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1912.

QUEENSLAND.

16 APR 1963

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ANNUAL REPORT

THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

OF

THE YEAR 1911.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

BRISBANE:

BY AUTHORITY: ANTHONY JAMES CUMMING, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, WILLIAM STREET.

1912.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1911.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT.

Office of Chief Protector of Aborigines,
Brisbane, 31st May, 1912.

SIR,—I now have the honour to submit my report on the working of this Department for the year ended 31st December, 1911.

On the 20th of April I left Brisbane on my annual trip of inspection, and after visiting Barambah Aboriginal Settlement and giving necessary directions to be carried out during my absence, purchasing fat bullocks for beef, &c., I left for Maryborough, where I learnt from the Protector the business of the Department was running smoothly. The bank accounts numbered twenty-two, with a credit balance of £170. The natives at service in this district are working satisfactorily. Thirty-two agreements are in force, ten of which are for women, and there is no trouble in regard to liquor or opium traffic with the natives.

At Townsville, fifty-nine agreements had been entered into, and the Protector informed me very little trouble was experienced, in collecting wages or otherwise, between employer and employee. There were nine bank accounts, showing a credit of £25 17s. 5d.

On the 3rd of May I boarded the "Otter" and joined the Hon. the Home Secretary and party. Calling at Mourilyan, the Minister dealt with some aboriginal and other matters, and the steamer proceeded to Cairns. The Anglican Mission at Yarrabah was visited, and Mr. Appel, after an interview with a number of the natives, decided to allow several, who had at different times been deported to Yarrabah, to leave the Mission and return to their own districts. Many matters affecting the inmates and the Mission were dealt with by the Minister, and his advice and directions, if carried out, will undoubtedly be productive of beneficial results.

Cooktown was reached on the 9th of May, at which place blankets were distributed to 75 natives—viz., 26 men, 40 women, 2 boys, and 7 girls. The local Protector informed me the health of the aborigines in the Cooktown district was very good, they behaved themselves well, and seldom indulged in either liquor or opium. There were 130 bank accounts, with a credit of over £500. The native population numbers about 300 souls, and employment is readily found for those desirous of going to work.

Leaving Cooktown, Cape Bedford was the next place of call, and the Minister made an inspection of the Mission, where a considerable area is being cultivated, the principal crop being sisal hemp and cocoanuts. This place shows every indication of progress and good management. The steamer was again boarded, the Superintendent, the Rev. G. H. Schwarz, accompanying the party.

Lloyd Bay next was reached, the Minister and some of the party landing at Orchid Point. The next day the "Otter" was taken two or three miles up the Lockhart River, and some disappointment was felt at not seeing any aborigines, although Orchid Point is a favourite camping ground for these people. It was, however, ascertained that nearly all the natives were engaged cutting sandalwood, some distance from the shores of the Bay. On Lloyd Island, which is situated in the Bay, and well sheltered from all weather, a sandalwood-getter has taken up his quarters, erected a dwelling, and employs large numbers of natives in cutting sandalwood and as crew on board the luggers conveying the wood to Thursday Island. The remote position of Lloyd Bay, and its distance from Coen, the nearest Police Station, makes the question of patrol a difficult one. Under these conditions I fear a good deal of illegal employment of aborigines is carried on, and until a settlement has been established and an officer appointed to control these matters, little or no improvement in this respect can be expected. Approval has now been obtained to form a settlement on the Pascoe River, in the vicinity of Lloyd Bay. An area of land has been set apart for the purpose, and I trust to be able in the near future to report progress in this direction.

We arrived at Thursday Island on the 15th May, and early next morning a start was made for Mapoon Mission, which was reached about midday. An inspection of the Station was made by Mr. Appel, who visited the plot of cultivation about four miles from headquarters. Owing to the dry weather the cultivation was not looking at its best, but there was ample evidence of a good deal of work being done. The agricultural operations are carried on by the aborigines under the immediate supervision of three or four South Sea Island men who are married to aboriginal women. Large quantities of food for the use of



the Mission are produced, and any surplus is sent to Thursday Island for disposal. The school, under the control of Mrs. Ward, is carried on in a most efficient manner, the children being smart well behaved, and apparently happy. Over sixty children regularly attend school, and their work is most creditable, both to their teacher and themselves.

Returning to Thursday Island a call was next made at Badu Island. The school, under the control of Mrs. Zahel, was inspected by the Minister and arrangements were made to have some necessary additions made to the buildings. The distribution of toys, lollies, &c., to the aboriginal children by Mrs. Appel was much appreciated. The native population of Badu is about 230 souls, including 115 children, 68 of whom regularly attend school.

The St. Paul's South Sea Island Mission on Moa Island was next visited, and inspected by the Minister, who addressed the natives, many of whom are married to aboriginal women. The Mission is under the control of the Anglican Church, with Miss Buchanan in charge. The natives present a healthy contented appearance, and the children, numbering 32, under the tuition of Miss Buchanan, are well behaved; and I learnt they were attentive to their lessons, and making fair progress in this direction.

The population of Moa numbers 80 souls. The cultivation consists of maize, yams, bananas, rosellas, papaws, manioc, cocoanuts, &c. The crops presented a good appearance, but unfortunately the cocconut palms were attacked by a beetle described as "*Brontispa Froggatti*," a species of the Hispidae family. This insect is playing sad havoc with the young palms, the older palms not suffering to the same extent.

Mabuiag Island next claimed our attention, the school here being under the control of Mr. Minniss. The population numbers 253 persons, with a school roll of 60 children. A good deal of gardening is carried on and food was plentiful. An epidemic of sickness has been prevalent recently, causing the death of 23 natives. The complaint was dysentery, and at the time of our visit Mr. Minniss informed us there were still three or four cases in evidence, but the attack was in a mild form and the patients were convalescent. Mr. Appel gave directions to have the village kept clean by clearing undergrowth, &c., and the natives promised to carefully carry out his instructions.

Yam Island was next on the list. Here there is a population of 86 souls, with 29 children regularly attending the school. The teacher, Mrs. Smallwood, says the attendance is all that could be desired. The sewing of some of the girls is very creditable, and the older girls are receiving some instruction in household duties; besides, several fine mats are being manufactured. In fact all matters in connection with this Department are running smoothly and satisfactorily at Yam Island, and the teacher is to be complimented on her methods and management.

Leaving Yam Island, we next proceeded to Darnley Island, arriving there the same evening.

The population numbers 314 persons, consisting of 180 males and 134 females. There are 87 children going to the school, of which Mr. Guilletmot is teacher. A new schoolhouse is being erected by the natives under the supervision of the teacher and is well forward. The boat "Erub," belonging to the natives, was lying idle at the time of our visit, and had not been worked for some months owing to the apathy of the islanders, but after Mr. Appel had pointed out how undesirable this state of affairs was, the "Erub" was again put in commission, and, I have since learned, more than one successful trip has been made, and, owing to Mr. Appel's directions, it is now more than probable the boat will be regularly worked.

Murray, the largest and considered to be the most fertile of the Torres Strait Islands, was next visited. The population is 480 souls, with a school roll of 112 children. The teacher, Mr. Bruce, who has resided on Murray Island for a period of some twenty-five years, and has held his present position since 1892, nearly twenty years, says the girls have more application than the boys, but the boys are fairly bright and intelligent. A local market for foodstuffs has been established on the island and on each Saturday the market is opened and the food for sale is displayed to the best advantage. These markets are kept open till 10 o'clock p.m., and the crews of the pearling and other fishing boats, mostly Japanese, attend the sales and are good customers, a good deal of barter being carried on. Mr. Appel here made a thorough inspection of the island, including a walk of some five or six miles.

After leaving Murray a call was made at Naghir Island, which is occupied by Mr. James Mills, who has lived on the island for over thirty years and has an extensive cocconut plantation of about 40,000 palms, of which over 5,000 are bearing. Mr. Mills says he can produce easily, with the labour of three adult aboriginal women and five children, one ton of copra per week, which is worth at the present time £19 per ton. About 12 tons of copra has been sold during the last six months and an equal quantity is awaiting shipment. In addition to copra-making, a considerable quantity of nuts is consumed as food, and many more are sold for seed. In addition to cocoanuts, large quantities of sweet potatoes, cassava, and yams are produced, and many fruits, such as bananas, mangoes, oranges, pineapple, &c. Naghir is a most interesting place, and is certainly an object lesson as to what may be done with most of the islands in Torres Straits, practically the whole of which are still in their primeval state, although quite as capable as Naghir of being brought into a profitable state of production.

The day after our return to Thursday Island Mr. Appel and party returned to Brisbane.

The visit of the Minister to the principal islands in Torres Strait and to the several Mission Stations cannot be otherwise than productive of good. Many matters of interest to the islanders were discussed by him, and the clear and unmistakable interpretation given in

simple language of the several acts of administration, and the desire of the Government to help the people, provided they would assist by endeavouring to follow out the line of procedure laid down, cannot help but be productive of beneficial results, and, in fact, I have since learnt from several of the teachers that the Minister's visit has already done much good. At every island visited distributions of sweets, toys, dresses, &c., were made to the children and young women by Mrs. Appel, and I feel sure her visit will be a red-letter day to those who were fortunate enough to have her with them.

My next call was Cairns, and, after attending to some departmental matters, I proceeded to Kuranda and visited a couple of aboriginal camps on the Barron River, where I found 55 natives, consisting of 17 men, 19 women, 14 children and 5 babies in arms. The people are very healthy and 15 of them are at service under agreement, their wages being paid through the Protector. The liquor and opium habit is entirely absent and they are all full-blooded natives. This tribe is represented to be very moral, quiet and good workers. Unfortunately the children, several of whom are of school age, do not receive any tuition, which is to be regretted, as their future life will be much hampered through not being, at any rate, able to read or write a little. The matter of affording these camp children an opportunity to obtain a little education is a difficult problem, the only means presenting itself to me being to adopt the system of itinerant teachers in the districts where there are sufficient aboriginal children to warrant such a course. Where settlements have been established there is no difficulty, as a school is always provided at these places.

From Cairns I found it necessary to go to Cooktown. Some 300 natives frequent this district; they are healthy and plenty of employment is available and there are 130 bank accounts with a credit of £500.

Townsville was next visited, and I inspected several camps in close proximity to the town, the largest of which would number about 30 natives. These people eke out a living by obtaining casual employment with the residents; they are sober and not addicted to opium. Some 90 agreements are in force, and the wages are paid regularly.

At Charters Towers aboriginal matters are running very smoothly, there are 95 banking accounts, with a credit of £1,052. Opium in very small quantities still finds its way to the aborigines, but liquor is not much in evidence. A very good system has been introduced by the Protector, in persuading the natives under agreement to let him know of their wants in the way of clothes, &c., which he then buys for them and sends the articles on by parcel post. This has been the means of preventing the natives buying from hawkers, who, it was found, were charging exorbitant prices for the goods they sold to aborigines, and has helped to swell the savings of the boys and girls.

A camp of about 25 or 30 natives remain at Millichester and Sandy Creek, who will not work, but loaf about the town, and, I fear, are much demoralised. I think it would be in the interests of these people to remove them from their present environment.

At Hughenden there are about 147 aborigines, 130 males and 17 females, 120 of whom are under agreement; the banking accounts number 127, with a credit balance of £1,590. The Protector says the wages are paid regularly, but here a little opium, and now and then some drink, is in evidence. Quite recently nine convictions have been obtained for supplying aborigines with liquor or opium.

In the Winton district, which was my next place of call, there are only a few natives, most of whom have a camp near the town. They give no trouble whatever, and are making a living by working for the residents.

In the Longreach district, I learnt from the Protector, there were fifty-eight agreements in operation and ninety-six accounts in the bank, showing a credit of over £1,472. Since the division of this district and the appointment of Protectors at Birdsville and Windorah, and the transfer of Alpha to the Rockhampton District, the work affecting aborigines is much more readily and conveniently managed. No trouble is experienced in regard to either opium or liquor. Employers pay the wages regularly, and to show how intelligent and useful some of the natives become, it is interesting to learn that two boys are employed as chauffeurs on motor-cars, and one of these boys is capable of taking the machinery apart and replacing it properly; in fact he is practically in full charge of the car and thoroughly understands the work.

On my return journey to Brisbane a visit was made to the settlement at Barambah, which has now reached a stage at which it is most necessary considerable expansion in the way of buildings be taken in hand, and since my return, a proposal has been placed before the Hon. the Home Secretary to carry out the erection of several necessary structures. The herd of cattle are doing exceptionally well, but the cultivation, owing to unfavourable weather and other adverse conditions, has not made the progress one would wish. An additional area of land has been taken in for cultivation, and is being ploughed, and will be planted in due course.

Many of the more industrious people are forming small gardens around their dwellings, and some very creditable efforts have been made in this direction. It is proposed to give the elder school children some instruction in gardening, which I think will produce beneficial results. Barambah Settlement may now be considered as firmly and successfully established, and, although satisfactory progress against many adverse conditions has so far been made, I have great hopes that during the next two or three years the place will make still greater progress and become entirely independent of any outside assistance whatever.

In September I found it necessary to visit the new Aboriginal Settlement at Taroom, where I found most satisfactory progress had been made. A paddock of 650 acres was securely enclosed, and most of it ringbarked, a good stock-yard with milking and killing yards erected, together with temporary quarters for the Superintendent and his family, besides a good camp with shelter for the natives. Some 300 acres of scattered pear had been cleared and more than half the number of fencing posts required to enclose the reserve had been cut. Originally the number of natives on the place was about seventy; at the time of my visit the number had increased to over 100. Considering this settlement had been in existence for only a few months, the progress made is more than satisfactory, and the Superintendent, Mr. Addison, is deserving of every credit and encouragement to continue the good work. The health of the people was very good indeed, but it must be borne in mind many old and very sick people take refuge at these settlements. At an interview with the inmates they expressed themselves as well satisfied and appeared to be contented and happy. The area set apart for an aboriginal reserve at Taroom comprised only about 1,500 acres, but this has been found too small for the purpose of making the undertaking successful. It is now proposed to add considerably to the area, and, with the approval of the Hon. the Home Secretary, I propose to depasture a number of sheep on the reserve, for which purpose, when properly cleaned up, the land is very suitable.

During the past year many of my suggestions have been given effect to, and steps are being taken to form additional settlements, to be under Government control, in different localities in the State where aborigines are still in fair numbers. One of the establishments will be in the Innisfail or Johnstone River district, another in the Peninsula on the Pascoe River, and one at Mornington Island. It has been found that, once the natives have learnt the value to themselves of these settlements, there is no difficulty in inducing them to permanently reside there. The certainty of a regular food supply and other comforts in the way of medical attention and clothing is soon appreciated by them, and the difficulty is to get them away from the settlement rather than to induce them to remain there. Again, the advantages to the natives who live on the settlements are many. The men learn to be self-reliant and useful, so they have no trouble in obtaining employment at good wages, and the children are taught to read and write, besides other useful work, such as sewing and household duties for the girls, whilst the boys learn something of milking, gardening, and other light duties, besides being taught to be obedient. These lads at the age of twelve or fourteen are eagerly sought after and can readily obtain good employment as stockmen, &c., on the pastoral holdings. The girls also have no difficulty in finding suitable places and, experience goes to show, they soon become capable servants and command good wages.

I venture to say had the system of segregating the aborigines of this State on reserves under Government control been carried out years ago,

we would still have many of the tribes with us that have now become extinct, and the deplorable spectacle of many of these simple untutored people becoming the victims of drink, opium, and disease would not be in evidence. There is still time to do a great deal of good with those remaining, and it is pleasing to be able to say the Government are now taking steps to protect in a practical way the few thousand still with us, and who, in common humanity, demand our attention and help.

In intellectual capacity the aborigines have been held to occupy a low position in the scale of humanity. Certainly they do not appear to have descended from a higher condition of civilisation, for from my observations there are no traces of such transition anywhere; nor, on the other hand, is there any evidence that they have advanced in any degree from their primal condition. That they are capable of permanent improvement has been amply demonstrated when the work of the settlement is reviewed, and that they have proved themselves apt pupils in adopting the benefits of civilisation when properly controlled is beyond cavil.

They certainly are much like children, and at first their brain would seem to be only partially developed and incapable of being instructed beyond a certain limit, but when handled in a sympathetic and experienced manner, it is found their perceptive faculties are great. This is evidenced in their skill as trackers and in many other ways, even equalling, if not exceeding, the American Indian in this respect. Their manufactures are of the rudest kind, being confined to mats, nets, bark canoes, and weapons for hunting and war. No attempt at any textile fabric has been known to have been made by them, nor do they appear to have any idea of invention or improvement in their articles of daily use; yet, under the supervision of a white teacher, they readily learn to sew and make garments, and in other directions are very apt pupils.

Any person who has become well acquainted with the habits of the aborigines will have remarked the absence of the faculty of invention which they manifest. The power of calculation they possess in a very small measure, but the power to invent, if it ever existed, seems to have died out altogether. An aborigine will imitate what he sees others do, but it seems impossible for him to originate a fresh way of doing anything, or to improve upon the method which he has been taught.

It has been advanced that human languages were developed from the utterances natural to animals. If this were true we might expect to find amongst the aborigines a language very little superior to the cries of the beasts of the field. But what do we find? That they possess a language which is remarkable for the complexity of its structure, the number of its inflections, and the precision with which it can be used. Although the number of words contained in it are comparatively few, perhaps not more than two or three thousand, yet they seem to be the remnants of a tongue rather than a

language in process of development. The names of human relationships are more copious than in English. In many respects there is a nicety of expression not found in our own language. They possess the faculty of learning other languages readily, but do not appear to have any power to invent language.

The natives follow many customs of a most laborious and burdensome character, involving much suffering and having strange rites connected with them. But while these people observe them with great exactness and particularly, they can give no account of their meaning or origin. Perhaps, like many religious ceremonies of our own, the meaning has died out and they are now observed only from superstitious ceremonialism.

The aborigine in his uncivilised state, from childhood to old age, devotes the whole purpose of his life to the gratification of his appetite and passion. He seeks to extract the utmost sweetness from mere animal pleasures, and consequently his nature becomes embruted. The aborigine eats and drinks with a whole devotion and seriousness which shows that every faculty is absorbed in the occupation. The passions are never restrained, except so far as custom prescribes, and consequently assume an imperious character; the man is entirely under their sway and gratifies them to the utmost, although the body should die from the indulgence.

