

1922.
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QUEENSLAND.

REPORT

UPON THE

OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

Aboriginals, Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Inebriates Institution (Dunwich), Brisbane Hospital, Diamantina Hospital for Chronic Diseases (South Brisbane), Jubilee Sanatorium for Consumptives (Dalby), Westwood Sanatorium, Government Relief, Home for Epileptics (Willowburn), and Prisons.

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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1922.

Reports upon the Operations of Certain Sub-Departments of the Home Secretary's Department.

Home Secretary's Department,
Brisbane, 30th August, 1922.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOME SECRETARY.

I have the honour to submit, for presentation to Parliament, the following information regarding the operations of the under-mentioned Sub-Departments of this Department.

WILLIAM GALL,
Under Secretary.

ABORIGINALS (Chief Protector, J. W. Bleakley).
DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM (Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Booth-Clarkson).
INEBRIATE INSTITUTION, DUNWICH (Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. Booth-Clarkson).
BRISBANE HOSPITAL (Medical Superintendent, Dr. J. B. McLean).
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES, SOUTH BRISBANE (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. A. Jefferis Turner).
JUBILEE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES, DALBY (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. Wm. H. Jamison).
WESTWOOD SANATORIUM (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. D. P. O'Brien).
GOVERNMENT RELIEF (Officer in Charge, D. A. Hogan).
HOME FOR EPILEPTICS (WILLOWBURN).
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, A. T. Peirson).

Aborigines Department.—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1921.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

The demand for aboriginal labour has been steady, generally, but declined in some districts owing to the fall in cattle and maize markets. There was little demand in the sugar districts, the sugar award rates being more than the growers are willing to pay for aboriginal labour. As a result, great vigilance is necessary to guard against the illegal employment of aboriginal house and yard hands in cane farm work.

The employment regulations have been generally well enforced, but there are still employers who seem to believe that the aboriginal should be content with worse housing conditions than they would provide for their pet horse, motor-car, or prize cattle.

The total number of natives engaged under agreement was 2,575 (males 2,026, females 549), and permits were issued for the casual employment of 597 males and 74 females.

One new protectorate—South Johnstone—was created, the number of district protectorates now being eighty-one.

Sixty-five natives were employed as trackers by the Police Department, and two were recruited for the Victorian Police.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

All the aboriginal labour offering was readily absorbed in the pearlshell and beche-de-mer fisheries, though there was some decrease in the engagements owing to the men of Murray Island striking for higher rates.

The new rule that all mainlanders are to be given a month's spell after discharge before re-engagement, has had a good effect, as well as the threat to refuse labour permits to those failing to return the men to their own homes, in ensuring that the employer's part of the contract in that regard is faithfully carried out. The result has been a marked decrease in the number of desertions. Cases came under notice where men were landed on an unfriendly part of the coast to walk hundreds of miles back to their own country.

The total number of permits granted at Thursday Island for work on boats was 423, being 190 Torres Strait men and 125 mainlanders. The wages earned by these men amounted to £5,753, of which £3,976 was paid for the Torres Strait men and £1,877 for the mainlanders.

In addition, 168 Torres Strait men worked their tribal "company" boats, and in this way earned £14,689.

At Cooktown 105 men were signed on to the fishing fleets, the wages earned being £881.

INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

Fifteen claims under the Workers' Compensation Act were made, and compensation to the amount of £142 awarded. In each case the

payment was made to the Protector, and its disbursement controlled by him. No fatal accidents were reported.

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNTS.

The following is a return of transactions of Savings Bank Accounts held in trust for natives throughout the State:—

—	No. of Accounts.	Wages Collected and Banked.			Accounts Transferred other Districts, Settlements, &c.			Actual Withdrawals for Natives' Benefit.			Interest Earned.			Balance.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Barambah	677	4,891	16	3	761	10	4	4,851	15	9	181	1	7	6,173	5	11
Taroom	224	1,859	8	0	280	4	10	2,452	13	1	27	17	1	677	8	11
Palm Island	467	1,645	4	0	1,959	3	8	2,342	17	9	111	15	0	4,435	19	8
Girls' Accounts	116	2,546	9	4	..	..	..	2,404	16	4	*	..	..	3,713	11	10
Various P. Accounts ..	4,988	64,321	14	4	12,294	5	4	33,018	13	2	4,576	18	5	174,839	15	9
Total	6,472	75,264	11	11	15,295	4	2	45,070	16	1	4,897	12	1	189,840	2	1

* Deposited to each Account.

The above figures do not include any trust accounts or store credits of natives on the various missions.

