves (29th January, 1906), who had put in an almost continuous service of twelve years' work amongst the Yarrabah natives. During January, 1906, a large amount of damage was effected by a cyclone, which practically wrecked the whole settlement: the Hon. the Minister has made a substantial grant towards the cost of re-erecting the buildings.

Barambah Settlement (via Murgon).—This settlement was transferred from Durundur last February, the following information being mainly gleaned from the annual report furnished by the late Superintendent (23rd January, 1906):—"The population on the settlement is 302 natives, full-blood and half-caste: this number includes 109 children, of whom 60 are half-caste. School attendances are shown in Table 10. A number of women, for their own protection and welfare, have been removed here from Brisbane, Bowen Downs, and Longreach. Several ex-prisoners have also been admitted, but they give very little trouble. I have issued permits to twenty-two employers of aboriginals, copies of which I have sent to the local Protector: to avoid inconvenience and delay, as also to comply with the law, I have been instructed to sign permits "for the Chief Protector." Many of the natives from the settlement have been casually employed by selectors in the district, this arrangement being of great benefit to the institution. These men earn various sums—from 3s. to 15s. per week—with food, tobacco, and in some cases, clothes: they each contribute a portion of their wages to the settlement to assist in keeping their wives and families, who are left behind, or to keep themselves when out of employment. The settlement was benefited by this means to the extent of £271 3s. 4d. I always insist on all aboriginals who are being employed for three months and over, being put on agreement: I find no difficulty with the employees signing same, it being generally the employer who raises objections. I am satisfied that no liquor or opium is finding its way into the settlement. Thirty deaths have taken place—eighteen adults and twelve children—the cause of death being in most cases consumption and influenza. The birth rate has been very small: of eleven births, eight were half-caste and three full-blood; but in all cases where half-caste children were born, the father or mother was a half-caste. The general behaviour of the inmates, I would say, is good—i.e., taking into consideration that they have been used to drink, opium, and roaming about the townships: there are a few who require constant watching and careful supervision, these, I am sorry to say, being females who have been sent here from Brisbane. A large amount of improvements has been carried out on the settlement, such as erecting a dip, dip-yards, stock- and milking-yards, grubbing, stacking, and burning timber, fencing, ploughing, &c.: the whole of this work and improvements I can safely estimate at £400. Through the continued dry weather we have been able to do very little work on the farm, although we had a fair crop of English potatoes. The cattle have increased by twenty-one, and there are now 118 head on the settlement."

During the course of the year, there were certain other events taking place which deserve to be recorded. The settlement was gazetted an industrial school (*Government Gazette*, 1st April, 1905, p. 1236), while the salary of the school teacher, Miss Kennett, was raised from £25 to £40 per annum. There is now a registered brand for the stock on the reserve. The Deebing Creek committee presented the settlement with an harmonium, which had been given to them before the settlement was taken over by the Government, and kindly had it repaired before forwarding. The Minister approved of a four-roomed cottage being supplied for the use of the superintendent, and of the construction of a new school building. An offer was received to purchase standing timber on the reserve, but instructions were given that no standing timber was to be felled except that required for the settlement. The acting superintendent, Mr. R. Morrison, is at present in charge.

I am looking forward to the day when one or other of the religious bodies will supervise this settlement, and form a mission of it: without the elements of religion, I am satisfied that no work amongst the natives will prove of permanent value.

Deebing Creek Mission (via Ipswich).—The following annual report for 1905 has been received:—"The committee beg leave to report that their meetings have been held regularly on the first Wednesday of each month. That reports have been made to these meetings in writing by the superintendent concerning the work done, the changes which have taken place, and the health and conduct of the inmates, also the numbers at the home and the daily rations served out, with any other matters which require attention at the hands of the committee. The home has also been visited by the members of the committee for inspection purposes, as well as with visitors anxious to see the home and its work, when the school work was seen and the homes were visited."

"The houses and their surroundings have always been found in a satisfactory condition. On no visit has there been occasion to find any fault with these things. The condition of the homes of the people, with their cleanliness and efforts at decoration, have excited the wonder of the visitors, and the conduct of the children and their work in the school have been spoken of in the language of praise and astonishment.

