

1948

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

---

# REPORT

ON

## Survey of Native Affairs

BY

F. E. A. BATEMAN.

---

---

*Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.*

---

---

[SECOND SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH PARLIAMENT.]

---

PERTH:

BY AUTHORITY: W. H. WYATT, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.  
1948.

No. 19.

APPROXIMATE COST OF PAPER:  
Printing (400 Copies) £125.

# SURVEY OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

By F. E. A. BATEMAN.

*The Hon. the Minister for Native Affairs, Western Australia,—*

I have the honour to report that in accordance with the instructions in your letter of the 21st July, 1947, to carry out a survey into native affairs throughout the State, I commenced my inquiries on 4th August, 1947. You will recall that after my return from the Murchison district shortly before Christmas, 1947, I was recalled to the Police Court Bench in Perth, where I carried out Magisterial duties until 1st April, 1948, when I resumed my investigations into native affairs.

During the course of my inquiry I have seen at first hand the conditions under which the aborigines live and are employed in almost every part of the State. With two exceptions I inspected all native institutions, including missions, throughout the State.

The first exception was the United Aborigines Mission situated in the Warburton Ranges some hundreds of miles east of Laverton. In view of this mission's comparatively recent origin and its inaccessibility, I considered that the expense involved in making a visit to it would be out of proportion to the value derived therefrom and consequently I omitted it from my plans.

The second exception was the Tardun Mission near Mullewa which at the time of my visit to the Murchison district had not commenced its activities.

The arrangements for my road transport in the North, North-West and Murchison districts, were in the hands of Inspectors Jensen, Rhatigan and Martin respectively, of the Native Affairs Department and I wish to record my appreciation of the services and kindness received from these officers.

I also desire to thank all station owners, managers, farmers, police officers, missionaries, protectors and all persons with whom I came in contact, for the kindness and hospitality extended to me in conducting this survey.

To Mr. H. A. Jones of the Native Affairs Department, who acted in a secretarial capacity, I owe a debt of gratitude, his knowledge of the Department's activities being of untold value to me.

As the motor vessel "Koolinda," upon which vessel I sailed for the North, proceeded direct to Darwin after leaving Derby, I was able to take the opportunity of visiting the Bagot Half-caste Camp, the Berrima Compound and the new De Lissaville Settlement at Darwin. These visits were made possible by the courtesy of the Director and Staff of the Native Affairs Department, Northern Territory, to whom my thanks are due.

The terms of reference submitted to me were as follows:—

- A. Make a survey of existing native institutions as defined in the Native Administration Act, 1905-41.
- B. Advise as to the present and future value of such institutions.
- C. Advise whether any new institutions are desirable and if so the nature thereof and the objects to be served by them.
- D. Make such recommendations as may seem proper to advance the education and welfare of natives generally, including their employment and vocational opportunities.
- E. Make such recommendations as may seem proper as to existing laws of this State relating to natives and any amendments thereto.
- F. Inquire into and report upon such other matters, if any, as the Government may later desire to refer to you for your consideration.

In your accompanying letter of 21st July, 1947, the above terms of reference were subjected to greater detail as follows:—

With regard to our native institutions including missions, the statistical position in each case showing the natives at the institutions, the natives not in the institutions but in contact with them, staffs and their number and duties, area of land, productivity, situation, present value of the institution, prospects of future utility, approximate cost of establishment and approximate cost of further installations for effective working.

In relation to the pastoral industry, wages and nature of rations and other provisions for natives in the several districts, living accommodation and amenities, and occupations in which natives are employed.

Health and disease of natives, particularly incidence of leprosy and whether stationary or increasing.

The system of protectors and whether police should be retained as protectors.

Provision for education of native children.

Distribution of tribal natives and their number.

Number and distribution of other than tribal natives.

Number and distribution of natives in categories of the full blood, half-caste and less than half-caste.

The position of natives in towns.

Crafts and vocations for which natives are best suited or into which they might be encouraged to enter.

Particular inquiry into the prospects of the employment of natives in fishing and pearling industries and any methods of training natives for such pursuits and in what localities they could best find employment in such pursuits.

The administrative system of the Department and any directions in which its effectiveness might be improved.

Any legislative amendments that might assist administration and native welfare.

I feel that it is unnecessary to add anything further by way of introduction and will now proceed to deal with the matters referred to me in the order submitted.

