

1936.
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QUEENSLAND.

REPORT

UPON THE

OPERATIONS OF THE SUB-DEPARTMENTS

OF

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

PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

BRISBANE:

BY AUTHORITY: DAVID WHYTE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER,

A. 30—1936.

Reports upon the Operations of Certain Sub-Departments of the Department of Health and Home Affairs

Department of Health and Home Affairs,
Brisbane, 24th September, 1936.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY FOR HEALTH AND HOME AFFAIRS.

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.

C. E. CHUTER,
Under Secretary.

- ABORIGINALS (Chief Protector, J. W. Bleakley).
DIAMANTINA HOSPITAL FOR CHRONIC DISEASES, SOUTH BRISBANE (Acting Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. T. H. R. Mathewson; Superintendent, F. M. STAUBWASSER).
DUNWICH BENEVOLENT ASYLUM (Manager and Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. C. Turnbull).
EVENTIDE HOME, CHARTERS TOWERS (Manager, W. H. Berry).
INEBRIATE INSTITUTION, DUNWICH (Manager and Medical Superintendent, Dr. F. C. Turnbull).
JUBILEE SANATORIUM FOR CONSUMPTIVES, DALBY (Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. W. H. N. Randall; Superintendent, Miss M. Nutt).
PRISONS (Comptroller-General, J. F. Whitney).
QUEENSLAND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND, SOUTH BRISBANE (Acting Manager, R. J. O'Gorman).
WESTWOOD SANATORIUM (Superintendent, Dr. J. H. Blackburn).

Aboriginal Department—Information contained in Report for the Year ended 31st December, 1935.

POPULATION.

As shown in the following table, the total aboriginal and half-caste population of Queensland at the 30th June, 1935, was 17,495; of this total 9,695 are males and 7,800 females. These figures are shown in the return issued by the Registrar-General following a census taken in conjunction with this Department on the 30th June, 1935. Although the figures can be regarded as substantially correct, the difficulty in accurately recording an aboriginal population, where a fair percentage are nomads, must be appreciated, and, consequently, particularly in those districts outside the influence of missions in the Gulf of Carpentaria and Cape York Peninsula, only estimated numbers are supplied.

The recorded figures, however, reveal a slight decrease in the number of full-bloods, while a more than corresponding increase is shown in the figures of half-castes.

While it is probable that in some of the country districts there have been slight decreases through natural wastage, the reduction in the number of full-bloods can also be partly attributed to erroneous calculation.

It is quite feasible that natives hitherto regarded as full-bloods are now correctly classified as half-castes. The same inference can be drawn in regard to the increase in the number of half-castes.

Prior to "*The Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts Amendment Act of 1934*" becoming operative, quadroons and cross-breeds, other than half-castes, were not included in the aboriginal popu-

lation. In some districts these breeds are now evidently shown in the figures, resulting in the increase, which is above a yearly average. In this respect the greatest increase was recorded in the Thursday Island district, where 263 quadroons were added to the half-caste section, by reason of the provisions of the Act referred to.

The classification of the full population under both headings is as shown:—

FULL-BLOODS.

Males 6,888, Females 5,182, Total 12,070.

Condition.	Adults.	Children.
Nomadic	1,825	477
In regular employment ..	2,764	..
Supervised camps	3,685	1,991
Other (dependents of those in employment, &c.) ..	700	628
Totals	8,974	3,096

HALF-CASTES.

Males 2,807, Females 2,618, Total 5,425.

Condition.	Adults.	Children.
Nomadic	95	86
In regular employment ..	1,177	..
Supervised camps	889	1,078
Other (dependents of those in employment, &c.) ..	845	1,255
Totals	3,006	2,419

ADMINISTRATION.

The beneficial effects of "*The Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts Amendment Act of 1934*," which operated from November of that year, have been widely appreciated, and particularly does this apply to those sections which aimed at suppressing the immoral association of whites and other nationalities with aboriginal, half-caste, and quadroon women. The fact that action will be taken in all cases of offences against this section of the Act is now becoming known and acting as a deterrent.

The powers provided under the above amendments for dealing with breeds other than half-caste or aboriginal full-blood have enabled better care and control to be given to a number of cross-breeds who hitherto were not covered by the Act, but were practically aboriginal by reason of their living conditions and associations. Unfortunately, the extension of these powers was responsible for considerable resentment on the part of a large proportion of the coloured population of Thursday Island, which is comprised of half or quarter-caste South Sea Islanders, with a smaller sprinkling of Asiatic and aboriginal cross.

The powers given to the Chief Protector of Aborigines to declare any cross-breed of aboriginal or Pacific Island extraction a ward of the Aboriginal Department, because his living conditions or inability to look after himself made protection advisable, were claimed to be too arbitrary and injustice might be inflicted.

Action is being taken to review the position as far as this type of people may be concerned to, as far as possible, allay such fear.

Unfortunately, the drafting and consolidation of the existing and new regulations to conform to the spirit of the amended legislation, owing to the heavy work of preparation and revision, have not yet been finalised, but their gazettal is expected early in the coming year. These regulations will explain every phase of aboriginal protection and control, and will enable all officers of the Department, and even intelligent aborigines or half-castes, to make themselves conversant with or obtain guidance on the protection laws.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON LAND.

Reports received from country protectors and superintendents of aboriginal settlements and mission stations indicate that a fairly satisfactory demand for aboriginal labour, particularly in the pastoral industry, still obtains, although there are still surplus men on the Government settlements who could with advantage be employed if it were possible to satisfactorily place them. The total number of aborigines and half-castes employed under agreement was: Males, 1,238; females, 402. In the Western and Gulf districts little difficulty was obtained in securing work for males and females, but conditions were not as bright in the Central and Southern coastal areas.

An outstanding feature of employment was the high demand for female labour for employment on stations in the Southern and South-western districts. In many instances it was not possible to meet the demand. A decided increase in applications for female domestic labour was also reported from the Normanton protectorate.

This is probably attributable to the fact that recently patrols have been made to outlying stations, resulting in eight prosecutions for employing natives contrary to the Aborigines Protection Acts and Regulations. Similarly, action was also taken to see that all domestics were employed under agreement.

Little difficulty has been experienced in collecting wages due to aborigines. As can be expected, in a few isolated cases pressure was necessary to ensure payment, but, generally, it is gratifying to find that the majority of employers of aboriginal labour are prompt in the settlement of the wages due. In the collection of wages and in the general supervision of natives in employment, the Department has to acknowledge the great assistance of the Protectors of Aborigines in the country districts, of whom ninety-five are members of the Police Department. These officers render invaluable service in protecting the interests of the aborigines and generally supervising their welfare.

The conduct of natives in employment has been generally good. In some instances female labour proved to be unsatisfactory, and a few employers were found to be unsuitable, necessitating cancellation of the agreements.

LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

There was practically no unemployment amongst the mainland aborigines residing on the seaboard or the Torres Strait Islanders, as ample opportunity prevailed for the employment of capable swimmers on vessels engaged in the pearlshell, bêche-de-mer, and trochus-shell industry.

The Torres Strait Island Company boats also employed their usual complement of swimmers.

The following aborigines were employed in this industry:—

Master Boats (Licensed Pearling Vessels)—			
Islanders	..	194	.. Wages earned £6,195
Mainlanders	..	144	.. Wages earned £3,262
Company Boats, Torres Strait Islands—			
Islanders	..	459	.. Wages earned £9,170

In addition to the foregoing, nine mainlanders were employed through the Protector of Aborigines, Cooktown, as seamen, and earned £208. The Palm Island natives, using their diughies and flatties, won trochus shell to the value of £375, which was disposed of through the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island.

The trial by the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island, to train mainland aborigines as seamen, with the ultimate intention of employing them on master vessels or on their own company boats, is meeting with a considerable amount of success. Last year twelve men were placed under a Torres Strait Island captain on a community vessel, and performed excellently. This same crew have continued to show progress in the art of gathering marine produce, and the swimmers have already been drafted out to other vessels.

The market prices of pearlshell continued low, although from the operations of the firms owning vessels employed in the industry it is evident that a profit can be obtained from its disposal. Trochus-shell fishing remains steady and remunerative, and although reports from the captains of luggers indicate that this marine commodity is becoming scarcer, nevertheless good catches were recorded.

INSURANCE AND COMPENSATION.

Special care is taken to protect the interests of aboriginals in employment as regards accidents, and as all aboriginal workers are insured under the Workers' Compensation Act, claims are promptly filed. The number of claims admitted was thirty-seven, and compensation amounting to £1,178 1s. 5d. was awarded. Of these claims, eight were on account of the Torres Strait Islanders, and were submitted on behalf of dependents of men who lost their lives in the cyclone off Bailey's Creek in March, 1934. In all cases action is taken to protect the compensation received by depositing it to the recipient's credit in the Savings Bank and allowing withdrawals against it within reason. The Department is indebted to the State Government Insurance Commissioner and his Claims Department's officers for their courtesy and assistance in dealing with applications on behalf of natives.

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

The following table of deposits on account of wages of natives earned in employment records that throughout the State there was an increase in the number of accounts controlled by the Department as compared with last year

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT.

	No. of Accounts.	Total Wages Deposits.			Interest Earned.			Actual Withdrawals for Natives' Benefit.			Balances as at 31/12/35.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cherbourg	692	2,960	7	1	155	14	6	4,527	2	4	1,525	9	0
Palm Island	756	4,524	3	8	405	1	0	6,135	0	9	4,763	15	1
Woorabinda	309	2,302	6	11	74	4	0	2,764	0	6	1,260	2	11
Brisbane	88	1,032	2	11	167	14	7	1,654	5	4	7,201	10	6
Various Protectorates	2,599	36,317	13	0	8,052	1	4	36,303	6	11	20,103	5	10
Thursday Island	1,706	18,397	4	0	214	9	11	16,472	8	7	9,621	7	9
Totals	6,150	£65,533	17	7	£9,069	5	4	£67,906	4	5	£44,475	11	1

The foregoing balances do not include amounts invested in Commonwealth Conversion Loan at 4 per cent., which are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement ..	3,000	0	0
Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement ..	8,000	0	0
Woorabinda Aboriginal Settlement ..	1,000	0	0
	£12,000	0	0

In addition to these investments, the sum of £200,000 is invested in Commonwealth Stock at 3½ per cent. These funds represent portion of the credit balance held on account of country aboriginals, but not natives of the Thursday Island district.

The investment was decided on to enable interest higher than the current Savings Bank rate to be earned and utilised for the relief of country aboriginals. In addition, the funds held by the Protector of Aboriginals, Thursday Island, to the credit of natives in the Somerset district have been able to lend £4,000 at 5 per cent. to Aboriginal Industries, which is the business operating under Government control for the benefit of natives in that district. A further sum of £14,000, being portion of the balance of Aboriginal Protection Property Accounts, is invested in Inscribed Stock at 4 per cent., and £2,060 of Aboriginal Provident Fund is similarly invested. The loan to Aboriginal Industries from Provident Fund now remains at £5,000.

by 274, and in the total value of deposits by £10,500.

The fact that the total withdrawals from these accounts exceeded the deposits by £2,172 6s. 10d. can be read as evidence that the native worker fully appreciates the fact that the money controlled by the Department is for his own use and benefit. When it is further considered that during the lean years the extent to which the owners of the accounts have been able to supplement their reduced income from their past savings has been £40,243, no further answer is needed to the criticisms levelled against the system of controlling portion of the earnings of these people.

The sum of £643 15s. 3d., being the Savings Bank balances of natives whose whereabouts are unknown, was placed to the credit of Aboriginal Protection Property Account. Continued inquiries will be made in an endeavour to ascertain the whereabouts of the owners. The sum of £936 3s. 11d., representing the assets of deceased natives who died leaving no dependents, was also credited to this account. In all cases where natives die leaving an estate, exhaustive inquiries are made in an endeavour to ascertain the whereabouts of their next-of-kin, to enable their claims to be submitted for consideration.

The actual funds held or invested for aboriginal purposes is, therefore, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
1. Current Balance in Savings Bank Accounts	44,475	11	1
2. Settlement Natives' Savings Bank Funds, invested in Inscribed Stock ..	12,000	0	0
3. Country Natives' Savings Bank Accounts, invested in Commonwealth Stock at 3½ per cent.	200,000	0	0
4. Thursday Island District Natives' Savings Bank Funds, on loan to Aboriginal Industries	4,000	0	0
5. Aboriginal Protection Property Account, Balance in Current Account ..	2,880	18	7
6. Aboriginal Provident Fund, Balance in Current Account	1,125	19	10
7. Aboriginal Protection Property Accounts, Funds invested in Inscribed Stock at 4 per cent. ..	14,000	0	0
8. Aboriginal Protection Property Account, Sundry Loans to Missions and Settlements	1,648	5	5
9. Aboriginal Provident Fund Investment, at 4 per cent.	2,060	0	0
10. Aboriginal Provident Fund held in Bonds at 4 per cent.	20	0	0
Aboriginal Provident Fund on Loan to Aboriginal Industries at 5 per cent.	5,000	0	0
11. Island Funds and Boats Reserve Account, Current Balance	1,504	0	0
12. Island Fund and Boats Reserve Account, Loans to Boats	4,835	0	0
Total	£293,549	14	11

Hereunder are shown the annual statements of receipts and disbursements of the Aboriginal Protection Property Account and the Aboriginal

Provident Fund. The balances standing to credit of both funds are included in the foregoing tables of assets held by the Department:—

ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balances as at 31st December, 1934	3,615	13 0	Refunds—Deceased Estates to Relatives	247	3 1
Collections—Estates Deceased Natives	936	3 11	Credit Balances, Aboriginals located on Settlements, &c.	277	11 6
Unclaimed Bank Balances	643	15 3	Temporary Loan, Aboriginal Industries	1,300	0 0
Interest	624	6 1	Relief—Industrial Development of Settlements and Missions	2,204	6 1
Loans—Refunds	90	1 0	Balance as at 31st December, 1935	1,880	18 7
	£5,909	19 3		£5,909	19 3

ABORIGINAL PROVIDENT FUND.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance as at 31st December, 1934	1,436	8 4	To S. 1799—For the relief of indigent country natives	4,142	18 3
Collections—Contributions	1,813	1 5	Balance as at 31st December, 1935	1,125	19 10
Interest—Inscribed Stock	119	8 4			
Loan, Aboriginal Industries, &c.	400	0 0			
Redemption, Aboriginal Industries	1,500	0 0			
	£5,268	18 1		£5,268	18 1

ABORIGINAL PATROL VESSEL.