"The moral condition has not always been what we could wish to see it. Yet considering all the circumstances and the class of people sent from all parts of the State to form its population, it is equal to if not often better than could be looked for. There is, as might be expected, a few who have caused both anxiety and trouble, especially when they can get drink, which somehow they still succeed in doing. The most of the young people and many of those who have been longest on the home give no trouble. There are, however, two or three of the younger men who were caught in the racing mania, as mentioned in last year's report, who, since they were debarred from running, will not settle down to work. The committee believe, and they think not without good reason, that these are put up to this, and encouraged in it by a small section of the community, because they cannot now use these men for gambling purposes. The Sheffield handicaps have come to an end, and the grounds have been closed since those concerned could not get the aboriginals to do questionable things for them at their own price. The committee have no doubt that most if not all the difficulties which they have had during the year may be traced to these outside influences. A second building on one of the outside places has been burned down, with some farm implements, which the committee fear has not been accidental. Religious services have been held three times every week as well as Sabbath school. These have all been well attended by the younger people, and fairly so by those advanced in years. The lives of some have been completely changed, and most of the others have been and are being influenced for good by these services. The work in the day school has been continued with the same faithfulness as in former years, and the inspector's report is equally favourable with those of past years. Some of the children competed in the school section of the District Annual Exhibition, and were successful in winning several prizes. The farming operations were fairly successful in the first half of the year. In the second, owing to the long drought and scorching winds, it was not so; two crops in succession wasted away shortly after coming through the ground. Besides the work necessary at the home, several contracts were taken outside; the men who do work, doing it faithfully and well. The health of the inmates has been generally good. The dengue fever passed through the home, but fatal cases were few, and only where there were complications. The blight also was introduced by a family sent from the West, who were suffering from it, and was in every home. It made an anxious time, but there were no permanent evil effects noticeable. A second family arrived with the same disease toward the close of the year, which it is hoped will be kept from spreading by the isolation of the sufferers.

"During the year the average number of people at the Home has been 150, the highest being 177 in the month of June, and the lowest 135 in January; the average monthly rations served being 3,080 lb. of flour, 1,560 lb. beef, 800 lb. sugar, 92 lb. tea, and 18 lb. tobacco. To this is added the material grown on the farms, which last year amounted to 21 cwt. English potatoes, 20 cwt. sweet potatoes, 100 bushels maize, 12 bushels peas, 950 lb. tomatoes, 50 lb. beans, 177 dozen pumpkins, 72 dozen melons, 1,700 gallons milk, and 205 lb. butter.

"During the year 3 cows, 1 heifer, and 2 calves died; 4 bullocks, 4 cows, and 4 pigs were killed. The stock remaining are:—Cattle, 58; horses, 6; and pigs, 3; valued at £265 10s., as against £256 10s. The tools and implements necessary for work at the home and carrying out contracts undertaken are sufficient for the purposes and in good order.

"Money received from outside sources amounted to £62 13s. 2d., and for fat bullocks valued at £30. Much work was done in scrub clearing, for which payment is to be made in land, which the committee hope to be able to utilise for the good of the home and inmates."

I visited Deebing Creek in July, and, as the result of my inquiries, drew the committee's attention to one or two matters which I personally did not consider it desirable should be allowed to continue.

Aboriginal Girls' Home (West End, Brisbane).—This is intended for aboriginal and half-caste girls in domestic service in Brisbane and neighbourhood: when out of employment, requiring a change or rest, &c., there is thus always a home for these women to go to, and hence no excuse for them to put up at any boarding-houses. It also acts as a central depôt where they can be engaged and interviewed by would-be mistresses, and where, on their way through Brisbane as occasion requires, they can obtain board and lodging free. The necessity for such a shelter has often proved most useful and convenient, there being no other institution at which they can apply, the Salvation Army Metropole (which is utilised by the department in the case of male natives) not allowing of the admission of these women. To still further protect them from evil outside influences, the allotment upon which the Home stands has been proclaimed a reserve under the Aborigines Act. The assistant superintendent of the reserve, Mrs. Whipham, who lives on the premises, performs the duties of matron, and the success of the institution is largely due to her influence. The Protector of Aborigines (female), who is also superintendent, is charged with finding situations for the girls, regularly visiting them in service, expending various proportions of the wages earned to the best advantage, and banking all balances in the Government Savings Bank, with herself as trustee. The cost of the Girls' Home for the past financial year was £280 4s. 9d.