The natives are passionately fond of music and singing, accompanied with beating on a shield with a club, knocking two boomerangs or nulla-nullas together, or striking themselves on the thighs with open hands; leaping, dancing, and clapping of hands is one of the chief amusements of their merry corrobories. The words on these occasions are often extempore and simple enough, but any joyous idea which may occur to the principal performer, who acts the part of master of ceremonies, is immediately expressed in the cadence of the song, and repeated again and again by the delighted company. Games in mock imitation of a kangaroo or emu, in which the bodies of the performers are fantastically painted and decorated, are also a never-failing accompaniment to these jovial gatherings, which, at least in their native and unsophisticated state, are never in any way disgraced by unseemly conduct.

This amusement always takes place at night by the light of blazing fires. They dance to beaten time, accompanied by a song. The dancers paint themselves white, in such remarkably varied ways that no two individuals are at all alike. The surrounding darkness seems necessary to give due effect, all these dances being more or less dramatic; the painted figures coming forward in mystic order from the obscurity of the background, whilst the singers and beaters of time are invisible, making a highly theatrical effect. Each dance seems most tastefully progressive, the movement being at first slow, and introduced by two persons, displaying the most graceful motions, both of arms and legs, whilst others one by one drop in, until each individual is wearing the truly savage attitude

of the corroboree jump, the legs striding to the utmost, the head turned over one shoulder, the eyes glaring and fixed with savage energy in one direction, the arms raised and inclined towards the head, the hands usually grasping one or other of their war-like weapons. The excitement which this dance produces in the savage is very remarkable. However listless the individual, lying half asleep perhaps, as is often the case when not intent on game, set him to this dance and he is at once fired with sudden energy, every nerve is strung to such a degree that he is no longer to be recognised as the same individual.

The identity of the aboriginal race does not imply an absolute identity of manners, customs, and practices all over the State. Certain customs appear to have become obsolete in particular districts, certain habits have been gradually disused, as being less adapted probably to the climate or locality. For example, it cannot be doubted that the custom of losing a tooth at the age of puberty, as well as the wearing of a bone, a shell, or other ornament in a perforation made for the purpose in the cartilage of the nose, and other similar practices, were ancient and universal customs. Although some of the tribes still adhere to the practices, others have quite discarded them, and as these people are brought more and more into contact with civilisation so these old customs and traditions disappear.

The same differences, evidently suggested by the climate, and the habits and pursuits of the natives of different districts, are observable in their habitations. Where the nature of the country, as well as their own inclinations, bind the natives to a migratory life, as well as in the interior generally, a mere breakwind composed of bushes or a piece of bark arranged in a semi-circular form constitute their miserable dwelling. But in localities where food is abundant, in the way of fish, &c., the native huts are of a more substantial and superior character, the frame being composed of strong vines, crossing each other in all directions and bound together at the intersections; the covering is generally of tea-tree bark, and is so compactly laid on as to keep out the wind and rain.

So far as the aborigines of our State are concerned, it is evident a sympathetic interest is now being taken in their welfare, and action is being taken in many directions by the Minister at the head of the Department to provide for their care, and I feel very confident that during the next few years sufficient progress will be made to dissipate the present idea of the incapability of these people. In fact the experience already gained shows they are capable of much improvement, are quick and intelligent, and most readily adapt themselves to almost any conditions of life. The one imperative factor in training aborigines to useful occupations is to have officers over them who are really practical men, and whose temperament is such as to be able to exercise a very large amount of patience, being firm when occasion requires, but on the other hand kind and sympathetic when necessary. Such officers soon win the confidence of the natives, and there is little trouble in controlling and teaching them.

Aboriginal Girls, Brisbane.

The number of girls out at domestic service from this office at the end of the year was 169, and during the preceding twelve months 183 agreements, in nearly every case for a twelve months' term, were entered into by them. These numbers show a remarkable steadiness among them, due mostly to the practice followed of placing them in country situations, where the conditions of living are much more natural to and healthy for them. Fully 70 per cent. of the girls are now in country situations, and the remainder, being principally those who have been for years in the one situation and who re-engage with the same employer, are only allowed to remain in or near the city under those conditions and subject to good behaviour.

The amount of wages collected and placed to the girls' credit in the Savings Bank was £1,330 3s. 8d., and the withdrawals, for cash advances and in payment for clothes purchased, amounted to £1,044 7s. 2d. The amount standing to their credit in the Government Savings Bank on the 31st of December was £1,859 15s. 4d.

During the year three girls married well and went away to work with their husbands. There were no deaths. The numbers were considerably increased by contingents from Barambah, Deebing Creek, and St. Vincent Orphanage of girls reaching the age where suitable occupation became desirable. All these young girls were sent to the country and most encouraging reports have been received of many of them, as to their healthy, happy appearance and contented behaviour. These girls are naturally fond of children and animals, and the country life, with its plain food, abundance of fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs, and butter, outdoor occupations among the animals and fowls they are so fond of, and regular hours, is from every point of view the best for them.

To allow the Department to keep in more regular touch and exercise more supervision over the girls while in their situations, whether near or distant, an additional Protector has been appointed, whose duty it is to visit the girls while at work, satisfy herself as to their accom-

modation and treatment, and listen to complaints from either employer or girl, reporting all matters of importance to the office for instruction. It is hoped by this means to not only satisfy ourselves of the comfort and welfare of the aboriginal women in service, but to keep a close watch upon their behaviour in and out of doors and help to better maintain discipline among them.

The health generally has been good. A good deal of money has been spent by them on their teeth, more perhaps than many white girls can afford, but I think this expenditure has been justified, judging by their general good health. A restraining hand has to be kept on them, for they would, if not checked, have all fillings done with gold, regardless of cost, and I regret to say many of the dentists, with an eye to business, encourage them in these desires. Cases of sickness have as usual been treated at the General Hospital or prescribed for by Dr. Dods, the Government Medical Officer, at his surgery or at the Salvation Army Women's Shelter.

Eleven girls had to be placed in the Salvation Army Maternity Home for confinement during the year, and six children were born alive and two stillborn. Three of the children afterwards died. Agreements for payment of maintenance of these illegitimate children were obtained from the putative fathers in five cases, one of these men afterwards marrying the girl. Confinement expenses were recovered in one case of stillbirth, and another man married the woman in preference, both being apparently desirous of arranging it so. Eight young children were boarded at the Salvation Army Homes at Breakfast Creek and Yeronga, and four at the St. Vincent's Orphanage, Nudgee. Visits of inspection were paid by an officer at intervals, and both those institutions are to be complimented on the healthy and happy appearance of the children under their care. Much valuable assistance has been rendered to the Department by the Police, the Government Medical Officer, Medical Superintendent of the General Hospital, and the Matron and staff of the Salvation Army Homes, in looking after, treating, and attending the girls, without which our efforts would have been much less successful.

LABOUR CONDITIONS.

TABLE I.—DISTRIBUTION OF PERMITS, &c., APPOINTMENTS OF PROTECTORS (1910 AND 1911).

Issued in the Petty Sessions District of—	Protector.	Stationed at—	Date of Appointment.	1910.				1911.			
				MALES.		FEMALES.		MALES.		FEMALES.	
				Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.
Somerset	Lee Bryce, Wm. M.	Thursday Island	18-11-11	51	5	545	...	...	...
Cairns, Mareeba	Malone, Hugh, Inspector	Cairns	22-7-11	148	37	132	...	55	...		
Cook, Palmer	Bodman, F., Sergeant	Cooktown	2-7-08	139	6	119	...	17	...		
Coen	Whelan, Daniel, Sergeant	Coen	16-8-11	27	55	7	5	37	8	63	1
Norman	Brett, Geo., Inspector and Sutton, Geo., Acting-Sergeant	Normanton	9-10-11 16-12-11	47	4	20	34	...	4	...	
Etheridge	O'Neill, Jas., Sub-Inspector	Georgetown	11-3-11	45	...	2	53	1	2	...	
Cloncurry, Camooweal	Byrnes, R. J., Sub-Inspector	Cloncurry	19-6-09	40	5	59	...	8	...		
Mackay	Quinn, M., Sub-Inspector	Mackay	7-1-11	33	3	37	...	3	...		
Ayr, Bowen, Cardwell, Ravenswood, Townsville	Sweetman, E. J., Sub-Inspector	Townsville	22-9-11	44	6	4	132	...	14	...	
Ingham	Connolly, P., Acting Sergeant	Ingham	11-12-10	50	7	60	...	3	...		
Charters Towers, Cape River	Graham, R. M., Sub-Inspector	Charters Towers	11-10-06	82	8	133	...	8	...		
Hughenden, Richmond	Pontley, M., Sub-Inspector	Hughenden	28-1-11	186	18	21	104	...	14	...	
Winton	Dillon, Geo., Sergeant	Winton	4-6-10	13	5	36	13	...	4	...	
Boulia	Gurn, John Joseph, Constable	Boulia	15-4-11	1	45	15	5	51	...	21	...
Adavale, Augathella, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Thargomindah	O'Connor, J. F., Sub-Inspector	Charleville	19-6-09	40	23	16	143	...	28	...	
Aramac, Barcardine, Blackall, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaborra, Tambo	McGrath, J., 2nd-class Inspector	Longreach	26-6-09	84	20	41	57	...	5	...	
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Stanthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Toohy, Daniel, Inspector	Toowoomba	8-10-11	3	...	2	
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Tenningering, Tiaro	Short, Patrick, Inspector	Maryborough†	9-7-10	728	8	646	...	37	...		
Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure, Alpha	Quilter, J., Inspector	Rockhampton	30-9-11	71	31	...	...	...	...
Bollon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Kelly, J., Sub-Inspector	Roma	24-12-10	10	32	6	4	20	20	...	2
Beaudesert, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Dugandan, Esk, Gatton, Goodna, Harrisville, Ipswich, Laidley, Logan, Marburg, Maroochy, Nerang, Redcliffe, Rosewood, South Brisbane, Woodford	Geraghty, James, Inspector	Brisbane*	2-12-11	29	...	32	49	
Brisbane, &c. (for aboriginal females)	Whipham, K. A. (Mrs.) and Beeston, E. (Mrs.)	Brisbane*	10-4-09 20-11-11	...	191	183	
Burke	Gilchrist, Geo., Acting Sergeant	Burketown	3-6-11	28	6	29	...	6	...		
Croydon	Sullivan, T., Sergeant	Croydon	6-6-07	2	6	2	3	...	2	...	
Herberton and Thornborough	Martell, E., Acting-Sergeant	Herberton	30-10-09	6	111	13	2	137	...	21	
Mourilyan	McNamara, J., Acting Sergeant	Innisfail	27-1-11	158	12	157	...	6	...		
Port Douglas	Hasenkemp, Henry, Acting Sergeant	Port Douglas	4-6-08	10	3	68	...	4	...		
Burke (west of 139th degree east longitude)	Vacant	Turn-off Lagoon	...	6	26	7	...	...	...
Turn-off Lagoon	Hoey, J., Constable	Windsorah	22-4-11	Previously included in Longreach	15	35	...	...	...
Windsorah	Watson, C. W., Constable	Birdsville	22-4-11	2	20	...	...	...	...
Diamantina				55	2,304	13	441	293	2,846	64	348

* Agreements issued at Chief Protector's Office and at Deebing Creek Mission.

† Including Barambah Settlement, 639.

Ninety trackers were engaged with the Police Department at the various out-stations, but, as stated in last year's report, the low rate of pay does not attract the best men.

TABLE 2.—SHOWING NUMBER OF NATIVES CONTROLLED BY EACH PROTECTOR, WITH SOME IDEA OF CORRESPONDENCE AND PATROL WORK.

LOCAL PROTECTORS.	POPULATION.	LETTERS.		PATROL.	
		Inward.	Outward.	Miles Travelled.	Days Absent.
Boulia	500	160	207	* ...	* ...
Birdsville	300	150	* ...	* ...	* ...
Brisbane	343	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Burketown	250	60	60	1,000	20
Cairns	500	600	500	* ...	* ...
Charleville	270	600	600	* ...	* ...
Charters Towers	200	431	380	* ...	* ...
Cloncurry	200	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Cooktown	400	160	171	334	25
Coen	1,000	* ...	* ...	3,487	137
Croydon	120	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Georgetown	170	195	220	1,210	41
Innisfail	450	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Herberton	620	480	877	800	* ...
Hughenden	159	400	780	* ...	* ...
Ingham	300	50	50	* ...	* ...
Longreach	330	800	800	4,000	* ...
Maryborough	450	452	482	780	30
Mackay	150	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Normanton	600	* ...	142	* ...	* ...
Port Douglas	1,200	130	120	130	6
Roma	350	134	181	700	30
Rockhampton	570	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Thursday Island	2,600	409	330	* ...	* ...
Toowoomba	50	20	20	* ...	* ...
Townsville	480	270	410	960	56
Turn-off Lagoon	200	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Winton	80	120	156	650	40
Windorah	100	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...

* No separate record kept; done in conjunction with police work.

TABLE 3.—ABORIGINES' WAGES HELD IN TRUST BY PROTECTORS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1910 AND 1911, SHOWING DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS DURING THE YEAR.

Government Savings Bank at—	Credit Balance, 1910.	1911.			
		Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Credit Balance.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Croydon	56 16 11	11	26 19 10	9 19 1	84 19 0
Thursday Island	123 5 6	48	165 14 2	49 3 4	260 6 4
Cooktown	454 2 4	115	95 15 4	22 1 6	549 5 3
Cairns	203 13 2	129	142 18 10	43 2 2	303 12 3
Normanton	309 11 10	124	470 12 7	13 11 6	766 12 11
Georgetown	497 11 0	64	437 16 0	328 2 1	603 5 11
Cloncurry	530 7 0	...	...	...	712 13 1
Ingham	221 17 8	118	380 19 4	19 0 0	583 17 0
Townsville	61 18 5	75	556 4 1	28 3 2	581 13 2
Charters Towers	1,688 15 11	110	891 6 7	168 12 2	2,412 2 6
Hughenden	1,590 2 0	132	883 0 6	1,046 10 8	1,480 12 3
Winton	299 4 10	21	154 12 3	128 5 6	410 10 9
Boulia	875 4 11	96	394 5 5	83 16 11	1,185 4 2
Port Douglas	234 1 7	68	171 2 8	11 4 6	400 0 0
Burketown	1,081 2 11	161	173 3 6	38 6 8	1,255 18 11
Mackay	56 11 10	10	18 6 3	22 17 8	52 10 5
Rockhampton	301 8 7	45	356 11 1	196 9 7	456 12 1
Longreach	2,081 13 1	96	344 18 11	59 5 7	1,747 4 10
Charleville	290 9 2	52	211 19 9	154 16 7	364 9 9
Maryborough	161 7 11	123	54 14 3	32 13 7	183 8 7
Barambah (Abor. Settlement)	954 5 4	458	1,455 15 8	1,251 19 3	1,232 7 3
Roma	127 8 4	13	51 0 2	25 3 11	145 14 3
Toowoomba	29 8 3	2	...	...	12 5 1
Brisbane (Aboriginal girls)	1,573 18 10	169	1,330 3 8	1,044 7 2	1,859 15 4
Herberton	495 18 2	159	178 14 4	18 10 0	656 12 6
Innisfail	201 17 7	126	143 0 11	2 0 0	353 12 0
Coen	196 4 11	68	...	...	388 14 4
Birdsville* ... ..	...	38	...	...	316 7 1
Windorah* ... ..	...	50	...	...	550 3 3
Brisbane	3 16 2	12	148 6 3	109 2 6	42 19 11
Total	£14,692 4 2	2,681	...	...	20,153 11 2

* Previously included in Longreach; now separate protectorates.

The almost amazing increase in the amount in the Savings Bank to the credit of natives is satisfactory evidence of the growing popularity of this system now among the natives in employment, and also of the very great interest taken in the welfare and protection of these people by the officers of the Police Department who act as Protectors. It is found that it is not the best policy to keep too tight a hand on the money so banked, as the native is easily made suspicious and discontented. A glance at the list of withdrawals and comparison of them with the deposits in Table 3 will show that this idea has been acted upon. Neither is our native friend allowed to feel the banking system too irksome, for it is seldom found necessary, except where the employee is too young or not intelligent enough to know the value of money, to reserve more than 50 per cent. of the wages earned. A few of our officers were inclined to be a little too strict with the withdrawals and not generous enough with the pocket-money allowance, while others in the neighbouring districts adopted measures the reverse of this. This frequently led to trouble when the natives concerned met and compared notes. As far as possible, now, a uniform scale of deductions and allowances is adopted, subject always of course to the circumstances of the case. Very few employers now raise objections to the reserved pay system, and those few are mostly station managers in the far Western country, who seem to have a deep-rooted objection to paying the aboriginals anything for their services, unless it is coming back again through the station store. The practice of allowing camp natives to take casual employment is still followed and found to work more satisfactorily than the strict letter of the Acts in certain cases. This gives opportunities to some of the old men and women to earn a few shillings washing, scrubbing, wood-chopping, gardening, cleaning up, &c., during the daytime and return to their camps at night. They are mostly paid with old clothes and broken victuals, besides getting two or three good feeds while at work. Anything so earned, it is found, is usually shared with those left in camp. Marsupial shooting and fishing, selling ferns, plants, props, &c., enables many others to eke out a more or less precarious existence. But these old people would not enter into an agreement for a lengthy period, and it would be useless to insist upon their doing so.

Most Protectors speak well of the behaviour of aborigines under agreement. Provided such agreement is not of too long a term, they work well and are contented, but otherwise the "walk-about" spirit sooner or later comes upon them and they crave for a change. Among the younger men, who are perhaps more civilised, there is not so much of this trouble experienced. Good money is earned by many of them at stock and boundary riding, droving, clearing, ring-barking, pear-cutting, &c., and in the sugar districts there is usually a strong demand for their services, where they are paid, in accordance with sugar-bounty conditions, at a minimum rate of 22s. 6d. a week and found. This is a class of work the aborigine is eminently suited for, and provides him with the chance of earning much larger cheques than most of the other branches of employment open for him. Large numbers

are employed by the sandalwood-getters in the Peninsula, cutting the wood and carrying it to the beach. Although owing to the conditions obtaining it is impossible to supervise this class of labour or compel the observance of the strict letter of the Acts with regard to agreements, the natives so engaged seem very satisfied with their treatment, and, if not highly paid, seem to get well fed.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

Practically the whole of the labour supply of the Northern point of the Peninsula and the Torres Strait islands is absorbed by the pearling and bêche-de-mer industry, with the exception of course of those Torres Strait Islanders who work boats of their own on the communal system. The rate of wages varies from 30s. to £2 10s. per month, and the men, after being passed by the local Protector, are signed on articles or discharged in the regular way as seamen before the Government Shipping Master, with this exception—that the wages of Bingham or mainlanders are paid, at discharge, in full to the Protector, no deductions for slop-chest being allowed. In his report to this office, Mr. Lee Bryce, the Protector says—

“ A fair number of mainland boys are employed on bêche-de-mer boats, and as the greater part of their earnings is expended under the supervision of the Government agent, both they and their relatives benefit by their labour.

