

1927.  
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QUEENSLAND.

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# REPORT

UPON THE

## OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

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

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PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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A. 48—1927.

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

Home Secretary's Department,  
Brisbane, 20th October, 1927.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE HOME SECRETARY.

SIR,—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 (for Medical Superintendent, R. A. S. Browne).  
INEBRIATE INSTITUTION, DUNWICH (for Medical Superintendent, R. A. S. Browne).  
JUBILEE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES, DALBY (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. Wm. H. Jamison ; Superintendent, Miss M. Nutt).  
WESTWOOD SANATORIUM (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. D. P. O'Brien ; Superintendent, Miss M. Scully).  
GOVERNMENT RELIEF (Officer in Charge, D. A. Hogan).  
HOME FOR EPILEPTICS (WILLOWBURN) ; Miss M. Conway.  
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, W. J. Gall).  
QUEENSLAND BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION (Manager, I. Dickson).  
DEAF AND BLIND SCHOOLS (Head Teacher, S. E. Holle.)  
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. A. Jefferis Turner).  
INFANT WELFARE. (Director, Dr. A. Jefferis Turner).

### Aboriginal Department—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1926.

#### POPULATION.

A census of the aboriginal population of the State was taken by the Department, in conjunction with the Registrar-General and the Commonwealth Statistician, on 30th June, the figures being as under:—

#### FULL-BLOOD, 13,604.

ADULTS.		CHILDREN.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
6,299	4,301	1,572	1,432

#### HALF-CASTES 4,047.

ADULTS.		CHILDREN.	
Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
1,095	1,011	1,017	924

Total 17,651.

A comparison of the figures of 1924 census and that of 1926 shows a difference in the number of full-bloods and half-castes that is explained by the fact that, of the returns received, only 43 per cent. could be certified accurate, the

remainder being as correct as the nomadic condition of the people and doubt as to breed made possible.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

Practically all Protectors report a good demand for labour, especially for station work. Even the drought, which in some districts has lasted for six years, made no appreciable decrease in the employment offering. Work seemed to be available for all willing to take it.

In some districts where game was plentiful the aboriginal preferred the nomadic life and to follow scalping as a livelihood.

The employers, generally, observed the regulations and appeared to find the native employees satisfactory, for in many instances the boys have worked for the same employer for several successive years and are spoken of as good and reliable workers. The demand for female domestics always seems to exceed the supply, and good maids readily command wages from 15s. to 30s. a week. The number of permanent agreements entered into was 2,507 (1,885 males and 622 females), while permits were issued for the casual employment, for short terms, in 1,860 cases (610 males and 1,250 females).

Two new protectorates were created, viz., Dirranbandi and Silkwood, and one place (Mount Carbine) was closed.

Sixty-six men were engaged as trackers by the Queensland Police Department, and two by the Victorian Police.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

All the aboriginal labour offering was again absorbed in the fishing industry, and there was no need for any native in Torres Strait to be unemployed.

New regulations were framed, governing the employment of aboriginals in the pearlshell and bêche-de-mer industry, and, though introducing some much-needed and drastic reforms, they were generally well observed by employers, and no difficulty was experienced in their enforcement.

The section providing for extra pay for Sunday work was instrumental in checking much of this common method of abuse, and resulted in much better balances on discharge to many of the employees.

The engagements of native seamen at Thursday Island numbered 370, and 216 islanders and 219 mainlanders were discharged at the Shipping Office. The wages earned amounted to £4,888, of which the islanders received £3,420 and the mainlanders £1,468.

In addition to the above, 350 islanders worked their tribal company boats, the earnings amounting to £21,426, an increase of £1,584 on the

previous year's catch, and even exceeding the record of 1924 by £935. This can be regarded as very satisfactory.

At Cooktown 55 men, all mainlanders, were engaged, mostly on Torres Strait bêche-de-mer vessels, their earnings being £1,163, and 39 men of the Palm Island Settlement were similarly employed.

#### INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

During the year 21 claims were made under the Workers' Compensation Act, and compensation amounting to £1,739 9s. 7d. was received and administered, generally through the nearest local Protector, for the benefit of the injured native, thus ensuring that he received proper care, medical attention and maintenance during his incapacity.

The State Insurance Commissioner and his Claims Department, with their usual courtesy, co-operated with this Department in arriving at fair settlements of the various claims.

#### ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNTS.

The following return gives the transactions of the Savings Bank accounts held in trust for natives throughout the State. The store credits of the inmates of the various missions are not included:—

—	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposits.		Accounts Transferred other Districts, Settlements, &c.		Interest Earned.		Withdrawals for Natives' Benefit.		Balance.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Barambah .. ..	473	6,250	13 5	345	9 9	139	2 5	7,321	7 0	2,272	18 10
Palm Island .. ..	484	4,157	5 8	383	10 8	195	6 6	6,222	11 3	2,448	0 0
Taroom .. ..	219	3,564	18 4	226	18 1	70	3 5	3,724	11 6	1,621	3 6
Brisbane .. ..	119	3,115	10 6	400	19 2	187	0 3	2,630	18 9	5,976	1 6
Various Protectors ..	5,318	86,641	4 2	20,509	4 7	8,081	19 0	76,123	5 0	268,446	12 1
<b>Totals .. ..</b>	<b>6,613</b>	<b>103,729</b>	<b>12 1</b>	<b>21,866</b>	<b>2 3</b>	<b>8,673</b>	<b>11 7</b>	<b>96,022</b>	<b>13 6</b>	<b>280,764</b>	<b>15 11</b>

Investments were made from the Settlement funds, as under, in Treasury Loan Inscribed Stock at 5½ per cent.:—Barambah £3,000, Palm Island £4,000, and Taroom £1,000, and these amounts should be added to the balances shown.

There is an increase of 144 in the number of accounts in trust, and the average credit is now £42 10s.

The total wages banked exceeds last year's figures by over £8,000. As the workers draw from 25 per cent. to 75 per cent. in pocket money it might be said that this only represents, say, 60 per cent. of their actual earnings. As the subsequent expenditure, under supervision, for clothing, maintenance of dependents, amusement, &c., came to 92.5 per cent. of the money banked, it will be seen that they are learning to understand and benefit from the system.

Contributions to the Provident Fund amounted to £1,767, and there is now a balance of £16,015, of which £14,000 is also invested in Treasury Loan Inscribed Stock.

#### ABORIGINAL PATROL VESSEL.

The old auxiliary ketch "Melbidir" was out of commission, being no longer worth the heavy expense of repair, and, pending the replacement

of her by a new and more suitable vessel, the absolutely necessary patrol work has been performed with the help of hired vessels, chiefly the Papuan Industries schooner "Goodwill," which did the major portion of the work, covering 2,575 miles.

When not engaged in patrol work the master has been fully occupied supervising the working of the native fishing fleet. Every vessel on arrival was overhauled, all necessary gear and equipment selected, and repair work inspected and passed. These vessels are all now in first-class order.

Much work has also been done in directing village improvement operations on the various island and mainland reserves, the building of concrete tanks for water storage, &c.

The provision of a vessel of sufficient power and cargo capacity is urgently needed, not only to cope with extensive patrol and tender requirements of the island schools and villages, but also the effective supervision of the coastal camps on the Peninsula, to control the recruiting and check the abuses by alien fishermen.

It is gratifying to know that action is being taken in this direction,

## REMOVALS AND RECOGNIZANCES.

Bonds were entered into for the return of 45 aboriginals who were temporarily removed by their employers, and 16 permits were granted for the transfer of natives to other districts.

It was not necessary to take any action to estreat any of these undertakings.

## FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

Regular relief was issued, according to the needs of the natives, in monthly or weekly allowances, from 30 centres, amounting to £1,614.

Casual relief amounting to £236 was also issued where needed.

In several districts, especially in the North, native game and foods were plentiful, consequently in these places there was little need for relief amongst the aged aboriginals.

## BLANKETS.

The number of blankets issued was 3,965, and where more suitable, articles such as dresses, trousers, shirts, tomahawks, print, tobacco, fish lines, hooks &c., were distributed in lieu.

The purchase and despatch of these goods to the various districts was arranged through the State Stores.

The cost of these issues was £3,586, and the freight and handling charges amounted to £66.

## OFFENCES AGAINST AND BY ABORIGINALS.

The following comparative tables of prosecutions for the past three years are self-explanatory:—

## OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1924.		1925.		1926.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium ..	18	£ 310	35	£ 649	17	£ 245
Supplying liquor ..	12	220	10	192	9	207
Harbouring ..	2	30	6	17½	1	5
Illegally employing ..	9	17	17	95	7	41

It is gratifying to see that the convictions for all above offences have appreciably decreased again. This, doubtless, is due to the vigilance of the Police.

Of the opium prosecutions, 7 occurred at St. George, 3 at Croydon, 2 each at Gordonvale, Mossman, and Cairns, and 1 at Ayr.

## OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1924.	1925.	1926
Drunkenness .. ..	35	28	33
Stealing .. ..	4	6	2
Entering premises .. ..	4	2	1
Desertion from reserves .. ..	4	2	..
Creating disturbance .. ..	..	1	2
Desertion from employment .. ..	..	..	6
Obscene language .. ..	2	7	2
Assault .. ..	6	4	3
Immoral offences .. ..	1	1	3

## REMOVALS.

The following return shows the number of natives who, for their own benefit or other reasons, were removed to reserves on Minister's orders:—

Place.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Barambah ..	18	13	9	40
Palm Island ..	49	20	9	78
Taroom ..	6	2	..	8
<i>Missions—</i>				
Yarrabah ..	1	4	3	8
Purga .. ..	11	4	9	24
Monamona ..	1	2	..	3
Cape Bedford ..	..	1	4	5
	86	46	34	166

## HEALTH.

The health of the aboriginals generally has been good.