The auxiliary ketch "Melbidir," stationed at Thursday Island, is required to patrol the Torres Strait Islands and those mission stations in the Somerset district extending to Lockhart River Mission on the east coast and to Aurukun Mission in the Gulf. Occasionally she is required to proceed further to Mitchell River Mission and Mornington Island and as far south as Normanton.

During the year under review the vessel was at sea for 234 days and covered 8,869 miles. Every mission station and inhabited island in the Somerset district was visited at least once in the year, and monthly patrols were maintained to the more densely populated islands in Torres Strait. Native passengers to the number of 229 were carried between various islands, and every effort was made to keep up regular supplies of fresh meat and vegetables to the Government teachers and superintendents stationed on these settlements.

The vessel was overhauled during March and repairs effected totalling £140.

REMOVALS AND RECOGNIZANCES.

By virtue of section 17 of the Aboriginal Protection Principal Act of 1897, any person removing an aboriginal beyond the limits of the State is required to enter into a bond for the return of such native. Eight such recognizances were entered into, and no action was necessary for estreatment.

RELIEF.

An important function of the Department is the care and relief of indigent natives in outlying districts, particularly when their removal to a reserve beyond their own country is not warranted. Constant touch is kept through the Protectors to ensure that no undue hardship is experienced by those aboriginals who are unfit for further employment and whose circumstances warrant that they should receive relief and care. These old people are established in camps where it is felt they would be more contented in the

district in which they were born, provided, of course, that facilities are available for their care, protection, and good health.

The issue of general relief to country aboriginals cost £2,268, while casual relief resulted in the expenditure of an additional £474.

In order to assist in the protection and supervision of some of these groups of natives in the far West, compounds have been established at various centres, and particular success has marked the innovation at Gregory Downs, Georgetown, Burketown, Mitchell, and Mareeba, where efforts are being made to conserve the remnants of the race in these centres and obviate the necessity for removing those old aboriginals from their native haunts to settlements or missions where in some instances, despite the facilities for their well-being which might exist at such places, they must at times feel their outcast condition.

BLANKETS.

In addition to the foregoing relief, the Department provided for those necessitous natives who, through old-age or inability to secure suitable employment, are unable to make provision for the adverse climatic conditions an issue of blankets for the colder months. Any aboriginal in necessitous circumstances is entitled to receive one or more blankets, as his circumstances warrant, or, as an alternative, clothing in lieu thereof. These issues were organised through the Manager, State Stores, resulting in every aboriginal in need benefiting therefrom. The goods distributed included 4,295 blankets (being 614 in excess of the 1934 issue), also clothing, tobacco, tomahawks, knives, fishing lines and hooks, tent flies, food utensils, and medicines. The total cost of all such issues was £2,594.

CRIME AMONG ABORIGINALS.

Generally, throughout the State little complaint was received as regards offences by aboriginals against society. Generally, it can be accepted that this section of the population can boast an absence of crime comparable with any other section of the community.

The following tables of offences against and by aboriginals indicate that, with the exception of three serious cases, drunkenness was responsible for practically all offences dealt with. This can be accepted as evidence of the vigilance of the Protectors and Officers of the Police Department:—

OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1932.		1933.		1934.		1935.	
	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.	No.	Fines.
Possession of opium	2	£ 40	..	£ ..	5	£ 130	1	£ 40
Supplying of opium	9	250	5	80	1	40	2	..
Supplying liquor ..	2	45	..	..	3	60	5	82½
Harbouring .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	10	..	..
Assault .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

Offences.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Drunkenness	31	25	28	24
Stealing	6	12	8	2
Creating a disturbance .. ..	..	2	1	2
Wilful destruction .. ..	..	1	..	..
Obscene language .. ..	..	3	1	..
Assault	4	2	4	2
Resisting arrest .. ..	..	1	..	1
Entering	1	..	..	..
Absconding	9	3	..	..
Manslaughter	1	..	..	..
Rape .. .. .	..	1	1	2
Murder .. .. .	..	2	1	1
Unlawful possession of opium .. ..	..	1	..	..
Intent to kill unlawfully .. ..	..	1	..	..
Breach of Pearlshell and Bêche-de-mer Act .. ..	..	1	..	..

REMOVALS.

The following table showing the number of removals from country districts to aboriginal settlements or missions indicates an increase of 141 as compared with the figures for the previous year. This apparently large increase was caused mostly through the necessity to remove a large number of natives from the Normanton and Turn-off Lagoons districts for their better care and control. The balance of those removed came mostly from the districts in North Queensland. Of the total deported, 58 were cases sent direct to Fantome Island for medical treatment for venereal disease. Previously such cases were, in the first instance, removed direct to Palm Island Settlement, so that no special significance attaches to the apparently heavy increase as compared with the previous year's figures. The combing-out of a number of undesirable, old, and inefficient natives who could only be properly cared for at an institution naturally swelled the figures, and it is not anticipated that such a large number of removals will occur again.

Place.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>				
Palm Island ..	20	17	21	58
Fantome Island ..	31	15	12	58
Cherbourg ..	21	16	12	49
Woorabinda ..	13	7	5	25
<i>Missions—</i>				
Lockhart River ..	..	4	2	6
Monamona ..	5	5	3	13
Mapoon ..	..	1	..	1
Mitchell River ..	3	2	4	9
Mornington Island ..	4	7	16	27
Purga ..	1	2	2	5
Yarrabah ..	13	10	3	26
Totals ..	111	86	80	277

HEALTH.

Health conditions throughout the State can be regarded as generally satisfactory, and reports from superintendents of Government settlements, church missions, and country protectors have indicated that no serious sickness has occurred.

At Mossman and Normanton severe influenza epidemics were experienced, and five deaths occurred in the former district. Fortunately, there were no fatalities at Normanton.

Malaria was prevalent at Mornington Island, and it became necessary to seek the assistance of the Aerial Medical Officer, whose help and advice was much appreciated. It was found necessary to remove four patients to Cloncurry Hospital for further treatment, and eighteen deaths occurred.

An outbreak of influenza occurred at Mitchell River Mission, which also reported the treatment of several cases of malaria fever.

At Burketown several cases of venereal disease and malaria were treated. Tests for malaria in the outside areas revealed rather heavy infection.

Of the cases of venereal disease sent to Fantome Island for treatment, two were from Gregory Downs; seven others were from Gordonvale. Six cases were discovered at Yarrabah, of which four were sent to Fantome Island for treatment, and the balance to Cairns.

In the South-western areas severe influenza epidemics occurred at Augathella and Bollon, one death occurring at Augathella. Bollon also reported three cases of pneumonia, which were successfully treated.

During the year there was no medical officer stationed at Palm Island Settlement owing to the difficulty of obtaining a suitable appointee. A visit of inspection was paid by Dr. J. Grahame Drew, Chief Health Officer, during August. The matter of obtaining a suitable permanent officer for this position is receiving consideration, and an appointment early next year is expected.

The following table indicates the number of patients treated at the various settlements, missions, and centres from which records were obtainable:—

Settlements.	
Palm Island	641 in-patients. Daily out-patient treatment given
Cherbourg	530 in-patients, 3,496 out-patients, 42,400 treatments given
Woorabinda	735 in-patients, 2,838 out-patients, 31,610 treatments given

Missions.	
Mapoon	Fever, yaws, scabies, and also leper suspects treated
Aurukun	Scabies, fever, yaws, granuloma and usual minor complaints and accidents
Weipa	There were 756 treated for malaria, influenza, rheumatism and various complaints
Mitchell River	68.51 treatments given for influenza, malaria, and various complaints
Mornington Island	266 treated for malaria, venereal, pulmonary, and general complaints

Missions—continued.	
Moa Island	Patients sent to Thursday Island Hospital. Cases of influenza treated
Hammond Island	Cases of mumps and jaundice treated
Lockhart River	1,194 cases treated (including 187 hookworm)
Yarrabah	6 cases gonorrhoea, one pneumonia. Also serious cases sent to Cairns Hospital
Purga	50 cases of general ailments treated
Myora	2 cases treated Dunwich Hospital, where also out-patient treatment given. 1 case treated at Children's Hospital

Country Hospitals.	
Beaudesert	41 in-patients treated
Goondiwindi	10 in-patients treated
Bollon Bush Nursing Centre	41 in-patients treated
Maryborough	12 in-patients treated
Gayndah	25 in-patients treated
Gin Gin	9 in-patients treated
Mundubbera	6 in-patients treated
Mossman	12 in-patients treated
Townsville	29 in-patients treated
Rockhampton	21 in-patients treated

FANTOME ISLAND LOCK HOSPITAL.
Deputy Superintendent, F. H. Julian.

Statistics for the Year—

	In Hospital 31st December, 1934.	Admitted.	Born.	Total.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1935.
Men	111	39	..	150	27	21	102
Women	76	16	..	92	7	8	77
Children	43	14	4	61	9	1	51
Totals	230	69	4	303	43	30	230

Practically all admissions have been from outside areas. It has been noted that many of the worst cases came from the far West and Gulf country, but as a class they are a fine type.

Discharges for the year have been satisfactory. A large group who were held pending confirmation of fitness for discharge have since been passed by the State Health Officer. There have been a few instances of speedy recovery from acute conditions, but, generally, those discharged have been under treatment for long periods.

Deaths were comparatively numerous during the year. This was mostly due to the passing of a number of old people. A number of the admissions arrived in the last stages of disease.

The year commenced under and following exceptional weather conditions, and with the majority of the natives suffering from fever or influenza. In many cases recovery was slow. Supplies of dugong oil were obtained during the year. This product was found to be very useful in building up run-down conditions.

The following indicates the volume of treatment given:—

- 922 Intravenous injections.
- 2,849 Intramuscular injections.
- 152 Deep subcutaneous injections.
- 84 Intradermal injections.
- 6,416 Special treatments to females.

Several cases of leprosy have been dealt with.

Apart from ordinary routine treatments, much treatment is necessary for skins, eyes, &c. Chronic dirty cases require much attention. Minor injuries are frequent.

Treatment to many of the old clean-type chronics has been discontinued, but such cases have to be carefully watched for breakdown.

Dental treatment by a visiting dentist has been continuous throughout the year. Our type of case usually needs much attention in this direction. The result of such care has been a great improvement in general health conditions.

Development at the farm villages has continued, and the population in this area has increased to over sixty. Improvement work goes on, and considerable additional land is under cultivation. Despite the bad season, abundant crops of sweet potatoes, pumpkins, tomatoes, and green vegetables were maintained until the end of November. Bananas and papaws did well. Plenty of crops to follow on were planted, but were retarded by the dry season.

The experimental sowing of upland rice proved a failure, due to a wrong fumigation of seed procedure prior to receipt here. Further supply of seed was obtained by the Department from New Guinea. This was sown at the end of the

year. Following nice rain early this month, the seed germinated well. Unfortunately, there has not been the required follow-on of rain, and the success of the crop is doubtful.

The piggery has been extended and poultry yards built, mostly out of scrub timber, with a minimum of bought material. Litters of pigs have arrived, and a good strain of Australorp chicks were bought and are now well grown. The object in both cases is additional food supply and vocational training.

The dairy herd continues to increase and is improving in quality. Several steers were killed and eaten. A good milk supply has been maintained.

An additional draught gelding was obtained, also a light spring-cart, which serves many useful purposes.

The water supply scheme is complete. It comprises the wells and a windmill pumping to the old 50,000-gallon reservoir for the hospital supply, also pumping-engine, pump, and 10,000-gallon storage at the farm area, with the reticulation services in each case. Rainfall for the year was only 38.67 inches, following a previous bad season. This is a very bad rainfall for this class of country. Under the circumstances, we have not had the best service from the scheme, although a sufficient supply for ordinary purposes has been maintained. The position of the windmill is not the best from a point of windage, and it may be necessary to recommend an auxiliary pumping-engine.

Provision has been made for the instalment of electric power for lighting, &c. It is worth noting the State Health Officer has expressed the opinion that diathermy treatment, for which power is required, would assist in certain types of cases.

The 26-ft. launch "Polynesian" was purchased by the Department during the year, and has covered 4,520 miles in this service. The launch was practically new and is a staunch, well-engined boat.

In bad weather the front beach is not approachable, necessitating journeys round either the southern or northern points of the island. Such trips are frequently dangerous in such a small launch. However, we only failed to maintain our service during one period of cyclonic weather, when all boats were laid up.

The only building of a permanent character erected has been a baker's oven. However, a quantity of serviceable material has been obtained from the demolished Townsville Orphanage buildings, and many necessary items will be proceeded with.

The institution was visited during the year by Sir Raphael Cilento (Director-General of Health and Medical Services), Dr. Grahame Drew (State Health Officer), and Mr. C. O'Leary (Deputy Chief Protector of Aborigines). The Visiting Justice (Mr. G. A. Cameron) made several visits.