RESERVES NOT CONNECTED WITH MISSIONS.

The reserve for aboriginals at Moonbi and Bowarrady, Maryborough district (proclaimed 4th December, 1901), and at Gilbert River (proclaimed 13th February, 1888) were rescinded, as being no longer required.

All the islands, except Sweers, in the Wellesley group, Gulf of Carpentaria, have been proclaimed as a reserve for aboriginals (*Government Gazette*, 22nd April, 1905).

Myora (Stradbroke Island) was re-proclaimed as a reserve for the use of the aboriginal inhabitants of the State (*Government Gazette*, 1st July, 1905), to bring it into line with other reserves, and Mr. W. Scott, the local schoolmaster, gazetted its first superintendent (*Government Gazette*, 25th November, 1905). This action was the outcome of the following report dated 14th June, 1905:—

“Fifty acres of land in close proximity to Dunwich were proclaimed as a ‘Reserve for Mission Station’ on the 26th November, 1892, on account of the site for the aboriginal mission station at Bribie Island having been found unsuitable. Although not under the regular auspices of apparently any church it is known as the Myora Mission. I am unable to discover how the name Myora came to be subsequently applied. There is a population of upwards of fifty souls, of whom some forty-eight are more or less permanently residing there. Amongst them are five kanaka males married to four half-caste women and one full-blood aboriginal: ten full-blood, and thirty-three half-castes and quadroons. So far as age and sex are concerned, these are particularised thus:—Of the half-castes and quadroons, six of the nine males are under sixteen, while eleven of the twenty-four females are under that age: of the full-bloods, only one of the five males is under sixteen, all the five females being over. They are provided with a school, where I found twelve girls and seven boys on the roll. The schoolmaster, Mr. Scott, has been here for the past eight years. I find that out of his own pocket he has paid from 15s. to £1 per annum for exercise-books, school paper, &c.: from the fact that in making his annual requisition, he has notified ‘paid at teacher’s expense’ it is evident that the Education Department must be aware of this.

“All the adult men are legally married. According to the schoolmaster’s opinion, the average weekly wage earned by them throughout the year in oystering, &c., some of them paying their own license fees, is between 7s. 6d. and 10s. per week. On the other hand, two of them admitted to me that they were earning continuously between £2 and £3 per week. They speak good English, and are well able to take care of themselves. At my instigation, they held a meeting to discuss their present position, and as a result told me that: they did not consider themselves aboriginals, they did not want any protection, they wished their European friends and others to visit them at holiday time, they objected to the land they were living on being a reserve, and that they wished to remain unmolested as they were. The women eke out a few shillings now and again by the sale of baskets. Relief to the extent of about £30 per annum has been paid for out of the Aboriginals vote. I went over the list of people receiving rations, mostly for widows with children, taking off some, and putting on others. In this connection, I consulted with Mr. Hill, the Assistant Superintendent, Dunwich. I am informed that the only trouble with these people is during holiday time, Easter, Christmas, &c., when the mischief that accrues arises from boating parties visiting there and bringing liquor. On other occasions liquor can apparently be obtained by half-castes from the hotels at Cleveland. I am sending a warning to all the licensees there.

“I recognised the necessity for a few more blankets, and have asked the Government Storekeeper to forward four pairs. I was asked for clothes, but do not feel justified in sending any down. As far as I can see, the social status of Myora reminds me of many a community to be met with among the lower classes of any large European city. Indeed, considering the proportion of ten full-bloods to upwards of forty half-castes and quadroons, it is almost a question whether the association of the latter with the former is sufficient to warrant the majority of the half-breeds being deemed aboriginals. While therefore not wishing to interfere more than is absolutely necessary with their liberty in working out their own destiny, I, nevertheless, have qualms in exercising a passive control in view of the eleven half-caste and quadroon girls at present under sixteen years of age, for whom there is apparently an insufficient number of prospective husbands.”