Outbreaks of influenza in a mild form occurred at Gayndah, Barambah, Taroom, Palm Island and Yarrabah.

Malaria and sore eyes were the chief ailments treated in the Gulf districts, while tuberculosis still causes some anxiety by its spread amongst the myall tribes.

Venereal disease is still prevalent in the Gulf and East Coast districts, while cases were reported from Croydon, Ingham, Baralaba, Mackay and Nocundra, and 21 cases, including several from Palm Island, were dealt with at the Townsville Hospital. Twelve cases from the East Coast were treated by the Government Medical Officer in the old Cooktown Gaol, and 17 others passed through Normanton Hospital.

The erection of buildings for the lock hospital at Fantome Island has been commenced, as it is hoped to receive cases there for treatment during the coming year and thus relieve the mainland hospitals of the obstinate cases requiring lengthy segregation and care.

An outbreak of typhoid occurred at Barambah, necessitating the placing of the settlement in quarantine and the engagement of several extra trained nurses from Brisbane. Fortunately, most of the cases were not serious and very few deaths occurred. As a precautionary measure all the inmates were inoculated.

At the Palm Island Settlement the general hospital has been completed and a resident medical officer appointed, who will also control the Fantome Island Hospital.

At most of the mission stations no medical advice was available, but all possible treatment was given to their inmates, as well as to the sick of neighbouring tribes, with good results.

The number of patients treated at the Settlement hospitals during the year were:—Barambah, 1,340, including 391 in-patients; Palm Island, 3,043, including 124 in-patients; Taroom, 319, including 69 in-patients.

The number of natives receiving treatment at the various district hospitals was 633, while 319 deaths were reported, including 77 on the Settlements, 57 in Torres Strait, and 185 in various districts. The number of births was 374.

### YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

As a result of the rearrangement of duties made last year, it was again possible for the Female Protector to do more inspecting of the girls at their situations in the metropolitan and suburban areas and, as a consequence, she was able to deal effectively with the usual small troubles arising.

The Savings Bank accounts numbered 107, with a total credit of £5,114 1s. 1d., showing an average credit of £47 15s. 10d.

The wages collected amounted to £2,902, and the sum of £2,446 was withdrawn and expended, under supervision, for clothing, dentistry, holidays, &c. A fair proportion, according to the earner's intelligence, is allowed in cash as pocket money; also when, after a trial, they have proved their ability to do so, some of the better educated are allowed to do their own shopping.

Of the 107 girls under agreement from the Brisbane office, 78 are in country situations and 29 in the suburbs of the city, experience proving that the country life is more suitable and congenial and offers less in the way of temptation.

Owing to reports of unsatisfactory conduct or living conditions, it was found necessary to remove 45 women and 18 children to the settlements, and 11 women and 16 children to the missions, where they will receive better care and protection and the children be given schooling.

The payment of maternity bonuses to half-caste women was, as usual, made through the various Protectors, who controlled the disbursement for the benefit of the mother and child. The number of mothers who received the allowance was 75.

Permission was granted for 22 legal marriages of aboriginal and half-caste women, 15 being to men of their own race, 2 to men of Malay extraction, 2 to Pacific Islanders, and 3 (who were nearly white) to Europeans. There is no reliable record of the tribal marriages.

The conduct of the girls in domestic service was, on the whole, very satisfactory.

The number of orphans in homes was 64, as shown in the following return, the cost of their maintenance being £850:—

Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island .. ..	20
Mapoon Mission .. .. ..	5
Salvation Army Industrial Schools—	
Yeronga and Chelmer (Girls) .. ..	10
Riverview and Indooroopilly (Boys) .. ..	5
Purga (Girls and Boys) .. ..	24
	—
	64

### HALF-CASTES.

Applications were received from 80 half-castes desiring exemption from the provisions of the Aboriginal Protection Acts, but, after inquiring into their circumstances, only 31 (27 males and 4 females) were granted this privilege, the remainder being considered ineligible by reason of being married to, living or associating with aboriginals, or being otherwise unfit to be given control of their own affairs. In some cases the application was prompted by the employer with the object of evading the wages regulations.

### RESERVES.

The Government settlements were visited and inspected as frequently as practicable. It was not possible to visit any of the Northern mission stations.

It has been possible to obtain the grazing rights of a large timber reserve adjoining the Barambah Settlement, thus enabling an expansion of the cattle-breeding operations of the institution towards greater self-dependence.

Another and more suitable area of good grazing country has been secured in the Duaringa district, as a fresh site for the Taroom Settlement, which has to be abandoned owing to the encroachment of the proposed Dawson River irrigation dam. The new country, being of larger area and free of prickly-pear, should enable cattle-breeding and farming operations to be carried on with a greater possibility of success.

Further country along the coast has also been added to the Cape Bedford Mission Reserve. This land, though of no value from an agricultural point of view, will allow the Mission to carry its fishing operations to more profitable fields further up the coast, and thus extend a protecting arm to more of the coastal tribes to the North.

### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

*Health.*—The health of the island natives has been satisfactory. The usual outbreaks of influenza have occurred, but without serious results. A pamphlet was prepared by Dr. Vernon, M.C., Government Medical Officer, dealing with complaints prevalent in this district and the procedure necessary to combat them. A more effective system of distribution of medicines will coincide with the issue of the pamphlets to the various villages.

*Population.*—The population of the islands is given as 3,386 (882 men, 782 women, 883 boys, and 839 girls). The births numbered 153 (78 males and 75 females) and the deaths 57 (23 men, 17 women, and 17 children).

*Schools.*—A training class for native teachers was held at Badu Island with the object of improving the standard of instruction given. New schoolhouses have been erected at Saibai, Poid and Darnley Islands, and it is hoped to have one at Yorke Island completed early in the coming year. With the erection of others at Murray and Yam Islands, all the schools in the Strait will then be in first-class order.

*Villages.*—At Mabuig Island the village has been greatly improved. Several streets have been formed, a recreation ground has been cleared and about 20 new houses erected.

At Coconut Island a new main street, extending the full length of the village, has been marked off and new houses are in course of erection on it. The teacher's house has been completed.

A concrete tank with a capacity of 25,000 gallons has been built at Mabuig, one of 10,000 gallons on Coconut and another of similar size at Saibai.

About 40 new houses are being built, in correct alignment, on Saibai.

New courthouses have been erected on Boigu and Dauan. At Small River a new street and bridge have been built, and early in the coming year 200 coconuts will be planted. Good progress has been made both in the school and village improvements.

## ISLAND FUNDS.

These funds have a balance to credit of £6,240 13s. 10d., a slight decrease on the figures for last year.

Two concrete tanks were built and three schools erected, and several smaller jobs were carried out. In addition, calls were made upon these funds for some boat repairs and the usual relief to the old and sick.

## ISLAND COMPANY BOATS.

It is most gratifying to report that the year has been a record one in the matter of the working of the native company boats. Produce to the amount of £21,426 was won and disposed of. This represents an increase of £1,584 on the amount won last year, and an increase of £935 on the catch for 1924, which, till now, was the record.

The following boats were slipped for repairs:—"Alice," "Miriam," "Sissy," "Tura," "Uropi," "Mabuiag," "Badu," and "Yesse." In addition, a new cutter was built for Murray Island. In the slipping, the "Uropi" and the "Miriam" were rebuilt as new boats. The policy of keeping the boats in first-class condition to obtain better results has proved sound during the past three years. The crews of boats on all of the islands are working in unison in a system that is achieving successful results. The result of last year's working of the vessels can really be regarded as much more satisfactory than in 1924, as the price of pearlshell was, last year, too low to justify the vessels being employed gathering it. The consequence was that all of the boats were engaged in the trochus shell section of the industry. This adversely affected the Saibai and Mabuiag boats to some extent, but, generally, all of the island boat crews are now sufficiently versatile to be able to enter any section of the industry without impairing their efficiency.

The cutter "Wakaid" at Badu, though primarily a pearlshelling vessel, was remarkably successful in collecting trochus shell.

The following figures will give some idea of the growth of the native company boats business since 1915:—

	£
1915 .. .. .	6,277
1919 .. .. .	12,987
1921 .. .. .	12,919
1924 .. .. .	20,491
1925 .. .. .	19,842
1926 .. .. .	21,426

The boats belonging to the half-caste family Mosby Brothers, working through the Protector's office, had a fairly successful year, though not as good as last. However, all three of their boats are free of debt and have substantial credit balances.

The "Fly" and "Cherry," two small vessels worked by the mainlanders at Cowal Creek, earned £527.

The number of Savings Bank accounts was 1,151. The earnings banked amounted to £13,514 and the withdrawals £13,354, the balance being £11,428, including £482 interest earned.

The usual free issue of clothing, tobacco, &c., was made to the councillors and police, and 48 blankets were given to mainlanders.

Thirty-one persons are in receipt of permanent relief, being, in all cases, old people, having no relatives and who are unable to do any work. Six persons are receiving pensions of £1 per month from the Aboriginal Department, and an equal number receive relief from the Government Relief Department. In addition, fifty-one receive small pensions from the various island funds.

*Patrol.*—During the year the Protector travelled 2,525 miles on patrol duty, but the work of supervision is very much hindered by the lack of a suitable vessel. The difficulty experienced in hiring a vessel when required seriously impedes the supervision so necessary if progressive work is to be done on the islands.

## GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

**Barambah (Superintendent, W. Porteous Sample).**

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

**Taroom (Superintendent, H. C. Colledge).**

*Labour.*—The demand for male labour was good at Barambah and Taroom, but dull at Palm Island, owing to drought in the pastoral districts. The keenest inquiry is for domestic servants, also for married couples, and in the majority of cases they proved very satisfactory.

Thirty-nine men were signed on to fishing vessels from the Palm Island Settlement.