The natives have been well behaved. They amuse themselves well and are contented and happy and usually appreciative of the services

provided. The number of virile natives is much less than formerly, but, where employable, all natives are kept at various duties necessary for the maintenance of the institution. Native staff, who are recruited from the patients, have been particularly loyal, and were very sound through the bad period of epidemic.

The representatives of the various missions continue to visit. In addition to the Roman Catholic church, an Anglican church has been erected. The sisters attached to the Roman Catholic Mission have a very good influence with the women and children.

The year has been a trying one in many respects. The white staff have worked hard, and frequently under abnormal conditions and for excessive hours. The staff is so small that every circumstance out of the ordinary means a sacrifice of leisure.

The Department has given much valuable assistance, for which I am grateful.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND MISSIONS OF CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

Government Medical Officer, Dr. J. R. Nimmo, Thursday Island.

Reports from teachers and superintendents show that the health of aborigines has been reasonably good during the year.

Epidemic Disease.—There was no serious epidemic during the year. A number of cases of catarrhal jaundice occurred, but the disease was generally of a mild type. Scabies has proved to be very troublesome among the Peninsula natives, but determined efforts are being made to lessen the incidence of this complaint.

Endemic Disease.—The incidence of malaria was much lower than in 1934, and calls for no special mention. The possibility of eradicating this disease in localities such as Saibai can be completely discounted, so that annual outbreaks (March to July) must be expected and provided for.

Other endemic diseases, such as yaws and hookworm, are still in evidence, but not to such an extent as in previous years.

Veneral Disease.—Three cases of gonorrhoea and one case of ulcerative granuloma were treated during the year.

ABORIGINAL PATIENTS TREATED IN HOSPITAL AT THURSDAY ISLAND.

Of the patients admitted to the Torres Strait Hospital during the year, 156 were aborigines

The following is an analysis of the diseases for which these patients were treated:—

Malaria	7	Shark Bite ..	1
Yaws	9	Abscess, &c. ..	13
Granuloma ..	1	Simple Tumour ..	3
Influenza ..	12	Catarrhal Jaundice	3
Pneumonia ..	4	Kidney Disease ..	3
Goitre	2	Appendicitis ..	2
Tuberculosis ..	7	Gastro-Intestina ..	7
Miscellaneous ..	14	Eye and Ear ..	3
Heart Disease ..	12	Hookworm	2
Rheumatism, &c. ..	16	Diseases of Women	14
Injuries	17	Diabetes	1

Out-patients.—Three hundred and sixty out-patients (aboriginal) reported for treatment during the year. The majority of these patients are referred by teachers, or are seamen working in the marine industry.

DEATHS REGISTERED AT THURSDAY ISLAND DURING 1935.

Registered deaths totalled sixty-seven (excluding deaths at Mitchell and Lockhart Missions).

The principal causes of death were as follows:—

Senility	16	Prematurity .. .	3
Gastro-Intest. ..	10	Hæmorr. Jaundice	1
Heart Disease ..	7	Uncertain .. .	4
Malaria	6	Puerperal .. .	1
Tuberculosis .. .	7	Appendicitis ..	1
Pneumonia .. .	6	Meningitis .. .	1
Accidental .. .	3	Diabetes .. .	1

Of the total number, eight deaths occurred in hospital, and the remainder on the various islands and missions.

AGES AT DEATH OF SIXTY-SEVEN PERSONS.

Under 1 year .. .	13	From 41 to 50 years	5
From 1 to 10 years	7	„ 51 to 60 years	6
„ 11 to 20 years	5	„ 61 to 70 years	12
„ 21 to 30 years	7	Over 70 years .. .	8
„ 31 to 40 years	4		

The causes of death of infants under one year were:—Gastritis, 5; prematurity, 3; pneumonia, 1; hæmorrhagic jaundice, 1.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Arrangements were made for periodical visits to the three Government settlements, Fantome Island Lock Hospital, and the Torres Strait islands, and the necessary dental treatment has been given.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following figures enable a particularly interesting comparison to be made between those relating to the aboriginals accommodated on Government settlements and church mission stations and those residing in country districts:—

Settlements.	Population.	Number of Births.	Per 1,000 of Population.	Number of Deaths.	Per 1,000 of Population.
Settlements—					
Cherbourg	901	53	58.8	36	39.9
Palm Island	1,052	25	23.7	39	37.4
Woorabinda	579	18	30.1	19	32.8
Totals	2,532	96	37.9	94	37.01
Missions—					
Aurukun	666	10	15.0	5	7.5
Hammond Island*	112	4	33.7	1	8.9
Lockhart River ..	262	10	30.8	..	..
Mapoon	330	7	20.1	9	27.2
Mornington Island	275	3	10.9	18	65.4
St. Paul's*	228	8	35.0	3	13.0
Weipa	169	2	11.0	5	20.9
Yarrabah	494	23	46.6	11	23.5
Totals	2,536	67	26.4	52	20.5
Country Districts ..	7,133	114	15.9	127	17.8
Fantome Island .. .	230	4	17.0	30	130.4
Torres Strait Islands	3,683	131	35.5	44	11.9

*Not included in Torres Strait Islands' figures.

The number of births per thousand of the population on Cherbourg Settlement is higher than on any other settlement or church mission. Admittedly, at this place a large portion of the population is half-caste, and in this would appear a feasible explanation; but when it is noted that in the population of Yarrabah and Mapoon Missions there is also a large proportion of half-castes, and the birth-rate at these places is Yarrabah 46.6 and Mapoon 20.1, compared with 58.8 at Cherbourg, the explanation must lie in some other direction.

Again, the average number of births per thousand of the population (37.9) on the three Government settlements is much higher than that of the mission stations (26.4), from which the data to supply this information was available. However, the figures as regards deaths were the reverse, being 37.01 as against 20.5.

The number of deaths at Mornington Island cannot be accepted as a fair average, as a severe epidemic occurred during the year, which

increased the mortality rate considerably above normal. The complete figures for all missions, however, can be accepted as a fairly true indication of the position.

In the country districts the death-rate appears to be particularly low, but it must be remembered that, in the case of nomadic natives, deaths may occur that are not reported; so the figures may not indicate the true position. It would be fairly safe to assume, therefore, that conditions in bush districts would be comparable with those on missions; in fact, a higher rate might be looked for, particularly where they were not being cared for to the same extent as prevails in institutions.

However, when it is taken into consideration that a fairly large number of old and unproductive aboriginals are transferred to Government settlements and missions, to be cared for in their old age, it must be conceded that the death statistics for these institutions are gratifyingly low under the circumstances.

It should be noted that Fantome Island, which is a lock hospital, has not been included in the figures for Government settlements. This hospital receives patients suffering from enthetic diseases, and consequently, as a hospital institution, its death statistics cannot be used in comparison with those of the institutions now under review.

While the birth-rate on islands and missions in Torres Strait is not as high as at Cherbourg or Yarrabah, the death-rate is much lower than that of any Government settlement or church mission, with the exception of Aurukun. Aurukun, however, has a large nomadic population, and it is possible that the death-rate has been actually higher than shown by the records.

To enable country hospitals to provide better facilities for the treatment of aboriginal patients where the work being done warranted it, assistance was provided from Standing Account for the following extensions:—

Burketown Hospital.—Alterations of the existing ward to enable it to be renewed for male patients; a new ward being erected for females. Each building was provided with a 1,000-gallon tank. Both wards were also furnished, the total cost of the undertaking being £110.

Cooktown Hospital.—From the material of the old stockade and cells in the old prison compound, which were previously used for the accommodation of hospital patients, a new building was erected on the hospital grounds. This provided wards for the reception of male and female aboriginals suffering from infectious diseases. The cost of this work, which was also paid from Standing Account, was £460 7s. 11d.

Georgetown Hospital.—A new wing for the accommodation of female patients, an operating theatre, and an aboriginal ward were erected at a cost of £446. The cost of the aboriginal ward (£116) was paid from this Department's funds.

MARRIAGES.

Legal marriages were contracted in 110 cases, in 62 of which the women were full-bloods and 48 cross-breeds. In all but one case, where the husband was a European, the woman being half-caste, the unions were with men of their own race. In 21 other marriages reported, the unions were of tribal arrangement, in practically all cases the parties being primitive bush aboriginals.

YOUNG WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The demand for domestic labour in the Brisbane Office and at the various settlements has again indicated that there is no dearth of such employment offering for capable females. Particularly does this apply to the southern and north-western divisions of the State; in fact, many quite suitable intending employers have been unable to secure such labour because the supply could not meet the demand. The difficulty of obtaining suitable domestic labour, particularly in outlying districts, has enhanced the value of the aboriginal and half-caste servants.

The number employed under agreement during the year was 486; of these, 171 were engaged from Government settlements, 50 through Head Office, Brisbane, and the balance through country protectors.

Employment regulations have generally been satisfactorily observed, and in very few cases has it been necessary to remove the servants or refuse to renew agreements because of the unsuitableness of employers.

The following women and children were, for various reasons, removed to institutions:—

Institution.	Women.	Children.	Total.
<i>Settlements—</i>			
Palm Island	17	21	38
Fantome Island	15	12	27
Cherbourg	16	12	28
Woorabinda	7	5	12
<i>Missions—</i>			
Lockhart River	4	2	6
Mapoon	1	..	1
Monamona	5	3	8
Mitchell River	2	4	6
Mornington Island	7	16	23
Purga	2	2	4
Yarrabah	10	3	13
Totals	86	80	166

In the majority of cases the removal was effected for the better care and protection of the females, and to afford the children the opportunity for much-needed education.

As already stated, 110 women were legally married to men of their own race, and one half-caste was allowed to marry a European, the father of her children.

Brisbane District.—Of the 50 women and girls placed in employment through the Brisbane Office, 24 found situations in the city and suburbs, and 26 in country districts. The total wages earned by these employees was £2,468. Seven young boys were also suitably placed, the wages earned by them being £232.

Twenty-five per cent. of the wages was drawn by each employee as pocket-money, and the balance was banked by the Department to the credit of the earners. The amount withdrawn from these savings for clothing, dentistry, amusement, and other needs was £1,654.

The funds now standing to the credit of boys and girls employed through Head Office total £7,201, an average of £88 per individual.

Orphans in Homes.—The number of orphan children maintained in homes subsidised or supported by the Queensland Government is as follows:—

Blind, Deaf and Dumb School	2
Sacred Heart Mission, Thursday Island ..	27
Purga Industrial School	20
Salvation Army Boys' Home, Indooroopilly	6
Salvation Army Girls' Home, Yeronga ..	9
Total Cost of Maintenance = £1,552.	

Regular inspection of the condition of these children is made by an officer of the State Children Department, and in all instances the reports on the care of such wards have been satisfactory.

The institutions are responsible for the proper education of such children, many of whom ultimately, it is expected, will be able to take their place as members of the white community.

COUNTRY CAMPS.

Wherever possible, efforts are being made to improve the living conditions of aboriginals in country camps. It has not been felt that there was always justification for removing natives from their own country and camping grounds, and from which they were able to proceed to employment and maintain themselves and families, unless their conduct or circumstances made such action necessary.

As frequently such camps are unsatisfactory in the matter of sanitation, efforts have been made to secure suitable areas for reservation where better control can be exercised and trespassing prevented.

In the following cases such improvements were carried out:—

Georgetown.—An area of approximately 5 acres was reserved as an aboriginal camp and action taken to provide sanitary conveniences.

Fencing wire was supplied to the inmates of the reserve already established at Mareeba, who had cut 100 fence posts. Necessary repairs were also effected to a few of the cottages.

The condition of the half-caste camp at Mitchell, and the desire of the Shire Council that it be moved from its position on the stock route to a fresh site, has been under consideration. A more suitable site of 26 acres, granted by the Shire Council, has been selected and action taken for its reservation. A school for the education of the children has been provided by the Department of Public Instruction, in charge of a qualified teacher. Approval has been given for the supply of building material, tools, pansteads, &c., to assist the people, who are superior types of quadroons and half-castes, to erect better dwellings for themselves with regulation sanitary conveniences, in neat village formation.

At Gregory Downs, in the Gulf district, approximately 180 acres, being the aboriginal reserve, has been fenced and ten small huts erected under the direction of the Protector of Aborigines. To assist the people in their desire to make gardens and raise some of their own needs in vegetables, &c., the Department obtained for them the necessary 2-h.p. engine, with pump and piping for irrigation purposes, and eight coils of fencing wire and two galvanised iron gates to enclose the reserve. The garden area on this block is about 1 acre in area, which is enclosed by a stake fence. The whole of the cost for the material has been found by themselves from their bank accounts, and the labour of erection done by themselves.

At the Cairns camp the sanitary conveniences previously erected have proved a benefit as regards health.

Action is being taken for the installation of similar sanitary conveniences at the Edmonton camp, and also at the small camp at Mount Coolou.

HALF-CASTES.

As previously shown, the total number of half-castes in the State is 5,425, representing an increase of 509 in the figures for last year.

As the report for 1934 showed an increase of 491 over the figures for the previous year, it is possible that some of those previously exempt

have in those years been included, but it shows there has been an undue inflation in the year under review.

It would be misleading to assume that the annual increase is the result of illicit intercourse with Europeans. Many half-caste women are married to half-caste, quadroon, or even full-blood men, and it is the progeny of such unions, the majority of which also are legitimate, that accounts for fully 95 per cent. of the increases.

As a result of the extension of the scope of the Protection Acts by the amendment of 1934, a large number of cross-breeds, not previously coming within the ambit of the Acts, are now brought under control.

Naturally, a number of those previously enjoying immunity, and also their employers, have felt some alarm at the threatened interference with their liberty and have applied for exemption.

Pending completion of the regulations drafted to adequately define the position of such people, beyond surveys in several districts, the position of the majority of these cross-breeds has not been interfered with, and they have been assured that their claims will be sympathetically and justly examined and exemption granted where warranted.