“ A few of the islanders have placed portion of their earnings in the Government Savings Bank, and every endeavour is being made to induce others to adopt a similar procedure in order to prevent their running into debt when the boats require repair or the people run short of food.

“ A problem now engaging the attention of the teachers is what to do with the boys of fifteen and sixteen years of age leaving school, and they are endeavouring to obtain positions for them on diving boats attached to the large fleets, where the discipline is fairly strict, in preference to allowing them to be absorbed by the native crews, who, in many instances, are extremely lazy and will not work except when it is necessary to replenish the tucker bags.”

“Melbidir.”

During the early months of the year the ketch was laid up at Cooktown under care of the mate and crew, the master, Captain J. H. Schluter, being absent in Brisbane on leave and undergoing medical treatment. On 15th March he took command of her again and reported finding all in good order. A week later, by instructions from head office, she was taken out on a trip to Low Island to assist the local harbour-master in replacing beacons and buoys, carrying stores to lightship, &c., the work lasting about two weeks. Patrol of the coast was made for some distance north of Cooktown and then south to Townsville, returning in time to meet the Hon. the Home Secretary and party at Lloyd Bay, and proceeding afterwards to Thursday Island. Some trips round Torres Strait and to the main-

land were made, the former with the Chief Protector on board, then she returned to Cooktown under instructions to proceed to Brisbane for the purpose of overhaul and to have an engine installed. She arrived in Cooktown on the 10th July, and after patching a sprung mast left on the 21st for Brisbane. Before leaving Cooktown, Captain Schluter, who for some time had been in very indifferent health, was ordered by his medical adviser not to go to sea again in her, but, as he was unable to obtain a competent man to take his place, he decided to bring her on to Brisbane himself. At Mackay he was taken seriously ill and had to enter a hospital, where he died on the 19th August. The ship was brought on to Brisbane by a temporary master, and immediately handed over to the Harbours and Rivers Department for the installation of the engine. A fine Wilson 24-h.p. engine has now been fitted in her and Acting-Sergeant Malcolm Smith, who has had many years nautical experience in Torres Strait and Gulf waters in the Water Police service, and is also versed in the management of motor engines, took up the position as master in succession to the late Captain Schluter.

It is only right I should here pay the last fitting tribute to the memory of the man who, during the many years of my acquaintance with him, both as an officer of my Department and as a friend, was held by me and by every person whose good fortune it was to be associated with him, in the greatest respect and regard. Captain Schluter's whole heart lay in his ship and his work, and, staunch to the last, he literally died in harness. He had, at all times and in many difficult and trying circumstances, proved himself a fearless seaman and skilful navigator, and, by his methodical habits and practical care of the vessel, evidenced by the great saving effected in the cost of her upkeep, shown himself to be in all branches of his profession a thorough seaman.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Certificates of exemption from the provisions of the Acts were granted by the Minister, under Section 33 of the 1897 Act, to five females and one male. All six applicants were half-castes, of above the average intelligence, the ages ranging from seventeen to thirty-five years. Several applicants were refused, for if it is not considered to be in the interests of the native to grant such freedom, this office promptly declines to recommend the request.

RECOGNISANCES.

Only thirty-five bonds were entered into by employers for the return of natives taken out of their own districts to work, and as all natives were returned as per agreement, no occasion arose for enforcing any of the bonds so entered into.

FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

The following list shows the various centres at which relief rations were distributed to indigent natives and the average amount issued:—

Centre.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Ayr	1	16	5
Badu	0	7	9
Annandale	2	10	0
Bedourie	2	13	0

Centre.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
Betoota	4	0	0
Birdsville	4	10	6
Boulia	5	0	0
Bowen	1	2	6
Buckingham Downs	2	0	0
Burketown	6	10	0
Cape Bedford	7	0	0
Clarke River	1	5	0
Coen	1	10	0
Croydon	10	0	0
Diamantina (retired trooper)	1	10	0
Diamantina (camp natives)	7	10	0
Duaringa	0	10	0
Emerald	0	15	0
Eidsvold	0	12	6
Hammond	2	15	0
Keeroongooloo	5	0	0
Kuranda	0	10	0
Laura	2	0	0
McDonnell	3	0	0
Milchester	1	15	0
Mein	1	0	0
Moreton	1	0	0
Mount Perry	0	18	0
Musgrave	0	12	6
Nocundra	1	2	6
St. George	3	0	0
Thornborough	2	10	0
Thylungra	3	0	0
Tinenburra	5	0	0
Urandangie	3	0	0
Winton	2	0	0

Five new centres were opened and seven closed, as need for relief lapsed through death or removal of natives. It will be seen that relief issued in this manner has the double disadvantage of being less satisfactory in its use and yet more expensive than that distributed on aboriginal reserves. The average cost per head of outdoor relief to natives is from £9 to £13 per annum, according to circumstances and district, whereas the cost of rationing on a reserve, where there are more facilities for buying cheaper by bulk and preventing waste by the recipients, rarely exceeds £4 10s. a head.

BLANKETS.

The work of distributing the blankets throughout the State was, as usual, superintended by Mr. G. G. McLennan, Government Storekeeper. In his report he says:—

“The work of despatching the blankets to the far distant centres of distribution began in the early part of January of this year, and on the 10th of the following month the despatch was finally completed. Every care was taken as far as possible to ensure the arrival of the blankets at the various centres of distribution in ample time to issue to the blacks before the cold weather began.

“The apportionment of the blankets to each centre of distribution was made in accordance with the Honourable the Treasurer's instructions—viz., by myself in conjunction with the Chief Protector of Aborigines, on the basis of last year's distribution, and, as very few or no complaints were received regarding shortness of supply, it is reasonable to assume that the allotment was satisfactory.

“The instructions regarding distribution have in the majority of cases been closely followed.

“Last year 5,607½ pairs were issued, as against 5,198½ pairs issued this year, the excess in the former year being due to that being the alternative year to supply the Aboriginal Homes, &c.

"No reasonable request for blankets for blacks has been refused. At the same time, every care was taken to prevent duplication of supply in the case of individual blacks.

"The recipients this year were 2,648 men, 2,375 women, 1,243 children, and 31 unspecified persons—total, 6,297. The number of centres of distribution was 142. The total number of pairs distributed was 5,198½.

"As nearly as can be ascertained, the cost of the distribution this year and the attendant expenses were:—

5,198½ pairs, at 8s. 8½d.	£	s.	d.
Forwarding charges, &c., say	2,271	12	8
	100	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£2,371	12	8

"The following comparative table shows the number of blankets issued and the persons benefited during the last ten years, viz.:—

	Pairs.	Persons.
1902 ..	6,858½	8,341
1903 ..	4,914	6,072
1904 ..	4,296½	5,466
1905 ..	4,652½	5,594
1906 ..	5,391	6,704
1907 ..	5,011	6,155
1908 ..	5,622	6,947
1909 ..	5,180½	6,335
1910 ..	5,607½	7,091
1911 ..	5,198½	6,297

"The distributors were mostly Police officers, and the work of distribution was performed by them in a very satisfactory manner."

DRINK AND OPIUM.

It is gratifying to be able to report again this year that, owing to the vigilance of the Police and the severe measures taken against offenders, the use of drink and opium by the blacks is decreasing in many of our districts. In most Northern centres opium is practically unknown, and, since sending out the circular referred to last year acquainting the country benches of their inability to reduce the minimum fine for supplying drink or opium, a great decrease is reported by many of the Protectors in the supply of liquor. At Thursday Island, it is stated, very few of the Torres Straits Islanders can be accused of being addicted to drink, though it is difficult to secure reliable evidence or obtain convictions owing to the number of other coloured people who are not so restricted. Japanese, Manila, and Malay recruiters are still accused of introducing grog along the coast of the Peninsula to obtain labour for the bêche-de-mer industry. From the Gulf country and the far Western districts good reports are received of the non-prevalence of the use of both opium and drink, except an odd case of a Chinese having opium or opium charcoal in possession, or of a few of the old natives getting a glass of grog from someone hanging around an hotel. Opium seems most plentiful in the Northern-Central coastal districts. At Cairns there were sixty-seven opium prosecutions and seven cases of supplying liquor, in Charters Towers seven opium and one drink cases, at Innisfail ten opium cases with fines amounting to £140. At Herberton, the use of opium is very prevalent

among the natives and prosecution cases are of almost daily occurrence. Most of these Protectors report a growing inclination for morphine among the natives, this drug being supplied to them by the Chinese in place of opium. Most of the Southern Protectors report drink as being more or less prevalent, but very little opium. It is noticed that the two evils are seldom found together.

During the year proceedings were successfully undertaken in twenty-seven cases of supplying liquor to blacks, and fines and costs amounting to £566 12s. 6d. imposed. For supplying or being in possession of opium, there were eighty-eight cases, with fines, &c., amounting to £1,119 15s. 4d. The opium convictions were nearly all obtained against Chinese.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

There has been no relaxation of the efforts of the officers of the Department this year in the interest and protection of the young women and children. It is these who are practically the most responsible and anxious of the Department's charges, for it is in the rising generation and in the prospective mothers of the generations to come that all our hopes for the uplifting of the race centre. In the camps, especially those nearest civilisation, the condition of the young unmarried woman and the girl is almost invariably such as to excite pity. The absence of that moral will power which it would be unreasonable to expect to find in these women when one looks back over the centuries of a degraded and down-trodden existence, and often the necessities of their existence, make them a peculiarly easy prey to the evils assailing them. That they will eventually become prostitutes, if not transported to a healthier atmosphere, is almost inevitable, and it is just as certain then that the terrible venereal disease will claim them as victims. Wherever possible, employment is found for them with respectable families, and failing that, they are removed to a reserve, where they will receive proper care and attention and, when old enough, be allowed to marry among their own people.

Quite a number of these weddings were celebrated at the Barambah Settlement last year. Double weddings are of fairly frequent occurrence, the couples invariably asking to be legally married by a clergyman, a request which, needless to say, is always granted, the occasion being fitly celebrated by the happy couples and their friends. Although it is doubtful whether in all cases they fully understand the binding nature of the ceremony, or can enter fully into our ideas of the sanctity of marriage, still it will be agreed it is a step in the right direction.

Where it is their desire, and it appears to the Protector to be for their welfare, the women are allowed to marry men of other nationalities. Most of these brides are half-castes themselves or women who have perhaps been living for years with the men in question. In all these cases the legal marriage is insisted upon. During last year twenty-one such permits were allowed, the nationalities of the men being—Pacific Islanders 13, Negro 1, Maori 1, Cingalese



1, Japanese 1, Europeans 4. These seem to have all been well advised, for no complaints of neglect or ill-treatment have been received.

But it is not only the young women that suffer in the camp, but the young children also. Half-starved and sometimes wholly naked, living and sleeping often with the camp dogs in a condition of filth and neglect, is it any wonder that these poor little creatures are often found affected with almost incurable diseases, many of which are of venereal origin, either hereditary or contracted? For them the transfer to a reserve is like being born into a new life. Under a supervision the strictness of which probably at times is irksome to them, they are regularly and sufficiently fed, decently and suitably clothed, medically treated, provided with healthy amusement, given some education in subjects calculated to be of future use to them, and last, but not least, sheltered and protected from the injurious effects, both to mind and body, of the open depravity of the camp.

In addition to the girls and children rescued by the local Protectors and sent to service, 36 were removed by the Minister's order to the settlements at Barambah and Taroom, and two young girls were received at the Yarrabah Mission. Three children were also committed to the Mapoon Industrial School by the bench at Burketown. The number of children now in the Industrial Schools, for which an extra grant of 2s. 6d. a week each is paid, is as follows:—Mapoon 5, Yarrabah 8, Deebing Creek 5. At Barambah Settlement, which is also an Industrial School, there are 9 who were committed by the bench and 24 who were removed there under Minister's order.

HEALTH.

Judging by the reports of the various Protectors, the health of the aborigines generally has been good. There were practically no epidemics on the mainland, but a serious outbreak of dysentery is reported from Thursday Island. It was found necessary to establish a temporary isolation hospital at Prince of Wales Island, and, in addition to regular supplies of medicines and disinfectants issued, houses were fumigated and bedding and clothing affected destroyed. The Protector speaks highly of the loyalty and zeal of the European teachers in assisting to stamp out the scourge. Forty-two cases were fatal, thirty of these deaths being of Mabuiag natives, including seventeen school children, who lost their lives, as the teacher says, through the cursedness and stupidity of the natives, who were too lazy and superstitious to assist in the measures taken for their relief. Nearly all districts report venereal disease as being more or less prevalent, but it is really impossible to judge correctly, as the natives are very reticent about it, and will allow themselves to get almost beyond human aid before acknowledging their condition. Every year the need for the establishment of a Lock Hospital, for the isolation and treatment of natives suffering from this terrible disease, is becoming more apparent, not only in the interests of the black races, but of the white races also. Several of the medical officers report that there is no doubt a great deal of venereal disease spread among the young white population by aborigines camped near the towns. A great deal of casual treatment

is given by these medical officers, of which practically no record is kept, and it is significant that a large proportion of these cases are venereal trouble, usually gonorrhœa. In the Southern districts the principal complaints were phthisis, pneumonia, pleurisy, gonorrhœa and kindred complaints. Twenty-two cases of sickness were treated at the Brisbane Hospital and 1 at Ipswich, and 18 deaths were reported. At Maryborough, 10 deaths were reported, and 1 man was removed to Peel Island as a leper. At Toowoomba, 10 patients were treated in the hospital, and there were 4 deaths. In the West, a number of natives received temporary treatment from Police medicine supplies, principally for gonorrhœa and syphilis. About 36 old people died from debility or senile decay, 1 being an advanced syphilis case. Charters Towers reports 29 cases of sickness, of which 13 were treated in the hospital and 8 proved fatal. At Herberton, consumption and venereal are prevalent, and an objectionable and injurious practice is followed by some of the natives of carrying the dead bodies of their relatives around on their travels, thus unnecessarily causing the spread of a good deal of disease. At Ingham, venereal is very prevalent, and 5 cases were placed under treatment. In the Gulf districts there has been very little sickness, a few venereal and phthisis cases, 5 deaths being reported, mostly senile decay or natural causes. In the Coen district venereal is found among the natives on the east coast and around the towns. Altogether 151 deaths were reported, of which 48 occurred on the Barambah Settlement and 5 at Taroom, the causes given being Dysentery, 42; pneumonia, 23; bronchitis, 2; senile decay, 13; venereal, 7; phthisis, 7; accidents, 7; blood poison, 1; epidemics, 3; children's complaints, 15; general and unspecified, 31.

On the Mission Stations the health of the natives has been very satisfactory. No serious sickness is reported from Yarrabah, but three deaths are reported from Cape Bedford, of a sickness, the origin of which is doubtful. At Mapoon, the principal complaints were fever, influenza, dysentery, and syphilitic sores. Weipa reports severe influenza at the end of the year, one case developing into pneumonia, but the patient recovered after a month's careful nursing and attention. At Aurukun there was the usual malaria epidemic after the wet season, and the mortality among infants, from the usual infantile troubles, was heavy. At Deebing Creek, an epidemic of dengue fever visited the Mission, and there was one case of typhoid. In Torres Strait Islands, besides the terrible dysentery epidemic already reported, there were a few cases of malaria, diarrhœa, native sores, sandy blight, syphilitic sores, and beri-beri. The natives seem now more subject to epidemic diseases, probably because their "Company" boats give them a wider range of visiting places and thereby greater risk of carrying infection. When it is remembered that on these islands, and at most of the Mission Stations, there is practically no professional medical attention available, the teachers and superintendents having to rely entirely upon themselves and a simple medicine chest, the general absence of fatal sickness is remarkable. The successful treatment under these circumstances of such a variety of more or less serious ailments, speaks well for the skilful care and attention of these officers.

CRIME.

The crime sheet this year, we are glad to report, is not a large one. The credit is as usual due to the Police, who, by their zeal and tactful control of the natives, have kept the record of crime among them down to what cannot be regarded otherwise than a remarkably low one. The following offences and crimes by aborigines were dealt with during the year:—Drunkenness, 120; stealing, 22; disorderly conduct, 17; common assault, 16; obscene language, 12; desertion from hired service, 12; resisting arrest, 5; suspected insanity, 3; indecent assault, 5; murder, 3; unlawfully on premises, 3; attempted rape, 3; carnal knowledge, 1; indecent exposure, 1; unlawfully wounding, 1; unlawful destruction of property, 2; burglary, 1.

Drunkenness, disorderly conduct, common assault, obscene language, resisting arrest, and other minor offences resulting from the use of intoxicating liquor, seem to be most numerous, the really serious crimes of murder, theft, and rape showing a pleasing decrease.

In addition to 4 young girls and 34 children already shown, 69 males and 35 females were removed to Taroom and Barambah Settlements by order of the Minister, either for medical treatment, to remove them from unhealthy surroundings, or to provide them with necessary care and attention.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

This year we have to record the death of another of the Department's oldest and most able officers, in the person of Mr. H. M. Milman, Government Resident, Police Magistrate, and Protector of Aborigines, at Thursday Island. In Torres Strait his loss will be felt most keenly, where he had endeared himself by his whole-hearted and fatherly interest in the welfare of the aboriginal inhabitants of the islands. The duties of Protector were ably carried on by Mr. Stanley Wilson, C.P.S., and Acting Protector, till the arrival of Mr. W. M. Lee Bryce, in December, to succeed the late Mr. Milman. Mr. Lee Bryce, in his report, says:—

“I am quite in accord with the statement in the last report that it is very necessary to have frequent communication with all the islands, more particularly those where European teachers are stationed. At present they are dependent for supplies and mails upon small boats worked by natives, or on the good nature of Japanese divers in charge of the pearling luggers. On some of the islands a few of the residents are inclined to cause trouble, and frequent visits by the Protector would check this tendency and also enable a proper supervision to be exercised; but any scheme of this description can only be effectively carried out if a steamer or other power vessel is at the disposal of the Protector whenever required.

