

1931.
—
QUEENSLAND.

REPORT

UPON THE

OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

Aboriginals, Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, Inebriates Institution (Dunwich), Jubilee Sanatorium for Consumptives (Dalby), Westwood Sanatorium, Home for Epileptics (Willowburn), Prisons, Queensland Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution, Diamantina Hospital for Chronic Diseases (South Brisbane), and Eventide Home (Charters Towers).

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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A. 26—1931.

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

Home Secretary's Department,
Brisbane, 23rd October, 1931.

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 (Manager and Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. Challands).
INEBRIATE INSTITUTION, DUNWICH (Manager and Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. Challands).
JUBILEE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES, DALBY (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. W. H. N. Randall; Superintendent, Miss M. Nutt).
WESTWOOD SANATORIUM (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. J. H. Blackburn; Superintendent, Miss M. Scully).
HOME FOR EPILEPTICS, WILLOWBURN; Miss E. M. Thomas.
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, W. J. Gall. C.M.G.).
QUEENSLAND BLIND, DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION, SOUTH BRISBANE (Manager, I. Dickson).
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES, SOUTH BRISBANE (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. A. Jefferis Turner).
EVENTIDE HOME, CHARTERS TOWERS (Manager, W. H. Berry).

Aboriginal Department—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1930.

POPULATION.

The census return of June, 1930, shown hereunder, indicates a slight decrease of 135 in the number of full-blood aborigines, while the half-castes have increased by 20. The nomadic habits of the bush people make accurate enumeration difficult. As the vital statistics show that births exceed deaths by 22, the above apparent decrease can only be due to groups, in border localities, having changed into other States and been thus missed—

Total aboriginal population—17,931. Males, 10,001; females, 7,930.

FULL-BLOOD, 14,042.

	Male.	Female.
Nomadic	1,781	1,519
Regular employment	2,579	775
Supervised camps	2,879	2,868
Not stated	800	841
Totals	8,039	6,003
Persons	14,042	

HALF-CASTES, 3,869.

	Male.	Female.
Nomadic	132	100
Regular employment	584	352
Supervised camps	699	812
Not stated	547	663
Totals	1,962	1,927
Persons	3,889	

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON THE LAND.

Despite the general depression, there was fair demand for native labour in the far West and North-west districts and mostly all local station hands were employed. In comparison with previous years, however, there was a serious reduction in the amount of employment offering generally throughout the State. On the Settlements, from where a large number of men were hitherto regularly engaged for stock and station work, the reduced absorption of labour was most keenly felt. In the South, especially on the sea-coast, many of the natives found that no employment was offering. To relieve them, it became necessary to remove a number to the Settlements, where they were assured regular work with food and shelter for themselves and families. In the North, especially on the Tableland, the unemployed aboriginal feels the position less keenly. There the abundance of native food and game makes him to a great degree independent.

Satisfactory reports have been received from all districts concerning the conduct of aborigines in employment and, generally, the regulations governing them have been well observed by the employers.

In order to meet the difficulties of employers in the pastoral industry, the Station Hands' Award for Europeans was suspended and it became necessary to reduce the wages of aboriginal employees correspondingly. The relief thus afforded probably served to keep employed a greater number of natives than would otherwise have been the case.

Reductions were similarly made in the wages of men employed in the pearlshell and beche-de-mer industry in North Queensland.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

A good demand existed for mainland fishing crews and, as in previous years, all available labour of this class was readily absorbed. In Cooktown 63 aboriginals were engaged by the trochus shell and beche-de-mer fishing vessels, and their wages amounted to £3,600.

In addition, 24 aboriginals were recruited for similar work from the Palm Island Settlement, their earnings totalling £579.

At the Shipping Office, in Thursday Island, 593 aboriginals were recruited from the Torres Strait Island and Cape York Peninsula for work on the pearling boats or the vessels engaged in gathering trochus-shell or beche-de-mer. Although the depression had effected this industry, the demand for aboriginal fishing labour was not seriously reduced. The Commonwealth enactment, reducing the number of indentured Asiatics in the industry, has reacted favourably for the aboriginal, with the result that every available man was employed.

The reputation of the aboriginals for good conduct and industry has been well maintained. There have been very few complaints about the treatment of the aboriginals employed, and it has been found that employers generally are willing to assist in the remedying of abuses.

Torres Strait Island natives, to the number of 450, worked their own company vessels, their

earnings comparing more than favourably with the rates of wages paid by private firms. The gross earnings of these vessels was £16,237. The total amount of wages earned by aboriginals in the Thursday Island district from this industry was £18,000.

Palm Island natives, working their own whale-boat and dinghies, earned £240.

INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

All aboriginals employed are insured under the Workers' Compensation Acts, and all compensation awarded is administered for the beneficiaries by the Protector of their districts.

Claims were filed in 29 cases for accidents in employment and compensation awarded amounted to £596 15s. 5d.

The Commissioner for State Insurance and his Claims Department officers co-operated with this Department in their usual courteous and sympathetic manner in arriving at a satisfactory settlement of the claims, often rendered difficult by the peculiar circumstances of the injured party.

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

The following statement shows the position of the Savings Bank accounts held in trust by Protectors throughout the State and operated upon, as required, for the benefit of the earners and their dependents. These figures do not include the small private Savings Bank accounts which a number of the more intelligent run from their savings of pocket moneys received direct, about 40 per cent. of their wages, nor the store credits of inmates of religious missions:—

—	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposits.		Accounts Transferred Other Districts and Settlements.		Interest Earned.		Actual Withdrawals for Natives' Benefit.		Balance.	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Barambah	518	6,311	0 5	34	18 11	206	17 1	6,953	14 0	2,590	1 2
Palm Island	680	8,329	18 11	629	16 11	346	10 10	6,923	14 3	4,834	19 4
Woorabinda	228	4,573	6 0	141	11 10	140	12 6	5,256	16 2	1,053	2 1
Brisbane	120	3,641	7 9	104	9 4	294	13 2	2,567	1 1	8,898	3 5
Various Protectors ..	4,055	90,549	7 11	29,450	15 3	10,754	12 1	93,160	8 5	298,700	16 1
Totals	5,601	113,405	1 0	30,361	12 3	11,743	5 8	114,861	13 11	316,077	2 0

It will be noted that the withdrawals by the owners for relief and other needs exceeded the earnings deposited by £2,611. This was due to the increased call on their funds for relief through the reduction of employment and native food supplies in areas affected by drought.