#### A.—EXISTING NATIVE INSTITUTIONS AS DEFINED IN THE NATIVE ADMINISTRATION ACT.

In dealing with this subject I have endeavoured to refer to the various institutions with as much brevity as the circumstances permit. It has not been possible in every case to ascertain the exact duties of each individual member of the staff as in some institutions, mission workers are not limited to any set duties but assist generally in the working of the mission.

Where possible I have given the approximate annual cost of the establishment but this figure cannot be regarded as accurate as in some cases the Superintendents of the missions concerned were not able to supply accurate figures.

I also regret that I have not been able to supply any approximate cost of future installations for effective working in the case of the various institutions. Costs vary from day to day and of course differ according to locality and my attempts to arrive at approximate estimates only convinced me that any amounts specified by me would be more in the nature of guesswork and accordingly of little value. I respectfully suggest in regard to this aspect that if necessary, accurate estimates could be obtained at a later date.

With regard to population figures at the various missions, I have used in the main those figures supplied to me at the time of my inspection. These figures, in many cases, vary considerably from the figures shown on the mission returns lodged with the Department last June, and even allowing for fluctuations in the native population it appears to me that greater accuracy in rendering these returns is called for on the part of many missions. It is quite possible too that the staff position at the various institutions has altered since my figures were collected, but this is only to be expected and my information on the matter can only be treated as approximate.

In commenting on future installations for effective working, I am of the opinion that in all the larger institutions electric light is badly needed. Those which are endeavouring to make do with kerosene lamps and the like are faced with many difficulties

and inconveniences and the task of the mission workers, an arduous one in the best of conditions, is made all the more intolerable. So much more can be achieved with good lighting and wherever possible it should be installed even to the extent of foregoing other requirements.

It is perfectly obvious that the standard of efficiency of any establishment depends largely on the staff. Government institutions are constantly experiencing great difficulty in obtaining and retaining staff and after inspecting these institutions I have no doubt that the unsatisfactory conditions on the settlements contribute in no small degree to this state of affairs.

The installation of electric light, while being an enormous step forward in the progress of the institution would at the same time provide a much needed convenience for the staff facilitating the performance of their duties and alleviating discontent.

Missions are conducted by religious organisations throughout the State but mainly in the isolated and marginal regions. Usually they are situated in Government reserves in isolated areas or on the fringes of settled areas. In the former case they serve the purpose of preparing the aborigines for the usually inevitable contact with white civilisation while in the latter they act as buffers between the black and white civilisations.

I will proceed first of all to discuss the various missions which I inspected during the survey.

##### *Forrest River Mission.*

Mission Body—Australian Board of Missions—Church of England—Area of Reserve—99,000 acres.

This mission, as its name implies, is situated on the Forrest River which flows into the Cambridge Gulf about 10 miles north of Wyndham. The only accessible route to that town is a long journey by water a total distance of something like 30 miles.

One of the greatest handicaps with which the staff of the mission has had to contend during recent years was the lack of a seaworthy launch. I am glad to hear that since my visit a new launch at last has been acquired after so many set-backs in the past.

At the time of my visit there were 150 natives at the institution including 85 children. In addition there were another 63 bush natives in contact with the mission. The staff consists of a Superintendent, who is also the Chaplain, an Assistant Superintendent, a Matron, two School Teachers, both unqualified, and a Launchman.

The productivity of the mission is confined to cattle raising and a small amount of agriculture. About 800 cattle are being run on the property and 1½ acres are under cultivation in the form of a vegetable garden, the usual varieties being grown in season.

A number of the inmates have married and have been provided with huts for the use of themselves and their families. These natives are employed about the mission, being supplied with their food and lodging in return.

Children on the mission are being taught ordinary school work to about the fourth standard. The boys gain a certain amount of practical experience in stock work, gardening and also in the handling of the launch, while the girls are given tuition in weaving and general needlework.

A number of the inmates later find employment on the cattle stations south of Wyndham.

The annual cost of Forrest River Mission is in the vicinity of £4,000. This mission, due to its isolation, is confronted with many difficulties and heavy expenditure. Transport costs of course are tremendous and the lack of an adequate water supply together with the nature of the country mitigates against its ever being self supporting.