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

Mr. C. D. O’Brien, the local Protector at Thursday Island, says that:—“The work of the office in connection with Torres Strait Islanders has been much heavier than usual, mainly owing to the complaints against, and conduct of, two employers (James Mills, of Naghir; James Doyle, of Mabuiag), which entailed a considerable amount of investigation and correspondence. During November, prosecutions for harbouring were instituted against James Doyle, of Mabuiag, a man against whom serious complaints have been made by the natives for some years past. Owing to the almost insurmountable difficulties in the way of prosecuting such an offender, it had heretofore been found impossible to commence a prosecution with an prospect of success. However, on 19th November, I paid a surprise visit to his schooner, the ‘Alice May,’ then anchored at Orman Reef, and the complaints then made to me by aboriginals on board lead to a prosecution, the result of which was that Doyle was fined £5, and ordered to pay £8 17s. 2d. costs. The evidence disclosed an almost incredible state of things, it being shown that some of the island police had obeyed Doyle’s orders implicitly, handcuffing, arresting, and imprisoning natives without warrants or any authority whatever. I learned since that some of them were in his pay!

“At time of writing (17th February, 1906), a number of boats have recently been laid up owing to the inability of their owners to carry on operations in consequence of the low price of pearl-shell, and the result is that about 200 Torres Strait Islanders have been suddenly thrown out of employment without any immediate prospect of finding new employers. In their predicament they applied to me to assist them to procure boats of their own, and their applications having been approved by you, I am now engaged in obtaining and fitting out suitable boats for them. The financial assistance kindly rendered by the Papuan Industries, Limited, in conjunction with the generous loan from the Aboriginals Property Protection Account, has been invaluable, as it has enabled me to procure boats for cash at prices which have probably never been reached before, there being a large number of boats for sale just now. Purchasers for cash are, therefore, in an excellent position for obtaining full value for their money.

“**Purchase of Boats by Torres Strait Islanders.**—This has been a most interesting and gratifying phase of the working of the office during the year. In January, 1903, my predecessor, Mr. Bennett, assisted the Murray Islanders to procure a boat under an agreement to pay her off out of the proceeds of their labour, and in September of the same year he likewise assisted the natives of the adjoining island (Dauan) to obtain a boat also. The results proved highly satisfactory, both boats being paid off well

within the time agreed upon, shortly after my assumption of duty, two years ago. The system so auspiciously inaugurated has developed to such an extent that at the time of writing (17th February, 1906), a total of seventeen boats, representing a capital value of about £2,500, have been, or are being, worked out and paid for by Torres Strait Islanders, representing Murray, Dauan, Mabuiag, Boigo, York, Yam, Coconut, Darnley, Badu, and Moa Islands, and applications for boats have been received from the natives of Hammond, Stephens, and Saibai to be similarly helped, and these are now being dealt with. Under date 11th January, 1906, I furnished you with statistics showing total operations to that date (Table 12). Since preparing that return, I have prepared a second return to accompany the first, showing the operations in connection with these boats for the year (Table 13). It will be noted that the operations for the last quarter of the year more than equalled the total for the first three quarters, which is accounted for by the fact that more boats were working during that period, during which also better weather conditions prevailed. As to the success of the movement, the figures speak for themselves. A statement, which has found its way into the Southern Press, alleged that the benefit to the natives accruing from their work in these boats was not apparent, and that they would earn more money by working for wages on boats for other employers. The actual figures show that for the last quarter of the year the crews working on these boats earned an average of over £2 16s. 6d. per month, and not only earned this money, but received full value for same. Besides this is the important fact that they have something tangible to show as the result of their labour, in the shape of their boats. As the ruling average rate of wages for Torres Strait Islanders has been about £2 per month (a large percentage of which never reached the man, being deducted by means of exorbitant charges per medium of the notorious 'slop chest'), it will be seen that the benefits to the natives resulting from owning and working their own boats are not only apparent, but very real. One very tangible benefit has been that the earnings of the boats have enabled the natives of several of the islands to avert the food famine which would otherwise have been consequent on the failure of the crops during the year. Last year was a very dry year on all of the islands of Torres Strait, and several applications for relief to you would have been necessary on behalf of some of the islands had it not been for this source of revenue. As it was, applications for 1 ton of flour each for Darnley and Badu Islands were approved by you. These applications would have been unnecessary if these islands had had their own boats. When the four Murray Island boats left here early in January, 1906, they took 7½ tons of flour with them, on account of the comparative failure of their gardens.