The number of engagements for employment entered into was:—

Barambah—1,369, including 1,240 casual jobs.

Palm Island—128, including 6 casual jobs.

Taroom—92, including 27 casual jobs.

The sum of £17,466 was earned in wages and, of this, £13,973 was paid into the natives' bank accounts for the benefit of themselves and their relatives on the settlement.

*Settlement Revenues.*

	Barambah.	Palm Island.	Taroom.
	£	£	£
Collections—			
Wages, fares, produce, &c.	7,408	4,959	4,843
Interest on bank accounts	139	195	70
Native contributions ..	237	332	252
	7,784	5,486	5,165

*Population.*

		Full-bloods	Half-castes
Barambah .. .. .	669	395	274
Palm Island .. .. .	824	605	219
Taroom .. .. .	239	132	107

*Crime.*—Serious crime has been unknown. Minor offences against the regulations have been dealt with by the officials and the native courts, and a few before the neighbouring Police Courts for absconding.

Some trouble was caused at Barambah through the natives being supplied with liquor in the neighbouring township, but, as a result of police vigilance, two convictions were obtained and fines inflicted, and this has had good effect.

*Retail Stores.*—The following table shows the business transacted at the settlement retail stores, which were established with the object of enabling the inmates to purchase food, clothing &c., from their banking accounts to augment the supplies issued to them.

The profits made are used for settlement development work.

Settlement.	Cash Sales.	Bank Orders.	Free Issues.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Barambah ..	825	4,753	880	6,458
Palm Island ..	628	5,234	336	6,198
Taroom ..	952	1,405	149	2,506
				£15,162

*Schools.*—At Barambah, since the transfer of the head teacher at the end of May, the school has been carried on by the two white female teachers, with the help of a capable native monitor, and excellent progress has been made. The average attendance is 160.

In addition to the ordinary subjects, manual instruction is given, including wood and basket work, carpentry and rough carving, to the boys, and raffia and basket work, crochet and fancy work, to the girls.

At Taroom, good work was done under difficulties, due partly to the disturbing effect of the movement of the inmates to the new station, but it is hoped that by the end of the coming year the transfer will be completed.

At Palm Island a white head teacher has been appointed, the attendance being 103. Good progress has been made in all branches.

Inspections were made of the Barambah and Taroom schools by inspectors of the Department of Public Instruction, and very satisfactory reports obtained.

*Industrial and Agricultural.*—The farming operations at Barambah were greatly retarded by the droughty conditions, only 4 inches of rain falling between January and December. Most of the crops were failures, though the maize averaged 20 bushels to the acre.

Luckily, 80 tons of last year's fodder had been conserved, and this ensured feed for the bullock teams, dairy cows and working horses.

The vegetables grown were:—Cabbages 2,536, pumpkins 8 tons, sweet potatoes 3½ tons, tomatoes 429 lb., rhubarb 846 bunches, cauliflowers 248, cucumbers 1,092 dozen, other vegetables 550 bunches.

The sawmill was kept busy supplying timber for building operations.

At Palm Island, owing to having the driest year on record, very little could be grown on the farm except pineapples and bananas.

The new sawmill commenced work in August, the timber being drawn from the reserve.

Very little in the way of farming was possible at Taroom, owing to the dry weather and the fact that all available labour was used on preparing for the transfer of the settlement.

*Stock.*—Notwithstanding the trying drought conditions, the losses of stock were exceptionally small.

At Barambah the muster showed 1,016, an increase of 89 over last year. The season's branding of 198 calves eclipsed the record branding of the previous year. Three Hereford herd bulls were purchased and 65 Hereford heifers, bred on the settlement, were added to the breeding herd. The milk supply was well maintained, 4,200 gallons being issued, while three cows were kept exclusively for the hospital needs.

The Palm Island herd has now been increased to 46, including two bulls, while a team of twelve bullocks was purchased for mill hauling purposes.

The muster at Taroom showed 495, an increase of 49 over the previous year, which, considering the extremely dry season, is very gratifying. The number of calves branded was 89, and 43 settlement-bred bullocks were killed for beef.

*Building and Village Development.*—At Barambah, new quarters for the Superintendent and the clerk have been erected; also new offices and stores. Three cottages have also been added to the native village, and the construction of a high-level bridge across the creek has been commenced. Three large dams have been excavated, ensuring a plentiful supply of water for the stock.

At Palm Island, a commodious hospital has been erected and is now in use, and a large girls' quarters will be ready for occupation early in the new year.

A commencement has been made with the erection of buildings for the lock-hospital at Fantome Island, and a large reservoir of 66,000 gallons capacity completed to ensure a plentiful supply of water.

In September a commencement was made with the preparatory work at the new site for the Taroom Settlement, which is situated on part of Waroona Station, in the Duaringa district. The Superintendent, with the farm assistant and a large party of native workers, has made good progress with the clearing and fencing, and it is hoped to have it in working order in the coming year and the old settlement closed.