The provision of a water supply would undoubtedly improve the prospect of this mission and allow full development of the soil. The cost involved however would be enormous, at the very least £8,000, and possibly in the vicinity of £20,000, and in my opinion would not be justified.

There are indications that the number of natives in this area is on the decline. The Departmental records show that in 1932 there were 260 attached to the mission, in 1937 the number was 250 and last year there was a further decrease to 188. However, apart from these figures it cannot be ignored that the full-blood natives of the north are rapidly decreasing and sooner or later this factor will affect the future plans of this mission.

Many of the buildings leave much to be desired, several having dirt floors. I do not feel that it is necessary for me to submit a detailed report on the buildings. It is sufficient I think to say that many of them require attention. In particular the dormitories are not provided with flooring and the children sleep on the ground in much the same manner as their parents before them did in their bush surroundings. It seems that if the uplifting of the Australian aborigine is to be accomplished, one of the first matters requiring adjustment is his standard of living. This involves getting him off the ground and accustomed to using beds.

So far as the adult native is concerned, little success is likely to be achieved in this direction but there is no reason why the children should not respond to this training. It is imperative both from this view-point and also from a health aspect, that the children should be taught as early as possible to use beds and all missions and institutions should make this a matter of paramount importance.

Forrest River, like most of the other missions, is hindered in its progress by two other impediments, malnutrition and a lack of any fixed policy prescribed by the Government. I will have more to say on these matters at a later stage of this report but if both these factors can be remedied then there is no reason why the mission should not play its part in the future development of the aborigine.

At the moment I consider the matters requiring most urgent attention at Forrest River to be as follows—installation of lighting plant, provision of flooring, beds and bedding in the dormitories, renovations and additions to certain of the buildings, construction of two further earth dams to augment the present water supply.

#### *Drysdale River Mission.*

Mission Body—Benedictine Community of W.A.

Area of Reserve—150,000 acres.

Drysdale River Mission is perhaps the most isolated and inaccessible of all missions, being situated in the extreme north of the State just south of Cape Londonderry and nearly 200 miles from the nearest town, Wyndham. This mission, like Forrest River Mission, is in contact with some of the most primitive of our natives. The annual cost of the institution is approximately £2,600.

The staff includes a Superintendent, three Fathers, one Brother and three Sisters. There are about 150 natives at this mission and about another 100 are in contact with it. These numbers, however, fluctuate considerably. Twenty children are accommodated in the dormitories while a number of working natives and their wives are housed in small huts erected by the mission. Many bush natives camp on the fringes of the mission proper.

The children receive the ordinary school training by the Sisters, the girls in addition being tutored in sewing and domestic work, but no specific vocational training is provided for the boys.

A variety of tropical fruits and vegetables are grown while small numbers of cattle, pigs, goats and fowls are reared. The produce is all for home consumption and no trading is indulged in now. The children are well fed and in addition indigents from the bush are provided with rations. Working natives are also fed but only if they work, laziness not being encouraged.

There are no adjacent station properties in this area and consequently there is no form of employment for these natives other than that existing at the mission.

The natives are full bloods observing their tribal customs and laws and are spiritually tied to this section of the country. As they will not leave this area and as there is no employment here for them it is difficult to see what practical good can be accomplished at the mission.

Efforts to christianise them are not likely to prove very successful although naturally I am not opposed to those efforts. The Drysdale natives are an entirely different type from the Cowal Creek natives in Cape York Peninsula where the natives maintain a village and carry on agricultural pursuits. The Drysdale type conform to the standard pattern as far as Western Australia is concerned. They are not agriculturists and every effort to change them from food hunters to food producers has failed.

In view of the primitive type of native in contact with this mission and the fact that rarely do they come in contact with white civilisation, it does not appear that any attempt to educate them to our standards would produce any tangible results.

The mission acts as a buffer, teaches christianity and looks after the material welfare and health of the natives in this area. To attempt anything further, in my view, would be merely a waste of time and effort. There is nothing urgently required in the way of future installations.

*Kunmunya Mission.*

Mission Body—Australian Presbyterian Board of Missions, Sydney.

Area of Reserve—245,000 acres.

This Mission formerly known as Port George IV, is another isolated institution of the north, being situated on the coast to the west of the Prince Regent area.

The staff consists of a Superintendent and his wife who is also the Schoolteacher and an Assistant Superintendent. The annual cost of the establishment is approximately £1,800. There were approximately 70 natives, all full bloods, in contact with the mission, including only 10 children, at the time of my inspection.