"I anticipate that by the end of 1906 the whole of the boats will have been paid for, and will be the sole property of the natives. As each boat is paid for, an assignment of the vessel by the vendor to the Protector at Thursday Island on behalf of the particular islanders, is properly drawn up and registered at the Supreme Court, Townsville. The desire on the part of some of the natives to pay off their boats as quickly as possible is sometimes very marked. For instance, in December last the Coconut Islanders brought in produce which realised £97 17s., and of this amount they took only £6 in cash, leaving the balance to pay off the boat and purchase stores, &c. These particular islanders earned at the rate of £6 8s. per month each for the first three months they were out, and I anticipate that they will have another good record when they next come in.

"There has been one comparative failure, in the case of the Boigo Islanders, attributable to a variety of causes, but I am hopeful that they will clear their boat within the prescribed time under the agreement."

TABLE 12.—RETURN SHOWING TOTAL OPERATIONS CONNECTED WITH THE WORKING OF BOATS PURCHASED AND IN COURSE OF PURCHASE BY TORRES STRAITS ISLANDERS, THROUGH THE PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS AT THURSDAY ISLAND, FROM 1ST JANUARY, 1903, TO 11TH JANUARY, 1906.

Receipts—		£ s. d.	
Total receipts for marine produce—namely, bêche-de-mer, pearl-shell, pearls, turtle-shell, &c.		2,894	6 11
Disbursements—		£ s. d.	
Paid on account purchase money of boats		865	11 5
Paid on account stores, repairs, insurance, gear, dinghies, &c.		1,182	10 7
Cash paid direct to natives for distribution		846	4 11
		£2,894	6 11

Name of Boat.	Name of Island.	Approximate Population.	Purchase Money of Boat.	Amount Paid off Purchase Money.	Time Taken in Paying this Amount (in Months).	Date of Commencement of Operations.	Number of Regular Crew on Boat.	
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.				
William	Murray	480	100 0 0	100 0 0	5	16 Jan., 1903	8 to 12	
Gelam	Murray		100 0 0	100 0 0	10	16 Mar., 1904	8 to 12	
Barb	Dauar		100 0 0	100 0 0	11	9 Sept., 1903	10	
Dauar	Dauar		40 0 0	40 0 0	8	20 Jan., 1905	6	
Pegasus	Dauar		140 0 0	51 1 9	3	3 Oct., 1905	10	
Miriam	Murray	300	175 0 0	16 0 0	Cash payment	11 Jan., 1906	10	
Mabuiag	Mabuiag		177 0 0	177 0 0		12	11 Oct., 1904	20
Urupi	Mabuiag		177 0 0	59 0 7		3		20
*Boigo	Boigo	50	190 0 0	9 4 4	13	13 Dec., 1904	8	
Masig	Masig	50	191 0 0	153 8 4	10	17 Feb., 1905	14	
Yam	Yam	180	195 0 0	25 7 11	5	1 Aug., 1905	12	
Poruma	Poruma	30	163 0 0	34 8 6	3	13 Sept., 1905	5	
			1,748 0 0	865 11 5				

* This boat has been a failure owing to various local causes.

TABLE 13.—RETURN SHOWING OPERATIONS (SUMMARISED) CONNECTED WITH THE WORKING OF BOATS PURCHASED AND IN COURSE OF PURCHASE BY TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS, THROUGH THE PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINAIS AT THURSDAY ISLAND FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1905. TRANSACTIONS COMPLETED ON 11TH JANUARY, 1906.

<i>Receipts—</i>		<i>£ s. d.</i>
Proceeds, sales bêche-de-mer, pearl-shell, pearls, turtle-shell, &c.		1,718 15 9
<hr/>		
<i>Disbursements—</i>		
Legal expenses	... ..	9 11 0
Insurance of boats	... ..	36 14 0
Inspection fee	... ..	1 1 0
Repairs to boats (11 boats)	... ..	134 16 8
New gear, dinghies, &c.	... ..	47 7 0
Carting and cab fares	... ..	5 17 7
Licenses	... ..	5 10 0
Banked in Savings Bank	... ..	13 0 0
Refund of loan to Aborigines Protection Property Account	...	13 15 5
Stores, food, &c.	... ..	435 15 10
Paid on account purchase boats	... ..	530 3 9
Cash paid to natives direct	... ..	485 3 6
		<hr/>
		£1,718 15 9
		<hr/>
January-March quarter	... ..	237 12 11
April-June quarter	... ..	141 18 9
July-September quarter	... ..	457 13 4
October-December quarter	... ..	881 10 9
		<hr/>
		£1,718 15 9
		<hr/>