A motor truck has been obtained to assist in the transport of stores and material.

*Social Improvements.*—The old primitive camp, with its insanitary gunyahs, is gradually disappearing and giving place to the neat village, with wide streets of wooden cottages, each in its plot of ground, laid out in attractive flower and vegetable gardens. The object is to aid social progress by providing an uplifting environment, and the results appear to be fully justifying the trouble. The neatness and cleanliness with which these homes are kept by the families occupying them and the evident taste for simple refinements, in the furnishing and decoration, shown by the womenfolk, many of whom, in their single days, were trained and proved capable housekeepers, removes any doubts as to whether, as a race, they can be educated to better conditions. And this adaptability is not confined to the half-caste, but is found in the full-blood also to a surprising degree.

The training in domestic science now being given on the settlements in the single girls' homes, such as the Stopford Home on Barambah, with its neat dormitories, sewing and work rooms, dining room, kitchen, laundries, &c., aims not only at fitting these girls for domestic service,

but at training them to be capable wives and housekeepers for the coming men of the community.

*Religious Instruction.*—At Barambah, regular Church of England services have, as usual, been held by the rector of the local parish, and occasional musical meetings have been conducted by the Salvation Army.

At Taroom the clergy of the Bush Brotherhood still visit periodically, and the nurse has held regular Sunday School and Church services.

At the three settlements—Barambah, Taroom and Palm Island—the district missionaries of the Aborigines Inland Mission attend regularly on certain days for services and camp visiting.

The natives seem to attend well and appreciate the various services and meetings held.

*Recreations.*—The popular sports and games are encouraged and are entered into with great enjoyment. Cricket and football matches with European teams in the neighbourhood are allowed, under efficient supervision, and seldom is there any cause for complaint as to behaviour of the men.

At Barambah and Palm Island, good brass bands have been formed, and at the former settlement a most creditable concert party has been trained by the Matron, Mrs. Semple, which has given several very successful entertainments in neighbouring townships, thereby raising funds for a recreation hall and piano. The Palm Island band has given band concerts in Townsville and also at Halifax. Occasional picture show entertainments, given on the reserve by travelling showmen, have been a source of keen enjoyment.

Annual sports days, Christmas and New Year festivities, with gifts, picnics &c., have been organised by the officials and keenly enjoyed. The practice of native corroborees and use of native weapons is always encouraged. By cultivating healthy recreations the evils of gambling and immorality can to some extent be combated.

#### MISSIONS.

- Yarrabah, Cairns (Superintendent, W. McCulloch), Anglican.**  
**Monamona, Cairns (Superintendent, J. L. Branford), Seventh Day Adventists.**  
**Cape Bedford, Cooktown (Superintendent, Rev. G. H. Schwarz), Lutheran.**  
**Lockhart River, Cape York Peninsula (Superintendent, H. Rowan), Anglican.**  
**Moa Island, Torres Strait (Superintendent, Rev. J. W. Schomberg), Anglican.**  
**Mapoon, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. J. B. Love, M.A., M.C., D.C.M.), Presbyterian.**  
**Weipa, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, H. Mayer), Presbyterian.**  
**Aurukun, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. W. F. McKenzie), Presbyterian.**  
**Mitchell River, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, J. C. Chapman), Anglican.**  
**Mornington Island, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. R. H. Wilson), Presbyterian.**  
**Purga, Ipswich (Superintendent, Commandant W. Perrem), Salvation Army.**

*Conduct.*—It is a gratifying tribute to the tactful and patient management of the missionaries in charge that very little serious misconduct is reported, as most of them are dealing with people the majority of whom are as yet very little civilised. There is less of the serious tribal fighting, and the disputes are more often brought to the mission for judgment. For instance, the death of a member of the tribe was always, in the past, an occasion for tribal fighting, but now this old custom is often willingly relinquished by bringing the body to be buried in the mission cemetery.

One or two ringleaders of such quarrels, old offenders absconded from other reserves, had to be deported, the example having a quietening effect.

The behaviour of resident inmates has been most orderly.

*Religious Training.*—It is claimed that the religious work is the foundation of all progress and discipline. The services are always well attended, the conduct is good, and the people show an intelligent interest in the teaching. Under this influence the people are orderly and peaceable, and usually submit to discipline for misdoings without fuss or disobedience.

Most stations have natives acting as assistant missionaries or taking active part in the conduct of services. The Anglican mission at Moa has for years been training natives for service as clergy, and several have been ordained and gone to posts at different mission stations.

*Education.*—Satisfactory progress has been made, but it is felt that a periodical visit by qualified school inspectors would act as a spur to both teachers and scholars. The instruction is varied and kept as interesting as possible. The girls are taught housewifery accomplishments, and the boys are given simple manual instruction.

It is remarked that, whilst usually the arithmetic is below the usual standard of white schools, in the handwriting and such arts as needlework the native scholar often displays an equal, if not higher, gift for painstaking neatness.

#### INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL.

*Yarrabah.*—The chief industry is timber-getting and milling. Eleven new village houses have been erected, and some of the quarters enlarged. The water supply system has been completely overhauled, a new dam built, and more serviceable pipes have been fitted to carry the water to the village.

The agricultural production received a severe setback early in the year, owing to floods, but a large quantity of corn and potatoes was grown and consumed. Produce returning £275 was sold.

*Monamona.*—The sawmill has been working continuously and has been the chief means by which the mission has been financed.

A new church, capable of seating 200, and a girls' dormitory have been erected, while a school to accommodate 50 children is under construction.

A substantial bridge, valued at £400, has been built over Flaggy Creek.

In the farms, 1,300 banana suckers were planted and 60 tons of potatoes raised for food. A further 10 acres of scrub land has been cleared.



*Cape Bedford.*—Better returns of crops—maize, sweet potatoes, and cassava—at McIvor River were obtained this year than has been done for some years past. The maize was gristed into meal and, with the potatoes, made them quite independent of the main mission.

The community farms raised 5 tons of corn, 25 tons of sweet potatoes, 30 bushels of Mauritius beans, and 1½ tons of copra. Cassava and bananas also provided a variety of food.

Some of the younger boys from the McIvor have cleared land at Elam and planted 600 cocoanuts.

With the assistance of a loan from the Department, another vessel was added to the fishing fleet, which is the mission's only possible revenue-producing industry. The farm produce, owing to lack of accessible markets, can only be for home consumption.

*Lockhart River.*—The only industry possible has been fishing, which has yielded fair results, while the attempts at agricultural work have failed owing to the dry weather. The women are doing well at matmaking. Several buildings of grass and palm thatch have been completed and fourteen native cottages are in course of construction.

*Moa Island (St. Paul's Mission).*—Most of the young men and boys have been employed working their own boats, while the old men have carried on the gardens. The two boat companies have been amalgamated and, though retarded by sickness amongst the members, did well, the total catch of produce amounting to £2,041. One lad has been apprenticed to the boatbuilding business at Badu.

A new church, to hold 600 people, is being constructed of concrete, the whole of the work being done by the voluntary labour of the natives. A similar building, if erected by European labour, would cost about £9,000. The foundation stone was laid in July by the Archbishop of Brisbane.

Another concrete well has been built, the water found being of excellent quality.

*Mapoon.*—The failure of the wet season partly spoilt farming operations, but fair crops of potatoes, maize, vegetables and fruit were harvested. Over 3 tons of copra realised £24 per ton in the South. Bêche-de-mer fishing yielded some revenue also, and several of the men earned good money from sale of turtle shell.

A new departure has been the building of dinghies by the men on the mission, from pit-sawn planks, and the results have been most creditable. Two serviceable dinghies have been completed at less than half the cost of outside rates.

The women also earned money doing fancy work, making baskets, fans &c.

The revenue from industrial operations amounted to £1,304. Repairs and extensions have been carried out to the mission buildings and several native cottages built. The new girls' dormitory, for which a grant was made available by the Department, is well under way. The stockyards have been enlarged and there are now 300 cattle, 37 horses, and 5 mules.

*Weipa.*—The prolonged drought caused heavy losses in produce and stock. Potatoes, cotton,

pumpkins, bananas &c., were grown, but the yield was below that of last year. A quarter of the cattle herd has died, while the native foods have almost vanished. Four acres of cocoanuts were planted.

As the mission waters offer no prospect of profitable fishing, a number of the men had to seek work on the boats of the pearling industry at Thursday Island.

A new dormitory, 40 ft. by 20 ft., for the men has been built, all the timber being cut in the mission with the portable sawbench.

*Aurukun.*—On the advice of the Director of Agriculture, crops of feterita and Italian millet were grown and proved successful. One inmate achieved quite creditable skill in making brooms.

The maize failed owing to drought. Sweet potatoes and cowpeas returned fairly good crops. Banana suckers, presented by the Moa Island mission people, were planted and are bearing fruit. Five tons of shell were gathered and burnt for lime by the old men, being used as fertilizer.

A good strong stockyard was built and a goat-yard and vegetable cultivation enclosed with split-paling fence.

*Mitchell River.*—The main productive industry is cattle-raising, and the herd now numbers over 2,000 head. New staff buildings and improved native cottages were erected, but owing to the dry weather the gardens were not very productive.

*Mornington Island.*—The fishing boats won 34 bags of bêche-de-mer, which was sent to Thursday Island for sale.

The farm cultivation yielded over 24 tons of vegetables, including melons, tomatoes, potatoes, pumpkins; also 2½ tons of maize.

An assistant's cottage, young men's house, cookhouse, and oven, were erected during the year; also 7 chains of fencing.

*Purga.*—The men of the colony were principally employed on neighbouring farms or stations, in various capacities, maintaining their families on the mission from their earnings. When such employment was not available, they were occupied on the farm or the woodcutting plant on the mission and received rations for themselves and dependents.