“Small repairs have been effected and additions made to the teachers' quarters on some of the islands, and other very necessary alterations will be completed after the wet season.

“The enforced closure of schools during the dysentery epidemic greatly affected the progress of tuition, but, notwithstanding this unfortunate circumstance, excellent progress was made, and

the intelligence and respectful demeanour of the children is ample testimony of the care bestowed upon them by the teachers.

“The very clear pronouncements by the Home Secretary and yourself to the Samoan missionaries regarding their position on the islands have proved beneficial, and a tactful, yet firm, administration by the teachers will ultimately remove any friction which may now exist. The natives now clearly understand that the Government will not permit its officials to be interfered with in the carrying out of their duties.

“There is a strong demand for labour at a fair wage, and owing to the scarcity of indented labour, there is no excuse for any able-bodied islander being out of employment. Many of them prefer to loaf about on the islands, so long as food can be easily procured, and I think it is worthy of consideration whether some step should not be taken to remove this condition, as the example of these men must have an evil effect on the rising generation.

“No rain fell on many of the islands between April and the end of the year, and as a result most of the young cocoanuts have died, and the gardens were in many instances destroyed. It is more than likely that there will be a shortage of food on several islands, and the Department will be requested to tide them over the 'hungry' period. At present the teachers are doing all they can to encourage the regular planting of nuts, but in some places the supply is short, and many of the older natives are inclined to resent any directions regarding the use of their land or labour. This disinclination to do anything for their own comfort or advancement is typical of the manner in which the more knowing natives throw obstacles in the way of the teachers. Like the labour question, it could best be met by stringent regulations somewhat on the lines of those now in force for the regulation of Papuan villages. The Murray Island people netted £142 from the sale of their copra, and there is no reason why other islands should not derive revenue from the same source, and at the same time provide food for a 'hungry' time.

“Certain of the island boats trade direct with the Papuan Industries Company. They receive £112 per ton for the shell on delivery, and half of the net proceeds over that amount, which the company terms 'bonuses.' As returns of shipments sent during the latter months of 1911 have not come to hand, it is not possible to define the exact position in which the boats stand in order to make a complete comparison with the results obtained by boats worked from this office. The highest price per ton of shell reported up to date is £153. The 'Adam,' 'Argan,' and 'Badu' were practically rebuilt during the year, and this accounts for the heavy debt now due; the 'Dot' was hired to the natives at £2 10s. per month. The debts on the 'Mabuiag' and 'Uropi' included a large quantity of flour supplied to the natives during the 'hungry' time. The debt on the 'Alice' was further reduced in January to £10 11s. The average price of shell sold then was £168 6s. 8d. Quantities of trochus shell, tortoise shell, and copra—netting, respectively, £35 11s. 5d., £6 16s. 7d., and £141 9s. 11d.—were disposed of, bringing the total value of produce returned to the natives through this office to £884 16s. 11d.

"A Mabuia islander named Luffman obtained a large pearl shortly before Christmas, which was sold by the Papuan Industries, Limited, on the following terms—viz., £300 cash and half of anything over that amount it may bring on the London market. Luffman gave £74 to pay off a debt on the island church, and after the payment of other small debts, had a balance of £150, which is held for disbursement to him in a manner approved of by you."

Badu and Moe Islands—

The teacher at Badu, Mrs. E. M. Zahel, reports:—

"The population of Badu is—Males, 67; females, 44; children, 120. There were 10 births—males 4, and females 6; 8 deaths—males 4, and females 4; and 2 marriages. The number of children on the roll is—Girls, 28; boys, 41; and the average attendance was 68·63.

"The progress in the school has not been so marked as last year, owing to so many breaks in the school days. In the beginning of the year the dysentery outbreak compelled the closing of the school for two months, and even after school was opened again, the attendance was very irregular, as no child could attend school if there was dysentery in the family. I am sure this was a good rule, as it stopped the spread of the epidemic, particularly at the time when no cases were allowed to go into the hospital at Thursday Island. The general conduct of the children is good. They are obedient and very eager to learn. The majority have not retentive memories, and, although they can learn quickly, forget as soon. The subjects taught in the school are reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and general knowledge; the children also receive Bible instructions.

"On 2nd May, His Excellency Sir William MacGregor visited Badu, and examined the school. Unfortunately, the school had only been opened a week after having been closed two months, and the children had forgotten a good deal. On 18th May the Home Secretary and party visited and examined the school, and expressed themselves as well pleased with the intelligence of the children. These visitors are well remembered by the children, who often speak of them. The coronation of King George and Queen Mary was celebrated by a big feast in the village and a bonfire at night.

"This past year has not been a very good one for the gardens; there has been so little rain, many of the cocoanuts have died. Quite half of the nuts planted in the school compound in 1910 have died. The natives have started to prepare their gardens for the coming year, but are later than usual on account of the late rains. The natives have a long way to go to their gardens, and many of them have them on adjacent islands, where a whole family go for a week to plant, garden, or prepare the ground. Bush fires did a great deal of damage to the gardens, almost spoiling the pineapple crop. Bananas do well on Badu, but this year has not been so successful as in previous years.

"The Company boats have done fairly well. Early in the year one of the swimmers was killed by a shark, and that put the men off diving for

a while. During the dysentery outbreak the boats did not work regularly, but have done fairly well in November and December. The following are the figures for the Badu Island Company boats for 1911:—Badu, £122 6s. 6d.; Wakaid, £110 4s. 6d.; Argan, £75 14s. 3d.; making a total of £308 5s. 3d. In addition to this amount the Papuan Industries, Limited, gives a bonus of 50 per cent. on the nett profits, and this amount is used for the upkeep of the boats. A number of new houses have been built, and some of the old ones destroyed. The village has been kept clean and tidy, and the people have been very careful since the dysentery.

"At the beginning of the year there was a serious outbreak of dysentery, but, owing to the prompt treatment and the good sense shown by the councillors, there were very few deaths. Some of the people were very much against going into the hospital, and tried to hide from the council when they had dysentery, and a rule had to be made that anyone having a case of dysentery in his house and not reporting would be liable to a fine of £1. We had no more trouble. Up to June we had 32 cases of dysentery, of which 3 were fatal, and there were no more cases until August, when we had 13 cases, of which 2 died. These were two little children who were recovering and were given dugong to eat, and both died within a few days.

"Feverish colds were prevalent during the South-east season, but little or no fever. There is no malaria at Badu; the only cases have been brought here from New Guinea or other islands. Of the deaths during the year, 5 were from dysentery, 1 from heart trouble caused, it is thought, by beri-beri; 1 through the bite of a shark, and one of senile decay. There is one case of syphilis, the same case as mentioned in my last report. The man takes medicine regularly, and has improved a little. There has been good health generally, and at the present time there is no sickness at all. No medical officer visited Badu during the last twelve months.

"During the year seven cases were brought before the court:—Immorality, 3; indecent behaviour, 2; having men from diving boats sleeping ashore, 1; contempt of court, 1. Three of these cases were dismissed with a caution. The fines, amounting to £9 2s. 6d., have been expended in the purchase of medicines, calico, and food for the sick. Five dogs were registered, the amount paid in fees being 5s.

"General regret was expressed at the death of our late Protector, Mr. Milman, the councillors particularly feeling that they had lost a friend as well as a Protector. Two new policemen were appointed during the year, but the councillors are the same as last year."

Moe Island (Adam)—

"In May last, when the Chief Protector visited Badu, at the request of the Adam councillors, I obtained permission to visit Adam, each month, if possible, and assist the councillors in any way that I could.

"The population is—Males, 32; females, 23; children, 42. The births were—Males, 2; females 2. Deaths—Males, 1; females, 1. Marriages, nil.

"During part of 1911 the children from Adam attended school at Badu, but it was not at all satisfactory, and had to be discontinued. I had been making arrangements with the Adam men to come over and build a house at Badu, but that had to be abandoned on account of the dysentery epidemic. For other reasons, I am afraid that only boys will be able to come over for school, the girls are too much responsibility. The arrangement of having a policeman and wife in charge of the children has not been a success, and the councillors found that the policeman had been immoral with one of the big girls, for which offence he was fined and his office taken from him. The gardens on Moa are very good, but, unfortunately, the bush fires destroyed most of this season's crop, and I am afraid there is going to be a very hungry time at Adam. The Company boats have done better than the previous year, as there were more young men to go out. The particulars of the boat earnings are as follows:—'Adam,' £79 16s. 9d.; 'Dot' (rented by the natives), £81 12s. 9d.; total, £161 9s. 6d. The 'Adam' has been thoroughly repaired, and the men are working well.

"There is a new church in course of erection at Adam, made of coral, lime and cement.

"There was no dysentery at Adam early in the year, but several cases in December. There was a good deal of fever in the wet season, but no serious cases. There are a number of children suffering from bad sores, and they are not nearly such fine healthy children as on some of the other islands. That is largely due, I consider, to the frequent visits of the parents to Hammond Island.

"There are 3 councillors and 2 policemen. One of the councillors, Namai, is a particularly intelligent man, and tries very hard to maintain law and order. A number of houses are being built, and the natives are beginning to see the advantage of building off the ground. There are a number of children and adults suffering from what looks like syphilis, but as no medical officer has visited Adam, it is not certain.

"During the year 8 cases were brought before the native court—Immorality, 4; assault, 2; scandal, 1; setting fire to gardens, 1. The fines amounted to £5 11s. Most of this amount has been expended on clothes for the people. One new councillor and one new policeman were appointed during the year."

Darnley Island—

Mr. P. C. Guilletmot, the teacher, reports:—

"The population of Darnley Island is a very mixed one, and consists of natives, Polynesians, Malays, Manilamen, and their offspring. Adults—males 81, females 73; children—males 96, females 62; total, 312. Births—females 3, males 6; deaths—females 4, males 1; marriages, nil. The number of boys on the roll is 56, and girls 38; total 94; and the average attendance—boys 46, girls 32. There has been an improved average attendance during the whole year, the children are also much cleaner in their habits, and have shown much improvement in learning and conduct. The subjects taught are—reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic up to 4th class problems geography (Australia, New Zealand, Europe, and Asia), map and freehand drawing,

grammar, composition, and letter-writing. Some of the older pupils have been attending a good few lessons in sanitation, first aid, and causes and prevention of malaria fever. The pupils have shown great interest in their work throughout the year, their exercise and copy-books show great diligence and are kept spotlessly clean. The attainments of my scholars in reading, spelling, writing, and even some difficult arithmetical problems, have been a surprise to visitors.

"Mrs. Guilletmot has been conducting sewing classes, Mondays and Fridays, and the girls' work and attention have been very encouraging. The older girls have also been taught household work, such as laundry, baking, cooking, &c., but I regret to say that they do not seem to be interested in this kind of work.

"A long spell of dry weather, eight months, has greatly interfered in getting our gardens under way. About 20 fruit trees have been planted, and we experienced great difficulty in keeping them alive, and they had to be watered during three months. About 4 acres of land has been cleared and cleaned by the pupils, and we are now anxiously awaiting a good downpour of rain to enable us to plant cotton. (I regret to say that none of the seeds sent to me from the Kamerunga State Nursery have germinated, although they were well looked after.) It is to be hoped that the cultivation of cotton in the school garden will give an impetus to cotton-growing on the island.

"Great plantations of yams, sweet potatoes, maize, bananas, sugar-cane, &c., have been made this year, but the crops have not come up to expectation, mainly owing to destructive insect pests. Some time ago I addressed the Department about introducing insectivorous birds, and the matter is now under consideration.

"The native-owned cutter 'Erub' has lately been put in good order; new mast, new jibsail, new rigging, and several other minor repairs have been effected, and the two companies have been working well; but, of course, a rather firm hand has to be kept over them continually. I had a very hard tussle with them at first, but now that they see the cutter in good order, and money has come to them as a result of their labour, there is very little obstruction as to the regular and continuous working by the two companies in turn.

"The people have built a school measuring 65 ft. in length, and 22 ft. in width, with verandas on three sides. Grass, plaited cocoanut leaves, bamboo and native hardwood are the materials used. The building is a great credit to them, and it will hold 100 pupils comfortably. Owing to its position and locality, it will be more suitable and much cooler than the present one, *i.e.*, the Mission church. During the north-west season last year several children fainted in the church owing to the heat in that building. We are now anxiously awaiting the arrival of the carpenter and timber to finish the school as to windows, forms, tables, doors, &c.

"The teacher's residence, as previously reported, is in a very unhealthy locality, and owing to its position, behind a hill, not a breath of air will reach the house, with its small dingy rooms,

during the hottest and wettest time of the year, and the occupants are constantly in a bath of perspiration. I sincerely trust that the Department will take pity and remove the house to the hill on which the new school has been erected. Another tank and more guttering, besides some new iron for the roof, are urgently needed. The white ants have done considerable damage to the stumps and framework of the house, for some of the former are completely rotten. At present we have only two tanks, and this, owing to the usual dry seven months in the year, and a large family depending upon them for their water, is not sufficient. For four months we had to use native well water, not the choicest thing in the world.

“The planting of cocoanuts along both sides of the public road, which measures about four miles in length, had been completed in the beginning of the year, but I regret to report that hundreds have been killed by a fire which swept the island in October. The continual dry weather has also dealt with the younger plants rather severely, and many hundreds have died from that cause. We have now a by-law compelling all people to plant at least 50 cocoanuts per family every year for the next five years. Every unmarried person over 15 years has to plant 50 nuts, each householder and father of family is responsible for the planting of ten cocoanuts each, for himself, his wife, and for each of his children attending school. The minimum for each family is 50 nuts. This, no doubt, if continued, will be in time a great source of income to the people. Large areas have already been planted.

“The councillors as well as police have been, with one or two exceptions, very disappointing and irregular in their duties. One councillor has been disgraced for going on board a diving boat and drinking grog, and another for harbouring boats' crews after prohibited hours. Three policemen have struck for higher wages, and there is only one left. They also complain of not getting their uniforms, &c. Owing to the number of diving and other boats regularly visiting the island, the police have a good deal to do, and I respectfully submit that the wages of these men may be increased, or some calico or print be given them for the use of their wives and children.

“The health of the people has been fairly good. We had about five cases of dysentery, but none of them fatal. I gave strict orders that all cases of dysentery had to be reported to me immediately, and as I was well supplied with medicine for that particular complaint, we had good fortune in not losing one person so attacked. Native sores, called ‘tanga,’ and sandy blight have given great trouble to children as well as to adults. No medical officer has visited the island during the year.

“On 26th April, we had the honour of a visit from His Excellency the Governor, Sir William MacGregor, and on 20th May the Honourable the Home Secretary and party arrived here in the Q.G.S.S. ‘Otter’ on an official visit.

“Thirty-six dogs have been registered at Darnley and seven at Stephens Island, at a fee of one shilling each. The dogs should be more highly taxed, at least five shillings each, as they are of no use whatever here, and only run about the place, in a semi-starving condition, spreading

disease. Several people, adults and children, have been severely bitten by these brutes. In every case the dog was shot. Thirty-six minor cases, such as theft, setting fire to grass without permission, fighting, harbouring crew after hours, &c., have come before the native court. Total fines and costs amounted to £25 11s., but we have only been able to collect £16 8s. One Japanese who brought grog ashore, using filthy and abusive language to two councillors and policemen at night, is responsible for £7 5s. 6d. of the moneys which have not been paid. Another case, involving the sum of £1, is held in abeyance until the arrival of the Government Resident. One case of attempted rape on a school girl was sent to Thursday Island, to be dealt with by the Police Magistrate.

“The carrying out of the regulations, dealing with Japanese and others not being allowed to remain ashore between the hours of sunset and sunrise, has created a good deal of trouble and unpleasantness. I seem to be looked upon as the originator of this regulation, and, in consequence, no diving or bêche-de-mer boat will now take our mails or stores.

“Regular monthly council meetings were held at the Court House regarding the upkeep and repair of public roads, bridges, wells, sanitation, &c. Some of the councillors have been attending regularly and have given me serviceable assistance. Several houses have been condemned and new ones of a superior build erected in their stead. A new by-law compels all householders to erect closets instead of the old filthy method of making indiscriminate use of the adjacent bush without any pretence to privacy or decency. With very few exceptions the villages are now clean and present a better aspect, and it is no doubt due to these sanitary regulations, which are strictly enforced, that the health of the people has shown great improvement.”

Mabuiag Island—

The teacher, Mr. W. C. Minnis, reports:—

“The school was opened after Christmas holidays on the 23rd of January, when 70 children were enrolled—32 boys and 38 girls.

“Unfortunately an epidemic of dysentery was brought to our island from Saibai, when the school was closed, as per instructions from Mr. Milman, our local Protector, from the 10th of March until 15th of May, when it was reopened. During that time I lost 17 of my school children through cursedness, superstition, and stupidity, and the parents not doing what they were told; altogether we had 30 deaths from the disease. It was a time never to be forgotten by the natives nor by myself.

“The boats have not done so well this year as in the previous year, but the weather was not so favourable. The ‘Uropi’ cutter earned over £190, the ‘Mabuiag’ over £115, the ‘Lacandola’ over £60. Besides, Luffman, the owner of the ‘Lacandola,’ found a very nice pearl, which Mr. Walker, of the Papuan Industries, sold for him on the following terms:—£300 advance, and of anything over or above that it may realise in the London market, half goes to finder and half to the purchaser. I do not know what the natives would do if they had not boats. Besides, fifteen

of our young men have signed on diving boats at £2 10s. per month, and that always brings in a certain amount of food and money monthly.

“The gardens have not done so well this year on account of it being an exceptionally dry one, but still the natives have had sufficient for their needs. A great many of the young coconuts planted last season died, and all the young nuts planted in the compound died with one exception, but we will replant again this year. Last season has been one of the worst seasons on record.

“Any house that had sickness in it I had pulled down and all the grass and old mats burnt, and new houses built, also new mats made, taking all precautions in case of a recurrence of the dysentery epidemic during the north-west season. The village is well looked after and kept clean.

“The number of children on the school roll at the breaking up for holidays was 28 boys and 39 girls, total 67. The number of days the school was open was 183. The average attendance was—boys 26 and girls 35.