There is an apparent decrease of 103 in the number of accounts, as compared with last year, but this is occasioned partly by the closing of unclaimed accounts and by the transfer of accounts of deceased natives to their next of kin.

Some criticism has, at times, been levelled at the practice of compulsory deduction for banking purposes, and also at the large amount of money held in trust. The native's improvident disposition, and the ease with which he can be defrauded of his money, has made the first necessary. It would be short-sighted policy that yielded to the cry, often emanating from those interested in plucking him, that he should be given his money to spend as he likes. Experience has taught that the money often would quickly be lost at gambling, or foolishly spent, and prove of little benefit to himself or his family.

When it is pointed out that the compulsory banking deduction averaged, say, 50 per cent. at the most of the total wages earned, and of that deduction nearly 60 per cent. was returned to the owner in clothes and other benefits, it will be seen that the hardship alleged is somewhat overstated.

The growing total of money held in trust is built up on an average compulsory saving of about 20 per cent., and, though a large amount in appearance, represents only £29 per head of the native bankers. If ever a comprehensive scheme for the betterment of the race is undertaken, the foresight which built up this nest-egg for them will be acclaimed by many more than at present condemn it.

ABORIGINAL PROVIDENT FUND.

This fund was inaugurated in June, 1919, when wages all round were increased to conform to the higher rates of the European awards, and all native workers, not on reserves, contribute, entitling them to relief for themselves and dependents when in want, out of employment, sick, &c.

So far, the claims received have been few, probably because the natives have not really

understood, and the district officers have not, when needed, advised them of the available benefit.

As the fund is now well established, having £5,896 to credit, it is proposed to considerably reduce the rate of contribution and grant more generous exemptions.

AUXILIARY KETCH "MELBIDIR."

The duty of this vessel is the patrolling of the waters of the Cape York Peninsula and Torres Strait, and in the suppression of abuses on aboriginals, but for some time general patrol work has been curtailed to conform to the policy of strict economy, because of the heavy cost of engine fuel, so her services have been limited to tender work in connection with the administration of the Protector in Thursday Island.

In the early part of the year serious engine trouble, which apparently could not be corrected in Thursday Island, laid the vessel up for some time, only imperative work being done under sail. In May a change in the command was made, new engine parts were supplied, and the hull and rigging thoroughly overhauled and repaired, putting the ship into good seagoing condition.

About 1,280 miles have since been patrolled, besides which the master and crew supervised the building and fitting of a native village on Moa Island to receive the members of the Hammond Island tribe transferred to there, and also the extensive shipwright work done on the native fishing vessels.

CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Applications for exemption from the Acts were received from 64 males and 20 females. After strict review, 39 half-castes (29 males and 10 females) were considered eligible, and the privilege granted to them. It was found necessary, on account of intemperance, &c., to revoke three certificates of exemption granted in previous years.

REMOVALS AND RECOGNIZANCES.

Bonds were entered into for the temporary removal by employers of 59 natives from their own districts, and in only two cases had action to be taken because of natives not being satisfactorily returned.

FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

Regular relief rations amounting to £1,520 were issued from twenty-seven centres, in monthly allowances, according to number and need of recipients.

Casual relief amounting to £442 was issued where found necessary.

BLANKETS.

The annual issue of clothing, blankets, &c., was carried out, 1,220 men, 1,151 women, and 734 children benefiting. The following goods were distributed:—2,624 blankets, 201 shirts, 201 trousers, 223 dresses, 388 fishing lines, 39 boxes hooks, 48 sinkers, 234 tomahawks, 6 bottles quinine, 5 boxes salts, 1,355 yards clothing material, 104 tent flies, 4 caddies tobacco, 179 pipes, 40 yards fishing net. The cost of blankets and other goods was £2,781, and carriage £43.

The purchase and despatch of this relief were in the hands of the Government Store-keeper, but, unfortunately, owing to dislocation in shipping and carrying services—the aftermath of the shipping strikes—many of the supplies were delayed on the road and did not reach their destination until after the winter was over.

OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

The following comparative table of prosecutions for offences against the Aboriginal Protection Acts, for the past three years, speaks for itself:—

Offences.	1919.		1920.		1921.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium ..	28	£ 241	46	£ 392	52	£ 343
Supplying liquor ..	16	325	5	130	13	246
Harbouring ..	2	20	7	48	7	31
Illegally employing ..	8	58	6	16	8	67
Sale of poison ..	1	10	..	..	..	..