That the wide powers of this Act and the action by the Department to indicate that it is ultimately intended to enforce its provisions is generally known is shown by the number of applications for exemptions which have been received during the preceding twelve months.

Pending the issue of suitable regulations, under which applications for exemption shall be determined, the issue of further certificates has been temporarily suspended. In considering such claims, where intelligence, self-reliance, and ambition to uplift themselves to better living conditions is found, the intention will be to encourage such by granting exemption.

An examination of the circumstances and living conditions of a number of quadroons and half-castes in the south-western district showed that very few needed the assistance of the Department. When it is possible to extend these inspections to the south-western and north-western divisions, it is expected that an equal proportion of the lighter cross-breeds will be similarly entitled to exemption.

It is in the northern portion of the State, particularly the coastal towns, that the conditions exist which made the wider amendments of the Acts necessary.

The association of Asiatics and Pacific Islanders with the aboriginal races had created in places a cross-breed element that had to be recognised as a danger to health and morals, thus making supervision a vital necessity.

The Department has for some time given serious thought to what is usually referred to as the half-caste problem—the question as to what is best to be done for the welfare of the growing race of cross-breeds of all shades, practically all of whom labour to some degree under the disabilities making benevolent assistance necessary. The recent amended laws were a sincere attempt to meet and overcome some of these disabilities.

Special study was devoted by the Chief Protector, during a holiday tour last year in the other States and overseas, to this question, where the problem was an older one and lessons could be learned from past results. A comprehensive report was afterwards furnished, with a scheme for meeting the cases of the different classes of cross-breeds which comprise the problem in this State.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

The superintendents of Cherbourg, Palm Island, and Woorabinda Aboriginal Settlements report steady progress by the women and girls engaged in the established sewing classes. Preliminary instruction is given in the schools in sewing and fancy-work, and after leaving school the tuition is continued in the sewing classes controlled by the settlement matron, in which garments for the use of the needy in the institutions are made.

Good progress was made in the sewing classes. The anticipated appointment of rural school staffs early in the coming year will enable extensions of this useful training to be undertaken.

Quite good returns are obtained, both at Cherbourg and Palm Island settlements, from the sale of fancy-work to visitors and tourists.

Manual training classes for boys are held regularly on the three settlements. Gratifying results have been achieved by the use of trained native tradesmen who received their instruction from earlier skilled employees of the institutions.

The recent appointment of a qualified rural school head teacher at Palm Island, who will assume duty in the New Year, will make it possible to more effectively organise manual and domestic science classes.

At the Royal National Association's Exhibition in August last a special display was arranged of aboriginal handiwork, to which practically all church missions, Government settlements, native schools, and many natives in employment forwarded excellent samples of all classes of work done by them. A wide range of interesting exhibits was sent from the islands of Torres Strait, including models of native canoes and fishing luggers and model cottages; samples of useful furniture, plaited and carved work, and also of produce grown was contributed by the other institutions. The excellence of the work done elicited very favourable comment from public visitors. Representatives of the missions gave valuable help in arranging the exhibits and enhanced the interest by explanatory addresses to the people interested.

With the close of the year four aboriginal boys—two each from Woorabinda settlement and Cherbourg settlement—completed a course of 18 months' tuition at the Murgon Rural School. On their discharge they were shown to be proficient in plumbing, tinsmithing, woodwork, saddlery, and blacksmithing. These boys have now been appointed to positions on the native staffs of their own settlements, and will be further utilised as assistants in the instruction of the manual classes of the primary school. A

further batch of boys has been sent to the Murgon Rural School for a similar course of training.

In the Torres Strait a training class in wood-work has been operating at Yorke Island under the direction of the head teacher, who is a qualified teacher in the subjects. It is proposed to transfer some of the successful trainees to the workshops of Aboriginal Industries, Badu Island, where they will receive further tuition in boat-building, blacksmithing, &c. Others will be apprenticed to Port Kennedy engineering ship-yards, at Thursday Island, where they will learn boat repair work, thus acquiring some efficiency in the reconditioning of their own fishing vessels. This scheme works in conjunction with the arrangement already operating with Port Kennedy Company for the training of boys in general engineering work, and particularly for those duties associated with the running of compressed air engines on diving vessels. On completion of their course last year these apprentices were issued with certificates by the manager showing that they had completed a course of training in dismantling, reassembling, and locating faults in engines and compressors. They were all subsequently employed in the marine industry as assistants to engineers, and gave satisfactory service, as evidenced by the fact that four of them have again been signed on for employment.

The staff in the workshops controlled by Aboriginal Industries, Badu Island, were increased by ten native apprentices, who are being taught tinsmithing, plumbing, and dinghy-building. Forty-seven new tanks were built during the year, forty of which were sold, principally to the Island Company boats. Carbide lamps, sanitary pans, trochus shell, boilers, dinghies, &c., were also made and sold to the island population. It is also proposed to commence a dressmaking class for native girls at Aboriginal Industries store, which, while enabling the girls to receive training and remunerative employment, will also enable the business to economise on the cost of ready-made clothing.

At Yorke Island a laundry has been established for the purpose of providing training for women and girls in that household accomplishment. This class will be under the supervision of the wife of the school teacher, who will also take cooking classes, the object being to train the women in domestic science suitable for island housekeeping with native foods.

The various church missions report equally with the settlements' satisfactory progress in vocational training.

At Yarrabah Mission native artisans are employed in furniture-building, engineering, sawmilling, &c., while girls are taught cooking, sewing, and matmaking. Youths are also trained by placing them under competent workmen to learn various trades, stock work, and house-building.

At Aurukun Mission, natives suited for work in the fishing industry have received training as swimmers in accordance with a scheme arranged by the Protector of Aboriginals. Other boys received coaching in stock work from an adjoining station.

OFFICIAL INSPECTIONS—RESERVES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Visits of inspection were paid wherever possible to the various Government settlements and church missions, and during such visits direction in matters of policy and administration were given.

An official visit was paid by the Honourable the Minister for Health and Home Affairs to Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement.

The Honourable the Attorney-General paid a visit to Thursday Island and visited several of the Torres Strait islands in the Q.G.K. "Melbidir." He also inspected the Aboriginal Industrial store and workshops at Badu Island,

and later visited the church missions at St. Paul's, Moa Island, Hammond Island, Mapoon, and Weipa.

An official visit by Sir Raphael Cilento and Mr. G. A. Cameron, Police Magistrate, acting as Public Service inspectors, was also paid to all of the Government settlements and several of the church missions.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS AND CAPE YORK PENINSULA.

Protector of Aborigines—J. D. McLean.

The progress during 1935 has been well maintained, and there has been a further improvement in the earnings of natives under the control of the Department, as shown by the figures hereunder:—

Earners.	Number.		Wages Paid.	
	1935.	1934.	1935.	1934.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Natives employed on "Company" boats—Torres Strait Islanders	459	370	9,170 13 2	8,729 17 1
Natives employed on "Master" boats—				
Torres Strait Islanders	194	198	6,195 13 6	5,892 14 4
Mainlanders	144	91	3,262 7 6	1,757 1 9
Totals	797	659	18,628 14 2	16,379 13 2

Natives' Accounts, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Cairns.	Number.		Amount.	
	1935.	1934.	1935.	1934.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance at credit 31st December	1,706	1,363	9,621 7 9	7,696 12 4
Deposits	3,924	2,833	18,397 4 0	15,875 18 7
Withdrawals	8,326	6,644	16,472 8 7	13,624 17 8

"Company Boats"—Native community vessels.

"Master Boats"—Owned by companies or individuals.

The figures quoted above disclose that the average earnings of natives for the year on "company" boats amounted to £19 19s. 7d. They also get a free issue of tobacco. It must be remembered, however, that a number of these natives are only casually employed, and most of them spend a great deal of time on their home islands, in contrast to the natives who are employed on "master" boats, who do not return home during the period of their contract. Whilst at home, these men are able to make gardens and do shore work, so that their effective wages are much more than the average wage quoted. There are two classes of natives employed on "company" boats—viz., those who know they can make more wages on "company" boats, and those who know they would not obtain employment on "master" boats. The latter will only employ good swimmers, and prefer natives between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five years. The only chance of employment for the rejects is on the "company" boats, which have been provided by the Department for that purpose. It will be seen that the average wage of islanders on "master" boats is £31 18s. 8d., and of mainlanders £22 13s. 1d. The regulations provide that islanders receive a wage of £3 5s. per month and food, but the mainlanders receive £2 10s. per month, with tobacco, food, and clothing.

As an instance of how misleading the average wage received by natives on "company" boats can be as regards the true position, it is only necessary to quote the case of the ketch "Wakaid." No less than 45 natives were employed on this boat during the year, 22 being engaged for the full period, and the balance casuals. The former averaged £61 17s. 6d. per man, whilst the latter only averaged £10 18s. 5d. The "Wakaid" is the crack boat of the aboriginal fleet and the winner of the cup presented by the Honourable the Minister. The results achieved by the "Wakaid" crew prove conclusively that natives employed on "company" boats can earn more wages than those employed on "master" boats if they are prepared to work hard and have a good captain.

If further proof is required of the economic value of the "company" boat system to the islands of Torres Strait, it is pointed out that these boats paid wages amounting to £9,170 13s. 2d. to 459 natives, besides contributing £995 0s. 4d. to Island Fund and £297 2s. 5d. to Insurance Fund, whilst the "master" boats only paid wages amounting to £6,195 13s. 6d. to 194 islanders. Granting that the average rate paid on "master" boats was higher than that paid on "company" boats, it must be remembered that a number of the boys employed on "com-

pany" boats would be rejected by "master" boats and, if the "company" boats were abandoned, would have no other avenue of employment. Critics of the "company" boat system should not overlook this important factor. Although there is a temporary revulsion by the natives to work on the "company" boats, there is no system that meets their needs better. The system has stood the test of time.

The figures regarding natives' accounts show that 343 more accounts were in operation in 1935, with an enhanced credit of £1,924 15s. 5d., although natives withdrew and spent £2,847 10s. 11d. more than they did in 1934. The amount deposited in 1934 increased by £2,521 5s. 5d.

A visit was paid to Torres Straits islands during the year by the Honourable the Attorney-General (Honourable J. Mullan, M.L.A.), Mrs. Mullan, and party. The native schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Aboriginal Industries and workshops, and other items of interest were inspected and favourably commented on by the Minister. A dugong hunt was arranged by the Mabuiag islanders, and some exciting sport seen. A visit was also made to the mission station at St. Paul's and Hammond Island. After hearing depositions at Thursday Island, including one from the coloured people concerning the provisions of the recently-enacted Aboriginals Protection Acts Amendment Act of 1934, a start was made for Mapoon and Weipa Missions, on the east coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The trip to Normanton was marred by a heavy gale, which caused much discomfort to the passengers on the Q.G.K. "Melbidir." On the return trip the Protector of Aboriginals and Dr. Dowling made inspections at Mitchell River, Aurukun, and Weipa Missions, when the natives were medically examined and an inspection made of buildings and improvements erected since the last visit. There were no complaints from the natives, who appeared to be happy and well cared for.

The superintendent at Aurukun has now received, with the assistance of the Honourable the Minister, a power launch, which will facilitate his visits to the natives in the isolated area between the Archer and Holroyd Rivers, and enable him to keep in frequent touch with the native missionary at Tokoi. This launch will prove a boon in administering this area and enable the speedy removal of medical cases to the Thursday Island Hospital.

At Weipa Mission the new Simplex 8-foot windmill has been erected over a well 32 feet deep, with pump fittings, spear point, &c., attached, and an adequate supply of water for the station ensured. The crude oil engine (10 h.p. Ruston and Hornsby) has been placed in position and work commenced on the erection of a saw bench. The mission station is in an ideal position and well equipped.

At Mapoon Mission, also, improvements are the order of the day. A new wing has been added to the superintendent's quarters and a start made with the proposed agricultural campaign at the Musgrave out-station and the mission garden at Batavia River. The wire-netting for fencing these areas, supplied by the Department, has been erected, and it is intended to commence work on the gardens as soon as the wet season is over. Iron for roofing the school and paint for buildings have also been supplied by the Department. A launch has also been provided for supervising these areas and patrolling the harbour and Batavia River.

A patrol was also made during the year to Lockhart River Mission, Flinders Island, Cape Melville, the Waterhole, and other points on the east coast of Cape York Peninsula, when a medical inspection of the natives was made by Dr. Dowling, and gifts of food, clothing, and tobacco distributed by the Protector to nomads. The isolated natives in these parts are still very aloof, and local boys were taken along to enable contact to be made. Their aloofness was due to the fear that they might be removed to reserves, but when the nature of the visit was interpreted they came along willingly. As a rule, they were old-stagers who desired to end their existence in their own country. Those who had children had left them at the mission whilst they pursued their nomadic course through their hunting grounds. One old fellow bewailed the fact that he could not induce his children to leave the mission although he knew where there were plenty of wild yams and game to be had in his own country. It is increasingly evident that the mission-trained native has lost the desire to emulate the wanderings of his forefathers.

The new hospital donated by the Department to the Lockhart River Mission has been erected. It contains two wards, a dispensary, and office. A windmill has also been placed in position over the main well.

At Mitchell River Mission a new hospital was also completed.

A quantity of marine produce, together with a model ketch and canoe, were sent to Brisbane for the Labour Day display. The float with four brawny natives, wearing diver's goggles, illustrated the marine industry of Torres Strait islands and was much admired.