ABORIGINAIS PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

The amount to the credit of this fund on the 31st December, 1905, was £223 15s. 7d. This trust account is made up of moneys due to aboriginal deserters, deceased natives, and sums otherwise unclaimed: it is employed solely for the benefit of natives generally. Thus it was drawn upon for the purchase of a boat at Hope Valley, as a loan to the Yarrabah Mission for the purchase of fishing-nets and punts, and on several occasions as loans for the purchase of boats by the Torres Strait Islanders: I have also employed it towards defraying the cost of maintenance of certain illegitimate children, of clothing for girls (without any banking accounts) entering upon domestic service, &c.

SCIENTIFIC.

No. 8 of my North Queensland Ethnography series of bulletins has been published: "Notes on Government, Morals, and Crime." Inquiries are constantly being received concerning my scientific work, of which I have a large amount of MSS. material still in hand, and it is very gratifying indeed to me to know that, notwithstanding my forthcoming resignation, the Executive propose continuing the publication of the Bulletins.

EXECUTIVE.

The administration of the Aborigines Act has been retransferred from the Honourable the Secretary for Public Lands to the Honourable the Home Secretary (*Government Gazette*, 19th August, 1905). Regulations for maintaining discipline and good order upon a Reserve have been gazetted (*Government Gazette*, 9th November, 1905).

I returned at the end of January from Western Australia, on completion of my labours as Royal Commissioner to inquire into the condition of the natives, for which I received the thanks of the Government, and it is satisfactory to note that the new Western Australian Aborigines Protection Bill is based largely upon Queensland legislation: during my absence, Mr. R. B. Howard was appointed Acting Chief Protector.

For convenience of administration, &c., certain additional Protectors have been appointed: care however, has been taken that none of the districts over which an officer holds jurisdiction overlaps, each Protector being individually responsible to me for the petty sessions areas respectively assigned to him. I again take this opportunity of thanking one and all, and especially some of the police clerks, for their loyal co-operation in rendering the administration of this department a success. I am well aware that in a country such as this it is impossible for a Protector of Aborigines to faithfully discharge his duties with any vigour or impartiality and avoid making enemies. Hence, unless called upon by the Minister to furnish him with explanations, &c., as happened in my own case (Parliamentary Paper, C.A. 88—1905), I believe in treating all overt hostility and associated calumny with the contempt that it deserves.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Half-castes on Federal Electoral Rolls.—I have received the following reply, dated 1st November, 1905, from the secretary, Department of Home Affairs, Melbourne:—"With reference to your communication dated the 13th June last, No. 771/5, in which you ask whether half-caste aboriginal

natives of Queensland over twenty-one years of age are precluded from having their names on the Federal Electoral Roll, I have the honour to inform you that it is held that half-castes are not disqualified, but the children of a half-caste and an aboriginal native are precluded under the provisions of section 4, paragraph 2, of the *Commonwealth Franchise Act, 1902, &c.*"

Blacks' Dogs.—A complaint was made to me personally by the Normanton blacks that all their dogs had been shot by the Town Council. Sergeant Old, the local Protector, to whom the matter was referred, says—"The Council send a man around here occasionally to destroy the natives' dogs, which they state are a nuisance. There are very few dogs remaining in the camps here round the town. I quite agree that a tribe of mongrels should not be allowed to invade the town, as they are a menace to the public, but I certainly object to the Council or any other person destroying the natives' dogs across the Norman River, thus depriving them of their faithful friends and assistants in hunting."

Firearms in the Possession of Aboriginals.—During the past few years I have drawn attention to the absence of any lawful authority to seize firearms when found in the possession of natives. Protector Whiteford "took from the aboriginals on the East Coast a shot gun and a revolver": while he doubtless had good reason to support his action, it is a pity that there is no law to defend it. On the other hand, I am of opinion that in one outlying district, at any rate, it would be advisable not to interfere with the blacks having firearms, should they ever possess them, for the reason that they would then be able to defend themselves from the outrages committed upon them by certain Europeans. I would suggest, when the proper time comes, as an amendment to the present Acts, that legislation be passed for the licensing of blacks to carry arms, as is the case in Western Australia. I have proposed (March, 1906) the drafting of a Regulation, limiting the use of firearms on reserves, which the 1897 Act (sec. 31) gives the Governor in Council power to proclaim.