Reports show that in the West there is still some traffic in such drugs as morphine and chlorodyne, the principal offenders being Chinese. In the coastal districts between Cairns and Townsville, opium trafficking and sly-grog selling by aliens is rife. Forty natives from the Cardwell district were removed to Palm Island for being addicted to these vices.

OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

The following comparative statement of offences for which aboriginals have been convicted, during the past three years, speaks for itself:—

Offences.	1919.	1920.	1921.
Drunkenness	20	23	26
Stealing	3	1	19
Entering premises ..	2	..	2
Creating disturbance ..	6	..	1
Desertion from ships ..	25	2	14
Desertion from employment ..	..	4	5
Desertion from reserve ..	..	..	4
Obscene language ..	11	1	4
Assault	9	..	1
Attempted murder ..	..	..	1
Murder	5	..	1
Destruction of property ..	..	..	3
Disobedience on reserve ..	..	..	3
Living on proceeds prostitution ..	..	..	1
Unlawfully using horse ..	..	..	1

REMOVALS.

Below is a statement of the natives removed to reserves, by order of the Minister, for disciplinary reasons or for their own protection and relief:—

	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Barambah ..	11	6	3	20
Taroom—				
Removals ..	19	22	16	71
Detention ..	7	2	5	
Palm Island—				
Removals ..	89	36	13	140
Detention ..	11	..	..
<i>Missions—</i>				
Yarrabah ..	10	14	6	30
Furga ..	..	1	..	1
Cape Bedford ..	20	8	7	35
Monamona ..	3	..	5	8
<i>Island Reserve—</i>				
Darnley Island ..	..	1	..	1
	161	90	55	306

HEALTH.

Health generally has been good, and there were no serious epidemics.

Venereal disease was in evidence in most districts, chiefly on the East coast and in the Gulf country. Nine cases were treated at Barambah Settlement and a few on the settlement at Palm Island. Fourteen cases from various centres were treated at Townsville. The mission at Mapoon reports its prevalence amongst the nomad tribes, and there is no doubt it is in evidence throughout the Peninsula, although the severe influenza epidemic of 1920 purged the coastal camps of many of these cases.

The Hookworm Campaign is still in progress and has done much work in Peninsula camps and Gulf missions. Many of the institutions showed a high percentage of infection, and all now speak of the greatly improved health conditions resulting from the treatment.

A severe epidemic of malaria broke out at Aurukun, but there were no deaths. Outbreaks of ophthalmic trouble occurred at Mapoon and also at Taroom, and scabies also broke out at the latter place, in fact was carried to the settlement by new arrivals from outside camps.

Altogether 441 camp natives were treated, either at district general hospitals or by Government medical officers. Two hundred and twenty patients went through the Barambah Hospital, besides a large daily attendance of out-patients, 146 through the hospitals at Yarrabah, 92 in Torres Strait, and similar lists of minor cases were treated at the other institutions.

There were 291 deaths, the settlements reporting 68, the missions 29, Torres Strait 40, and the camps 154.

Births numbered 324, the list showing Torres Strait 131, settlements 56, missions 38, and camps 99.

YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

To ensure their better care and protection 66 women and 37 children were removed to the settlements, and 24 women and 18 children to mission stations.

No reliable record was obtainable as to the number of tribal marriages arranged, but 40 legal marriages were permitted. Of these 38 were to men of their own nationality, only two being to aliens, one a native of Bermuda and the other a Samoan.

The question of form of marriage to be allowed is often a difficult one to decide. To expect the primitive savage to understand and accept the responsibilities of civilised legal marriage would be absurd and only bring such ceremony into ridicule. Yet there is equal danger that, to the semi-civilised native, freed of the influences which made for respect for the native marriage laws, the tribal marriage will offer an easy way of evading those responsibilities.

The majority of our natives are not advanced enough for the civilised marriage, but have advanced too far for the old tribal custom.

Thirty-seven European half-caste women, mostly married, obtained the maternity bonus. Of these, nineteen applications were made through the Chief Protector's Office and eighteen through district Protectors.

The number of girls formerly under agreement from this office has now been reduced to 89, through 12 having married, 6 obtaining exemption, and 3 removing to settlements. Of these, 28 are engaged in the city area and 61 in country situations.

The policy of restricting employment of girls in the city is still being pursued, and country situations were found for eleven girls who were formerly employed in Brisbane.

The total number of Savings Bank accounts held in trust for these girls is 116, many of the married or exempt women having been content to leave their accounts in our hands. The average amount to credit is £32. The total wages collections deposited for the year were £2,546, and withdrawals for clothing, &c., £2,404.