“The subjects taught are reading, writing, arithmetic (simple and compound rules), geography (principally local and Australian), and singing. The children conduct themselves well, come clean and tidy to school; in fact, I will not have a dirty child in school, I impress upon them that they have quite as much right to come to school clean as to go to church clean, and there is quite a rivalry among the children as to which will look the nicest, so I have no trouble in that respect. Mrs. Minniss still continues her classes for the senior girls for sewing, &c., and also teaches all the singing.

“Only one case came before the court; it was a trumped-up charge, and was dismissed.

“The population is 242; there were 12 births, 38 deaths, and 2 marriages.

“To the amounts mentioned in my report as earned by native cutters, you have to add 50 per cent. bonus when the Papuan Industries get their returns for the shell from London. I am sorry to say both cutters are at the present time in debt, ‘Uropi’ £52 16s. 11d., ‘Mabuiag’ £113 10s. 1d. These debts were incurred during the time of the dysentery, for flour and other stores and repairs to the boats. I suggested at the time that one boat should be out working, while the other was kept in the island, but was overruled by the council, as there is a lot of jealousy among the different clans. The ‘Uropi’ crowd would have nothing to do with the ‘Mabuiag,’ or the ‘Mabuiag’ with the ‘Lacandola.’ Mr. Walker says the bonuses will pay the debts, but I am afraid the shell must be found first.”

Murray Island—

The school teacher, Mr. J. S. Bruce, reports:—

“The school was opened after the Christmas vacation on the 23rd January; but a large number of the children had been visiting Thursday Island with their parents during the holidays, and did not return until the 30th, when there were 102 enrolled. The children in each of their class divisions have made fair progress in the

year’s work. The attendance was fairly regular except when broken by sickness, and their conduct has been good. The monitors gave good assistance and were very regular in their attendance. The number of children on the roll is 109, being 55 boys and 54 girls, the average during the year being—boys 44.2 and girls 48.2.

“There were thirty-four cases before the court during the year, amongst them a number of slight assault cases. The old custom of club law, when ‘might was right,’ for the settling of their tribal and other dissensions, has gradually died out. The people now claim the protection of the court to settle their differences for them, but they are rather prone to litigate on very slight provocation and for trifling matters; some of the latter we try to arrange amicably out of court between the parties. The police have been vigilant in their duties and regular in their patrols, and the general conduct of the people has been good. Monthly meetings of the council were held in the courthouse at which the mamus and councillors attended, and the people have willingly assisted in the performance of the work they were called upon to do during the year. I was present at all meetings of the council and court cases.

“I am sorry to have to record the death of our old mamus Ari. He had been in failing health for a long time, and died from paralysis on 6th June, aged about 67 years. Mr. H. Chester, P.M., in 1879 appointed him mamus of Murray, and he always tried to the best of his ability to act up to his position, which he held for thirty-two years. The late Mr. Milman appointed Pasi, the mamus of Dauar, to succeed Ari as mamus of Murray, also Dauar Islands.

“Court cases were—Assault, 11; threatening language, 2; causing disturbances in village, 6; land disputes, 5; immorality, 2; indecent assault, 1; stealing, 1; destroying gardens by fire, 2; carrying young women in boat without guardian, 1; natives supplying liquor to young women, 1; neglecting to register births and deaths, 1; dirty surroundings of dwelling-house, 1. Cases dismissed, 8. Dogs registered, 29. Receipts from fines and registration of dogs, £9 5s.

“From January until the end of May, malaria fever, diarrhoea and dysentery were very prevalent, and again in August there were several cases of dysentery, but from September until the end of the year the general health of the people has been good. The islanders are more subject now than formerly to annual epidemics or diseases. When they only had their canoes to travel about in, their visits to other islands were few and far between, and with a limited number of passengers on board, but now that they own large boats, their range of visiting places has greatly extended, and their trips are more frequent, in boats often overcrowded with men, women and children. The places they visit have only very limited accommodation to offer them, with the consequence they are crowded into badly ventilated houses or huddled together in their boats. Under these conditions, sickness is more liable to be engendered amongst them, or lays them more open to contract any infectious disease that may be in the locality they are visiting, and, on their return home, the infection is soon spread. The introduction of European clothes, now so

generally worn by the natives, has also tended to increase sickness amongst them. They are so careless in changing their clothes when they get wet, that they will often lie down to sleep in them in that state; but they have greatly improved in their personal cleanliness and keeping their clothes in a more cleanly state, and soap is now becoming quite a necessary article with them. The total number of births was 10—males 5, females 5; and of deaths 14—males 9, females 5; marriages 6.

“Good crops of food were obtained from the gardens. The yam crop was very prolific, and provided a supply well up to the end of the year; sweet potatoes were scarce, as only a small area was planted. The latter half of the year has been an unusually dry stage, which has delayed planting work in the gardens, as what was planted at the usual season did not germinate, and the people will not run the risk of replanting until the wet season has fairly set in, which will make the 1912 food harvest a late one.

“Last June I held a meeting of the people to arrange with them about starting the making of copra. They fell in with my proposal, and agreed to start on the work, so I distributed bags among them. Up to the end of December, 254 bags of copra have been shipped to Thursday Island, and realised a good price; when sold, a total of £334 16s. was received for it. Copra-making should make a good supplement to the *bêche-de-mer* work.

“The lugger and cutter owned by the people (both free of debt) have been worked principally by the elderly men again this year. The fish collected by them realised a good sum, and with the cash they received for the sale of their copra, it gave a good dividend to share among them. There has been another boat added to the fleet. The Komet tribe got a lugger last January, which cost £150, to be paid by monthly instalments; they paid a deposit of £10, and bought a working outfit from cash subscribed by the members of the tribe. The boat should become their own next May, when it is to be hoped they will make good use of her. Over 60 of the young men are working away from the island this year, shipped as crews on the pearling and *bêche-de-mer* boats, and receiving wages from £1 10s. to £3 10s. per month. The men are now beginning to take to the work of the pearling boats; a few years back they would only engage for *bêche-de-mer* work, although the wages were only half of what the pearlers offered, but now that they are beginning to understand the value of money better, the higher wages paid by the pearlers attract them, and they like the work. The employers report very favourably of the boys, and there is a constant demand for their labour.”

St. Paul's Mission, Moa Island—

“Mr. Jasper Harvey acted as Superintendent during the absence of Deaconess Buchanan, who went South from January to April, and he bravely coped with the severe outbreak of dysentery. Five deaths occurred, and a large number of patients were admitted for treatment to the Thursday Island Hospital. Mr. Harvey gave valuable advice and practical help to the men in developing their gardens, and the specimens

of corn which he grew were specially noted with approval by Mr. Howard on his visit to St. Paul's on 27th May.

“In consequence of the dysentery epidemic, school was closed for several weeks, and reopened on 1st May, and on the following day His Excellency Sir William MacGregor landed, and spent a long morning examining the school. His Excellency reported good results from his thorough examination of the classes. The attendance has been regular. The roll numbered 30, till the elder boys passed out of school to work on boats, but the number is still maintained by the increasing growth of the infant class.

“The settlement is extending towards Cocoa-nut Point, where several new houses are being built for the new families that have come to settle. The Mission cutter, ‘Banzai,’ has regularly taken, during the season, a good consignment of garden produce for sale to Thursday Island, and by the expressed wish of the community, they have brought a certain portion to be sold separately for their church building fund.

“The annual South Sea Islanders Industrial Exhibition was held in July, and was opened by Canon Pattinson. The exhibits were afterwards sent to the Brisbane Exhibition, and consisted chiefly of mats and baskets made by the women and girls, while the men contributed clever specimens of carving and models of native canoes, fish-traps, war clubs, and dancing ornaments. The schoolboys exhibited the fish net they had netted for the benefit of the settlement; the material had been given by Mr. Kashiwagi.

“St. Paul's has been made a recording station for the Commonwealth Meteorological Department, and the records are posted to Melbourne each month. Sets and instruments have been supplied, and a very creditable recording hut has been built by a native of Fiji, who followed the design supplied by the authorities.

“The cocoanut trees have suffered much damage from the cocoanut cabbage beetle, known as the *Brontispa frogatti*, order Coleoptera. The young trees are mostly attacked. Remedial measures have been used with beneficial results, which we believe will be further effected by the advent of the wet season.

“Great regret was felt and expressed when news was received of the death of our late Protector of Aborigines. Mr. Milman visited St. Paul's twice during the year, in spite of his very apparent rapidly failing health. He was always ready to further the progress of the settlement.

“Deaconess Buchanan resigned the charge of St. Paul's in October, and Mr. B. C. Cole is now superintendent. He brings to the work a long and valuable experience of work among the natives. Mrs. Cole also shares with him an experience of many years' work on a Mission station, to which is added her practical knowledge of hospital training.”

Saibai, Dauan, and Boigu Islands—

The teacher, Mr. T. A. Williams, reports:—

“The school roll consist of 55 boys and 40 girls; total 95. The average attendance for boys is 50, girls 39; total 89.

"The school is divided into five classes, and the children are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic, also geography. The limit of their knowledge of arithmetic is sums in G.C.M. and L.C.M., also sums in weights and measures. Mental addition and subtraction of fractions are practised.

"As we are so isolated, and very rarely see people except visitors from New Guinea, the children have not a fair opportunity to gain much knowledge of facts beyond their own island affairs; therefore, what knowledge they possess is gained by hearsay and not by direct contact of things concerned. Subjects are taught concerning general knowledge, which, I think, will be most useful to them when they leave school and earn their livings in the outside world. It is very difficult to get the children to speak in English; they all understand, but will not answer one, except in their own language. Native etiquette is to blame for this, for to the native child's mind it is very rude to answer their elders, superiors, or white people in their language; if they do, they never reply in a voice louder than a hoarse whisper.

"The age of children attending school is from four to sixteen years. At the latter end of the year I sent six of the bigger boys out to work in the diving boats, and to sign on before the Protector at Thursday Island, and so make a start to earn their living.

"The children are taught, and are made, to keep themselves clean. Above all others, the Saibai children are the most filthy in regard to their clothing. They are made to bathe each day before falling in for inspection prior to attending school, and if a young child is sent to school dirty or slovenly, the matter is brought before the notice of the councillors and dealt with accordingly. On the whole, the conduct of the children is exceptionally good, few require punishment. All are most attentive and keen to learn, and take a pride in being at the top of the school.

SAIBAI ISLAND MATTERS.

"The population of Saibai is 267—viz., 147 males and 120 females. In the early part of the year the populace suffered from an epidemic of dysentery continued over from the previous year. During the year we lost 4 men and 1 woman through dysentery, 2 women while giving childbirth, and 1 woman through old age; total, 8. There have been 16 births—8 males and 8 females; all are thriving and well.

"The island has been very short of food, on account of the dry weather. There has been no rain for nine months. The crops of taro, yam, kumaras, &c., withered up and came to nothing. Fortunately for us, we were able to get food from New Guinea, and many of the men went to work in the diving boats, and thus relieved the stress for want of food. The drought was so severe that many of the coconut trees have withered up and died; all the young nuts that had been planted, but yet had not struck firm root, are dead.

"There were 15 cases brought before the native court during the year—1 case of kidnapping a girl, which was dealt with by the Protector when visiting here; 2 cases of immorality, both men were sent out of the island for some

time to work in the diving boats. The other cases are: using bad language, and disobedience of orders issued by the councillors.

"The greatest trouble here was a native teacher, who had set himself in defiance against all authority, and dared the councillors and myself to interfere with him when he deliberately violated the sections of the Aboriginal Protection, &c., Acts, and the British New Guinea Immigration Act of 1907. He was ordered off the island by order of the Hon. the Home Secretary, through the late Mr. Milman, Protector, on his visit here in May last. Since his banishment from the island we have had perfect peace.

"On 1st May we were visited by His Excellency the Governor, who inspected the school and village in a very thorough manner, going into every detail, and speaking words of encouragement to the children. Sir William MacGregor met and recognised many of the older natives here, who remembered him in his old New Guinea days. At his suggestion, a seawall was started along the foreshore to preserve the land from the inroad of the sea during the North-west season. Early this year 7 ft. of the frontage was washed away. The wall is not yet complete.

"The swamp has been reclaimed considerably. Coconut trees are now growing on good solid ground, that was once covered by stagnant putrid water; this has been done by the women. There has been very little or no fever here during the year; this I put down to the constant clearing of the village and keeping the houses clean. A very nice road has been cut through the bush, eastwards, to the river, about 1,300 yards. This is kept in order by the women, while the men work at the sea-wall.

"King George's coronation day was observed. The whole day was given up to sport and feasting; there were twelve turtles and five pigs. I do not think the people were hungry that day.

"There are two boats belonging to the island; both are heavily in debt. They are the 'Saibai,' a lugger, and the 'Papua,' a cutter. The 'Saibai's' catch was 9 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb.—£55 19s. 6d.; the 'Papua's' catch was 10 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lb.—£58 10s. 9d. The old people have done a little copra-making in their spare time, which has brought them £6 10s.

DAUAN ISLAND MATTERS.

"Dauan is a water-worn boulder island hill, about 4 miles west by south of the village on Saibai. The population is 25 males and 26 females; total, 51. This consists of children and adults. There are 12 boys and 17 girls, total 29 children, not attending school. There is no school over there for them to attend; they cannot very well come over to Saibai; we have our hands full in looking after, feeding and keeping in order the children of this island. There have been 5 deaths through dysentery, 1 male, 4 females; births, 2 females. This is a very fine island, with many beautiful running streams of pure water. There are many varieties of native fruit indigenous to the island, including mango and mumi, or papaw apple, growing abundantly in their season. Bananas, pineapples, and the various species of vegetables that form the staple food of the natives are cultivated. The populace

are never short of fish; fish of all sorts abound. One day while fishing on the reef they speared 176 crayfish.

"The natives are a very law-abiding people; there has been no cause for complaint throughout the year. I have visited the island eight times during the year. The island is a watering place for the pearling boats, and sometimes the visitors, after getting what water they want, contaminate the spring or well by bathing and washing their clothes in it. Three Japanese have had their clothes burnt for doing this. The island has suffered this year for want of rain, many of the wells have dried up and become putrid, and the gardens have suffered sadly.

"King George's coronation was demonstrated by lighting a bonfire at the top of the hill. There were 15 men working two days cutting wood and stacking it on the top; then, when the time came to light up, they threw a tin of kerosene on and lit the pile. Unfortunately, there had been a lot of rain, the wood was wet, and the fire, after the oil had burned out, died out. However, their intentions were good.

"There is a cutter belonging to the island, the 'Papua.' Their catch for the year was 11 cwt. 1 qr. 3 lb.—£70 14s. 3d. in value."

BOIGU AFFAIRS.

"Boigu Islands, or Talbot Group, consists of three islands of a swampy nature, about 20 miles north-north-west of Saibai—*i.e.*, Usar, Maiima, and Aubus. The village is on Maiima Island, facing the north. The population consists of 57 males, 40 females; total, 97. Out of these there are 11 boys and 6 girls attending school, conducted by Manoa, a Murray Island native, employed by the L.M.S. as missionary teacher. The Boigu natives are anything but desirable, quarrelling amongst themselves, and flying to court at the least provocation, with matters utterly foolish. Manoa is an excellent lad, and doing the best for the children, yet getting very little gratitude, and much difficulty to get his scholars to attend regularly.

"Number of deaths—1 woman and a boy, from dysentery, and 1 woman from fever; 2 men from chest complaints, total 5; births—2 girls.

"In conclusion, it may be interesting to know that although these islands in the extreme north are politically part of North Queensland, of the Torres Straits, yet they undoubtedly belong to the system of Papua geographically. There is only a very narrow passage between the Island of Usar, of the Boigu Group, and the mainland of New Guinea. Only a small lugger or cutter can pass through; the passage is barely 40 ft. wide. I have visited this group four times during the year."

Yam Island—

The teacher, Mrs. E. Smallwood, reports:—

"The population of this island is 51 males, 49 females; total, 100. There have been 6 births during the year, 4 females and 2 males; no deaths, and no marriages. Eight houses have been built and one is now in course of construction. A large well has been dug and walled with stone; it is giving a good supply of water, which was greatly needed, as the other two wells have nearly run dry.

"It has been a very bad season for the crops, the rainfall last north-west season having been insufficient to kill the insect life in the ground. The roots of the yams, potatoes, pumpkins, sugarcane and bananas were attacked by these pests, so in consequence none of the gardens have been very productive, and at the present time the natives are very short of food. The long-continued drought and intense heat have unfortunately killed many of the large cocoanut trees as well as the smaller ones. Owing to the scorched condition of the ground and the great heat no planting can be done, until the rain sets in to cool the soil.

"The council has held meetings when anything has transpired which needed adjustment. I was generally present at these meetings. There has not been any trouble on the island, so the duties of the councillors have been light. Councillor Wilson is to be commended for his careful supervision of the island. Only one case was brought before the court during the year. A man named Tau lit a fire in his garden without permission from the council. He was fined 5s.

"The health of the people has been very good. A few have been lately suffering from coughs and colds, but I supplied them with cough mixture, which cured them. One man (Sam Philemon) has had to go recently to Thursday Island for treatment for internal growth.

"The number on the school roll is 16 boys and 11 girls; total, 27. The school was reopened on 20th February, when I took charge. Good progress has been made by the children in the several classes. Attendance has been good. The new schoolhouse that has been erected on the Government ground has been a great blessing to the children and myself, especially during this time of intense heat.

"The boys have been busy carrying coral and stones to make pathways to the schoolhouse. The elder girls are making mats for the floor. Cocoanuts have been planted on the ground by the boys. We have to keep them constantly watered to keep them alive; the heat from the sun is so great it scorches the young leaves. Our school garden has been a failure, worms and insects eating up everything.

"I cannot report favourably on the working of the 'Yama.' Since my arrival here in February the crew have been out to work six times, and from that month to the present date the result of their arduous labours has been 5 bags of sand-fish, which was sold for £8 14s. 4d., and 350 pearlshells. I think if the men of the island worked for wages it would be far better for their families. Now is a time of great scarcity, and if the men had worked well they could have provided for their families. I talked to them months ago about the probable scarceness and that they should work hard to provide for the women and children, but it had no effect. A native unfortunately does not consider the necessity of working to supply future wants.

"The crew of the 'Yama' consists of nine men, two returned from working on York Island after the death of Ned Mosby and joined the 'Yama' company. The boat is not in debt, but she needs to go on the slip, for she is in a bad state, leaks and is full of cockroaches."

TABLE 4.—RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ABORIGINES RATIONED AT EACH STATION IN THE STATE DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1911.