A comprehensive entry of marine produce, aboriginal curios, implements and weapons, school work, live turtles, mats, baskets, agricultural produce, &c., was forwarded to the Royal Jubilee National Exhibition held in Brisbane from the natives of Torres Strait islands, the missions, and Aboriginal Industries. Certificates of merit were received for the best display of aboriginal weapons and marine produce, whilst a certificate of merit was awarded to the Thursday Island Convent for work from that school.

HEALTH.

No major outbreak of sickness was reported throughout the Somerset district during the year, and on most of the islands only minor complaints were reported. The installation of sanitary systems at all settlements and preventive measures adopted generally account for this pleasing result. Even malaria, which yearly takes its toll at Saibai, Poid, Yam Islands, &c., has been kept in check by the use of quinine in prophylactic doses and atabrin, which seems to be all that is claimed for it. Mild cases of malaria were reported from the western islands, but in no instance was there an epidemic.

At Badu and Poid Islands many children and adults were affected by hookworm. Dr. Nimmo paid two visits during the year in prosecuting the hookworm campaign, and, on the latter visit in November, all school children, a number of children under school age, and many adults were dosed and instructions given for future treatment.

At Badu Island three fractured arms and a dislocated arm received preliminary treatment before despatch to Thursday Island Hospital for proper setting of the injured limbs. A number of children were also treated for jaundice, and two cases of deep-seated boils sent to Thursday Island Hospital for treatment. A few cases of scabies, a mild form of sandy blight, and influenza were also reported. Several of the cases sent to hospital were of women with complications before and after childbirth. It is noticed that as the women get more European ideas childbirth is becoming increasingly difficult. When the birth is normal, the native midwife is good; when complications arise, she does not know what to do and is afraid to do anything on her own initiative, for if her treatment fails she is blamed for everything that has gone wrong. A scheme for the training of native midwives is being propounded by the Government Medical Officer (Dr. Nimmo).

A few cases of yaws responded readily to treatment at Poid Island. Colds were frequent, but none developed beyond the initial stage. Sick relief was advanced from the Island Fund in the cases of a man suffering from tuberculosis, and twins who were undernourished. In each case a cure was effected.

At Mabuiag Island there was an epidemic of vomiting amongst children in November, resulting in the death of one baby; otherwise the health of the people was good.

At Saibai Island slight malarial trouble showed up early in April and continued until the first week in June. Odd cases kept cropping up until October. Many cases of yaws were treated, all of which responded quickly to stovarsol. Sepsis was active, there being quite a large number of cases treated. One boy

suffered a fractured radius of the right arm. Sore eyes were fairly prevalent, but were quickly cured by applications of argyrol. One bad case of yaws from Boigu Island was cured.

The only illness reported from Yam Island was mild influenza.

Two leprosy suspects from Mapoon Mission were sent to Thursday Island Hospital during the year for examination by the Government Medical Officer. The disease was not in an active stage, and the patients responded to treatment with chaulmoogra oil tablets. Cases of fever, yaws, and scabies were also treated.

At Lockhart River Mission there was no epidemic nor any serious illness during the year. The number of attendances at the hospital for minor ailments was 1,194, and 187 cases of hookworm were treated. To combat the hookworm, a village sanitary system was installed and is proving to be a check.

At Murray Island the health of the people was good. An epidemic of gastritis occurred in November, resulting in the death of one infant. The Murray Islanders are the most difficult people in the district to deal with from a health point of view. They are most reluctant to notify illness to the Government teacher, and often cases are in an advanced stage before the authorities hear of the illness through the good offices of a neighbour. This is a peculiar complex in the psychology of these people, and so far the Protector has been unable to arrive at any satisfactory reason therefor.

At Weipa Mission a daily average of 19 patients were treated for minor ailments, and 8 patients were sent to Thursday Island Hospital.

Both Dr. Nimmo (Government Medical Officer) and Dr. Dowling (Quarantine Officer) made several medical patrols during the year, and their advice and services rendered have been very helpful to the Department and its proteges. A report by the Government Medical Officer is included in the "Health" section.

In December Mr. T. E. Gibson, dental surgeon, Townsville, visited all native settlements in Torres Strait with the exception of St. Paul's, Hammond Island, and Cowal Creek Missions, which could not be visited owing to lack of time. Extractions only were undertaken, although some of the Badu girls visited Mr. Gibson in Thursday Island for the purpose of having their teeth filled. The teeth of school children at all settlements visited were examined. At all islands, with the exception of Badu, the dentist reports that the children's teeth were exceptionally good. At Badu 80 per cent. of the teeth extracted were carious and in numerous cases badly abscessed. Mr. Gibson is of the opinion that white man's diet is the chief factor causing caries on this island, and recommends regular inspection by dental inspectors attached

to the Department of Public Instruction. Altogether 914 extractions of teeth were made at a cost of £99 2s. 6d. to the Island Fund and £15 2s. 6d. to individuals.

POPULATION.

The statistics of births, deaths, and marriages and population on Torres Strait islands are of interest:

POPULATION.

Centre.	Number of Natives.		Increase.	Decrease.	Number of Births.	Number of Deaths.	Number of Marriages.	Transfers.	
	1934.	1935.						To	From
Badu ..	489	505	16	..	20	6	4	2	..
Boigu ..	129	130	1	..	5	2	..	..	2
Dauan ..	99	110	11	..	3	2	1	10	..
Mabuiag ..	332	334	2	..	8	6	1	..	..
Murray ..	500	533	33	..	21	6	3	18	..
Nagheer ..	24	31	7	..	1	1	..	7	..
Nepean ..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poid ..	251	257	6	..	5	3	3	4	..
Saibai ..	413	421	8	..	17	3	1	..	6
Stephen ..	54	59	5	..	5	..	..	..	..
Thursday ..	253	426	173	..	7	6	2	..	..
Three Sisters	19	23	4	..	..	..	..	4	..
Yam ..	178	189	11	..	14	3	..	..	..
Yorke ..	147	152	5	..	5	..	..	..	..
Coconut ..	147	120	..	27	4	4	..	..	27
Darnley ..	375	389	14	..	16	2	2	..	..
Hammond ..	20	112	92	..	2	1	2	..	..
St. Paul's ..	6	8	2	..	5	3	2	..	..
Totals ..	3,440	3,803	390	27	138	48	21	45	35

In addition, there are estimated to be over 2,000 nomads on the mainland, including the following residents at mission stations:—

Mapoon	330
Weipa	169
Aurukun	574
Mitchell River	620
Lockhart River	324

SCHOOLS.

The outstanding achievement in school work during the year was the establishment of the training college for native student teachers at Mabuiag Island under the direction of Mr. P. R. Frith, Government teacher. It had been manifest that the type of teacher evolved by the graduation of senior pupils as monitors was not satisfactory, and the previous year a scheme for the training of two students teachers was initiated. The boys selected, however, proved to be failures, and it was deemed that further progress along similar lines would be too slow. The need for suitable teachers was urgent; so twenty-five pupils selected by Government teachers on various islands were sent to the training college at Mabuiag Island for training until they reach the age of eighteen years, when they will be drafted to native schools. Results achieved so far promise a constant supply of native teachers of a higher standard for the filling of vacancies and expansion of staffs as required. It is hoped that mission stations within the district will use the trainees in their schools when they are available.

A refresher course for native teachers is held at the Mabuiag Training College during the holidays, and is appreciated by the native teachers, as it maintains their proficiency in their work. It also gives the Department data on which to cull out those who are not up to the standard.

All schools in the islands and at Cowal Creek were inspected by the newly-appointed Inspector of Aboriginal Schools (Mr. Portley).

The new relieving teacher (Mr. Jensen) arrived in December, and has been stationed at Cowal Creek, where he has been supervising the building of a new school and native teacher's quarters, preparatory to taking over the mission from the Anglican authorities as from the beginning of the New Year.

A revision of the school syllabus took place during the year, and it was decided to adopt the "Little Primer" in conjunction with the wall sheet, Little Readers, and Queensland Readers, on the recommendation of the Director of Education, thus eliminating the Philippine Readers and Torres Strait Readers. Lessons on physiology, first aid, and hygiene supersede the previous requirements in nature study.

A manual training class in woodwork and carpentering has been commenced under Mr. Wood, an ex-teacher of the Victorian Education Department, in these subjects. It is proposed to draft graduates from this class into the workshop at Badu Island, where they will be taught to build dinghies, and to the Port Kennedy Engineering Shipyards Limited at Thursday Island, where they will be taught repair work (with the exception of caulking) on ketches, cutters, &c. It is hoped by these means to eventually have competent native carpenters on each island, who, in addition to construction and repair of houses, would be able to effect repairs of a minor nature to vessels and dinghies locally, thus obviating the cessation of routine work caused by sending them to Badu or Thursday Island as at present.

The six apprentices who were trained as engineers for compressed air engines on diving boats at the Port Kennedy engineering workshops all received jobs and gave satisfactory service. Four have signed on again in that capacity, but the other two refused to do so, stating that they could make more wages as swimmers. Arrangements have been made to train six more this year.

The work of the mat-weaving and basket-making classes has received an impulse by the offer of Aboriginal Industries to purchase all their saleable produce. The children are also encouraged to make use of their leisure hours swimming on the reefs and collecting trochus shell and marine produce, which they dispose of for cash or goods at Badu and the branch stores of Aboriginal Industries. Small parcels obtained in this way realised £157 1s. 7d., and many a scout has been able to pay his registration fees and buy his uniform in this manner.

The school gardens flourished during the period, and the children display much interest in the work, especially when the time comes for them to participate in the fruits of their industry.

At the thirteen island schools and at the mission stations at Cowal Creek, Hammond Island, and St. Paul's (Moa), where inspections are made by the Inspector of Aboriginal Schools, 1,071 pupils received tuition during the year. The schools were fully staffed and adequately equipped, suitable schools and residences for Government teachers provided, and the buildings maintained in good order.

ISLAND IMPROVEMENTS.

A new village is being erected at Yorke Island on either side of the picturesque central avenue, which is bordered with a lime cement kerbing. Five new houses were erected during the period. A new laundry has been equipped with benches, ironing table, wash tubs, &c., and the women are being taught laundry work by the wife of the Government teacher. A comfortable residence for the native constable has also been completed.

At Badu Island the new church, which is now complete and is an imposing edifice, will be dedicated by the Bishop of Carpentaria on 12th January, 1936.

Two substantial bridges on the roadway between Badu and Dogai have been finished. The foundations are of concrete and the decking of a local hardwood.

The roofs of three buildings in the Government compound were repaired and painted.

A windmill for the water supply has arrived. It is proposed to put in position an overhead 2,000-gallon storage tank and install a water reticulation system throughout the village.

At Poid ten new houses were completed and three more are almost ready for occupation, whilst three more have been laid out and work commenced. Additions have been made to three other houses, whilst two have been demolished owing to dry rot, one of which is almost re-erected, and the other has the framework completed. The sea-front is now free of houses, and it is proposed to plant this area with decorative trees.

The jetty was concreted a further distance of 40 feet. Dry landings can now be effected at low tide.

Repairs have been effected to the court house (now occupied by the native constable) and the school. A new notice-board and a stand for the village bell were erected in central positions.

A new kitchen at the teacher's quarters with tank was an acquisition appreciated in the hot weather.

At Mabuiag Island a new police station and quarters and a new native teachers' training college were erected. A new bridge in the main street of the village was completed. A new roof was placed on the quarters of the Government teacher and repairs effected at the school. A hole in the reservoir, which had been out of commission for some time, was discovered, and after being cemented up the reservoir holds about 30,000 gallons of water.

At Saibai Island extensive work was undertaken in replacing all rotten and decayed timbers in native houses with new timber. Every house was examined and the following replacements made:—

191 house blocks,
62 veranda posts,
30 ground plates,
53 joists,
17 head plates.

At Yam Island three new houses with kitchens were erected and several houses repaired. The well which provides the main water supply for the village was cemented.

At Stephen Island a well was sunk to a depth of 36 feet 4 inches and cemented, a good supply of fresh water being struck. This has proved a great boon, as previously the islanders had to transport water from other islands during the dry season. A new cemetery was surveyed, and an area cleared of scrub at the back of the island for a scout training camp.

At Murray Island the hall was divided, portion being used as a kindergarten and the balance as a medicine room. A new native constable's residence with lock-up was erected.

At Cowal Creek a new school and teacher's quarters have been erected, the school having been previously held in the church by the deacon. A native teacher was appointed to take over his duties as from 1st January, 1936.

At all islands suitable accommodation has been provided for native police. The new system of employing police away from their home islands was brought into operation and has proved to be satisfactory. Higher wages are also paid, and the police take a correspondingly greater interest in their duties. It is found that they carry out their work in a more impartial manner when removed from the influence of their relatives and friends.

"COMPANY" BOATS.

During the year the ketch "Erub" was transferred to Murray Island and renamed the "Gelam." Purchase price, £505.

The "Kipuru," cutter, was transferred from Saibai Island to Dauan Island at the request of the former. Purchase price, £330.

The ketch "Vera" was purchased from Messrs. J. B. Carpenter and Sons, Limited, to be used as a training ship. Purchase price, £675. Under an efficient island captain—Jerry Koko—twelve boys from Aurukun Mission and two from Weipa Mission, who had just left school, formed the crew of the "Vera" and were trained in the marine industry. The captain reports that these boys are good swimmers, and their efforts

resulted in 93 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lb. trochus shell and 28 cwt. 2 qr. 25 lb. bêche-de-mer of a value of £550 8s. 6d. being recovered in a period of eight months. This is a particularly good return for such a young crew, and it opens up a new field for recruiting that has hitherto been unexplored by the pearlshelling companies.

It also opens up the question of whether the Commonwealth Government should allow the indenture of aliens and Papuans whilst we have efficient native seamen unemployed.

The general Loan Account at the commencement of the period was £2,687 11s. 11d., which was increased by £120 to finance the purchase of the training ship "Vera."