Notwithstanding this, the earnings deposited actually were an increase on those of the previous year, but the native is understanding better the value of the savings system, and in times of privation, as indicated above, is glad to avail himself of the benefits accruing.

The actual total of such savings accounts is £324,077, as £7,000 (Barambah account, £2,000; Palm Island account, £4,000; and Woorabinda, £1,000) is invested in Treasury Loan Inscribed Stock at 5½ per cent.

Owing to migrations to other districts or deportations to Settlements and Missions, accounts to the amount of £30,361 were transferred to other centres for the convenient use of the owners.

Other accounts, numbering 467, of a value of £13,807 were found to be inoperative, the owners having died or become untraceable, and transferred to the Aboriginal Protection Property Account to be held until next-of-kin or the missing owners are found.

The following statement shows the operations of this account, the unclaimed moneys being, by regulations, used as occasion requires for the benefit of aboriginals generally.

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance at 31st December, 1929	5,721 16 3	Refunds—	
Collections—		Deceased Estates to Relatives	1,038 11 8
Estates of Deceased Natives	2,464 3 1	Credit Balances, Aborigines located on Settlements, &c.	1,209 11 4
Estates Aborigines held Temporarily	509 12 9	Grant—	
Unclaimed Bank Balances	10,833 12 2	Yarrabah Mission	1,000 0 0
Accumulated Interest	578 5 2	Loans—	
Refunds—		Advance Account, Palm Island	24 3 6
Advance Account Loans	20 0 0	Advance Account, Woorabinda	15 0 0
Payment Settlement Accounts, Christmas Issue	255 16 6	Various Accounts	65 15 6
Miscellaneous Refunds	70 13 6	Barambah—	
Loans—Repayments—		Sewerage and Water Supply	19 4 9
Ketch "Poruma"	40 0 0	Truck	63 2 6
Cutter, Mapoon Mission	50 0 0	General Relief Buildings, Aboriginal Settlements	792 13 7
Mabuiag Island, Timber	75 0 0	Freight on Timber to Murray Island	98 19 3
Inscribed Stock—		Settlements and Reserves, Christmas Goods	150 17 5
Previously Invested	6,000 0 0	Miscellaneous	9 18 6
		New Accounts—	
		Palm Island Sports Fund	771 19 3
		Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, Sports Fund	112 6 0
		Expenses—	
		Burials of Indigent Natives	54 2 0
		Scientific and Economic Research—	
		Marine Produce	276 19 9
		Invested, Inscribed Stock	14,000 0 0
		Balance at 31st December, 1930	6,915 14 5
	£26,618 19 5		£26,618 19 5

The Provident Fund, established in 1919 for the benefit of aboriginal workers and their dependents, has proved its value by meeting a generous portion of the expenditure for above relief (£2,584), as, owing to the financial stringency, the Vote had to be considerably reduced. This enabled the work of relief, including the assistance of religious missions which were feeling the pinch in their funds from private sources, to be kept up without any serious deprivation of the natives.

The contributions to this fund amounted to £1,507 and the account earned also, in interest, £1,129, including that from £7,000 invested in Treasury loan and £12,000 loaned for financing the large Aboriginal Industries Trading concern in Torres Strait.

ABORIGINAL PATROL VESSEL.

The new auxiliary vessel, "Melbidir," built two years ago for the work of patrolling the waters of Torres Strait and Cape York Peninsula, has done good service. Not only in her proper work of patrol, but since 1st July, as a tender to the Aboriginal Industries Trading Station at Badu Island, earning, in this latter capacity, £358 in freight towards the expense of her commission. The vessel was at sea for 234 days, the distance covered being 7,501 miles.

The local Protector or his representative spent 61 days on board, doing administrative inspections, travelling a distance of 2,170 miles.

REMOVALS AND RECOGNISANCES.

Bonds were entered into for the return of 11 aborigines, temporarily removed from their own districts by employers. It was not found neces-

sary to take action to estreat any of these undertakings, the parties satisfactorily returning their employees on termination of the service to their own districts.

Regular food relief was issued, according to the needs of the natives, in monthly or weekly allowances, from 26 centres, the cost being £1,207.

Casual relief was also issued to the amount of £255. The decrease in employment caused a number of workers to seek admission to Settlements, their dependents accompanying them.

Native foods were plentiful in most of the Northern districts, and consequently there was less distress.

BLANKET ISSUE.

The number of blankets issued was 4,117, the slight increase on last year's supply being doubtless accounted for by the need created at the Settlements by the influx of unemployed.

The usual supply of clothing or material, tomahawks, tobacco, fish lines, hooks, &c., was sent in lieu of part of the issue, where considered more suitable for the climate and in the circumstances of the recipients.

The purchase and despatch of the goods ordered by this Department was satisfactorily carried out by the State Stores Board.

The cost of the above issues was £2,956, and the freight and handling charges £122.

These issues were confined to the really indigent natives, those able-bodied and earning for themselves being expected to provide their own blanket and clothing needs.

OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1928.		1929.		1930.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium ..	18	£ 295	26	£ 435	10	£ 292
Supplying of opium ..	..	..	..	..	4	138
Supplying of liquor ..	5	130	13	320	4	60
Harbouring ..	1	3	..	..	..	..
Illegally employing ..	..	10	..	..	..	..
Assault ..	..	..	..	..	1	4

A gratifying decrease is noted in the number of opium and drink supplying offences, due doubtless to the vigilance of the officers of the Police Force.

OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1928.	1929.	1930.
Drunkenness ..	60	46	62
Stealing ..	6	33	23
Creating disturbance ..	14	3	4
Obscene language ..	4	6	5
Assault ..	5	3	5
Resisting Arrest ..	1	1	2
Immoral offences ..	4	..	..
Vagrancy ..	3	..	..
Entering ..	..	3	..
Absconding ..	..	..	3
Found in Gaming House ..	..	..	2
Offensive behaviour ..	..	..	2
Murder ..	..	..	3
Destruction of property ..	..	..	1

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>				
Palm Island ..	61	26	9	96
Barambah ..	13	8	15	36
Woorabinda ..	8	5	5	18
Cowal Creek ..	2	..	..	2
<i>Missions—</i>				
Yarrabah ..	2	..	..	2
Purga ..	1	..	..	1
Mona Mona ..	1	..	..	1
Mapoon ..	1	2	..	3
Cape Bedford ..	3	2	..	5
	92	43	29	164

HEALTH.

A pleasing feature of the reports from most districts is the general good health enjoyed by the natives. The usual seasonal epidemics were experienced at many centres, but in all instances they were successfully coped with. Mild cases of influenza occurred at Beaudesert, Maryborough, St. Lawrence, Ravenshoe, Malanda, Springsure, and Mitchell. A few cases of coastal fever appeared at Port Douglas. Several outbreaks of

skin disease occurred at Yarrabah and Burketown, and one case at Mungana. Diphtheria was reported from Beaudesert, where 6 cases were treated in hospital. With the co-operation of the Department of Public Health all aboriginal children there have received immunisation treatment against this disease.

Venereal disease was still in evidence in the Peninsula, but, as opportunity offered, cases were brought to Cooktown for local treatment or for the patient to be removed to Fantome Island. Treatment was also given at the undermentioned places:—Mungana 4 cases, Ayr 1, Cardwell 1, Cloncurry 1, Chillagoe 1, Mitchell 15, Cooktown 8, and 55 cases were removed to Fantome Island. Local treatment was given on the Missions of Mapoon, Weipa, Aurukun, and Lockhart River.

During the months of January to May a medical specialist on venereal diseases was stationed at Mitchell River Mission, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, by the Australian Board of Missions, carrying out examination and treatment of the bush natives. About 600 patients received treatment, and much useful instruction was given for future care of such cases.

The Missions on the Gulf and in Torres Strait report outbreaks of measles, lasting in some cases from February to May.

Murray Island was visited by chicken pox, and malaria fever occurred at Darnley, Saibai, and Poid Islands, resulting in 7 deaths at the last village.

Hookworm treatment was given at Mona Mona, Mapoon, and Lockhart River, 164 cases being treated at the last Mission.

At Palm Island there was an outbreak of influenza, but no deaths resulted. The number of cases receiving treatment at Settlement and Mission Hospitals was:—Palm Island 470 in-patients, and 14,000 out-patient treatments; Woorabinda 110 in-patients, and 353 out-patients.

At Yarrabah 80 per cent. of the population were treated for skin disease and 136 others for general complaints. At Lockhart River 4,800 patients received treatment, at Mapoon about 84 cases, and at Weipa and Aurukun about 800 each.

In Torres Strait 200 cases were treated, 49 of which were for epidemic complaints.

The following country districts also treated sick natives as under:—Springsure, 60; Maryborough, 32; Cooktown, 27; Townsville, 27; Herberton, 20; Rockhampton, 24; Mackay, 13; Normanton, 61; Burketown, 50.

The total number of deaths reported was 311, of which 58 were from settlements, 80 from Torres Strait, and 173 from Missions and districts. Births totalled 333, of which Torres Strait claims 129, settlements 77, and other districts and Missions 127.

FANTOME ISLAND LOCK HOSPITAL.

Medical Superintendent, Dr. Thos. L. Bancroft. Wardsman, F. H. Julian.

ADMISSIONS AND DISCHARGES.

		In Hospital 1-1-30.	Admitted.	Discharged Cured.	Deceased.	Remaining in Hospital, 31-12-30.
Men	.. ..	14	33	25	7	15
Women	.. ..	14	17	9	5	17
Children	.. ..	2	5	3	..	4
Totals		30	55	37	12	36

Of those patients in hospitals on 1st January, 1930, 8 men 7 women, and 2 children remained in hospital on 31st December, 1930.

Of the patients admitted during the period 18 men and 6 women were suffering from gonorrhœa. The remaining patients suffered from syphilis, granuloma ulcerations, and kindred conditions.

A number of native staff changes were made. This is unavoidable. Conduct generally has been good. The patients have enjoyed the utmost possible freedom; picnicking is the rule almost every afternoon for those well enough. Fishing provides sport and augments the larder. Everything possible is done to keep the patients cheerful, an essential condition of their treatment.

YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The staff employed in the Female Protection Branch of the Department's activities have been fully occupied arranging suitable employment, supervising the working conditions, the collection of wages, the expenditure thereof in necessities of clothing, dentistry, recreation, &c., and the welfare generally of their charges.

As frequently as possible the women at service and the children in the Homes have been visited and conditions inspected. It has not been possible to make inspections in situations far beyond the city and suburbs, but reports have been obtained, as occasion required, from the local Police Protectors.

An important part of the work of the female inspectors has been the selection of clothing needs of the Settlements and the shopping for women and girls in distant parts of the country.

The number of females engaged in employment from the Brisbane centre was 105, of whom 30 were employed in approved situations in the city and 75 in the country.

The earnings of these approximated £5,000, of which £3,221 was collected and banked to their credits, the remainder being drawn direct as pocket money.

Withdrawals amounting to £2,347 were made for the needs above mentioned, and the total of balances remaining to credit was £6,853, or an average individual credit of £64.

There was very little trouble as regards steadiness in employment, and employers generally complied with the terms of the agreement and regulations satisfactorily.

Owing to reports of unsatisfactory conditions in camp life or conduct, 39 women and 29 children were removed to Settlements and 4 women to Mission Stations, to ensure their receiving proper care, protection, and schooling.

The maternity allowance was awarded to 47 half-caste mothers, many of these cases being married women in institutions or in employment. The money was mostly paid through the Department's officers, who controlled it for the benefit of the mother and child.

The Commissioner for Maternity Allowances in many cases sought this Department's assistance in inquiring into the eligibility of the applicants, and the trouble taken by the country Protectors in ascertaining and furnishing the information as to birth and nationality was much appreciated.

Permission was granted for the legal marriage of 42 aboriginal and half-caste women, in all but one case to men of their own race. One quadroon girl married a European.