Month.	NAME OF STATION AND AMOUNT OF GOVERNMENT AID.																										
	YARRABAH. £200			MARPON. £500			WEIPA. £300			CAPE BEDFORD AND McIVOR RIVER. £500			DEEBING CREEK. £200			BARAMBAR.*			ARCHER RIVER. £300			MITCHELL RIVER. £300			TAROOM.*		
	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.
January	310	...	310	95	22	117	40	22	62	115	35	150	65	10	78	382	...	382	35	30	65	86	...	86	...	...	...
February	310	...	310	94	44	138	42	43	85	115	35	150	68	4	72	353	...	353	30	11	41	86	...	86	...	...	...
March	310	...	310	115	24	139	43	40	83	115	35	150	63	...	63	351	...	351	29	30	59	86	...	86	...	...	...
April	310	...	310	94	39	133	55	44	99	115	20	135	65	2	67	334	...	334	33	26	59	86	...	86	...	...	...
May	310	...	310	94	41	135	55	61	116	115	20	135	63	4	67	315	...	315	42	21	63	80	...	80	66	3	69
June	260	...	260	94	51	145	55	94	149	115	20	135	51	4	55	318	...	318	40	24	64	80	...	80	69	5	74
July	260	...	260	94	46	140	96	17	112	115	16	131	49	1	50	352	...	352	33	24	57	85	...	85	82	4	86
August	260	...	260	95	43	138	96	15	110	115	16	131	50	6	56	322	...	322	24	30	54	55	...	55	117	2	119
September	260	...	260	95	33	128	95	16	111	115	30	145	50	4	54	336	...	336	25	15	40	88	...	88	111	1	112
October	260	...	260	95	36	131	95	16	111	115	30	145	50	4	54	334	...	334	25	16	41	90	...	90	109	2	111
November	244	...	244	95	40	135	52	70	122	115	30	145	53	...	53	375	...	375	25	16	41	96	...	96	144	4	148
December	244	...	244	94	200	294	51	154	205	115	30	145	55	...	55	437	7	444	28	121	149	96	...	96	149	6	155

* Wholly under Government control.

TABLE 5.—RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF ABORIGINES ATTENDING SCHOOL DURING THE YEAR 1911 (MISSION RESERVES AND SETTLEMENTS).

Situation.	Quarter of the Year.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										Number of School Days.	AGGREGATE ATTENDANCE.		AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.						Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.						
Yarrabah ...	1
	2
	3
	4	41	33	74	13	9	19	...	...	7	...	26	...	...	46	1,626	1,396	35.34	30.34
Mapoon ...	1	28	42	70	20	7	1	...	...	15	11	16	...	...	48	1,077	1,961	22	40
	2	24	43	67	19	3	2	...	...	16	10	17	...	...	51	1,159	2,193	23	43
	3	28	47	75	15	9	4	...	...	16	10	21	...	...	52	1,272	2,174	25	42
	4	28	44	72	15	9	4	...	...	13	10	21	...	...	50	1,310	2,109	26	42
Weipa ...	1	15	24	39	9	4	2	...	...	9	7	8	...	...	48	502	1,027	10	21
	2	36	25	61	29	5	2	...	...	10	7	8	...	...	48	1,057	1,094	22	23
	3	30	24	54	25	5	...	...	10	7	7	...	...	51	1,254	1,138	25	22	
	4	34	26	60	29	5	...	...	12	6	8	...	...	48	1,357	1,068	28	22	
Cape Bedford ...	1	21	7	28	15	6	...	...	2	...	5	...	...	57	1,196	392	20.9	6.8	
	2	21	6	27	15	6	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	54	1,132	304	20.9	5.6	
	3	21	6	27	15	6	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	57	1,197	337	21	5.9	
	4	21	6	27	15	6	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	41	861	246	21	6	
Deebing Creek ...	1	19	11	30	7	8	4	...	...	4	3	4	...	...	50	944	521	18.8	10.4
	2	20	10	30	8	8	4	...	...	3	3	4	...	...	49.5	933	442	18.8	8.9
	3	17	6	23	4	3	10	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	54	918	324	17	6
	4	17	6	23	4	3	10	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	53	897	314	16.9	5.9
Barambah ...	1	44	38	82	21	17	6	...	...	18	14	6	...	...	52	2,027	1,861	38.98	35.78
	2	52	39	91	14	14	7	...	...	17	12	9	...	...	56	2,077	1,735	37.08	31.87
	3	53	41	94	31	7	10	...	...	22	10	6	...	...	57	1,975	1,975	38.71	34.64
	4	52	41	93	33	15	4	...	...	23	15	3	...	...	53	1,847	1,601	34.84	30.2
Archer River ...	1	17	11	28	8	9	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	48	465	504	9.5	10.5	
	2	22	8	30	22	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	51	510	354	10	7
	3	13	14	27	6	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	360	565	7.5	11.5
	4	32	14	46	29	6	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	50	491	553	9.8	11
Mitchell River ...	1	16	11	27	1	5	4	6	...	1	2	3	5	...	35	530	347	15	9	
	2	13	12	25	5	4	4	...	...	7	2	3	...	...	57	710	756	12.45	11.5
	3	10	13	23	3	2	5	...	...	1	3	9	...	...	63	671	628	10.63	9.65
	4	13	13	26	1	3	5	4	5	5	2	33	392	393	11.29	11.30

TABLE 6.—RETURN SHOWING NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF ABORIGINES ATTENDING SCHOOLS DURING YEAR 1911 (TORRES STRAITS ISLANDS).

Situation.	Quarter of Year.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										No. of School Days.	AGGREGATE ATTENDANCE.		AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.		
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.						Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.						
Badu Island ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2	40	30	70	21	5	8	6	15	5	6	4	...	46	1,589	1,146	34.5	24.9
	3	42	29	71	18	13	5	6	15	8	3	3	...	54	2,029	1,375	37.57	25.46
	4	41	28	69	13	16	6	6	12	8	5	3	...	60	2,082	1,502	34.7	25
Murray Island ...	1	49	54	103	22	19	8	...	...	17	19	18	...	...	50	1,739	2,113	34.7	42.3
	2	55	57	112	29	19	7	...	...	23	17	17	...	...	52	2,319	2,644	44.6	50.8
	3	56	57	113	30	19	7	...	...	25	17	15	...	...	?	2,267	2,393	46.3	48.9
	4	55	54	109	30	18	7	...	...	25	16	13	...	...	49	2,332	2,391	47.5	44.3
Darnley Island ...	1	51	34	85	33	7	8	4	...	18	6	7	1	1	47	1,986	1,389	42.25	29.55	
	2	56	37	93	37	7	8	4	...	22	6	7	1	1	51	2,322	1,507	45.52	29.54	
	3	54	38	92	35	9	6	4	...	23	7	6	1	1	60	2,845	2,029	47.41	33.81	
	4	56	38	94	37	9	6	4	...	23	7	5	1	1	47	2,359	1,607	50	34	
Yam Island ...	1	15	11	26	...	9	5	1	...	...	6	4	1	...	29	405	311	14	10.72
	2	17	12	29	7	4	5	1	5	2	4	1	...	59	940	704	15.93	11.93
	3	17	12	29	7	4	5	1	5	2	4	1	...	59	941	670	15.94	11.35
	4	16	11	27	6	4	5	1	4	2	4	1	...	58	916	623	15.79	10.74
Mabuig Island ...	1	33	39	72	27	4	2	...	...	23	19	6	...	...	35	1,021	1,250	29.2	36
	2	27	33	60	22	4	1	...	...	18	10	7	...	...	30	584	646	19.1	21.5
	3	25	37	62	19	4	2	...	...	18	13	6	...	...	65	1,511	2,073	24.2	32
	4	28	39	67	22	4	2	...	...	24	9	6	...	...	44	1,169	1,556	26.5	35.3
Sabai Island ...	1	43	32	75	9	15	10	9	...	8	8	11	5	...	?	1,653	1,271	40.3	31	
	2	55	42	97	11	15	11	18	...	8	8	11	15	...	?	3,169	2,463	52.8	41.1	
	3	54	41	95	11	13	13	17	...	8	8	11	14	...	66	3,474	2,587	52.6	39.2	
	4	50	42	92	7	13	19	11	...	7	8	16	11	...	45	2,201	1,784	48.8	39.7	

ABORIGINAL RESERVES—SETTLEMENTS AND MISSION STATIONS.

Barambah Settlement, Murgon—

The superintendent, Mr. B. J. T. Lipscombe, in his report says—

“ The population of the reserve at the close of the year was 437, which, added to the number of those absent at employment, would bring the total number of those looked upon as inmates to between 500 and 600. During the year 59 natives were removed from outside districts to the settlement; in the case of able-bodied men and women to remove them from a life of idleness and immorality, and to ensure the children receiving necessary education, and of old, infirm, and sick for much-needed care, attention and medical treatment. Where possible the wives of boys removed here have either accompanied or followed them, and they naturally seem, in that case, much more contented, and soon settle down. Our community is now composed of a sprinkling of natives from nearly all districts of the State, and they freely intermarry. Nineteen children were born, 8 boys and 11 girls, 6 of the children being of full-blooded parents, 10 of half-castes by full-bloods, and 3 of parents being both half-caste. There were 46 deaths, principally of old people and young children.

“ The total number of rations issued during the year was 98,825, being an average of 8,235 monthly, or roughly 274 a day. Among the inmates were a number of old and infirm, who, although provided with rations of flour, tea, sugar, beef, rice, oatmeal, &c., were unable to cook for or look after themselves, and for these a soup kitchen has been erected and supplied with a good stove and cooking utensils, where, under a capable half-caste woman, their food is properly prepared and supplied to them at regular hours.

“ The health of the natives has been fairly good, and under the careful treatment of Dr. Junk, the visiting medical officer, and the resident trained nurse, a great deal of improvement is noticeable. Under the conditions of their existence they are peculiarly liable to all the epidemics of sickness visiting the district, for natives travelling to and from the settlement and those removed from other quarters, are always carrying infection. Measles, influenza, pneumonia, and a sort of blight, particularly affecting the children, were the chief causes of trouble. After considerable delay and difficulty in procuring timber, a roomy building of two wards, dispensary, and attendants' room, has been erected as hospital and having wide verandas suitable for open-air treatment and convalescing cases. When fitted with the necessary furniture, this building will meet in some degree a very pressing need on the settlement, and do away with the necessity for sending any but the most critical surgical cases to the distant city hospitals.

“ When we consider the very mixed nature of the inhabitants of the settlement, the general conduct cannot be considered other than satisfactory. With only three male officers and two native troopers, excellent order has been maintained, and breaches of discipline were unknown. Drink still occasionally finds its way on to the

reserve, but a strict watch is kept and prompt action taken against delinquents. Gambling is fairly rife among them, and this evil is very difficult to deal with, with our limited staff, being carried on principally at night or out of sight of the officers. To minimise these evils, the retail store was opened two years ago, and has proved a great success, for the total purchases made there this year by the natives was £1,116 5s. 5d., of which £446 19s. 2d. passed over the counter for cash sales, the balance, £669 6s. 3d., being withdrawn from their bank account, from money deducted from their wages when at employment. This, it will be seen, has provided the native with a legitimate and healthy channel for the circulation of the money earned by him, thereby reducing temptation and facilities for spending it in more harmful directions, as well as enabling him to provide for himself and family many little luxuries not supplied by the department.

“ Most of the able-bodied natives engage more or less regularly in employment on farms and stations outside, but steady productive and improvement work is carried on during the mornings for five days a week with the labour available. A comfortable roomy building was erected as quarters for the industrial school boys, the timber all being cut by natives on the settlement with a pit-saw; a building of four rooms and two verandas was put up for use as a hospital, a kitchen and bathroom added to the store-keeper's quarters, and the superintendent's yard and boys' and girls' quarters enclosed with paling and wire fences to enable the latter to cultivate flower and vegetable gardens. Three hundred acres were ringbarked and undergrowth cleared, and 15 acres of corn planted, which yielded about 85 bags of maize. Five acres of cotton were also planted, but with little success, although a sample of the crop exhibited at the Wondai Show was highly commended. A new slaughtering gallows was erected, and 3 miles of fencing repaired or replaced. The usual routine work of carting stores from the railway station, 5 miles away, carting and cutting firewood for officers' quarters and the old people in camp, hauling timber for pit-saw, attending, mustering, and dipping stock, cleaning camp, building new huts, &c., kept all hands fairly well occupied in between.

“ During the year 639 permits were issued for the employment of natives on farms and stations outside the reserve, including 26 married couples, 26 single girls, and 14 young boys. Wages amounting to £1,976 10s. 9d. were collected, but this really only represents about one-third of the wages earned, the balance being drawn direct by the natives from the employers. The general conduct in employment was good, only one serious complaint of misbehaviour being made. In most of the agreements the period is a short one, for long service does not appeal to the native, who naturally likes to see his friends and relatives occasionally. Punctuality cannot either be said to be a characteristic of the native worker, and a little trouble arose when occasionally a week-end holiday was extended to Tuesday or Wednesday morning. There is a strong de-

mand for the native labour, and wages from 3s. to 20s. a week are paid willingly, and to young boys and girls at 3s. and 5s. a week clothing is also supplied. A few of the more intelligent are of course imbued with the spirit of the time and demand proportionately higher wages, but if capable there is usually very little difficulty in obtaining it. The usual work offering is stock and station work, scrub-felling and clearing, corn-pulling and chipping, and general domestic service. Care is taken that only reputable and suitable employers are supplied, and for this we owe thanks to the local police, who at all times have readily assisted us by inquiry and other ways. There is no difficulty in securing employment; in fact, the demand greatly exceeds the supply available.

“ During the year we lost a good number of cattle owing to the dry weather, the loss, however, being mostly confined to old cows and those with calves at foot. The creek was very low and many got bogged in attempting to get to the water to drink or crop the green herbage and water plants, often causing much difficulty and work in extricating them, and consequently a continual watch had to be kept. Most of the grass was burnt by bush fires, and the rest had very little nutriment in it. As the cattle were in such a low condition, I did not consider it advisable to muster them. Many of the neighbouring settlers suffered much more than we did.

“ Many of our horses are now almost past work and should be replaced. A good move was made last season in having three of our brood mares served by a good local stallion, for by this means we hope to replenish our stock with good blood by natural increase.

“ The bad season also made itself felt among our goats, for, like the cattle, many of them, including one of the billies, died. Early in the year their quarters were moved to a more suitable position, near the big rocks, and they now seem to be doing better. A good many were killed and made a welcome addition to the meat ration. We have to thank Mr. Lawless, of Boonbijan Station, for the gift of a large number from his herd. Our herd now numbers 217.

“ The dip has proved itself useful for our own cattle, as well as returning £8 19s. 4d. from its use by the public. It, however, still requires constant repairing, but for the present amply serves its purpose.

“ The paddock reserved for agistment purposes returned us £54 5s. during the year. It is, however, only used as a convenience by bullock-drivers and others, and the revenue from it is uncertain. It may be necessary later on, if our stock should increase in numbers, to resume it for our own use, unless we can arrange for the addition to our reserve of portions 19v and 55v, adjoining our territory on the south-east side. This land, by its position, is useless for any other purpose, as well as being without permanent water and having now no serviceable timber standing.

“ The school attendance now numbers 93, comprising 52 boys and 41 girls, and the pupils have made steady and satisfactory progress. Some samples of their work were exhibited at

the Brisbane Exhibition in a non-competitive section, and, with the work displayed from other institutions, excited much interest and favourable comment. At the Brookfield show our school gained five prizes—for writing, sewing, drawing, &c., and at the Wondai and other local shows we were similarly successful. The children are well behaved and easily managed and appear to take a keen interest in their lessons.

“ Religious instruction and services have been regularly given by the visiting ministers of various denominations, and at other times by the teacher. All the children and some of the adults take advantage of this and seem to enter heartily into the musical portion especially.

“ The Christmas festival was celebrated this year again by the usual holidays, sports, and issue of seasonable luxuries. From a fund composed of the accumulated interest on their Savings Bank accounts the following extras were purchased:—150 dozen assorted cakes, 12 cases of fruit and a crate of vegetables, several cases of toys, &c., for the children. On Christmas Day long tables were spread and decorated by the women and girls, a good-humoured rivalry existing between the different camps or tribes. The weather was fine and all appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly. Cricket matches, football, and other games and races helped to fill in the whole holiday pleasantly, and the inmates, one and all, voted this the best Christmas they had ever spent.

“ We have had a good many visitors during the year, hailing from all parts of the globe, members of scientific expeditions and tourists from other States. They all spoke most enthusiastically of the happy and healthy appearance of the natives generally, and particularly of the intelligence of the children and proficiency at their lessons. One gentleman donated a pound to be spent in prizes, and a religious book depôt in Brisbane very generously supplemented this gift by selling us over fifty really handsome books for the amount.

“ The clerical work was heavy, and the collections from all sources amounted to £2,536 16s. 1d., an increase of £521 5s. 7d. on last year's receipts. Of this £1,207 5s. 2d. was placed to the credit of the natives in the Savings Bank, and the balance, £1,329 10s. 11d., paid into revenue to credit of settlement maintenance.

“ An extra officer as storekeeper and clerk has lately been appointed, and this should now make it possible for me to devote more of my time and attention to the outside management and industrial development than I was previously able to do.”

Taroom Settlement, *via* Miles—

The superintendent, Mr. G. R. Addison, reports:—

“ In accordance with your instructions, I left Brisbane on the 25th of April with a supply of provisions, tools, fencing material, &c., and pitched my tent on the reserve on the 15th of May, being delayed some days in Taroom township awaiting the carriers with the goods.

“ My first work was to persuade the natives in the camps near Taroom to take up their quarters on the reserve, and arrange for the transport of their camping material, which was carried out without hitch. On the same day I took up my residence here, my family, however, remaining in Taroom until temporary quarters were erected a little later on.

“ The first fortnight was spent in putting up temporary storehouses, cutting slabs for house, carting provisions and material, the natives meanwhile occupying themselves in building huts and clearing the ground for their own camp.

“ The first serious work was the erection of a serviceable stockyard, with milking bail, calf pen, crush, and killing yards, and then a paddock of about 400 acres was enclosed with a strong three-wire fence, the whole of the posts for which were carried by the natives on their shoulders, the dray now in use not having then arrived. Temporary quarters of four rooms, office, and veranda awning, built of slabs and galvanised iron, were next erected for the superintendent's family, who took up their residence here at the beginning of August. About a quarter of an acre was enclosed as a yard and vegetable garden, with stakes and split palings, and a buggy shed, harness and tool shed, flour store, &c., were also built.