About 300 head of cattle, 100 donkeys and 60 goats are run on the property and agricultural pursuits include the cultivation of peanuts in a small way and vegetables.

The isolated regions of this mission places it in a similar category to the Drysdale River Mission although perhaps to a lesser extent. Some of the natives are found employment at the mission in return for food and clothing supplied but there is practically no avenue of employment open generally to the Kunmunya natives. This mission serves the same purposes as Drysdale, acting as a buffer, preparing the natives for eventual contact with civilisation and in the meantime teaching the christian doctrine and acting for their welfare generally.

The erection of small dormitories for the children and a suitable hospital building appear to me to be the most urgent requirements of this mission.

It may be added that Kunmunya relies for its supplies and communications on lugger transport from Derby. This is far from satisfactory and a regular air service is badly required.

*Beagle Bay Mission.*

Mission Body—Pious Society of Missions, Broome.

Area of Reserve—700,000 acres.

This mission is situated about 80 miles north of Broome. The staff comprises of a Superintendent, a Father in charge of the boys, 8 Brothers whose duties cover transport, gardening, stock-work, butchering, carpentry and blacksmithing instruction, a Mother Superior and 5 Sisters whose duties consist of schooling, housekeeping and nursing.

There are about 170 natives on the mission including 100 children. About 50% of the inmates are full bloods and the remainder mixed.

The annual expenditure on Beagle Bay is in the vicinity of £2,800 but it must be remembered that no salaries or wages are involved.

About 1,000 head of cattle in addition to goats and pigs, donkeys and fowls are raised. An excellent garden is also under cultivation providing a plentiful supply in season of tropical fruits and vegetables.

I found this mission to be well equipped in every way with pleasing buildings set in refreshing surroundings, the feature being well grassed lawns. The dormitories presented a clean and tidy appearance with beds provided for all the children. Due to the excellent productivity and staff the diet is

exceptionally good and the inmates appear to be in good health. It is evident that the physical welfare of the natives is well catered for at this establishment.

Carpentry and blacksmithing are taught to some of the boys who show aptitude while some gain experience in the mechanical field on the mission vehicles. Domestic training is provided for the girls. Most of the boys furthermore, gain some practical knowledge of stock-work, gardening, windmills etc. and many are absorbed into employment at Broome or Derby or on the cattle and sheep stations in the district. Some also prove to be excellent motor mechanics and are employed in garages at Broome and Derby.

During the war a number of natives, about 30 or 40, mostly full bloods, were evacuated to the mission from the Broome area. These natives are housed adjacent to the mission in small huts and are rationed by the Civil Defence Council. Most of these natives are elderly and incapable of employment. There appear to be some however who are capable of work but are either disinclined to return to their former habitat or are being kept at the mission at the request of the Department. Those capable of employment should be removed to Udialla and made to work for their subsistence.

The installation of electric light, construction of a community hall and the extension of the present water scheme to provide showers for the boys are the most urgent requirements of this mission.

*Lombadina Mission.*

Mission Body—Pious Society of Missions, Broome.

Area—37,865 acres.

Lombadina Mission is really a branch of Beagle Bay, lying some 50 miles north of it.

The staff includes a Superintendent and 3 Sisters, one of whom is a trained schoolteacher. One Sister carries out the duties of Matron and the other house-duties.

There are 103 natives including 28 children, living at the mission and the annual cost is about £1,200, but again no salaries or wages are involved.

About 300 head of cattle together with goats and donkeys are run on the property while 15 acres of tropical fruits and vegetables are under cultivation.

The natives are mainly employed on stock-work and in the garden and no specialised vocational training is supplied.

This mission is not as well equipped as Beagle Bay and some further buildings are necessary, notably a boys' dormitory and community hall. Again a small electric light plant would effect a big improvement.

*Pallotine Mission.*

Mission Body—Pious Society of Missions, Broome.

Area of reserve—1,000,000 acres.

The Pallotine Mission lies about 200 miles south of Hall's Creek on the northern edge of the desert and caters for the primitive type of native who has had little or no contact with white civilisation.

The institution is only in its infancy. Practically the only buildings so far erected being the Missionary's quarters, storerooms etc. The staff consists of a Superintendent and two Brothers. There are no natives accommodated yet but there are about 70 within the mission influence.