Owing to the pressure of the work of supervising the clothing purchases of the girls and selecting clothing for various settlements, the female Protector has had little time for inspection of country situations.

No complaints, however, were received as to ill-treatment or non-observance of the regulations, and the behaviour of the girls was generally satisfactory.

The number of children in homes is 61, and they are distributed as follows:—

Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island	16
Salvation Army Industrial Schools—	
Yeronga and Chelmer	12
Riverview	5
Mapoon Mission	7
Purga Mission	21
	—
	61

The total cost of maintenance of these children was £953.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

In his report the Protector at Thursday Island says:—"The health of the island natives during the year has been good, there having been no serious outbreaks of disease of any kind. Yaws are fairly prevalent, but steps are being taken which, it is hoped, will result in the stamping out of this disease in the near future."

The returns show that the population of the islands is 2,611—Men 703, women 604, boys 706, girls 596. The excess of males over females—over 200—is worth noting, as a possible factor in the growing prevalence of moral offences upon young women, of late years.

The number of births was 125, marriages 5, deaths 43.

Schools.—The Government teachers all report satisfactory progress. A native teacher has been appointed to Cocomat Island, in the room of Aragu, lately deceased. A school under a native teacher has been established at Stephens Island. It is worthy of note that both the teachers selected were natives of Badu.

New school buildings have been erected at Darnley, Mabuiag, and Yorke Islands, in each case the natives themselves doing the work, the only expense to the Department being half the cost of material for the Yorke building.

Island Funds.—The total collections were £1,783 and the expenditure £1,502. A further £1,771 is out on loan to nine of the native fishing vessels.

There is an increase in the total balance of nearly £300. The collections show a decrease of £824, and the expenditure a reduction of £1,257, on last year's figures. The falling off in revenue is accounted for by the fact that 7½ per cent. was previously collected from the gross proceeds of the island boats' produce, whereas the regulation provided for the collection of 7½ per cent. Island Fund on the net proceeds of a boat's earnings. As it is a difficult matter to rightly ascertain what are net earnings, it was decided to collect 5 per cent. from the gross earnings of each boat. £800 has been collected towards the reduction of the boats' debts, but will not appear in the liquidation of such debts until 1922.

Island Company Boats.—In August last all the native-owned fishing vessels were sent to trade at the Papuan Industries Station, Badu, under the supervision of the local Protector. The alteration has proved satisfactory in every way.

The working of the boats as a whole shows a marked improvement on last year's figures, the total earnings amounting to £12,919, an increase of £1,517 and only £67 less than the earnings during the boom year of 1919. This must be regarded as highly satisfactory, as the prices for pearlshell during the early part of the year were lower than those prevailing at the close of 1920, and did not reach a higher figure than £142 per ton at any time, as against £270 in 1919 and £200 in 1920. Bêche-de-mer prices were stable during the first nine months of the year, but just as the weather became favourable for the fishing of this class of produce the market collapsed, owing to trouble in China. The boats engaged in this branch of the fishery, therefore, missed their usual harvest. The boats of the Western islands have done remarkably well, fishing for pearlshell on a patch north-west of Mabuiag Island, and this particularly applies to the Mabuiag boats, with—notwithstanding that one boat was slipped and repaired during the last five months—their individual earnings averaging over £100 per month per boat.

All boats are now in a good state of repair, and it is not anticipated that it will be necessary to expend a great deal on them for some little time to come.

Although some of the boats have done very well indeed, others have been worked in anything but a satisfactory manner, notably the Yorke Island cutter "Masig." However, a new system of working the boats has been instituted which, it is hoped, will result in all showing a satisfactory return for the next year's operations.

The "Nancy" and "Kismet," the boats belonging to the half-caste brothers Mosby, operate through the Protector's office direct. The "Kismet" was built to replace the "Yano," wrecked early in the year. Both have done fairly well, and the earnings of the "Kismet" have justified the expense of building her.

General.—The compulsory banking of a proportion of all islanders' wages has increased the number of bank accounts by 271, and these now number 550. This has considerably increased the clerical work, but has resulted in great benefit to the men and their families, by preventing them from wasting their earnings in the many gambling dens and sly-grog shops.

Preparations are being made for the transfer of the whole of the Hammond Island tribe to Adam Village, on Moa Island. A house is being provided for each family, and the removal of these people should benefit them considerably in the future.

RESERVES.

With each succeeding year the urgent need for the adoption of a definite scheme for providing for the thousands of aboriginals of this State who are still aimlessly wandering, unprotected, living in destitution, and an easy prey to the unscrupulous, is more pressingly felt. There is a steady stream of these unfortunates to the existing reserves, but, in many cases, the circumstances necessitating their removal have been such that the opportunity of benefitting them has gone by.