The number of orphan children maintained in homes was 58, as shown below, the cost of their maintenance being £1,074:—

Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island ..	23
Yeronga and Chelmer (Girls)	13
Indooroopilly (Boys)	2
Purga (Girls and Boys)	20
	<hr/>
	58

HALF-CASTES.

The last census return shows the increase in the number of half-castes to be 20. Allowing for those born in wedlock, or where both parents were half-castes, it can be regarded as encouraging evidence that the Department's efforts to check miscegenation are proving effective.

The reduction in the number of half-castes living the nomadic life and increase in number of those in supervised camps shows that more of these unfortunate people have been brought under proper care.

There is a decrease in the number in regular employment, accounted for by the depressed conditions in the industries which usually absorb this labour.

Applications for exemption from the Aborigines Protection Acts were received from 84 of such people, but, after careful inquiry into the conditions, character, and intelligence of the applicants, certificates were granted in only 25 cases (21 males and 4 females). Certificates previously given were revoked in two cases, 1 male for drunkenness and 1 female for misbehaviour.

OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS—RESERVES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Visits of inspection were paid by the Hon. the Home Secretary to the settlements at Barambah and Woorabinda. At each place the inmates warmly welcomed the Minister, giving interesting displays and keenly evincing their pleasure at this evidence of interest in their welfare. At Barambah a new Home for Young Boys was officially opened by the Minister before a large gathering of inmates and visitors.

The settlements at Barambah, Palm Island, Woorabinda, Purga, and Myora were visited and inspected by the Chief Protector and matters of administration and improvement discussed with the superintendents.

It was not possible, owing to pressure of business, to visit the Northern Mission Stations.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND CAPE YORK
PENINSULA.

Protector of Aborigines, C. B. Buxton.

Health.—The general health of the island natives was fairly good. Outbreaks of measles occurred on practically all islands in January and February and were not cleaned up entirely until May. An outbreak of chicken pox made its appearance at Murray in November, and malaria was in evidence throughout the year at Darnley and also for short periods at Saibai and Poid. There were seven deaths at Poid and two at Darnley from this fever.

Insanitary conditions at Poid were undoubtedly responsible for the fatal effects at that place, the natives becoming careless during the period there was no resident teacher there.

The appointment of a married teacher has resulted in considerable improvement in sanitation and housing conditions, and the benefits in the health of the people are already apparent.

Yaws, ringworm, and scabies were prevalent at Murray and Darnley also, but were kept in check by treatment prescribed by the medical officers. One case of leprosy, a small boy named Ronald, was discovered at Darnley and removed to Peel Island Lazaret.

The number of cases treated at the Thursday Island Native Seamen's Hospital was 193, comprising 10 venereal, 19 phthisis, 49 epidemic, 99 general, including obstetric cases, and 16 accidents. There were seven deaths.

Appreciation is expressed of the kindly and unremitting treatment of native patients by Dr. G. H. Vernon, the Government Medical Officer, also of the assistance rendered by Dr. Bevington, the Quarantine Medical Officer, both of whom visited the islands and gave valuable advice.

Population.—The number of natives in the several island and mainland villages, as disclosed by the census in June, 1930, is 3,148, as under:—

Badu	408	Poid	208
Boigu	133	Saibai	386
Cocoonut	115	Small River	243
Darnley	339	St. Paul's, Moa	26
Dauan	92	Stephen	51
Mabuiag	285	Three Sisters	21
Murray	452	Yam	144
Naghir	15	Yorke	125
Nepean Kennel and Dalrymple	28		

The births for the year ending December numbered 129, being full-bloods 116, half-castes 13. The deaths for the same period were 80, being full-bloods 72, half-castes 8. The actual population on 31st December, 1930, was 3,192.

Schools.—Fair progress was made at most of the schools, but, in the early part of the year, work was hampered by the epidemics of measles and malaria. The Government teachers have done commendable work, both in school and in the superintendence of their villages, but crude school work must be expected where the islands are wholly in charge of native teachers. At present there is a shortage of natives capable of taking up school positions. The establishment of a training class for student teachers at Murray Island School is well worthy of consideration, and would probably solve the difficulty of providing suitable native teachers. Three of the

native teachers now giving satisfactory service were students of a night school conducted by the Government teacher at that island since 1928.

Regular inspections of schools have been made by Mr. J. Western, Head Teacher of the local State School, and his reports have been regularly submitted. Mr. Western is desirous of making two inspections yearly, and all facility will be afforded him to carry out this object.

The following new appointments were made:—Mr. Frith to Mabuiag Island, Mr. Daniels to Saibai, and Mr. J. N. Wood to Yorke. The latter first relieved Mrs. Zahel at Badu, who had been granted an extended holiday. Mr. Armstrong, of Saibai, was transferred to Poid, and there were several changes in the ranks of the native teachers.

General Conduct.—The behaviour of the natives of all villages was generally satisfactory. Cases of breach of village laws were dealt with locally, but, with the exception of Badu and Darnley, there appears to have been a very gratifying decrease in the number of moral offences.

Darnley Island, in this respect, did not call for special treatment, but at Badu the councillors had to refer a number of cases to the Protector for judgment, who suitably dealt with the offenders. A meeting of the villagers was held at each island, the Protector addressing them on the necessity for upholding the moral tone of their communities. The wave of immorality appears now to have subsided.

No very serious offences were committed by aborigines upon any of the native settlements, but a few cases of drunkenness, stealing, and assaults were dealt with at Thursday Island, the offences generally occurring during the time of the offenders' stay upon the island. The natives, at home, are generally law-abiding and obedient, and the native councillors and police zealously strive to uphold that reputation.

Island Improvements.—At Murray Island the village road for 30 chains has been widened to 8 feet. The building of the teacher's residence and the court house is nearing completion. The better housing accommodation will be appreciated by the teacher after the discomfort of temporary quarters.

At Darnley Island a quantity of community coconuts was planted, and an area of scrub cleared. A road to Magore Village was built, with a 6-ft. culvert and bridge, also an embankment 178 ft. long, 18 ft. wide, and 6 ft. high across Medicee Creek. Three 10-ft. water-channels have been allowed, across which it is intended to erect flood gates to keep the high tides out of the creek, thus eliminating a health menace. The residence has been painted throughout and the iron and guttering renewed. Timber is on hand for the purpose of building a gaol.