A summary of reserve and loans to individual boats is set out hereunder:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Loans to Boats—						
31st January, 1935 ..	3,900	18	4			
31st January, 1936 ..	4,302	9	3			
Increase				401	10	11
Loans for Repairs—						
31st January, 1935 ..	25	0	0			
31st January, 1936 ..	0	0	0			
Decrease				25	0	0
Net Increase				376	10	11
Reserves—						
31st January, 1935 ..	1,955	9	11			
31st January, 1936 ..	2,137	18	11			
Increase				182	9	0
Net Loss of Capital Fund for year				£194	1	11

The principal item in this loss was a sum of £184 4s. 5d. for repairs on the cutters "Yaza" and "Badu."

Four luggers and six cutters were slipped for repairs at the Port Kennedy Engineering Ship-yards Limited at a cost of £624 19s. 8d., of which £414 19s. 8d. was paid from moneys earned by these boats during the year, £184 4s. 5d. from reserves, and £120 from Loan Accounts. The cost of repairs this year was much less than last year, when it amounted to £1,309 7s. 11d. This result must be attributed to the care and attention given to the fleet by the ships surveyor (Captain J. Robertson) at Thursday Island.

The value of the fleet of nineteen cutters and seven luggers is estimated at £14,658 7s. 6d.

Seventy tender sales of produce won were held at the Thursday Island shell store, and 421 tenders from buyers were received. The figures for the previous year were sixty-four sales and 359 tenders.

QUANTITY AND VALUE OF PRODUCE SOLD.

	Quantity.			Value.		
	Tons	cwt.	qr. lb.	£	s.	d.
Pearlshell	28	15	0 18	3,682	15	10
Trochus shell	199	13	3 13	17,251	19	10
Bêche-de-mer	28	16	2 19	2,538	14	10
Blacklip and turtle shell	0	4	3 21	8	11	6
Other produce	2	19	3 2	26	14	10
Total value of produce sold 1934	260	10	1 17	23,508	16	10
Total value of produce sold 1935	245	7	3 0	22,824	4	11
Increase for the year	15	2	2 17	684	11	11

The produce won was received as follows:—

	Quantity.			Value.		
	Cwt.	qr.	lb.	£	s.	d.
From "Company" boats ..	4,621	2	3	21,136	9	10
From shore working boats ..	501	3	20	1,996	9	0
From Palm Island	86	3	22	375	18	0
Total	5,210	1	17	23,508	16	10

This amount was apportioned as follows:—

Gross earnings "Company" boats	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
				21,136	9	10
Disbursements—						
Commission	985	3	5			
Island Fund	995	0	4			
Crews' Insurance Fund	148	11	2			
Boats' Insurance Fund	148	11	3			
Repayments of Loans and Advances to Reserves	735	18	0			
Repairs	844	10	9			
Provisions, gear, &c.	8,108	1	9			
Wages	9,170	13	2			
Total				21,136	9	10
Gross earnings Shore-working boats				2,372	7	0
Disbursements—						
Commission	118	12	4			
Island Fund	118	12	4			
Wages	2,135	2	4			
Total				£2,372	7	0

There were 459 men employed on "company" boats, as against 370 for the previous year.

There was a decrease of 3 tons 16 cwt. 1 qr. 27 lb. in the pearlshell won by "company" boats, but, owing to better prices, an increase in value of £645 2s. 9d.

There was an increase of 21 tons 4 cwt. 24 lb. in quantity and £1,268 14s. 10d. in value of trochus shell won.

There was a decrease of 3 tons 15 cwt. 21 lb. in quantity and £1,233 17s. 6d. in value of bêche-de-mer won. This was due to the bottom falling out of prices for this commodity and the diversion of boats working fish to trochus and pearlshell.

The market for pearlshell was much improved during this year, the opening sale in February realising £83 4s. 1d. per ton, advancing steadily to £117 3s. 9d. in August, and to the peak price of £160 3s. 9d. in December, whence it receded to £141 3s. 9d. in January, 1936. The average price for the year was £110 19s. 1d.

The prices for trochus shell were also well maintained. Commencing at £90 18s. 11d. per ton at the first sale in February, it dropped to £76 15s. 9d. in June, rose to £94 10s. 6d. in September, back to £83 6s. 11d. in October, and then advanced to the peak price of £101 3s. 6d. at the end of the year. The average price was £88 16s. 2d.

Bêche-de-mer opened very strongly during the first five months of the year, the peak prices being £170 2s. 6d. for red fish and £170 12s. 6d. for black fish obtained in March. The prices then dropped rapidly to £75 and £87 14s. 11d. respectively in August. As it was not profitable to work at these rates, boats working bêche-de-mer were diverted to trochus and pearlshell. The average price received for bêche-de-mer sold was £90 13s. 4d. per ton.

The highest price received for blacklip was £11 17s. 6d. per ton.

All of the boats worked well and continuously through the year. Wages paid (£9,170 13s. 2d.) were the highest received since 1927, when thirty boats were working, despite the fact that £894 11s. 4d. more was paid for provisions, gear, &c., than the previous year. A statement of wages paid is appended:—

Year.	Total Wages Paid.		
	£	s.	d.
1935	9,170	13	2
1934	8,729	17	1
1933	6,702	8	0
1932	8,023	6	3
1931	7,100	15	5
1930	3,928	8	5
1929	4,667	12	1
1928	8,379	12	2

The ketch "Wakaid" was again successful in winning the cup presented by the Minister, with an aggregate of 542 cwt. 3 qr. 12 lb. of trochus shell valued at £2,387 9s. 5d. The captain of this boat, Tanu Nona, is an outstanding native. Not only has he won the cup for "company" boats on every occasion it has been competed for, but he has consistently beaten the record of all other boats in the marine industry. This year he was offered £12 per month by a pearler for his services, but this did not tempt him, as he received £212 in wages as captain of the "Wakaid" last year.

The best cutter was the "Kismet," the property of Mosby Brothers, Yorke Island, whose produce was worth £1,252 4s. 11d. This gave them the right to fly the Minister's flag for twelve months. In contrast to the weak opposition to the "Wakaid" in the cup competition, there has been a good fight for the flag. The "Caroline" and "Badu" cutters both having been successful on two occasions.

Other boats to top the £1,000 mark were:—

	£	s.	d.
"Binibin"	1,240	9	3
"Caroline"	1,149	0	9
"Kaiiag"	1,128	12	8

Pearls to the value of £14 17s. 10d. were sold by tender during the year.

MOSBY BROTHERS' FIRM.

This registered firm is operated by natives living at Yorke Island, who work the cutter "Kismet." There are five members in the firm—four brothers and 1 sister—and the crew consists of members of the Mosby families. The "Kismet" had the best return of all cutters for the year, producing 110 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb. trochus shell, 69 cwt. 2 lb. bêche-de-mer, and 37 cwt. 16 lb. pearlshell, of a value of £1,252 4s. 11d.

The cutter "Kismet" commenced operations with a clean sheet. At the close of the year, after paying the crew wages at the rate of £3 5s. per month and all working expenses, £180 off the loan for the boat, and a dividend of £10 to each member, there remained a credit balance in the Bank Account of £54 17s. 5d.

The firm, which was in a bad way two years ago, when working two boats, has improved its position wonderfully and should pay a good dividend this year.

ISLAND FUNDS.

There is an amount of £6,340 3s. at the credit of the aboriginal community funds, as against £6,211 0s. 5d. for the previous year. The collections amounted to £3,738 19s. 5d., whilst the

disbursements totalled £3,308 0s. 1d., showing a net increase of £430 19s. 4d. Loans aggregating £361 15s. 6d. were advanced to finance other undertakings, plus £463 15s. 8d., which was repaid prior to 31st December, 1935.

The chief items of expenditure are:—£1,569 0s. 8d. on account of pensions and relief for indigent natives, as against £1,289 18s. 8d. for the previous year; £861 1s. 3d. for village improvements and services, as against £1,320 1s. 7d. for 1934; and £122 15s. as compensation to injured seamen, as against £126 18s.

The Island Funds have at loan to the boats engaged in the marine industry the sum of £2,300, and to Mosby Brothers the sum of £120.

The Boats' Insurance Fund has a credit of £1,397 11s. 2d., and the Crews' Insurance Fund £603 19s. 2d.

SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS.

The employees' account represents all earnings of aboriginals under the control of the Protector for the Somerset district.

The amount at credit of 1,706 accounts is £13,621 7s. 9d., from which advances made totalled £4,000, thus leaving a balance of £9,621 7s. 9d. at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Cairns. The total deposits amounted to £18,397 4s., and the withdrawals £15,735 13s. 9d. Interest credited to aboriginal accounts amounted to £214 9s. 11d.

The number of new accounts opened was 401, whilst 58 were closed.

The operations show an increase of 1,091 deposits and 1,682 withdrawals, which maintains the increase recorded in the preceding year. It is found that the Savings Bank pass-book system is a useful adjunct to the work of this office, as it tabulates the financial history of the native with the Protector. No payments are now made to him in cash, but are entered in his pass-book as deposits, whilst his withdrawals record the date and place at which he spends his money, and his receipts for the money are proof that he got it. Previous to the adoption of this system, complaints were received from natives that they had not been paid certain moneys, and search had to be made by me on my return from patrols for the relevant receipts. Now it is only necessary to demand the production of the pass book and explain the entry therein. Some of the natives prefer to receive cash, but the majority, especially the younger generation, approve the system, which gives them full control of their earnings.

RECREATION.

The value of scouting and guiding to the natives has not been lost sight of, and important progress was made during the year in placing these activities on a better footing. Although Government teachers recognise the importance of scouting and guiding, many were handicapped by a lack of knowledge and training. This difficulty has been overcome by the appointment by the Department of a relieving teacher (Mr. Jensen) who has been well trained in all stages of the movement. Mr. Jensen has been appointed District Scoutmaster, and will visit all units and put the candidates through their tests, at the same time giving tuition to those Government teachers who desire it.

A visit was paid by Miss D. Hawthorn, Deputy Commissioner of Girl Guides for Queensland, to Torres Strait islands during the year. The difficulty in training Girl Guides was to procure trained Guiders. As a result of Miss Hawthorn's visit, it has now been decided to train the wives of Government teachers under the supervision of the District Scoutmaster, who will put them through their tests.

Torres Strait islanders become proficient Scouts and Guides. In this connection the World Chief Scout (Lord Baden-Powell) referred to the native Sea Scouts of Darnley Island as the best he had seen anywhere.

The usual native dances are indulged in at intervals and are enjoyed by all sections with enthusiasm. Attempts to introduce European dancing have been discouraged, as it is believed they would conduce to the Europeanisation of the native and the abandonment of his picturesque native dances.

Cricket, tennis, football, basket-ball, marbles, &c., are played, according to inclination.

ABORIGINAL INDUSTRIES.

The Aboriginal Industries Board held ten meetings during the year, the time occupied being thirty-two hours thirty-five minutes. The accounts passed for payment totalled £38,154 11s. 4d. Ninety-seven requisitions were passed for supplies. Numerous inspections of branch stores were made by the chairman on patrol, and the secretary visited Badu quarterly and checked various items of stock. Quarterly audit of branch stores was made by the manager.

The total sales at the main store at Badu and the branch stores at Yorke, Murray, Darnley, and Saibai Islands for the year aggregated £19,959, as against a total of £17,787 for the previous year.

The Board's ketch, "Mulgrave," transported 336 tons of cargo from Thursday Island to Badu Island, as against 302 tons for 1934, whilst the Q.G.K. "Melbidir" carried 52 tons, the previous year's figure being 38 tons.

The turnover at each of the stores operated by the Board was as follows:—

	1935.	1934.
	£	£
Badu	12,075	11,419
Yorke	2,897	2,189
Murray	1,434	1,251
Darnley	1,948	1,431
Saibai	1,605	1,497

The boat accounts of the twenty-six vessels in the aboriginal fleet were kept by Aboriginal Industries, and the boats provisioned when required. Repairs and recoppering of forty-three boats were undertaken at Badu.

Goods to the value of £10,660 were transferred from the depot at Badu to branch stores.

The boatshed staff at Badu was enlarged, and ten native apprentices were taught how to build dinghies, tinsmithing, and plumbing. Forty-seven new dinghies were made, of which forty were sold. This shows a big increase on the previous year, when only thirteen dinghies were

built. Carbide lamps and allied tinware, sanitary pans, trochus-shell boilers, &c., single and double common blocks, &c., were also made and sold.

The stores were appreciated by the natives, as they are able to make their own selections of goods on their home islands at Thursday Island prices. They are keen bargainers and gain confidence in the familiar atmosphere of their own stores, thus making themselves less liable to exploitation when they spend among strangers.

GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

Cherbourg, Murgon, Superintendent, W. Porteous Semple.

Woorabinda, Duaringa, Superintendent, H. C. Colledge.

Palm Island, Townsville, Superintendent, J. E. Delaney (resigned); Acting Superintendent, T. E. Pryor.

Staff.—Miss E. T. de Ridder resigned from the position of hospital matron at Cherbourg Settlement; the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Matron M. E. Hardgrave.

Miss O. Shimmin, settlement matron, was transferred, and Mrs. Patricia Burke was temporarily appointed in her place.

Mr. L. Ballard, storekeeper of this settlement, was also transferred, and his position filled by Mr. C. R. Mayne, from Head Office.

At Palm Island Settlement the superintendent, Mr. J. E. Delaney, resigned as from 31st July, and Mr. T. E. Pryor, who had been seconded previously to the Protector's office at Thursday Island, was appointed acting superintendent.

Mr. N. Thompson, storekeeper, was appointed clerk, and Mr. J. F. Burke, of Head Office, succeeded him in the position of storekeeper.