Most well-meant appeals on behalf of the natives fall short of any comprehensive proposal for dealing with the problem of what should be done for this race. All are agreed that segregation from the contamination of the white man's civilisation is the only hope of saving them, but the common suggestion that, thus separated, they should be allowed to live their own life and work out their own destiny, comes too late. Where the savage has tasted of the intoxication of civilisation he cannot longer be kept a contented savage, and very few could now be found but have acquired the taste. If left without benevolent guidance they would inevitably drift back to the temptations from which it was desired to protect them.

If the remnants of the race are to be saved they will have to be civilised. This can only be done successfully by adopting a comprehensive and generous policy under which they can be taught and helped to build up a civilisation of their own, suitable both to the changed conditions and their own intellectual development, under which they can progress to the highest degree of social contentment and self independence possible to them.

GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

Barambah (Superintendent, B. J. T. Lipscombe)

Taroom (Superintendent, H. C. Colledge).

Palm Island (Superintendent, R. H. Curry).

Labour—The demand for male native labour has, of course, been affected by the depression in the cattle industry, but that for female servants cannot be met. Behaviour has been generally satisfactory, and treatment by the employers, in the matter of accommodation, has much improved. Complaint has been made of some employers signing natives on as farm labourers or stockmen and working them afterwards as cane-cutters, drovers, &c., work for which higher pay should be given.

The number of engagements entered into at the settlements was—

Barambah, 476, including 343 permits for short terms.

Taroom, 51.

Palm Island, 76, including 10 permits for short terms.

The wages deductions collected amounted to £8,578. This comprises £4,787 for Barambah, £2,031 for Taroom, and £1,759 for Palm Island. These amounts include deductions towards settlement maintenance as follows:—Barambah, £380; Taroom, £177; Palm Island, £226.

The balances to credit of the bank accounts are—Barambah, £6,173; Taroom, £677; Palm Island, £4,436. The interest earned by these accounts amounted to £321.

Population—The total number of men, women, and children on each reserve is—Barambah 664, Taroom 225, Palm Island 567.

Health.—No serious outbreaks of sickness occurred. At Barambah and Palm Island cases of venereal disease were treated, and a number of cases of pulmonary trouble at Barambah and Taroom. The last place also experienced an epidemic of scabies. Where it has been possible to improve dwelling conditions a notable improvement in health has resulted.

Crime.—No serious crimes were committed. A number of absconders and petty offenders received short terms of imprisonment or were dealt with by their settlement court. Gambling and immorality are the two worst troubles, and it is found that the best method for combating these evils is to provide healthy recreations and amusements. With nothing to do in his spare time the native cannot be entirely blamed if he gets into mischief.

Retail Stores.—The following figures will show the amount of business done by these stores. The money is practically all earned at outside employment, and, in this way, it is spent under supervision, for the benefit of the families instead of being gambled away or wasted:—

Barambah, £4,252, of which £2,991 were cash sales.

Taroom, £2,604, of which £1,584 were cash sales.

Palm Island, £2,477, of which £2,024 were cash sales.

School.—School has regularly been held at Barambah and Taroom, but it has not yet been possible to build a school at Palm Island, although the number of children there (60) fully

justifies doing so. A much larger school building is also very necessary at Barambah, where the school roll is 140. The erection of a building for the Taroom children is also necessary, the teacher at present utilising the native-built court house, made of mud-bricks. Notwithstanding these difficulties the Inspectors have reported the work done as very creditable.

Industries.—The farms and gardens have returned some good crops, mostly of vegetables and fodder for home consumption, for this is the most profitable. As a result, the inmates have benefited in health from the plentiful supply of vegetables in their diet, and the milkers and the working horses have also benefited in condition.

At Barambah, this produce included 4½ tons sweet potatoes, 2 tons pumpkins, 22 cwt. English potatoes, 3,000 cabbages, 1,000 Swede and 2,000 English turnips, 16 tons lucerne hay, 4 tons wheaten chaff, 15 cwt. barley. Plantings of arrowroot and cotton promise good results.

At Taroom, besides an abundance of all varieties of vegetables, which appear to grow well, good stocks of winter fodder were garnered from wheat, Soudan grass, bush hay, &c.