At Mabuiag Island an addition was made to the school building for kindergarten classes. A deviation has also been made in the road to the school.

At Badu and Poid very little new work was possible, owing to the absence of the teacher of Badu on extended leave. At Poid a new street was laid out and an additional area of scrub cleared.

At Yam Island a new school was erected, but the flooring could not be completed owing to a shortage of joists. The timber has since been supplied.

At Saibai Island an additional school house was erected, the jetty extended, the seawall completed, and a number of sanitary conveniences built. Houses were also built for aged people.

At Boigu Island a sanitary system was installed, several new privies being erected.

At Stephen Island a road was made from the village to the school and teacher's residence.

At Small River, the voluntary native settlement on the mainland, near Cape York, very little village improvement was made beyond erecting the framework of a few new houses.

Aboriginal Industries.—On 1st July, 1930, the Department, on behalf of the native fishing fleets, acquired from the Papuan Industries Ltd. the trading business previously carried on by that company at Dogai, Badu Island, with the buildings, land, and stock, at an agreed valuation. The business is being conducted for the natives under the name of "Aboriginal Industries" by a Board composed of the Protector, the Manager of the Badu Station, and the local State School Head Teacher. A sales store was acquired in Thursday Island, and an officer of the Protector's staff appointed Secretary to the Board to supervise sales of produce and attend to town agency business of the fleet and store. As far as possible the earnings of the native fleet are spent at their own store at Badu.

The money for financing the purchase and working of the concern was advanced from the Aborigines' Provident Fund at reasonable interest. All buying is done through the State Stores in Brisbane, and, as far as possible, Queensland goods are stocked. Accounts are paid through the Chief Protector in Brisbane.

Island Company Boats.—The year's work of the fishing fleet cannot be regarded as satisfactory, as the gross earnings were considerably lower than that of previous years, having failed to reach the £20,000 mark. Approximately 5 tons of pearlshell and 27 tons of trochus shell are still unsold, and until this is disposed of the actual earnings of the individual boats cannot be given. The returns for produce sold amounted to £16,237, and the approximate value of shell unsold, at present local market values, is approximately £1,700, making the approximate gross earnings £17,937. A statement showing the individual earnings of the boats is attached hereto. Those boats marked incomplete have yet shell on hand to be sold.

Weather conditions were favourable for working the trochus shell, but vessels engaged in pearlshell fishing invariably met with bad "clear water" periods, principally in the pearling grounds extending from Warrior Reef to Deliverance Island, north of Mabuig Island, owing to pollution by the abundance of fresh waters from the Papuan Rivers. The Badu vessels kept to the Endeavour Straits and met with more favourable conditions. The shell won from the grounds north of Mabuig was most defective, being riddled with mud worm and boring sponge. Despite the fact that the working conditions for trochus boats were exceedingly good, the "company" boats, as well as

vessels owned by the pearling stations, did not produce as much shell as in previous years. The native captains reported the scarcity of shell on the reefs, probably due to the fact that all trochus vessels are now mostly engaged on reefs north of Cooktown. Notwithstanding this alleged scarcity, both the luggers "Binnibin" and "Wakaid," during the months from July to October, returned, for drifts of approximately three months, with record catches of over 13 tons.

All "company" boats engaged in the trochus section of the industry were fitted out and had proceeded to the working grounds by the end of February, the only exceptions being the lugger "Binnibin," which was only purchased for the Saibai islanders in February, and the Darnley Island boats, whose crews could not agree to man their vessels until April, when an officer of this Department visited Darnley Island for the purpose of obtaining crews.

General unrest was noticeable among the captains and crews from June onwards, when the trochus market became unstable. The Darnley and Murray Island boats laid up at their home islands from June to September, and it was found necessary to change the captains and most of the crews of their vessels. The discontent was caused through the low prices of marine produce during the latter half of the year, necessitating deferment of sales and consequent reduction of crews' earnings. The pearlshell market earlier in the year was firm, but also weakened in the later months. The highest tenders received at each of our principal sales were:—

	£	s.	d.
16th April, 1930	121	10	6
17th June, 1930	113	14	0
30th August, 1930	116	0	0*
9th September, 1930	102	0	0
8th October, 1930	98	8	0
22nd October, 1930	118	10	9*
7th November, 1930	110	3	0
3rd February, 1931	90	15	0*
1930 Production	78	18	11†

* Warrior Reef.
† North of Mabuig Island.

The trochus market was only good during the earlier part of the year. The price varied from £40 1s. 3d. to £86 19s. per ton. The only sales realising under £70 per ton were those held in January, when the price varied from £60 to £67 per ton, but in July the highest price offered was £40 1s. 3d. per ton, the market remaining bad until the end of September. In October the price improved to £66 and £72 per ton, but declined to £45 5s. and £54 10s. according to quality. The "company" boats caught little shell between July and September when prices were low. It was not until December that any quantity of shell was sold under £60 per ton.

With the exception of the "Binnibin" and "Wakaid," already mentioned, and also the cutter "Badu," the boats' catches were smaller than in the previous year.

Comparatively little repair work was done owing to inability to have the vessels slipped. A new European shipwright company has now commenced operations, and this difficulty has been overcome. A new cutter was built to replace the "Masig," and the "Manu" underwent a thorough overhaul. Other slip work done was of only a minor nature.

Island Funds.—The contributions to the various Island Funds amounted to £1,540 and the disbursements £2,112, the balance to credit now being £4,565.

The principal items of expenditure were:—£68 for building timber for Coconut Island, £46 for building iron for Dauan, £75 for timber for Mabuag Island, £32 for building timber for Saibai, and £76 for timber from Yarrabah taken into Timber Account Stock.

A sum of £30 15s. was also granted in relief to Lockhart River from the East Coast Fund.

The undermentioned amounts were also expended in relief on the various islands:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Badu ..	139	3	0	Moa ..	46	18	0
Boigu ..	13	10	0	Murray ..	29	10	0
Coconut ..	12	5	0	Saibai ..	49	10	0
Darnley ..	52	7	6	Yorke ..	9	0	0
Dauan ..	18	0	0	Yam ..	40	1	7
Mabuag ..	11	10	0				

Recreations.—The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movement has become firmly established, and proved of wonderful value in the training of the young people.