“ While some of the natives were engaged clearing the horse paddock of prickly pear, a gang were engaged with me in putting up the boundary fence, about 3 miles of which was completed at the end of the year. In this work 1,400 posts 5 ft. 8 in. long and about 5 in. or 6 in. thick, set 12 ft. apart, were erected, and three wires, two plain and one barb, drawn through them, thus making a thoroughly secure fence.

“ About 10 acres have been cleared and are ready for the plough, and about 400 acres, including the horse paddock, have been cleared of prickly pear. A good road about half a chain wide has also been cut and cleared for about 5½ miles, to within 2 miles of Taroom. The whole of this work has been done by the able-bodied natives of the settlement, under my supervision and direction, and I cannot speak too highly of their behaviour and the willingness shown by them at all times.

“ At the opening of the reserve the population was about 70 all told, but this number has been largely augmented by contingents from Roma and Bell district and a few from the north, and the number now will easily reach 200.

“ At present we have only three cows, and though the milk obtained is very much appreciated by the young and sick, it is highly desirable more be obtained before the winter sets in.

“ Our horses number four, all broken to saddle and harness, and with a good buckboard and a strong dray comprises the whole of the means of conveyance at present at our disposal. If we had a good team of bullocks and wagon much unsatisfactory delay and heavy expense could, I think, be saved the department in the matter of transport of stores, &c.

“ The health of the natives generally has been fairly good, the usual epidemic of measles, influenza, &c., appearing among them, parti-

cularly when batches of natives have arrived from other districts. Only two cases of venereal were noticed, one of which was in an advanced stage. Fifteen deaths occurred, ten cases being young children and five adults.

“ Dr. Neilsen, the visiting medical officer, has visited the settlement regularly and treated the natives there and at his own surgery in Taroom, showing genuine kindness and interest in them.

“ Fourteen natives are in employment outside, and wages from 5s. to 25s. a week were received by them, the work being principally stock work and ringbarking. £27 7s. 8d. was collected in deductions from their wages, towards maintenance of the settlement and for deposit to their bank accounts.

“ The behaviour of the natives has been excellent. Notwithstanding that most of them have been removed here from other districts as incorrigibles, it is only fair to say that they have at all times, with very few exceptions, shown themselves most obedient and respectful and carried out the work allotted to them in a most satisfactory manner, often in the face of much difficulty and inconvenience, particularly before the dray and horses were available.

“ The camp has been laid out in a simple system of streets, and a small area of ground allotted to each family, which they are encouraged to fence in. Many of them have purchased galvanised iron from the settlement store and with the aid of bark and slabs have built fairly comfortable huts. Most of them have been induced to build beds and bunks for themselves, raised a couple of feet from the ground, and the practice of mixing dogs and children on the ground has been sternly forbidden. Absolute cleanliness in camp and hut is the rule, and it is hoped by these measures sickness will be reduced to a minimum.

“ There are now about 60 children on the settlement, and the majority of them are of an age at which a certain amount of schooling would be to their benefit. I understand provision has been made for a teacher for the settlement, and it is my intention as early as possible to erect a suitable building for use as a school.

“ A suitable building for use as a dispensary, surgery and ward is also needed now, and some place for preparation of food for the old and helpless. It is also hoped a plough will shortly be supplied to enable a plentiful supply of vegetables to be grown.

“ More cattle are needed and later on more horses will be required.

“ Long and tiresome delays in the arrival of stores, &c., ordered, consequent upon the long journey of over 100 miles by coach and carrier's van, have greatly hampered our operations, but I trust you will be satisfied with the progress made.”

Yarrabah Mission (via Cairns)—

The superintendent, Rev. W. Ivens, reports—

“ Last year was a disastrous one for this part of Queensland. We had four severe gales during the wet season, two of them hurricanes, and the accompanying rain did untold damage.



Fortunately we were able to save our ships, but we lost our wharf, and the bridge over Karpa Creek was entirely destroyed. Several buildings were blown down and others were unroofed. In one period of twenty-four hours, 36 in. of rain were registered. All our young ducks perished in the cold, our banana plantation was covered up with silt, and the houses of the adjacent settlement were swept away, necessitating the complete removal of the people and the formation of a new settlement. The sweet-potato patches were similarly covered up and ruined.

“Following upon these storms came seven months of drought. It is true we got good burns in consequence of the dry weather, but nothing grew, not even weeds. Our sweet potato vines even now are weak, and we have had to lay them in water for some time before planting. The taro and cassava all died down, and our maize had no rain on it from the time of planting till it was ripe. Of the 800 coconuts planted by Messrs. Lever, a number have died owing to the drought.

“Wallabies are numerous here and are a great plague. To protect our sweet potatoes, we have had to split palings of silky oak and make fences of them.

“The married people are all being provided with houses built of blady grass or palm leaves, sewn to the framework of mangrove poles. The floor consists of split palm laths and is raised 2 ft. above the ground. These houses measure 17 ft. by 13 ft. and have a veranda. They are very artistic to look at, are rainproof, and are very cool. The thatch lasts over four years, and the only monetary cost of the house is the nails.

“Early in the year we had a large brick oven erected, capable of baking 170 loaves at a time. Two of the natives act as bakers and turn out most excellent bread.

“Through the kindness of our neighbour, Mr. John Hill, of Glen Boughton, who lent us his pile driver, we were able to build a substantial bridge over Karpa Creek and also a pier at the landing place in our bay.

“We decided to try an experiment at turtle drying for the London market. We prepared and sent to England a large shipment of sundried turtle, which sold at a remunerative price. However, as in all new industries of this sort, a correct knowledge of what the buyers want leads to perfection in the process, and with this knowledge now to our hands we hope to produce an article in the future that should well repay us. Only certain parts of the turtle are used for drying, but with so many mouths to feed, all that is not useful for export comes in for food here.

“Our Brisbane committee decided upon the payment of wages to our working men. It was felt that the most satisfactory way to proceed in the matter was to build a store and stock it with such articles as the people required or such as would be useful to them. Accordingly this has been done and a system of pass-books instituted, wherein the amount of wages due and purchases made are entered up. All that the people receive in this way is an extra, for the usual rations, clothing &c., are still given out. The greatest

satisfaction prevails among the people over the store, and they are very grateful for this recognition of their work.

“The year has been a fairly healthy one, and the Health Officer, Dr. Baxter Tyrie, made very favourable remarks on the physical condition of the people. Certainly, to my mind, the regular work and diet of turtle contributed largely to their wellbeing.

“The births still continue well in advance of the deaths.

“Regular school is being carried on and the smaller children are being trained in kindergarten methods.”

Cape Bedford Mission (via Cooktown)—

The superintendent, Rev. G. H. Schwarz, reports:—

“In two former reports I had to mention the fact that we had some serious sickness among the inmates of the station. All that could be done for the different patients we most willingly did. They all were for a time in the hospital in Cooktown, and received medical attention by Dr. Kortüm, but all cases proved to be hopeless. This sickness seems to have been the cause of so much extra trouble and anxiety that I cannot help thinking of it first when starting this report. For the past year we have to record three deaths of the sickness above mentioned; but I am very thankful to be able to say that for the second half of the year there was no sign of any sickness whatever among the people on our station, and we sincerely hope and pray that the new year will be a time of health at Cape Bedford.

“The general work on the station has been carried on in the usual way. The land under cultivation now comprising an area of over 100 acres, you will understand that it takes us pretty well all our time to keep the different plantations in good order. Still, we managed to add about 12 acres to our sisal hemp plantation, now about 75 acres, and also to add a few hundred more plants to our coconut plantation.

“Through the financial assistance kindly granted by the Home Secretary, the Honourable J. G. Appel, we were enabled to procure machinery to treat our hemp. We thought it best to make a start with cheap machinery, as our means for the purpose were rather limited and a lot of leaves in the plantation were already going to waste, but the machinery we got proved anything but satisfactory.

“After a lot of experimenting, alterations, and improvements to the machine by Mr. Kenny, our engineer, we got it at last to work well, as far as cleaning properly without too much waste is concerned. But the quantity we are able to put through is far too small. With expert men feeding the machine we cannot get more than about 1 cwt. of marketable hemp a day; in other words, it would take us about three weeks to clean the leaves of 1 acre of hemp. I hope to be able to show you on your next visit how the machinery works. At present we have about 1 ton of hemp ready for market. By steadily increasing our plantation and doing the best we can with the machinery we have at pre-

sent, we hope to make it possible and advisable, in a few years time, to procure machinery more suitable as well as economical.

“Concerning our new station on the McIvor River, I regret that I am not able to report of great progress made there. The reasons we could not do as much there as we would have wished to were partly of a financial kind, but chiefly of inability to put some one in charge of the new station who would live there permanently. I am thankful to say all these difficulties have been overcome now by the kindly granted assistance from the Government, the German Scandinavian Synod of Queensland and by our society in Germany. An assistant has been sent to me, who is ready to take up work on the new station as soon as the worst of the wet season will be over.

“Bananas, pineapples, cocoanuts, hemp, &c., planted there before, are all doing well, and on several occasions our boat brought down very acceptable lots of fruit and vegetables. I may also say that in our plantation here, among the cocoanuts, we had a splendid crop of pines. Over 2,000 pineapple plants have been put in again lately at this place and about 600 on the McIvor River.

“Although we had an exceptionally dry season this year, the stock owned by the station did remarkably well, and we had a very good supply of milk and meat.

“School work was as usual carried on by Mrs. Schwarz, and the attendance was most regular.”

Mapoon Mission (*via* Thursday Island)—

The superintendent, Rev. N. Hey, reports:—

“The number of natives living in houses at the Mapoon settlement is, according to the returns of the census collector, 240, including the children housed in the various dormitories. Besides these, there are still about 150 more, who at regular intervals visit the station to obtain food, medicine, and other benefits, but who are not domesticated. The general conduct and behaviour of the inmates, both juvenile and adult, was excellent; only a few minor cases were brought before the native court, and these were satisfactorily settled.

“The health of the natives has been good and we had no serious epidemic to contend with. No regular record has been kept of the cases of sickness and accidents treated during the year. The principal complaints were fever, ague, influenza, dysentery, and syphilitic sores.

“The school, under the excellent tuition of Mrs. Ward, has been maintained throughout the year without interruption. During Mrs. Ward's furlough Mrs. Hey acted as teacher, and both scholars and teacher received high praise from the Hon. the Home Secretary, who visited the school.

“The great feature of the Mapoon Mission is the native farms some miles distant from the head station, and it is my firm conviction that there lies the ultimate solution of the aboriginal problem, provided the mission is allowed to work out this new vista of happiness for the abori-

ginals without being hindered by outside influences. Fifteen little homesteads have already been established and they are growing at the rate of about three a year. Another step forward during the year is the establishment of a training farm, where a Samoan instructs a number of ex-school boys, who live with him for that purpose.

“Besides the income from the garden produce, the natives collected £270 worth of chalk fish (an inferior kind of *bêche-de-mer*), which they sold in Thursday Island. This again necessitated the opening of a retail cash store at Mapoon, to enable the natives to purchase their requirements without going to Thursday Island, where they are exposed to many temptations. £403 15s. 4d. was expended for rations, building material, and upkeep of the station, towards which a Government grant of £250 was received.

“The coconut plantation both at Mapoon and at the out-station have been considerably extended and the live stock increased.

“I venture again to point out that the present laws made for the benefit of the aborigines are not elastic enough to cover the ever-increasing need for the protection and elevation of this unfortunate race. The Superintendent or officer in charge of the respective reserves should also be appointed Protector. As long as the natives remained unaffected by our modern civilisation their own laws and customs were quite sufficient, but the advent of civilisation often renders native laws powerless. The natives require protection sometimes, even against their own will.

“In conclusion, I desire to thank the State Governor, Sir William MacGregor, and the Hon. the Home Secretary and party for the stimulus and help their visits to Mapoon have produced.”

Weipa Mission (*via* Coen)—

The Superintendent, Mr. E. Brown, reports:—

“On the whole, the year under review has been more settled and brighter than some of its immediate predecessors. There has been less fighting and blood-shedding, and no murder among our people. They have kept their usual periodic gathering of the clans to settle quarrels, but for the most part these were settled in parliamentary style; and where any spearing was done, it has been light. Until either the whole community has become so thoroughly Christian that there are no wrongdoers, or we have the usual concomitants of civilisation in the form of an organised police force, gaols, &c., the cessation of these periodic assizes is hardly a thing to be desired. Though the aborigine usually takes his punishment philosophically enough when he finds that he can no longer escape it, the knowledge that punishment will surely follow crime is a deterrent to a man who would otherwise soon become a real scoundrel.

“Whether for good or ill, the simple life of the people is gradually passing away; a new element in the form of money having entered into their life this year. Of course, an odd coin occasionally came into their possession before, but this year circumstances enabled us to introduce a system of wages paid to all working for the general good of the station. This enabling cir-

cumstance was the collecting and sale of sandalwood on the reserve for the benefit of the station. The money used being home-made was, of course, of use only at home. But in this the people were gainers, as we purchased clothing and other useful articles at wholesale prices, and sold same to them at cost price. Thus they got good value for their money. Incidentally, it may be remarked that some of the men found this out for themselves. Having occasion to send our cutter, the 'Weipatoi,' to Thursday Island, we exchanged all the money owned by the captain and crew, giving them coins of the realm for the home-made, so that if they chose they might spend it there. But when they returned the captain came with his money to be changed for Weipa money, having found that certain articles which he wished to buy were dearer in Thursday Island than at home.

"All the usual Sabbath and week day services have been maintained. The usual church festivals were observed. Besides these, there were special services for special occasions; e.g., at the suggestion of the Evangelical Alliance we had a pre-Coronation service, when we joined with Christian people in many lands in special prayer for King George and Queen Mary. Again, on 11th and 12th June, we celebrated the thirteenth anniversary of the founding of this station with special service.

"Then, by reason of having the people gathered together in large companies for the sandalwood collection, we were able to minister to their spiritual as well as their temporal needs. One Christian man, whom we engaged, kept morning prayers and Sunday services with the people all the time that he was with them, excepting when either my assistant or myself were present.

"On 9th January the day school reopened after the Christmas holidays, with the tea party, which has now become a settled feature of the reopening. Thereafter it was maintained throughout the year, with no break of more than a day or two on three occasions, until Christmas came again.

"In the school all the regular staff have had a share in teaching. Mrs. Hall, having to undertake Mrs. Brown's matron's duties for a few weeks in August, necessitated Mr. Hall assisting in the school. Then, in November, Mr. and Mrs. Hall were ordered to Mapoon to supply during Mr. and Mrs. Hey's absence on furlough, and Mrs. Brown and self had to fall back on our own system of taking school, a half-day each.

"During the latter half of the year the attendance of the bushman section of the children has been much more regular than usual. This was by reason of having the adults working at the sandalwood, and thus being able to bring pressure to bear, which under the ordinary roving conditions, we cannot. In this connection a new feature was introduced into the boarding system, some little girls being left as temporary boarders by their mothers whilst they were away at work, to rejoin them again in the village when they returned to the station. For the small picanninies the Mission compound partakes of the nature of 'Liberty Hall.' Little toddlers come from and go to the village as they please. Oftentimes they come toddling in at sunrise and stay till near bedtime. The mothers know well

the value of a crèche, where their children are well cared for and themselves thus freed from an encumbrance whilst foraging for food. We always have an infants' department in the school.

"During the year we lost two of the girl boarders by marriage, but two others came in to take their places. One of these, who belongs to a tribe outside the Mission influence, though quite a young girl, had been handed over by her relatives to some Kanakas for immoral purposes, from whose camp she was rescued by the local Protector and brought to us.

"The wedding of one of the girls was quite an event. Her husband is an ex-schoolboy and a corporal in the 'Boys' Brigade.' The '1st Weipa North Queensland, Company' therefore honoured their corporal by turning up in strength for a full-dress parade for the occasion.

"Though the sandalwood industry gave us more children at school, it, at the same time, interrupted other educational efforts; e.g., the women, being fed and paid for the work in the bush, had no incentive to come in for their usual Thursday sewing and Bible class. Again, so many of the young men also were out at their work that the evening classes and band practice had to be dropped for the time.

"On the whole, the health of the community has been uniformly good. There has been a fairly regular succession of minor cases requiring, perhaps, a dose of Epsom salts, a rub with liniment, or a binding up with ointment. But these things, which hardly count, were all, until near the end of the year, when a kind of influenza came along, gripping more or less severely well-nigh every individual, black or white. In the case of one of the girl boarders, it developed into pneumonia. Her temperature rose to 104.6 deg. F., and persisted there for several days; but by dint of careful nursing for a month, she recovered. The older girls acquitted themselves well in the capacity of assistant nurses, both day and night.

"As is but natural from the nature of our Mission, the industrial side looms large, and it, in contrast to most of the other parts, is of a nature that can be tabulated. Agricultural work has to take precedence over all else, and absorbs the bulk of available labour for the five or six months when rain makes it possible. More and more the horse-drawn implements are superseding the man with the hoe, and as we are every year increasing the area under cultivation, this is necessary. At times, we have had three teams at work with plough, cultivator, and harrow. Still there is always plenty to be done by manual labour.

"One of the first contracts of the year was the making of additions of a small kitchen and dining-room to the Mission house, in order that the assistants, who, for a year and a-half, had joined housekeeping with us, might embark on their own, as young couples naturally like to do. Then the whole Mission house, with the exception of the interiors of two rooms, received a coat of paint.

"Repairs were effected to the houses in the village, fences around paddocks, the station cutter 'Weipatoi,' the jetty, and roads. The outside walls of the church were plastered over with

mortar, made from lime which we burnt from shells. The girls' dining-room was rewalled with corrugated iron and wire-netting, a table and seats erected, and a new cooking apparatus purchased and installed.

"Having some time previously received a gift of a pair of wheels and an axle from Messrs. Hodels, we built a body on to them, doing both the woodwork and blacksmithing in our own workshops, making a strong cart, which did a good bit of sandalwood carrying, in addition to other station work.