Miss L. J. Taylor resigned from the position of hospital matron to be married, and the vacancy was filled temporarily by Nurse H. A. Brumm to the end of the year.

Mr. P. Jensen, teacher of Woorabinda Settlement School, was transferred to the Torres Strait islands as relieving teacher, and Mr. H. F. Tarlington was appointed to the position at the settlement school.

Labour.—The demand for labour was well maintained, although there was a decrease of 73 in the number of natives sent to employment under agreement from the three settlements. This is explained by the temporary closure of the settlement at Palm Island to engagement of native labour owing to the necessity for a medical overhaul of the whole aboriginal population. The total number of employees engaged on permit for temporary work, however, exceeded that of last year by 45. The actual number of engagements is given hereunder:—

Settlement.	Under Agreement.			Under Permit Casual.
	M.	F.	Total.	
Cherbourg	18	54	72	130
Palm Island	59	30	89	..
Woorabinda	26	58	84	13

The collections for the three settlements are indicated in the following table:—

Collections.	Cherbourg.			Woorabinda.			Palm Island.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Wages and fares	3,021	9	2	2,374	18	3	4,617	15	5
Sale of produce	157	8	6	189	11	4	61	13	3
Native contributions to maintenance	402	17	4	393	13	3	725	2	0
Interest on trust accounts	155	14	6	74	4	0	405	1	0
Stock	Nil.			Nil.			Internal Transfers.		
Totals	3,737	9	6	3,012	6	10	5,809	11	8

A total of £12,559 8s. 0d.

These figures do not include the value of home production, such as cattle for beef, vegetables, stock fodder, pigs, poultry raised for local consumption, nor of timber milled or buildings erected, fencing, and general improvements carried out by native labour.

POPULATION.

These figures reveal a very slight increase over the population figures for last year. The total population of Palm Island is 71 more than was recorded in 1934, and Cherbourg Settlement is 51 higher than previously. Woorabinda also shows an increase of 36.

Settlement.	Full-blood.	Half-caste.	Total.
Cherbourg	350	551	901
Palm Island	677	375	1,052
Woorabinda	222	357	579
Fantome Island	203	27	230
Totals	1,452	1,310	2,762

Conduct and Discipline.—Very few complaints were received regarding the conduct and discipline of natives on the settlements. The usual family disputes had to be dealt with, and it was found necessary to apprehend and return some inmates who had absconded from their settlements.

There are, as can be expected, always a few refractory characters on the settlements with whom it is rather difficult to deal, especially as the offences are mostly of a domestic nature. The native police have given valuable assistance in maintaining order, and the promulgation of disciplinary regulations made possible by the passing of the Amendment Act of 1934 will provide the power needed for better control of these characters.

RETAIL STORE TRANSACTIONS.

The following table indicates the amount of business which passed through the retail stores in the way of native purchases or issues to the needy:—

Settlement.	Cash Sales.			Bank Orders.			Free Issues.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cherbourg ..	778	14	7	2,584	0	2	536	15	5	3,899	10	2
Palm Island	628	11	6	5,256	12	9	732	16	9	6,613	1	0
Woorabinda	1,094	1	5	2,361	18	2	149	10	1	3,605	9	8
Totals	£ 2,496	7	6	10,202	11	1	1,419	2	3	14,118	0	10

The operations reveal a decrease in the gross turnover of £572, as compared with the year 1934, due principally to a reduction in the cost of free issues by £451. Cash sales increased by £41, but sales on order were less by £162.

AGRICULTURE.

Conditions for farming at Cherbourg Settlement were very disheartening, due principally to the extended dry periods. Nevertheless, fairly good crops were raised under the circumstances. The September rains saved the oat crop, from which approximately 30 tons of excellent oatmeal hay were harvested. Similarly, the rains of January and February caused a good maize crop, producing ninety bags of good grain for horse-feed. The lucerne crop was a failure, only 7 tons being obtained.

An area of 20 acres of cotton was planted during November, and gives promise of a reasonable return. In addition, 20 acres of maize was sown in November, and also gives good promise. Vegetables totalling 23 tons were grown and issued as a ration to the natives.

At Palm Island an adequate supply of vegetables, such as sweet and English potatoes, tomatoes, onions, pumpkins, carrots, and turnips, were produced and issued. Thirty-two hundred dozen bananas were cut, and 3 cwt. of honey was obtained from the Settlement hives. Over 68 bushels of Mauritius beans were also sold, realising £61 13s. 3d. In addition, 1½ ton of fish was caught and issued as a supplementary ration.

The total area under cultivation at Palm Island is 40 acres, including 6 acres planted with bananas, and 12 acres of ungrubbed land sown with Mauritius beans.

At Woorabinda Settlement farming conditions have also been particularly bad, only 19 inches of rain being registered, and much difficulty was experienced in keeping up a necessary supply of vegetables and milk. Two tons of vegetables were produced from the office and quarters' gardens, comprising principally sweet potatoes, cabbages, turnips, beetroot, and lettuce.

At Fantome Island, despite the bad season, abundant crops of sweet potatoes, pumpkins, tomatoes, and green vegetables were maintained until the end of November. Bananas and papaws particularly did well. Good plantings of crops have been made, but, unfortunately, were retarded by the prolonged dry spell.

STOCK.

Cherbourg.—Cherbourg Settlement passed through a bad year as regards conditions for stock. The January and February rains produced good grass, but were too light for water conservation. With the sudden early winter in April, the grass was destroyed and the stock quickly fell away. Although special watering-places on Barambah Creek were prepared, 44 young stock and 149 breeders were lost through bogging or lack of green feed. The creek boundary was ridden daily, and many more would have been lost but for this precaution.

The transfer of 240 head of settlement-bred heifers to the breeding herd—the largest number in the settlement's history in one year—however, has more than met the losses incurred. Of the old breeders, 180 were speyed to fatten for killing. The number of beasts killed for rations was 245. Over 900 acres of ringbarking was done, and approximately 500 acres suckered.

Woorabinda.—Trying weather conditions were also experienced at Woorabinda. The July rains ensured the water supply, but gave no feed. During the year 200 breeders, 150 killers, and 2 bulls were transferred to Cherbourg Settlement. One bull was also sent to Palm Island.

Further ringbarking was done to the extent of 1,610 acres, making a total of 10,460 acres improved in this way. Four miles of fencing was erected, 5½ miles wired, and 5 miles repaired. Four dams are now in use, and two of these were enlarged and cleaned out. Four new grids were built, and 7 miles of road repaired.

Palm Island.—Naturally, the number of stock which can be carried on Palm Island Settlement is limited, but it has been possible to keep up to reasonable strength the dairy herd and working bullock teams. The total area on the settlement ringbarked is about 1,000 acres; it was not possible to increase the area last year. An experimental poultry run was established next to the pig run, and 75 healthy birds form the nucleus of what can be expected to be an interesting and profitable industry. A similar undertaking has also been established at Fantome Island with equally good results.

Statement of Stock on Settlements.

Settlements.	Breeders.								Dairy Cattle.						Horses.			
	Herd Bulls.	Herd Cows.	Bullocks.	Steers.	Heifers.	Weaners.	Working Bullocks.	Spiced Cows.	Totals.	Bulls.	Cows.	Heifers.	Weaner Heifers.	Weaner Bulls.	Totals.	Draught Horses.	Saddle Horses.	Total.
Cherbourg ..	12	629	39	90	..	377	24	140	1,311	1	24	13	16	..	54	17	4	21
Palm Island	..	..	37	78	15	..	48	..	173	3	85	16	47	22	173	8	8	16
Woorabinda	43	1,119	26	460	316	560	30	61	2,615	..	..	..	..	..	23	51	74	

INDUSTRIAL.

No new building work was undertaken at Cherbourg Settlement, but a considerable amount of repair work was effected. Two new stairways were built in the girls' dormitory to provide adequate means of escape in case of fire. General repair work was also effected by native carpenters.

At Palm Island Settlement a new boys' dormitory was erected, and at the end of the year was almost ready for occupation. This building, which is being erected from material received from the demolished Townsville Orphanage, is approximately 60 feet by 40 feet over all, and will meet a long-felt want in the accommodation of the young boys. It will also provide space for recreation and adequate bathing facilities.

All roofing and general plumbing work on this dormitory and other buildings requiring repairs, have, for some time now, been carried out by native tradesmen.

Fifteen new native cottages were built of bush timber and palm leaf, and 25 others renovated, by a gang of men trained in this work.

Native youths trained in carpentering have made very creditable furniture for officials' quarters, and also desks and forms for the native schools in Torres Strait.

At Woorabinda Settlement a new girls' dormitory over 90 feet long was erected, together with the essential outhouses and bathrooms. Other improvements were the additions to the sawyer's quarters, repairs to the hospital, and the erection of two cottages for the better type of native at Blackboy Creek farm. The visitors' quarters were enlarged to make provision for the white school teacher, who is a married man.

The cutting of log timber for sawmilling purposes has been busily carried on, especially at Woorabinda Settlement and Palm Island, as it will be necessary to cope with a particularly extensive building programme at the latter places next year. To enable this to be done, it is hoped at an early date to increase the power of the sawmill plant.

There are ample supplies of cypress pine on the reserve suitable for milling, and with the increased milling facilities good progress should be made in village development.

As a result of the past policy of steadily training promising youths in suitable manual trades, the Department is in the happy position of having a large number of trained native artisans who can, under ordinary circumstances, undertake the erection of a reasonably-sized building.

Opportunity was taken during the visit of a number of aboriginals to the Brisbane Exhibition to bring a party of twelve of these trainees to the city and take them around to various factories and workshops, including the railway workshops at Ipswich, to provide them with a valuable object-lesson and awaken their ambition to uplift themselves.

The education which these natives received should add to their value as employees of the Department and as members of their own native community.

EDUCATION.

Satisfactory progress has been reported by the teachers in charge of the schools, and the inspections by the officers of the Public Instruction Department have shown that good results have been achieved.

The new syllabus, drafted by the head teacher at Cherbourg and approved by the Director of Education, to operate in the aboriginal schools is proving effective, and it is proposed in due course to extend it to cover the further training of the native pupils in rural, manual, and domestic subjects. As a step in this direction, a properly qualified teacher of rural school subjects has been secured from the Department of Public Instruction as head teacher at Palm Island. The new head teacher for Woorabinda School is also competent to give training in manual subjects.

The object of the rural school method of instruction is to fit the pupils better to take their place, at least in their own community, as self-reliant members.

The following table shows the enrolment of native pupils at the various Government settlements, missions, and island schools:—

SCHOOLS.
GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENTS.

Settlements.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cherbourg	88	103	191
Palm Island	116	92	208
Woorabinda	64	67	131
Totals	268	262	530

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

Islands	440	441	881
Cowal Creek	18	20	38

CHURCH MISSIONS.

Missions.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Aurukun	42	37	79
Cape Bedford	21	6	27
Hammond Island	16	8	24
Lockhart River	19	22	41
Mapoon	25	44	69
Mitchell River	33	22	55
Moa Island (St. Paul's)	30	36	66
Monamona	26	35	61
Mornington Island	33	47	80
Purga	12	18	30
Weipa	6	10	16
Yarrabah	58	67	125
Totals	321	352	673

PROVISIONAL SCHOOLS.

Centre.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Gayndah	14	12	26
Myora	8	5	13
Thursday Island	28	25	53
Mitchell	20	18	38
Totals	70	60	130

Government Settlements	530
Torres Strait Islands	881
Cowal Creek	38
Church Missions	673
Provisional Schools	130
	2,252

RECREATION.

Even in his native state one of the pre-dominating characteristics of the aboriginal is his love of competitive play or sport. Appreciating this, the Department in every way encourages healthy recreation, and on all settlements special attention has been given to development of suitable sports and games for their amusement.

At Palm Island native and European dancing, football, cricket, tennis, and boxing were popular. Their keenness and skill in sport to which they take a liking is indicated by the fact that the Palm Island Settlement football team was successful in three matches against white players at Home Hill, Innisfail, and Townsville. The Woorabinda and Cherbourg teams were similarly successful in their matches against white country teams, playing in the district fixtures. Other games—cricket, basket-ball, vigoro, tennis, etc.—were played by both sexes.

As an incentive to greater interest in sport, the Department arranged for a visit to Brisbane of an "All Black" aboriginal Rugby League football team, comprised of players from the three Government settlements. This team participated in three football matches in Brisbane—the first two against white players, in which they lost, although without discredit. In the third they won an outstanding victory over the Fingal "All Blacks," an aboriginal team whose prowess in football is widely known.

A party of aboriginals from Palm Island Settlement, after taking part in local scenes, were also taken to Sydney to act in the "talkie" production of the film "Uncivilized," and the record of their work and behaviour was highly satisfactory.

Sports meetings were held on all the settlements on festive occasions. The celebrations for the King's Jubilee holiday were made a special feature.

The Christmas and New Year celebrations were, as usual, much appreciated and enthusiastically entered into.

The willing co-operation and assistance of the officials and their wives and families on the settlements and of the officers of the Aboriginal Department in Brisbane, whose help largely contributed to the success of the functions on the settlements and in Brisbane, is duly appreciated. Similarly, the work of those visiting missionaries and friends of the aboriginals who have assisted in making their life a little happier by participating in their social functions, is also gladly acknowledged.

MISSIONS.

Aurukun, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. W. F. McKenzie), Presbyterian.

Cape Bedford, Cooktown (Superintendent, Rev. G. H. Schwarz), Lutheran.

Edward River, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, J. W. Chapman), Anglican.

Hammond Island, Torres Strait (Superintendent, Rev. O. McDermott), Roman Catholic.

Lockhart River, Cape York Peninsula (Superintendent, H. Rowan), Anglican.