The usual games, such as football and basketball, are popular, also aquatic sports, boating, sailing, swimming, dugong and turtle hunts, fish spearing, &c.

The native songs and dances, however, are always first in their favour, and every encouragement is given to them to continue the practice of them.

Patrol.—The auxiliary vessel "Melbidir" has been kept fully occupied in her regular patrol duties around the islands, as well as acting as tender for the Aboriginal Industries Store and inspecting native fishing vessels. All islands were regularly visited. The Protector or his deputy spent 61 days on inspections and travelled 2,170 miles.

GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

Barambah (Superintendent, W. Porteous Semple).

Palm Island (Superintendent, R. H. Curry, died 3rd February, 1930; C. O'Leary, Acting Superintendent).

Woorabinda (Superintendent, H. C. Colledge).

Staff.—In January, 1930, an inquiry was held by the Visiting Justice at Palm Island into charges by the Resident Medical Officer, Dr. Pattison, and the Superintendent, Mr. R. H. Curry, against each other and in certain anonymous letters against the latter.

On 3rd February, before the report of the inquiry was announced, Dr. Pattison and his wife were seriously wounded by gunshot, allegedly by Mr. Curry, and several buildings—viz., the Superintendent's quarters, the Assistant Superintendent's quarters, the school, the retail store, also the large launch—were destroyed by fire.

Mr. Curry was afterwards fatally shot by a native named Peter Prior acting under the orders of certain white officials. In the destruction of the Superintendent's house that officer's step-daughter and son both lost their lives.

As a result of a Magisterial Inquiry, charges of "murder" against Peter Prior and of "procuring to kill" against Dr. Pattison and Mr. Thomas Hoffman were laid by the Justice Department. The Crown afterwards withdrew the charge against Dr. Pattison, and at the later trial the charges against Thomas Hoffman and Peter Prior were dismissed.

Certain complaints were afterwards laid against Dr. Pattison, but this officer resigned his position.

Mr. C. O'Leary, Protector of Aborigines at Thursday Island, an officer with seven years' administrative experience, was seconded to take charge of Palm Island Settlement, and continued in control until the end of the year. As a result of his tactful management, the inmates of the settlement, who for some time after the tragedy and subsequent trials were in a disturbed state, settled calmly again under discipline, and confidence was restored.

In consequence of severe retrenchment in the Votes for the financial year 1930-31, the positions of Assistant Superintendent at the settlements were abolished.

Mr. Hoffman, of Palm Island, was retired, and as Mr. Pinchin, of Woorabinda, had resigned and the position at Barambah was vacant, no fresh appointments were made.

Mr. Ballard, storekeeper of Palm Island, was transferred to a similar position at Barambah; Mr. Ewart, clerk at Barambah, replacing him at Palm Island and Mr. Hough, storekeeper at Barambah filling the position vacated by Mr. Ewart.

As a result of a reorganisation of the Hospital and Child Welfare Departments at Palm Island, the services of Mrs. Pattison, Hospital Matron, were terminated and Miss Collins, a triple certificated nurse, appointed matron in charge of this work.

It became necessary to suspend Mr. A. V. Morecombe, the wardman at Fantome Island, who, for some months after the disablement of Dr. Pattison, had acted as wardman in charge of Palm Island and Fantome Island Hospitals, and his resignation was accepted.

Mr. Julian, an officer with English hospital experience, was appointed temporarily on probation.

It became necessary to call for the resignation of Mr. R. Bolger, the storekeeper at Woorabinda, and Mr. G. Blair was appointed temporarily in his place.

Applications were invited for the vacant position of Superintendent of Palm Island Settlement, but at the close of the year an appointment had not been made.

Labour.—The depression in the pastoral industry has been keenly felt on the various settlements because of the decrease in the demand for labour. The amount of casual labour engaged from Barambah Settlement alone, compared with 1929, fell away from 568 men to 140.

To a less degree the farming and dairying industry was similarly affected.

There was, however, good demand for domestic labour.

The number of engagements recorded was:—

—	Under Agreement.	Under Casual Employment.
Barambah ..	100 (M. 30, F. 70)	140
Palm Island ..	102 (M. 59, F. 43)	..
Woorabinda ..	45 (M. 19, F. 26)	6

In addition, 24 aboriginals from Palm Island were employed on trochus shell boats.

There was a moderate decrease in the amount of earnings deposited (£19,103) as compared with 1929, which were £20,181, but the withdrawals for purchases of clothing and other benefits showed a slight increase, being £19,133 as against £19,103 for the preceding year. This was due to the reduced opportunities for employment.

Settlement Revenue.

Collections.	Barambah.	Palm Island.	Woorabinda.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Wages, fares, produce, &c.	6,100 0 0	4,160 0 0	3,670 0 0
Interest on bank accounts	206 17 1	346 10 10	140 12 6
Native contributions ..	246 5 1	297 4 0	1-3 7 6
	£6,553 2 2	£4,803 14 10	£3,994 0 0

Population.

Settlement.	Total.	Full-blood.	Half-castes
Barambah	814	256	558
Palm Island	1,010	739	271
Woorabinda	386	205	181
	2,210	1,200	1,010

Crime.—The general conduct of the settlement inmates has been satisfactory. Nothing more serious than the usual domestic differences common to all such communities occurred. There are pleasing indications that, once settled into the routine life of a settlement, the once nomadic aboriginal commences to take an interest in his surroundings, and, with regular work and congenial recreations, soon becomes a better and more contented inmate.

The good behaviour and discipline of the inmates reflects credit on the officers.

Retail Stores.—These stores are now regarded as an important factor in the life of the native communities. Under sympathetic supervision, the inmate is enabled to purchase extras to supplement the ordinary ration, as well as simple luxuries, thereby undoubtedly adding to his contentment and comfort. He is thus encouraged to use his earnings in the support of his dependents, keep away from the dangers of the towns, and benefit his own people, as all profits are devoted to settlement development.