Aboriginal Humanity.—My attention was drawn to the humane action of seven McIvor River boys, who found a European in a moribund condition, and carried him many miles into Cooktown for treatment: on application to the curator for a gratuity on behalf of these blacks out of the deceased's estate (I. Coates), 10s. was allowed each boy.

Information Required re Aboriginals.—Certain information concerning native matters was furnished for the use of the Premier, at the Premiers' Conference last January, and of the American Vice Consul-General.

State Expenditure on Aboriginals.—Table 14 shows the comparative expenditure by the various States on the welfare and protection of the natives, according to the latest returns available:—

TABLE 14.—EXPENDITURE ON ABORIGINALS IN THE DIFFERENT STATES.

State.	Year.*	Estimated Native Population.	Expenditure.
Queensland	1905	20,000†	£ s. d. 9,997 10 8
South Australia	1905	3,745	3,987 4 5
Victoria	1905	365	4,152 18 0
Western Australia	1905	30,000†	13,895 2 11
New South Wales	1904	6,910	16,106 11 11

* For financial year ending 30th June.

† Approximate only.

OPINIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE ACT.

The following opinions on the working of the Aboriginals Act for the year just closed are worth recording:—

"No complaints have been received and things have worked smoothly in connection with the administration of the Act in this district" (Protector Geraghty, Toowoomba). "On the whole, the Act is working very well indeed in this district" (Protector King, Cooktown). "The Aboriginals Protection Act has worked most satisfactorily in the Etheridge and Croydon districts during last year: no complaints have been made to me either by employers or employees" (Protector Joyce, Georgetown). "I have received no complaints from employees or employers relative to the working of the Act, and everything is apparently working smoothly" (Protector Nethercote, Charleville). "On the whole, I consider the Act is administered satisfactorily". . . (Protector Sweetman, Charters Towers). "The Act, if carried out conscientiously, works well. . . and the firmness shown by the Chief Protector affords a valuable example." (Protector Fitzgerald, Cloncurry). "Having arrived here recently, I cannot report much on the working of the Aboriginal Act, but so far as I have seen of it, it is progressing satisfactorily" (Protector Marrett, Maryborough). "The Act is working well, and has proved to be a benefit to the aboriginals" (Protector Whelan, Boulia). "The Act works well, and very little trouble is caused" (Protector Quilter, Townsville). "For the past few months the Act appears to be working well, and to the satisfaction of both employer and employee" (Protector Toohey, Rockhampton). "If the Acts were strictly and faithfully carried out throughout the State, both employers and employees would in the near future benefit by its administration, but where one district tries to enforce it and another is lax and indifferent, it then becomes very hard on both" (Protector Old, Normanton). "I consider the general condition of the blacks in this district satisfactory" (Protector Durham, Cairns). "The Act has worked smoothly and without a hitch during the year: not a complaint having been received from employer or employee" (Protector Brosnan, Winton).

ITINERARY—OFFICE WORK.

The Trubanaman Creek, Aurukun, Weipa, Mapoon, Hope Valley, Yarrabah, and Deebing Creek Missions, as well as the Aboriginal Girls' Home, have all been visited by me. Mr. C. W. Holland, on my behalf, inspected the Barambah Settlement. In company with the local Protector at Thursday Island, I made inquiries into the condition of the schools at Badu and Naghir Islands, and took action concerning some well-founded complaints made to me by the Yam Islanders against the high-handed action of James Mills, a South Sea Island pearler.

I took the opportunity kindly offered me by the Salvation Army last June of inspecting their Industrial Home at Yeronga. I have reported on the condition of the natives at Myora. During the course of the year I interviewed the Protectors at Toowoomba, Roma, Charleville, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Longreach, Winton, Cloncurry, Normanton, Georgetown, Charters Towers, Townsville, Cairns, Cooktown, and Thursday Island.

The office correspondence amounted to 3,466 communications: 1,732 inward and 1,734 outward. Mr. J. M. Costin has been gazetted clerk.

My resignation has been accepted as from 10th June, 1906, on completion of ten years' service under the Queensland Government.

I have, &c.,

WALTER E. ROTH,

Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

Price 11d.]

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Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aboriginals for 1905

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