*Cowal Creek.*—The native village established at Cowal Creek on Cape York Peninsula by the once savage tribes of the Seven Rivers and Red Island is making good headway. The population is now 197, consisting of 45 men, 50 women, 102 children (45 boys, 57 girls).

The school teaching and religious services have been carried on by the native lay reader from the Anglican mission, and the children have made fair progress.

The village has been remodelled on an attractive plan and a serviceable bridge built across a large gully. Cocoanuts are being planted along the streets. Their two cutters, the "Fly" and "Cherry," earned respectively £343 and £184 for marine produce sold.

The people have conducted themselves very creditably.

Of the provisional schools established for the children of families in the local aboriginal camps, two show an increase in the number on the roll.

	Total.
Gayndah—9 boys, 10 girls .. ..	19
Myora—7 boys, 5 girls .. ..	12
Thursday Island—25 boys, 26 girls	51

The Superintendent of the reserves at Myora reports that the conduct of the natives in the camp has been good and, since the appointment of the village policeman, drinking has much decreased. Some improvements have been made to dwellings, but the people lack the means to procure the necessary building material. Most of the men are employees of Dunwich Benevolent Asylum. Religious services were conducted by the Roman Catholic and Church of England chaplains. At Gayndah, the usual bible instruction and religious meetings have been conducted by a resident lady missionary.

#### RECREATION.

Not the least important side of the work is that of providing healthy occupations for the leisure time. The native is in many ways just a child, with the average child's capacity for the mischief that is ever ready for idle hands. Games, such as football, cricket, tennis, rounders and especially aquatic sports, are keenly entered into and do much, not only to combat gambling and other evils, but to foster the true team spirit

amongst them. Their national sports and corroborees are, however, always popular, especially amongst the old people.

They greatly enjoy the Christmas festivities provided, and their delight in the gifts received from mission sympathisers must well repay the kindly thought.

#### SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS.

On all missions, encouraging progress is being made in the betterment of the conditions of life. Naturally, the greatest success is achieved with the generation born and brought up on, or, at least, transferred to the settlement while still at the plastic age. These can be educated and trained to the settled home life and, as they mature, take their allotted places in the community.

The class which it is sometimes found difficult at first to fit into the scheme are those rescued from unwholesome conditions on the outskirts of civilisation who, for a while, fret for the doubtful pleasures from which it has been found advisable to remove them. These, however, in time usually settle down and learn to appreciate the healthier and happier surroundings.

The interest now shown by many, especially the women folk, in movements for the help of their fellows or the community's little social gatherings; the pride taken in their little homes and home life, must be encouraging indications to those devoting their lives to the uplift of these people that their efforts are not without promising result.

#### ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Expenditure.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance at 31st December, 1925 .. ..	9,194	9 11	Barambah (buildings)—		
Collections—			Wages .. ..	615	6 4
Estates deceased .. ..	2,035	17 1	Material .. ..	29	10 10
Unclaimed bank balances .. ..	2,894	13 2	Palm Island (buildings)—		
Refunds—			Material .. ..	305	18 11
Advance account loans .. ..	110	0 0	Wages .. ..	509	7 3
Payment aboriginal accounts .. ..	38	9 8	Timber .. ..	321	7 10
Wages, buildings, Barambah; payable from			Grants—		
contingencies vote .. ..	1,014	15 7	Yarrabah Mission .. ..	500	0 0
Loans, Torres Strait boats .. ..	91	12 6	Lockhart River .. ..	300	0 0
Cape Bedford .. ..	200	0 0	Mapoon Mission .. ..	500	0 0
Protector, Thursday Island—			Refunds—		
Purchase, goods for Mabuiaq .. ..	5	11 8	To relatives deceased estates .. ..	110	5 4
Purchase, goods for Murray .. ..	0	17 8	To others whose bank balances were		
Purchase, charts for Melbidir .. ..	9	18 3	banked for convenience .. ..	932	1 0
Miscellaneous .. ..	6	12 4	Christmas goods, settlement interest		
Interest, settlement accounts .. ..	434	6 7	accounts .. ..	298	6 0
Transfer accounts .. ..	1	15 6	Various payments, aboriginal accounts,		
			and destitute natives .. ..	238	16 1
			Loans—		
			Advance account .. ..	165	0 0
			Burials, deceased natives .. ..	63	11 6
			Yarrabah Mission .. ..	800	0 0
			Cape Bedford Mission .. ..	650	0 0
			Miscellaneous .. ..	109	0 3
			Torres Strait boats .. ..	400	0 0
			Treasury Inscribed Stock .. ..	6,000	0 0
			Balance at 31st December, 1927 .. ..	3,540	1 5
	<u>£16,388</u>	<u>13 6</u>		<u>£16,388</u>	<u>13 6</u>

The expenditure on relief administration amounted to £58,833, and the collections throughout the State of aboriginals' earnings, wages, store sales, sales of produce of fishing vessels, settlements &c., amounted to £158,742.

**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 1926**

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aboriginals

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