—	Cash Sales.	Bank Orders.	Free Issues.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Baramba ..	540 5 7	3,991 5 6	686 19 8	5,218 10 9
Palm Island	648 15 6	5,806 10 11	471 17 1	6,925 3 6
Woorabinda	1,370 19 5	2,343 18 0	212 14 4	3,927 11 9
				£16,071 6 0

Schools.—The attendance of the native children has been regular; no serious epidemics interrupted the work, and progress by the inspection reports was very satisfactory.

The attendances, as per school rolls, are as under:—Barambah, 93 boys, 90 girls; total 183. Palm Island, 88 boys, 87 girls; total 175. Woorabinda, 36 boys, 41 girls; total 77.

At Barambah the pupils received training in Rural School subjects, such as simple carpentering, gardening, sewing, basket making, &c., in which they display encouraging aptitude.

At Palm Island and Woorabinda lack of suitable accommodation seriously hampered the work. Good buildings have now been provided at the latter settlement and are in course of erection at the former.

With the provision of much needed teaching assistance, the development of the training on more satisfactory lines will now be possible.

Agricultural.—At Barambah satisfactory results were achieved from the farm operations. Sixty tons of oaten and lucerne hay and 150 bushels of maize were harvested and used for stock fodder.

One hundred and eighty bags of potatoes were dug and good quantities of other vegetables, including 2 tons of marrows, 2½ tons beans, 6,000 cabbages, and half a ton of tomatoes. Ten acres of new ground has also been cleared for cultivation.

At Palm Island, plentiful supplies of vegetables were grown and issued to the hospitals at Palm Island and Fantome Island, and to the various quarters for old people and young children. Many of the native families kept themselves and friends similarly supplied from their private garden plots. Sixteen tons of sweet potatoes, 9 tons of pumpkins, 7 tons of water melons, and a large quantity of other vegetables, including tomatoes, beans, lettuce, cabbage, eschalots, and the following fruit:—41 dozen pineapples and 800 dozen bananas—were grown and issued to the natives. Twenty-three sacks of peanuts and 9 bags maize were sold, and there is estimated to be at least 30 tons of sweet potatoes to be dug in the new year.

About 20 acres of new land have been put under the plough and about 30 acres of Mauritius beans have been planted, which should give a profitable return.

At Woorabinda fine crops of early maize and sorghum were got in and provided useful stock fodder. A large supply of cow-peas was grown and issued for food to the camp people.

A promising area on Blackboy Creek was cultivated, and the largest supply of vegetables and melons obtained since the establishment of the settlement was raised. Thirty fruit trees have also been planted on this area. Trial plantings of tobacco and cotton failed owing to dry weather.

A good block on Mimosa Creek has also been placed under cultivation and a dam sunk to provide water for irrigation purposes.

Industrial.—The sawmills at Barambah and Palm Island have worked steadily, cutting timber for building purposes. Timber was sent from the former mill for the erection of a new school and playshed for 100 pupils at Woorabinda. The Palm Island Mill cut 110,000 super. feet, which was used for restoration of the buildings destroyed in the fire.

At Barambah new fences have been erected around areas cleared for cultivation and to open Barker's Creek paddock to water. Portion of the boundary at Branch Creek has been renewed. Nineteen hundred acres have been ringbarked.

Sales of stock, hides, and dipping fees returned £67 14s. 2d.

At Palm Island 3 miles of new fencing was erected. A commodious workshop was established, where serviceable articles of furniture are made by the natives.

At Woorabinda the small portable steam engine and sawbench cut all the squared timber for the water service, tank stand, and the cross arms for the telephone line, besides the requirements for gates and minor buildings. The excavation work for the water installation was commenced, the well dug and slabbed, and the heavy timbers cut for the water tower.

A start was also made on the work of erection of the telephone line to Duaringa.

Eleven miles of fencing was erected and 900 acres of country ringbarked.

Stock.—The season was a fair one for stock, the young cattle doing well.

At Barambah 300 calves were branded and 125 heifers were put with the breeders. The total number of breeders is 405. Five young Hereford bulls were bought and the old bulls disposed of.

Ninety old or unprofitable cows were speyed and will be fattened for beef. The total number of settlement beasts killed for beef was 140, averaging 530 lb. dressed weight. Twenty-six store bullocks were transferred to Woorabinda. The dairy herd was supplied with sufficient home-grown feed throughout the winter months, and from 20 to 30 gallons of milk was issued daily.

At Palm Island the cattle number 157, including 49 cows and 26 working bullocks.

A sufficient quantity of milk was obtained for the needs of the various institutions, and mothers with babies were regularly supplied.

At Woorabinda the herd totals over 1,200 head. The cattle are in splendid condition and equal to any in the district. The breeders number 369 and the brandings were 422, including 120 calves purchased with breeders. There are 12 good bulls.

Thirty-three cows were speyed. There are 205 steers, 135 heifers, and 22 working bullocks.

Ninety-six beasts were killed for beef, including 74 settlement-reared and 19 transferred from Barambah.

BUILDING AND VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT.

At Barambah a cottage for visitors' quarters was erected and an Isolation Ward added to the

Hospital. Several new native cottages have been added to the village.

A new machinery shed was built and the Girls' Home verandas and Storekeeper's quarters painted throughout.

At Palm Island the buildings destroyed in the fire, viz., the Retail Store, Office, School, Superintendent's and Assistant Superintendent's quarters, have all been rebuilt on more commodious and suitable design for tropical climate. A visitors' cottage, a house for the sawmiller, and quarters for native farm assistant have also been erected.

The lockup has been re-erected, also the Old Men's Home and 4 cottages for native families.

At Woorabinda the long-needed school building has now been provided. A carpenter's shop, bathrooms each for the nurse and teacher, and a new soup kitchen have been built and the dispensary ceiled. A new dairy house has also been erected.

Social Improvement.—There are many gratifying indications to be found of the growth of desire for a better home and village life. The new cottages, as available, are eagerly sought for, and the more intelligent often attempt, with the material procurable, to provide better homes for themselves. Habits of cleanliness, neatness in dress, and orderly behaviour in public are consequently more noticeable.