"Of work which was a source of income to the station, we completed a cattle dip, which was begun the previous year for a neighbouring cattle station. With a whaleboat purchased for the work we lightered 20 tons of sandalwood to our landing from 6 miles higher up the river, where it had been put by the man collecting it, but where a large boat could only go with risk. Then we collected and sold a fair amount of sandalwood. This entailed a great amount of work for us all for the few months in which we were engaged in it. Being something new, and an easier job than the ordinary station work, it attracted most of the people. Though we paid the station workers the same weekly wage as those at the sandalwood got, very few were willing to stay at home.

"At the request of the Chief Protector in July, we sent him a consignment of twenty-two different specimens of our people's handiwork for the Brisbane Exhibition. Unfortunately, the request came so very late that, though we did a great rush to get things prepared and away, they failed, as we afterwards learnt, to catch a steamer in Thursday Island early enough to get them down to Brisbane before the Exhibition closed.

"We were greatly disappointed that neither His Excellency the Governor nor the Home Secretary and party found it possible to visit us when they were so near, in the early part of the year.

"The event of the year was the visit of the representative of the Presbyterian Board of Missions, the Rev. F. H. L. Paton, M.A., B.D. Being himself an old missionary, a world-wide traveller, a man abounding in sanctified common-sense, and an intensely spiritually-minded man, he went thoroughly into all matters pertaining to our work, and already we have found great benefit resulting from his visit.

"When Mr. and Mrs. Hall were instructed to proceed to Mapoon in November, we had to cast about for a temporary assistant. We fortunately managed to secure Dick Kemp, who has spent about four years at Mapoon and Aurukan. He and his wife are putting in the wet season with us. On account of the sandalwood work, which has been previously mentioned, our staff was for a while augmented by two white men and three kanakas. The two white men were occupied in carting the wood into convenient places for shipment, and carrying food to the respective camps, over which they had general supervision. The cart, before-mentioned as made on the station, drawn by our own horses, waited upon one gang of workers. For the other gang we purchased a large buck-board and team of horses, with sandalwood money.

"Our little cutter, the 'Weipatoi,' has done good service in bringing sandalwood from various points to the station, and taking two loads to Thursday Island. She has been managed entirely by some of our own men.

"The two festivals of the year, the anniversary, in June, and Christmas, were joyous occasions. The latter entirely eclipses the former in that the holiday and feasting is accompanied with gifts and clothing for all, and toys of many kinds for the children, thanks to the never-failing kindness of friends in the South, who not only spend their money but also evidently give a great deal of time preparing valuable boxes, the very sight of which always gives our people pleasurable anticipations of the great day when the contents shall become theirs.

"Our special thanks are tendered to the Government, and particularly to the Minister and the Chief Protector, for kindly raising our grant this year, thus placing us on a level with some of the other Mission Stations in the State."

Aurukun Mission (*via* Coen)—

The Superintendent, Mr. A. Richter, reports:—

"The year 1911 has again been a year full of events at Aurukun Station. Even before the rainy season was over, our boat arrived unexpectedly with the Rev. Frank Paton, of Melbourne, who is well known all over Australia for his keen interest in the work of civilising and Christianising the coloured races. Not long after his departure, our assistant and school teacher, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, left, in order to begin new Mission work in Western Australia. It was the end of July when their successors, Mr. and Mrs. Owen, from Tasmania, arrived, and thus completed again our workers' staff. During the year I had frequent opportunity to visit the different parts of the Mission Reserve belonging to Aurukun Station, as a sandalwood company were trasgressing on various parts of it. After a long resistance the company paid for the loss, and thus matters were peacefully settled. The influence of these strangers over our people was destructive; however, we hope that it will have no bad after-effect. By my travelling through the bush I gained a good idea of the country, which has not been really surveyed yet, and I shall be able to send soon a map to the Lands Office. To prevent strangers from cutting on the reserve again, and to earn, if possible, some income from the station, our blacks tried also cutting sandalwood, but the transport of the wood is connected with so much expense that I fear a debit balance on 'Sandalwood Account.'

"The school was kept without interruption, for during the four months that we were without a teacher Mrs. Richter and myself kept the school regularly; even during my absence in the bush, school was not omitted. I was glad of that opportunity to keep school myself for some time, as in this way I got a better idea of the ability and progress of the individuals than by occasional inspections only. The progress has been a steady one, and is more apparently seen this year among the girls, who were far behind the boys in every respect. For several months we had the wife of a kanaka as monitor for school, who did well

in simple teaching. Trials have also been made to occupy pupils as monitors, with more or less success.

"The chief energy of an Industrial Mission Station will always need to be devoted to industry of some kind, as the people are benefiting through it spiritually, mentally and bodily. Work will make the majority into useful beings. The occupations were of very different character. The rough wood-hewer in the bush, as well as the carpenter on the station, the young woman who is doing housework and gardening, as well as the old one, who could only carry firewood, antbed, and manure, &c., all found occupation, so far as the rations allowed us. For six months a number of our people were employed in cutting sandalwood on the reserve, as already mentioned.

"The work accomplished on the station was nothing extraordinary; constant completing and improving, as well as repairing, filled up the time.

"In the garden, every year is showing us clearer that Aurukun is not for cultivating vegetables, save sweet potatoes and cassava. A trial will be made with yam, arrowroot and taro. To cultivate all these more successfully a plough and horse have been purchased, and thus by ploughing and manuring we hope to improve the natural poor soil. A quite different result has been obtained in the cultivation of fruit. Though the beginning was most discouraging—for, in spite of special care and labour, many fruit trees died—those that were coming on rewarded us for all the trouble at the fruit-bearing season. In 1911 we had so much fruit, that not only the officers and the children (boarders) had sufficient, but we gave some to the people in the camp. Seeing that the time is approaching when we shall be able to send fruit to market, we were striving to get a little cutter, but so far our funds are not large enough. The varieties of fruit our station grew last year were: Grana-dillas, pineapples, mangoes, guavas, papaws, custard apples, coconuts, and passion-fruit-lime. The last three kinds are only beginning to bear, while of the first three kinds we have had an abundance. A number of different fruit trees were bought from the State Nursery, but they suffered through the transport, thus, that 60 per cent. of them died. Three times at Aurukun now we have planted date palms under different methods without success, but another trial will be made this rainy season. Vegetables (pumpkins, beans, and tomatoes) did not do so well in 1911 as in previous years, owing to the very heavy rainy season, and a very dry rainless season. We had no rain and almost no dew between 8th April and 21st November. The number of our workers on the station was much smaller than other years, for so much as the number of children increase the number of workers must decrease, if we want to keep balance with the ration account. I therefore take the opportunity to express our special thanks to the Hon. the Home Secretary, and all through whose influence the Government grant for Aurukun was raised £50 higher. This enables us to buy a horse and agricultural implements, and gives us the means to improve and extend the station.

"The general health was good, though we had more to do with malarial fever among the

natives than in the preceding year, and severe colds started as soon as the hot season began. However, we may thankfully say again that epidemics did not visit us. The members of the workers' staff, with the exception of Dick Kemp, S.S.I., were kept free from malaria by carefully taking quinine as preventive at the right time. Though again no death occurred on the station, the outlook is more gloomy than ever before. The statistics show 7 deaths against 5 births, but 6 of these deaths were little children (4 new-born babies and 2 children of about one year of age). The one adult was a young man of 25, killed by an alligator. I have studied the cause of the dying away of the infants, which has been going on now for three years, getting worse every year, and I have formed my opinion. However, I will not write about this until I have heard the opinion of experienced medical men."

Trubanaman (Mitchell River) Mission (via Normananton)—

The Superintendent, Mr. H. Matthews, reports:—

"Reviewing the last year from an industrial point of view, I think we can claim to have been fairly successful. The most important step in the development of the Mission has been the formation of two out-stations—one at the coast, named Koongalara, and the other up the creek, about 1½ miles, named Angeram. The first settlers, four married couples, went to Angeram on 17th July. There are now seven couples in residence. Fine comfortable huts have been built, and over 2 acres cleared and planted with potatoes, cassava, and pumpkins. A substantial post and wire fence, enclosing 40 acres, is in course of erection.

"Owing to very light rains, I fear the yields of foodstuff will not be up to expectation.

"The pioneers of Koongalara went there on 10th September, led by Tom Solomon, a South Sea Islander. There are now three other married couples living there. An iron house, 10 ft. by 12 ft., has been built for Tom, and three good bark huts for the others. About 1 acre has been cleared and planted with potatoes and cassava, but this, as elsewhere, is suffering from drought. Judged by white men's standards, the progress seems miserably slow, but when one considers that this work of the past year has been done by a people to whom all restraint is irksome, and steady application quite foreign to their natures, one takes heart of grace.

"On the whole, Mission work has been going on steadily. A fine large church has recently been completed and four new huts built. A brick-making machine was put up, and 12,000 bricks turned out, 500 banana trees were planted out, also 12,000 cassava plants. New yards have been erected and 200 acres fenced in. The store and kitchen were both moved to new sites. Our cattle have increased to 165 head, and we have 15 horses, 31 goats, and 10 fowls.

"Food distributed during the year:—Flour 18,000 lb., rice 4,880 lb., corn 582 lb., potatoes 7,608 lb., tea 127 lb., sugar 1,002 lb., 12 cases of soap, tobacco 144 lb., and 1 ton of pumpkins.

“There were three deaths and three births. The inmates now number 86, as follows:—Married couples, 17; single men, 20; school boys, 12; school girls, 10; infants, 10.

“The school was opened on 177 days. Reading, writing, and arithmetic are the principal subjects taught. Only two boys show marked improvement, the others are still struggling with the rudiments, and I am afraid many of them will not absorb sufficient knowledge to be of any use to them.”

The following is extracted from an interesting report received from the Bishop of Carpentaria:—

“The progress made since my last visit quite amazed me. Three points stand out prominently as the result of the first day’s impressions. First, the advantage to the Mission of having already sent out its first settlement to clear and till the land about a couple of miles up the creek. This new departure is shortly to be followed by a second settlement on the coast, not far from the original landing-place, where the soil is good and where there are great facilities for fishing. Secondly, the way in which regular work has become the habit and instinct of the place; I could hardly realise that the men who had been working all day for the last month at the monotonous job of turning a clay puddler for brick-making were the same who five years ago could with great difficulty be induced to work two or three hours at much more interesting work. Thirdly, the way in which the younger men and the boys are becoming intelligent craftsmen, taking a pride and interest in their work. I may add a fourth point, and that is, that for the first time, the Mission has made a great step towards agricultural self-support; for instance, during the last three months no less than 3 tons of sweet potatoes have been grown and consumed on the Mission, to say nothing of other produce. I visited first of all the sawpit, or rather, sawing scaffold, where I found a number of men, under the direction of Jack Geibo, hoisting up a big milkwood log about 2 ft. in diameter, to be sawn up into boards. A large number of boards had already been sawn, and well and regularly cut. These boards were to make a very necessary veranda for the Superintendent’s house. Near by, two men were splitting large bloodwood logs into sleepers, to be finished with an adze, as decking for a bridge across the gully to the west of the station houses. In the workshop adjoining, a well-finished table was being prepared. A number of boys and women were engaged watering the gardens. Here I found beans, cabbages, tomatoes, radishes, &c., all looking splendid. I have already spoken of the sweet potatoes, and the cassava looks equally as well, while there is a fine little grove of bananas and a considerable number of fruit trees coming on well.

“Next I went on to the brickfield. This is a discovery of Mr. Warren’s, a relative of Mr. Matthews, who has been staying at the Mission for the last six weeks, and who, being a skilled and ingenious artificer, has rendered considerable service to the Mission. Noting that the clay in the pit, where charcoal had been prepared, was burned into something like brick, he made experiments, and succeeded in building a brick oven, which has enormously diminished the labour of

breadmaking. He taught John Savo how to make bricks, and for the last month John and his three assistants have been turning out bricks which, even without burning, are strong, hard, and of excellent quality. Starting with 150, he is now turning out between 300 and 400 a day, and there are already several thousand in stock.

“When people demand that a Mission like Trubanaman should be self-supporting, they should remember, with the exception of roofing iron, nearly all the building materials have been produced on the spot, and that even the dray has been built at the Mission. Imagine a farmer starting without any capital wherewith to build his house, make his fences, drays, outhouses, barns, stores, and workmen’s dwellings, and with very few tools, and you will understand how the Mission has been situated. There is the additional disadvantage that bush timber and thatch and palm-leaf roofs are perishable and inflammable, and that much time has to be spent in re-erecting inadequate or antiquated buildings. The wonder is that agriculture has made as much progress as it has, while so much time is occupied in building and improvements, not for the comfort of the staff, who are still most inadequately housed, but for the general work of the station. For instance, owing to the growth of the Mission, it was found that the cattle yards were too close, and they had to be taken down and moved nearly half a mile. They are sufficient for milking, and good bails have been erected for six cows, but new yards altogether must be built before any drafting or branding can be done. On my way back I looked in at the school, which is held by Miss Matthews. Real progress has been made, and some of the copybooks were excellently written. On the following afternoon I walked out to see the new settlement of Angeram, about a mile and a-half up the creek. Land has been allotted here to four married men of the Mission, and, although they were only sent out a month ago, they have worked hard clearing the land. Each man has been given a section 240 ft. by 120 ft., and as soon as the first rain comes these plots of ground will be planted with sweet potatoes, and as the soil is excellent for the purpose, the new settlers should do well. This is the first attempt at the principle of private effort and private tenure of land, which has worked so well at Mapoon. So far, it has seemed to have greatly stimulated the energies of the men, who have done a large amount of clearing without supervision or assistance. Permanent houses will be erected as soon as possible on the allotments. About teatime, Mr. A. Bowman, at my request, came over to see me about a fence between his run and the Mission. This is most urgently needed in the interests both of the Mission and the run. Our cattle are increasing, and some fencing is absolutely necessary.

“On Sunday came the great event of the day, the baptism of twelve persons, eight males and four females, ranging in age from twelve to twenty. These twelve persons are the spiritual first-fruits of the Mission since it was started. It is worthy of note by those who are always speaking of the fickleness of the blacks, that of the four boys who were the first to join the Mission six years ago, and were then about eleven years old, two (Luke Manendabilli and Mark Galwalon) were baptised on this day, and the other

two (Don and Boiogabadin) were only absent because they were on duty on the boat. They were baptised on my arrival at Thursday Island. Not one of the four has ever left the Mission (except Don for a short time on the 'Melbidir,' where he worked well), and they are among the best men on it."

Deebing Creek Mission (*via* Ipswich)—

The Secretary of the Mission committee, Mr. W. H. Foote, reports:—

"The committee has held its regular meetings and the Home has been visited on several occasions during the year by the president, secretary, and treasurer, and other members of the committee, also by Mr. J. G. Macdonald, Visiting Magistrate, Dr. LeStrange, as well as by others interested in the work at the Home. Mr. Morrison has been present at all the meetings of the committee, where reports were read, business discussed, and work arranged.

"The general conduct of the inmates has been good. There was one serious case of misconduct on the part of an inmate, who had to be handed over to the proper authorities for punishment. There have been several occasions on which the use of drink has compelled the committee to confine the transgressors within the bounds of the Home for a short period, which has been found to be beneficial.

"We still have very satisfactory reports concerning both boys and girls who have gone out to service. All who are able to work have been fully employed working outside or upon the Home farm. They have earned a good deal of money, which as a rule they spend wisely on their homes and families, paying a small charge to the general Home Maintenance Fund. The work which is done at the Home and farm is mostly done without charge.

"The religious meetings are well attended, as well as the Sabbath School. The influences of these meetings are plainly manifest in the changed conduct of both young and old.

"The general health has been good. There was one case of typhoid, and many had dengue, but there were no deaths except that of a very old woman. There were no marriages this year, and only one birth. There has been no venereal nor accidents.

"The stock has done well, although we have not been without our misfortunes. One valuable draught mare, four cows, and three calves died, but we were able to sell nineteen steers, one old mare, and two pigs. One horse was bought and then sold, on which we had a profit of £7. The crops were much better than in former years. Produce was sold to the value of £31 1s., besides all that was used upon the Home. A new barn was erected, as well as one mile of wire fencing, for the better working of the farm.

"The attendance at the school has been regular and the results good. The committee much regret that Miss A. B. McCaul, who was proving herself so successful in her work with the young, had to resign at the close of the year on medical

advice. The Education Department kindly arranged an exchange for her, to a school on the Darling Downs, with Miss C. White, under whom the work of the school will be carried on from the beginning of the new year, which we have every reason to believe will be done with as much success and harmony as with all past teachers.

"Mr. and Mrs. Morrison continue to give the fullest satisfaction to the committee.

"The Home account kept by the Superintendent with the men had a balance of £44 4s. 3d., which was added to our bank account. More land has been stumped and cleared at the farm, and is mostly under crop.

"The committee were gladdened by the good news which they from time to time received from those who have passed through the Home, who, although they are now no longer our peculiar care, are continuing to live in other parts of the State, giving clear evidence of the benefits which they have obtained both socially and religiously whilst residents in the Home under our care.

"We commenced the year with a balance of £64 11s. 8d., and the revenue from Government grant and other sources amounted to £467 13s. 7d. The expenditure on rations, salaries, wages, vehicles, &c., came to £498 2s. 2d., leaving us a balance of £34 3s. 1d. The stock and implements on the station are valued at £322 7s. 6d., and during the year £190 13s. 5d. worth of stock and produce was sold, and £27 2s. worth of Home-grown produce consumed. The value placed on the permanent improvements added is £36 11s. One mare, four cows, and three calves, valued at £35 10s., died during the year."

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

I give herewith a statement showing transactions in the above account for the past year. To this account, by clause 14 of the Regulations of 1904, all estates of deceased natives, unclaimed wages, and property of deserters, are paid and expended in relief of the destitute, principally in providing outfits of clothing for those entering employment who are without funds, relief of sick, and burial of paupers. Of the money advanced to the Torres Strait Island natives to purchase fishing boats, the last payments (£51 0s. 2d.) in redemption have been made, and the vessels are now clear of debt to this account. One vessel, "Martha," was in too bad a condition to refit, and was sold for what she would fetch, just clearing 2s. 6d. over auctioneering expenses.

The account has suffered a loss of £128 5s. 10d. on these loans to the Torres Strait natives, entirely through Mount Adolphus and Moa Island boats, whose crews failed to justify the confidence reposed in them. All other boats, as far as the Department is concerned, are now clear.

To assist the missionaries at Cape Bedford in what promised to be a profitable industry—the cultivation and preparation of sisal hemp—a subsidy of £1 for £1 of subscriptions collected, amounting to £100, was granted to enable them to purchase decortiating machinery.

Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the year 1911

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aborigines

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