At Palm Island, the produce raised and eaten was 30 tons sweet potatoes, 1 ton peanuts, 2,000 bunches of bananas, and 2,000 pineapples. Good catches of fish, when weather permitted, made a welcome change of diet, but very few turtle were caught, owing to bad weather. Of development and improvement work, at Barambah, 200 acres were ringbarked, 400 acres brushed, and 2 miles of fencing renewed and repaired. The sawmill cut 60,882 super. feet of hardwood, 50,502 super. feet pine, and machined 31,055 and 44,063 super. feet respectively. This supplied timber for buildings on Taroom and Palm Island, as well as the home settlement. At Taroom, a large amount of fencing, ring-barking, and clearing has been done, and extensive pear-clearing operations are in progress. At Palm Island, 18 tons of lime were burnt from the coral deposits. A few tons were sold and the rest used for cementing the floors of native dwellings and fertilising the plantations. This work, though promising to be profitable, had to be abandoned for want of proper lime-burning plant.

Stock.—The cattle at Barambah now number 651, including 5 bulls and 26 workers. The number of beasts used for beef was 56. The natural increase for the year was 132. There are also 65 goats, 11 pigs, and 18 horses.

At Taroom, the herd has been strengthened by 3 good bulls and 50 breeders of a good beef strain. A number of old cows have been turned into beef, and 200 of the old sheep have also been similarly used. There are 7 pigs, all thriving, and there is plenty of food for them.

Administrative Buildings.—At Barambah, four more native cottages, a serviceable lockup with two cells, a home for old women, a carpenters' workshop, and two huts for isolation cases have been built. The hospital lighting system, septic tank, and water service has been completed, and a number of shade trees planted in the grounds. At Taroom, two weatherboard cottages, as officers' quarters, have been built, and a number of serviceable buildings erected of mud-bricks, such as native courthouse, dairy, soup kitchen, isolation ward, sewing room, boiler-

house, old men's dining-room, &c., and in this is seen one solution of the problem of providing material for better dwellings for the native families. At Palm Island also, two weatherboard cottages were built, as officers' quarters, and, in addition, a barn, a boatshed, single boys' quarters, and large bulk store.

Social Improvement.—The progress in this direction is steady, but little can be achieved until better housing conditions make the development of an improved home life possible, and the vices of gambling and immorality can be successfully combated with healthy amusement or occupation for the idle hours. At Palm Island, where the town-planning idea was acted upon from the start, and recreations are organised, the settlement boasts of a well-ordered homelife and an entire absence of the gambling trouble.

Religious Instruction.—Various denominations have supplied religious services and instruction, and these have been well attended. At Barambah the Church of England and the Salvation Army have held weekly services, and a visiting missionary from the Aborigines Inland Mission has attended daily. At Taroom, the Bush Brotherhood visit periodically, and Sunday school for the children is conducted by Nurse Hempsted. A compulsory church parade is held every Sunday, and a weekly choir practice, which is entered heartily into. At Palm Island, the Torres Strait men hold their own church services daily.

Recreations.—Outdoor sports, native corroborees, and other healthy amusements were encouraged. Cricket, football, tennis, and such sporting material was supplied. At Taroom, a native mounted infantry squad has been formed, under a returned soldier officer, and the men, all of whom ride their own horses, are very keen. At Palm Island, boating picnics, fishing, harpooning turtle, and pig-hunting are all favourite amusements.

The usual Christmas festivities were indulged in, towards which, by common consent, the accumulated interest on their bank accounts was expended in sporting material and seasonable luxuries and gifts for the children, sick, and old. Through this generous action on the part of the able bodied, the festive season was a time of real enjoyment to all.

MISSIONS.

- Yarrabah, Cairns** (Superintendent, Rev. W. C. Smith).
Monamona, Cairns (Superintendent, J. L. Branford).
Cape Bedford, Cooktown (Superintendent, Rev. G. H. Schwarz).
Moa Island, Torres Strait (Superintendent, Rev. G. A. Luscombe).
Mapoon, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. J. B. Love, M.A.).
Weipa, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, H. L. Dyer).
Trubanaman, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. H. Matthews).
Aurukun, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, T. W. Holmes).
Mornington Island, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, R. H. Wilson).
Purga, Ipswich (Superintendent, Wm. Knight.)

Conduct.—All institutions report that discipline and conduct were excellent. There was no serious crime. A number of recent deportees absconded from Yarrabah, some of them were rearrested and returned, others were transferred to the settlement at Palm Island for greater security. Gambling or drinking was non-existent.

Religious Training.—At most missions and outstations daily and weekly services were held and were well attended. It is claimed that the influence of the religious teaching is shown in the everyday lives of the people, who are steadily developing into peaceable, decent, and industrious citizens.