Mapoon, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. R. McLelland), Presbyterian.

Mitchell River, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, J. W. Chapman), Anglican.

Monamona, Cairns (Superintendent, L. A. Borgan), Seventh Day Adventist.

Mornington Island, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. R. H. Wilson), Presbyterian.

Moa Island, St. Paul's, Torres Strait (Superintendent, Rev. J. W. Schomberg), Anglican.

Purga, Ipswich (Superintendent, Adjutant T. H. Booth), Salvation Army.

Weipa, Gulf of Carpentaria (Superintendent, Rev. S. E. McKay), Presbyterian.

Yarrabah, Cairns (Superintendent, W. McCullough), Anglican.

AURUKUN.

Religious Instruction.—A short service is held daily in the morning for the natives in the village. It is not compulsory for people who desire to go hunting. Attendances at these services has been very good, averaging 150 for the period that the mission has been in existence. The regular services are held on Sundays.

School.—The school has progressed very well under the care of a half-caste aboriginal teacher, who was trained at Mapoon Mission, and who has had several years' experience in teaching there and at Mornington Island. The children who recently entered the mission from Kendall and Holyroyd River districts are making commendable progress. Domestic science for girls and rural and manual training for boys form part of the school curriculum.

Discipline.—Discipline has been well maintained, and some credit is due to the native councillors and police, who have rendered invaluable service.

Patrols.—Patrols have been made to the tribes on the Kendall and Holyroyd Rivers, and medical and other assistance rendered to the bush natives there, besides keeping them in friendly touch.

Agriculture.—Every effort has been made to increase the production of food crops, but dry weather conditions made farming a failure. Crops of melons, cowpeas, bananas, and pumpkins were, however, produced and, together with cocoanuts, provided a useful variety and addition to the diet. The citrus fruit trees and pineapple suckers recently supplied by the generosity of the Minister, are making good progress.

Stock.—The cattle have done very well, despite the drought. Much labour was necessary to keep up the necessary water supply. In the annual muster 285 were bangtailed and 65 branded.

It was possible to kill a beast every six weeks for rations. Horses owned by the mission number 65, and 7 foals were branded during the year. The Minister also supplied a Tamworth boar and sows and three purebred Ayrshire cows. These are all doing well. The sow has farrowed.

Buildings.—A much-needed hospital and also a native store have been built from material provided by the Department, which also assisted with wire for fencing in the new paddock and two hand pumps for stock-watering.

Sea Transport.—The fine launch procured, towards which the Department found half the cost, has enabled the mission to ensure more effective communications with its out-station work and neighbouring missions.

CAPE BEDFORD.

Religious Instruction.—Services have been regularly held, and the interest shown by the natives therein has been encouraging.

Industry.—Keen disappointment was felt at the failure to secure further suitable land for agricultural purposes; consequently, the mission was severely handicapped in the matter of productive work of an agricultural nature. So keenly has this been deplored that the regrettable possibility of having to abandon the work of half a century has had to be faced. Further efforts to avoid this position are being pursued.

In small garden plots on the reserve, Mauritius beans were planted, which gave a return of approximately £50. About the same amount was obtained by natives collecting chalk fish, bêche-de-mer, in the sheltered bay behind Cape Bedford.

The above disabilities have naturally made the cost of maintenance much higher than if the growing of more food crops were possible.

HAMMOND ISLAND.

Religious Instruction.—The attention to religious duties has been exemplary, and a general spirit of harmony prevails. The village chapel is freely used by the inmates.

Education.—Excellent progress is being made in the school, where two qualified sisters have now taken charge. Attendance has been excellent.

Discipline.—The conduct of the people was very good, and no cause for complaint was received. They readily assist in work for the general benefit.

Industry.—Fourteen men were employed on vessels engaged in the marine industry, and the balance found suitable employment in their home gardens. These gardens yielded bananas, pineapples, pumpkins, melons, yams, potatoes, &c.

Village.—An excellent convent was erected for the accommodation of the sisters, who have now been appointed to the mission. In addition, three native cottages were erected, and a well was sunk to provide an adequate water supply.

LOCKHART RIVER.

Religious Instruction.—Services and instruction have been conducted regularly, and the good attendance showed the appreciation of the people. The Bishop of Carpentaria held a confirmation of men, women, girls, and boys.

Education.—Favourable progress has been made in the school, and the native assistant, Kitty Savage, is rendering good service in the teaching.

Conduct.—The natives were amenable to order and discipline, and showed enterprise where given opportunity.

Industry.—Sixty men signed for employment in the marine industry, and were able, from their earnings, to support their families. Native food supplies from home gardens and cultivated plots were fairly plentiful.

MAPOON.

Religious Instruction.—Church services were well attended, and the people evinced a gratifying interest in the religious instruction received. Sixteen candidates were received into the Church.

Education.—There are 69 children in the school, and satisfactory progress was made under the head teacher, who received able assistance from the native teachers. The school in the past has produced some valuable mission native assistants.

Industry.—The cattle herd numbers about 500 head, in addition to which there are 40 horses. Generally, the reserve is unsuitable for cultivation, but patches of good farming land exist, and are cultivated in food crops. A new tailing yard was built for the stockyards. Plans have been put forward for increasing and improving the cattle herd.

Approximately £200 was earned by the men working *bêche-de-mer* in their own dinghies. The sum of £70 was also received for the sale of firewood and building posts in Thursday Island. Likewise remunerative return resulted from the sale of fancy work.

The Department supplied a large quantity of fencing wire to enable agricultural work to be undertaken; in addition, paint for buildings and iron roofing was also given.

Buildings.—A fine building has been erected for office, storeroom, and kitchen from material obtained from the purchase of an ex-Defence Department building in Thursday Island.

General.—A new launch, 25 feet long, with 6.8 h.p. Regal engine, has been supplied, and is performing excellently. Equipment in the nature of saddles, pack-saddles, and tools were also supplied by the Mission Committee.

MITCHELL RIVER.

Religious Instruction.—Church services were held daily, and although the chaplain left the mission in October, a keen interest in religious practices was still maintained. The Bishop of Carpentaria visited the mission in August, when fifteen adults were confirmed.

Education.—Progress in the school has been generally satisfactory. The head teacher reports that the two native assistants have performed remarkably well. The school roll is 57, and attendance has been practically 100 per cent. Practical training has been given in gardening, with fair results; also instruction in use of money, weights, and measures.

Industry.—The number of cattle on the run is approximately 3,754; 601 calves were branded. The number of horses, including brood mares and entire, is 51. Drought conditions and bush fires caused serious losses through bogging. A serious condition was caused regarding the horses, as 50 head died, making it difficult to carry out mustering work. A draft of steers was sold, and an exchange was made of steers for bulls. A good area of land was cultivated with gardens, but the season was poor.

Village.—Eighteen new houses of a good type were erected, while a large number of others were repaired. A sanitary system was instituted, which is working satisfactorily. A new hospital with two wards, dispensary, and waiting-room was also built.

MONAMONA.

Religious Instruction.—The same keen interest in the religious life of the people was maintained, and attendances at service were highly creditable.

Industry.—Ample food crops were produced from the farms, and general improvement work was steadily continued.

MORNINGTON ISLAND.

Religious Instruction.—The Sabbath, as well as the daily services, are always well attended, and the bearing of all is marked by a good and reverent attention.

Education.—Fair progress was made in the school, although the epidemic of malaria fever interfered with the attendance. Some of the senior boys and girls received training in farm and domestic work.

Industry.—Fifteen tons of food crops were produced, together with 9 tons of fodder. An area of land was cleared and fenced on Denham Island, but the results were disheartening, owing to lack of water. Approximately 80 acres are cleared for cultivation, of which 30 acres are in use, and essential vegetables, such as sweet potatoes, pumpkins, watermelons, corn, and coconuts, are grown to augment the required ration. Twenty-seven chains of new fencing were erected and twenty chains repaired.

Health.—The mission was unfortunate in experiencing a particularly long and severe outbreak of malignant malaria, resulting in eighteen deaths. Four visits were made by the Aerial Medical Service in an endeavour to cope with the outbreak. Appreciation is expressed of the assistance given by Drs. Thompson and Alberry, of the Aerial Medical Service, and great credit is due to the superintendent, his wife, and staff for their care of the natives during this trying period.

MOA ISLAND, ST. PAUL'S.

Religious Instruction.—A keen interest has been manifested in the religious instruction received, and the attendance at church services has been satisfactory.

Education.—Sixty-six children attend school regularly, and the high standard of efficiency was maintained.

Industry.—The ketch "Abapil" was manned by the young men of the village and worked on "company" lines. Other men engaged on the fleets as crew, and the older people fished with dinghies and worked their gardens.

A windmill has been erected, and the mission house has been completely covered with fibrolite. Further good progress has been made in the building of the concrete church, the people giving their services willingly.

WEIPA.

Religious Instruction.—The various religious services have been well attended, and results have been encouraging. The Christian teaching is steadily supplanting the rites and practices of the tribal existence.

Education.—The average school attendance was 16. No manual training is included in the school curriculum, but opportunity to gain a general knowledge of industry and domestic work is provided during and after school hours.

Industry.—Approximately four acres was cleared for cultivation, of which three is fenced. Cowpeas, sweet potatoes, and melons were grown with moderate success in several village gardens. During the colder months of the year vegetables, such as turnips, cabbages, and lettuce, responded well to intensive care and watering. Papaws and bananas cropped well. Twenty-two chains of temporary fencing were replaced by a permanent post and rail fence. Twenty-eight coconuts were planted, together with mangoes, bananas, and pineapples.

The remaining buildings at the old inland station were dismantled, and the material transferred to Jessica Point. This practically completes the transfer of the mission to its new site.

A permanent store and medicine room has been erected, and several minor repair jobs were also effected. The windmill supplied by the Department has now been installed, and when the piping has been laid the benefits will be appreciated.

The 10 h.p. Ruston and Hornsby engine has also been installed, and will supply the power not only for the sawbench but for additional equipment which will be needed as development proceeds.

YARRABAH.

Religious Instruction.—Daily services were held and well attended by the dormitory children and a few of the people. Religious instruction was given on Sundays and in the school once a week.

Education.—The average school attendance was 58 boys and 67 girls, and satisfactory progress is recorded. Technical and manual training was not given in school, but the girls were taught cooking and needlework, whilst the boys were placed under competent workmen as apprentices.

Industry.—The number of stock was approximately 150 cattle and 30 horses. Fifty tons of sweet potatoes, together with 1,600 bunches of bananas, 1,200 melons, and corresponding quantities

of pineapples, pumpkins, tomatoes, turnips, &c., were produced. In addition, 2,000 gallons of milk were received from the dairy herd. Most of this produce was issued to the people in addition to the rations, or sold at nominal prices.

Buildings.—A new engine shed was erected for the oil engine and dynamo. The jetty was strengthened with new piles and the decking repaired. Most of the mission buildings were rethatched, and the mission house roofed with iron.

PURGA MISSION.

Religious Instruction.—Keen interest was manifested in the regular church services, which are a beneficial influence to the people.

Industry.—Steady progress was shown in all forms of industrial undertakings, despite the adverse weather conditions preventing the growing of food crops to the extent that was wished.

Health.—No trouble was experienced in maintaining good health conditions, and in this connection the mission is appreciative of the assistance rendered by the Ipswich General Hospital and the Ipswich Ambulance Brigade.

MISSIONS GENERALLY.

Conduct.—The conduct of natives generally on the missions has been satisfactory, and, with few exceptions, no cause for complaint in this direction has occurred.

Recreation.—In keeping with general departmental policy, every effort has been made to foster healthy recreation by encouraging native games and dancing, in which usually the old people were most interested, and European sports, such as football, cricket, tennis, &c., of which the younger generation are equally fond, with the recreations of their own race.

Camping excursions into the bush were also organized, which served the double purpose of providing a holiday and gaining experience in hunting and the procuring of bush "tucker."

GENERAL.

A total of £45,801 was expended from departmental vote on relief administration, and a further £36,478 from the Aboriginal Standing Account. These latter payments represent, principally relief to indigent country natives, purchases for the settlement retail stores, and for equipment for the greater industrial development of government settlements and church missions.

The receipts to Aboriginal Standing Account, to which is paid returns from the sale of surplus produce and stock deductions from Provident Fund, retail store profits, &c., total £34,068. The excess of expenditure over receipts was made possible owing to a credit balance having been carried forward from the previous year.

The total native earnings throughout the State towards their own support is assessed at £189,724. This figure does not include produce grown and beef killed for local consumption, timber milled for building purposes, fodder grown for the feeding of stock, and the value of cattle bred on the stations and sold.

An examination of the cost to the Department of administration and relief in comparison with the value of earnings by industrial undertakings and employment will indicate that the native population in the State is between 70 and 80 per cent. self-supporting.

APPRECIATION.

It is pleasing to have the opportunity to acknowledge the loyalty and assistance of all officers, including the staff in Head Office, and on the various Government settlements, during what has been a particularly arduous year.

The work of the Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island, and the Manager, Aboriginal Industries, Badu Island, and the officers under their direct control, is likewise acknowledged and appreciated.

The staffs of the church missions, and the organisations controlling such, have again experienced a difficult time, and the success achieved is at least some compensation for the labour and sacrifice devoted to the work of caring for the aborigines.

Valued assistance has also been rendered by the Under Secretary, Department of Health and Home Affairs, the Director-General of Health and Medical Services, the Commissioner of Police, and the staffs of these Departments. Likewise, the Portmaster and his harbour masters at various ports in Queensland have given great assistance in keeping supervision of floating plant.

The Manager, State Stores, and his officers have also courteously assisted in the purchasing of material for the aboriginal stores and individual natives.

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 1935

Corporate Author: Queensland Home Secretary's Department

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