Religious Instruction.—The usual religious services and instruction have been regularly carried out by visiting clergy and missionaries, assisted by some of the officials. The inmates display encouraging interest in these ministrations and attend the services and classes in good numbers, clean and neatly dressed and behaving with pleasing reverence.

Recreations.—The usual sports and games have been indulged in, and the men enter into cricket and football competitions keenly, and generally give a good account of themselves. The Barambah cricket team had a victorious run, principally through the very fast bowling of Eddie Gilbert, a full-blood, who won his way to interstate honours.

The Palm Island Senior and Junior teams organised local competitions for trophies; and matches were played at Rockhampton and at the Settlement by Woorabinda natives and European teams, the victories going to the blacks.

School games, including tennis, have been encouraged, and periodically dances, concerts, and sports days have been held amongst themselves, at which the native brass bands assisted with music. At each settlement, however, the native dances, songs, and practice of woodcraft were encouraged. They are always popular, especially amongst the old people.

The Christmas season was, as usual, made enjoyable for all by the festivities arranged amongst themselves with the help of the officials, who deserve the gratitude of the department for their unselfish work for the happiness of their people.

MISSIONS.

- Yarrabah, Cairns** (Superintendent, **W. McCullough**), Anglican.
- Monamona, Cairns** (Superintendent, **L. Borgas**), Seventh Day Adventists.
- Cape Bedford, Cooktown** (Superintendent, **Rev. G. H. Schwarz**), Lutheran.
- Lockhart River, Cape York Peninsula** (Superintendent, **H. Rowan**), Anglican.
- Moa Island, St. Paul's, Torres Strait** (Superintendent, **Rev. J. W. Schomberg**), Anglican.
- Mapoon, Gulf of Carpentaria** (Superintendent, **Rev. P. R. Currell**), Presbyterian.
- Weipa, Gulf of Carpentaria** (Superintendent, **Rev. A. W. Gage**), Presbyterian.
- Aurukun, Gulf of Carpentaria** (Superintendent, **Rev. W. F. McKenzie**), Presbyterian.
- Mitchell River, Gulf of Carpentaria** (Superintendent, **J. W. Chapman**), Anglican.
- Mornington Island, Gulf of Carpentaria** (Superintendent, **Rev. R. H. Wilson**), Presbyterian.
- Purga, Ipswich** (Superintendent, **Commandant W. Perrem**), Salvation Army.

Conduct.—No serious crime was reported. A tribal quarrel occurred at Mornington Island, some spears were thrown, and a woman, running for safety, was accidentally struck, the wound proving fatal. The native responsible was arrested and deported to Palm Island.

The native officers have assisted to preserve discipline, and very little drink or gambling trouble has occurred.

Religious Training.—Encouraging interest is shown by the people in the services and instruction classes, and some of the more educated assist by reading the scriptures, playing the organ, &c. It has naturally greater appeal when the services are in their own language.

Thirty Mapoon children entered for the Annual Scripture Examinations of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland and won 23 passes.

Education.—All stations report regular attendance and satisfactory progress. Some of the new recruits from the nomadic life find concentration difficult at first, but it is said that, generally, the full-blood children show equal aptitude with the half-caste.

The manual and domestic instruction given enables the pupils to be kept under training, where desired, until 16 years of age, thus tiding both sexes over a somewhat difficult stage.

The High School and Hostel at Moa Island (St. Paul's) has made good progress. Thirteen pupils were in residence.

INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL.

The following is a brief account of operations towards self-maintenance on the various stations:—

Yarrabah.—Notwithstanding the poor soil, the farms yielded good crops of sweet potatoes, pineapples, bananas, &c. Thirty tons of potatoes were harvested and 27 acres are under crop. Milk and butter were supplied from the dairy to all young, old, and sick.

A new chimney and smokebox were erected at the sawmill. Building operations proceeded steadily, and some new 14-ft. dinghies were built.

Monamona.—Timber hauling was the main support, but the financial depression seriously affected the source of revenue.

Over £600 worth of sweet potatoes, cassava, bananas, pineapples, maize, and green vegetables were raised and consumed on the mission.

A new area of 12 acres has been cleared for a banana plantation.

Cape Bedford.—At the McIvor River outstation 50 tons of sweet potatoes, $\frac{3}{4}$ ton of maize, and good supplies of bananas, cassava, &c., were raised, thus reducing the expenditure on flour and rice.

The fishing vessels won £200 worth of marine produce, but this could be greatly improved upon if a competent "captain" could be secured for this work.

The coconut plantations provided ample nuts for food, always a favourite article of diet. The copra market is too poor to warrant any trade in this line.

Lockhart River.—About 30 acres are under cultivation. Land is also being cleared for coconut plantation and other ground is grubbed ready for ploughing, with the intention of planting cotton on a commercial scheme.

St. Paul's, Moa Island.—The school building was enlarged to accommodate extra pupils, and extra forms and desks made; a new students' quarters was also erected.

The village and gardens suffered from constant bush fires at the end of the year.

Mapoon.—Many of the men have engaged in the fishing industry at Thursday Island, and several other families have partly supported themselves working the mission cutter in beche-de-mer. Others have followed copra-making, but the market has been poor. Large quantities of fish were caught by net and distributed for food. Pumpkins and other vegetables were grown, and the surplus crops were traded to the head station. Nearly £90 was earned by the women in sales of crochet work and native fans. The cattle number 450, and have ensured ample supplies of milk and beef.

New buildings for retail store, general store, and kitchen were erected. A new well was sunk and timbered. Two new cottages were added to the native village and repairs commenced to the mission school and church.

The mission store showed a fair profit, and £50 was paid off the boats' debt.

Weipa.—Good crops of sweet potatoes, pumpkins, &c., were grown for home consumption.

The sawmill was regularly employed cutting for misison building needs.

Aurukun.—A new wing and a bathroom with cement floor were added to the girls' dormitory, also a children's cookhouse; timber was also cut for a new boys' dormitory.

Owing to failure of the wet season, farming results were disappointing, but good crops of sweet potatoes and coconuts were gathered.

The permanent swamps have been planted with good stock grasses and 10 acres of swamp land cleared.

The men have shown interest in their work, carrying on farm and building work without supervision.

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 1930

Corporate Author: Queensland Home Secretary's Department

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