Health.—The investigations of the Hookworm Campaign specialists showed that this disease was much in evidence, the percentage of infection, at some places, being as high as 90. The treatment and helpful advice given as to sanitary precautions has resulted in a marked improvement in general health. Some venereal cases were treated, or sent to hospital, from the nomad tribes on the Peninsula reserves. All the missions report a gratifying increase of births over deaths, and point with pride to the fact that the children are of a healthy, vigorous type.

Education.—Progress has been steady and satisfactory. The children are fond of school and are anxious to learn, though often more aptitude is shown for technical than for elementary training. Machinery and tools are always a source of great interest and delight to the boys, who quickly learn to be useful in handling them. The girls soon become skilful at plain sewing, fancywork, weaving baskets and mats, domestic duties, &c. In their education, equal importance is being attached to the cultivation of those arts likely to be of use in their future efforts toward self-independence, as in the arts of reading, writing, and calculation needed to fit them to protect themselves in business dealings.

Industrial and Agricultural.—The season has been a good one for agricultural operations, and good crops of various vegetables and other products for home consumption have been grown. Owing to the collapse of the bêche-de-mer market, the returns for the fishing operations, on which most of the Peninsula missions had vessels employed, were very disappointing.

The bad state of the cattle market also made the sale of stock out of the question.

At Mapoon, the earnings of the bêche-de-mer vessels were £203, as compared with £816 last year. The cocoanuts provided a valuable food supply, and 1,000 seed nuts have been planted in a nursery ready for next season. A little money was earned by sale of mats, baskets, &c. There has, however, been ample beef and milk for the inmates, and plentiful supplies of maize, peanuts, sweet potatoes, melons, pumpkins, bananas, pineapples, and pawpaws.

At Weipa, the crops failed owing to excessive rain, but 11½ tons of sandalwood was gathered and returned £253. Sale of fancywork brought £27. There were no returns from bêche-de-mer.

At Aurukun, £136 was earned from collecting sandalwood and £20 from cutting firewood. Twenty acres of fresh ground have been prepared for cultivation, and 5 acres of it for

irrigation. All fences have been repaired and are now in good order. A fine 14-ton lugger has been acquired and is proving of great service, especially for communication with Thursday Island.

A portable engine and sawbench is being installed to enable timber to be sawn for building better native houses.

At Mitchell River, 25 acres were cultivated with sweet potatoes, cassava, pumpkins, and peanuts. £100 was realised from sale of peanuts. The cattle now number 1,700, the horses 30, and there are 150 goats. The plantation contains 1,000 banana plants, 500 pawpaws, and 370 mangoes. An irrigation plant has been installed and is at work. Twelve miles of good road have been cut through the bush to the landing. Several thousand feet of timber have been cut by the mission sawmill and used in improvement work, native dwellings, &c. A new cattle yard, capable of holding 2,000 head of cattle, has also been erected.

At Mornington Island, new cottages for the native assistant and the captain of the ketch have been built, also a 50-foot shelter-shed for the camp people. Notwithstanding the poor market, £180 was earned from bêche-de-mer, sandalwood, and garden produce.

Natural food supplies are so plentiful the native does not see the need for working to earn more. They have now learnt to make dugout canoes, like those used by the mainlanders, and can go further to sea, with the result that plentiful supplies of turtle and dugong are caught for food.

At Cape Bedford, good crops of sweet potatoes, bananas, yams, tara, cassava, and peanuts were raised. One ton of peanuts was stored for sale, and 1,000 seed cocoanuts were sold, also £16 worth of pineapples. Some thousands of cocoanuts and pineapples were used for food. A number of the inmates have started beekeeping, which promises to be profitable.

There was no revenue from the bêche-de-mer vessels or the cattle, owing to poor markets.

At Yarrabah, the various outstation plantations yielded 50 tons sweet potatoes, 10 tons maize, 3 tons cassava, ¼ ton of vegetables, 600 bunches bananas, 30 dozen pineapples.

Most of the able-bodied labour has been absorbed by the sawmill work, at the expense of the agriculture. Over £1,000 has been cleared off the debt on the mill from the sale of railway sleepers. A bridge 300 yards long has been built across the swamp to the mill. A new launch, 30 feet by 8 feet, is being built on the station, a boatslip has been laid, and a jetty built at the mill for loading timber. The mill made it possible to provide several new buildings for the comfort of the staff and people. Several of the more intelligent have felled timber, had it cut up at the mill, and built houses for themselves.

At Monamona, the plantation yielded 70 tons sweet potatoes, all of which was consumed by the station. Six acres of cassava is ready to dig and 8 acres more coming on well. The bananas have cropped well, and the natives have had a plentiful supply all through the season. Four new cottages have been built, and 20 acres of fresh ground prepared for the plough.

The earnings of two fine bullock teams, hauling timber, have contributed largely to the support of the station.

At Purga, practically all the able-bodied men have engaged in employment on neighbouring dairy farms, and work has been plentiful. Fifty acres were under cultivation with lucerne, oats, barley, cotton, and vegetables. Besides what was used for home consumption, £75 was earned by sale of produce locally. An oil engine and chaffcutter have been acquired.

Social.—Some remarks by the superintendent of Mitchell River Mission, amongst the primitive people in the Gulf country, are worth noting. He says:—"Two facts stand out clearly; first, that the aborigine is not the incorrigible, useless being he is too often represented to be, and, secondly, that given fairplay, fair treatment, and reasonable conditions, he is cap-

able of becoming quite a useful citizen. Our people are in the stone age, and it is not surprising that the shock of contact with our advanced civilisation should prove too great for some. It is rather a source of wonder that so many have adapted themselves readily to advanced ideas and become useful members of society. The people here are happy and contented, and discipline is mild, but effective. The men build their own homes and work their own gardens. The women make their own clothing and mats for the floor. They have not taken a 'walkabout' in the bush now for four years."

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

The following statement shows the receipts and disbursements of the money collected from unclaimed estates, which, by Regulation 14 of 1904, can only be utilised for the benefit of aboriginals:—

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
				Expenses—			
Balance, 31st December, 1920	..	..	£ 2,624 0 6	Barambah—			
Collections—				Hospital .. .. .	..	..	66 6 0
Estates deceased .. .. .	..	..	1,602 0 2	Lighting .. .. .	..	..	195 7 3
Unclaimed bank balances .. .. .	..	..	2,300 8 5	Septic tank .. .. .	..	..	524 5 11
Wages—Deserters .. .. .	..	..	33 6 8	General improvements .. .. .	..	..	857 12 5
Transfers—Bank accounts of deported natives, &c. .. .. .	..	..	1,221 0 5	Sawmill .. .. .	..	..	7 15 0
Refunds—				Grants—			
Advance account loans .. .. .	..	..	150 0 0	Yarrabah Mission towards upkeep .. .. .	..	..	500 0 0
Interest on Settlement Joint Accounts .. .. .	..	..	320 13 8	Various missions .. .. .	..	..	90 9 8
Purga Mission Joint Account .. .. .	..	..	362 16 0	Refunds—			
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	31 18 11	Proceeds sale of fish, Cape Bedford .. .. .	..	..	35 16 2
Wages—Barambah Aboriginal Settlement from Accountant, Home Department .. .. .	..	..	635 2 6	To relatives—deceased estates .. .. .	..	..	487 3 8
Contingency Expenditure—Barambah sawmill .. .. .	..	..	119 13 4	To other whose bank balances were banked for convenience .. .. .	..	..	1,400 4 9
Purchase of pine logs, Barambah .. .. .	..	..	264 10 4	Bank Balances—Purga Mission inmates .. .. .	..	..	346 4 0
Loan—				Taroom Sports Fund .. .. .	..	..	40 11 9
Yam Island boat "Yama" .. .. .	..	..	25 0 0	Various .. .. .	..	..	50 19 6
York Island boat "Masig" .. .. .	..	..	25 0 0	Loans—			
Proceeds—				Advance Account—			
Taroom Sports Fund .. .. .	..	..	27 11 9	Taroom .. .. .	..	..	20 0 0
Sale of fish, Cape Bedford .. .. .	..	..	36 6 0	Barambah .. .. .	..	..	10 0 0
			£9,779 8 8	Advances for repairs, Torres Strait boats .. .. .	..	..	656 1 5
				Christmas Goods—Settlement interest account .. .. .	..	..	274 3 3
				Burial—Destitute natives .. .. .	..	..	56 6 6
				Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	116 1 10
				Balance, 31st December, 1921 .. .. .	..	..	4,043 19 7
							£9,779 8 8

The estimated aboriginal population at end of year was 17,000, and the total expenditure was £41,593.

The collections throughout the State (including wages and earnings of aboriginals, sale of produce of fishing vessels, settlements, &c., amounted to £109,195.

Report upon the Operations of certain Sub-Departments of the Home Secretary's Department - Aboriginal Department, Information contained in Report for the year ended 31st December 1921

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aboriginals

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