No cultivation has been attempted to date as the water problem has not yet been satisfactorily solved. There are, however, approximately 900 sheep and a number of horses and donkeys and goats on the property. It is not possible at present to give an estimate of the likely annual cost of this mission nor would it be wise to attempt to recommend further installations until the activities of this mission have continued for a further period.

#### *Sunday Island Mission.*

Mission Body—United Aborigines Mission of W.A.

Area of Reserve—Island  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

This mission is situated on an island at the entrance of King's Sound not far from Cape Leveque. The staff includes a superintendent, an assistant superintendent, two schoolteachers and a mission worker who instructs the girls in needlework. There are about 170 natives at the mission including 42 children. I was unable to ascertain the annual cost of this mission.

The island is extremely rugged and cultivation, except for about one acre which is under vegetables, is impossible. There are about 50 goats running on the island.

The mission possesses a powered landing barge and a lugger and the main source of employment for the natives, and incidentally the main source of income, is derived from the gathering of trochus, tortoise and pearl shell. The natives are paid 3d. lb. for trochus shell, 9d. lb. for pearl shell and 6s. lb. for tortoise shell, by the mission, while a few casuals are paid 10s. weekly. None of the natives have bank accounts and they mainly collect their earnings in the form of stores at the mission store.

Schooling of the children has been rather broken owing to the lack of staff and the present schoolteacher as a matter of fact is untrained. Dormitories are badly needed and were in course of construction at the time of my visit. The natives live in native huts erected by themselves on the island. No vocational training is provided. A certain discontent exists among these natives, who complain that they receive little from the mission in return for their work. Another cause of complaint is the fact that no tobacco is allowed on the island by the superintendent which means that the natives are debarred from tobacco except when they pay occasional visits to Derby on the barge or lugger.

Sunday Island is a barren piece of rock which offers no scope for cultivation of any type. Its only advantage is that it is isolated but that very isolation has in itself many objectionable features. Any official visit must depend entirely on the goodwill of the mission as there is no means of transport to it other than by the mission boat. A better site for this mission would appear to be on the mainland opposite the island in the vicinity of Molumba Bay.

As the native camps are better constructed and cleaner than the usual type, I believe that these people would respond to better living conditions. It is therefore desirable that huts be erected for these people at an early opportunity. I do not consider however that any new installations are desirable immediately as the possible advantages of changing the site of this mission should be given further consideration by the Department.

#### *Jigalong Mission.*

Mission Body—Aborigines Rescue Mission, Melbourne.

Area of Reserve—16,000 acres.

Jigalong Mission is situated almost 300 miles south-east of Port Hedland on the western edge of the desert, and the mission staff comprises a superintendent, a matron, a schoolteacher and two mission workers.

The mission has only recently commenced activities and the buildings have not yet been completed, but considering its recent formation the staff are to be complimented on the work already done.

There are about 180 natives including 50 children in contact with the mission and all are full blood desert natives. The children are already being tutored in ordinary school work but still reside with their parents in the camp about three miles away. When the buildings are completed they will be housed in dormitories and the process of gradually weaning them from the aboriginal way of life will be carried a stage further. In the meantime the children are well cared for in the way of diet and medical attention at the mission.

This mission, I believe, will serve a good purpose as these desert children will no doubt become the station employees of tomorrow and the mission can do much to mould their character and to fit them for their future life.

I was informed that the capital cost has already exceeded £7,000 and that the estimated annual cost of this mission is £1,200. Again it is difficult to comment, in this case, on the necessity for future installations until the present programme of building has been decided upon and completed.

#### *Carnarvon Mission.*

Mission Body—Federal Aborigines Mission Board W.A.

Area—70 acres.

This mission commenced operations about 18 months ago and in this limited period has made rapid progress in the building line. There were 31 children at the mission and the staff consists of a superintendent and three assistants, and the annual cost is estimated to be £1,200.

At the time of my inspection the children were being schooled at the State School, Carnarvon which already was overcrowded. Since my visit a native school has been erected adjacent to the mission and the children are being educated here by a qualified teacher of the Education Department,

The mission authorities were obliged to purchase their own land for this venture, the price being £500. In my view the site is too close to Carnarvon, being approximately 10 miles from the town, but with the developmental work having progressed to its present stage it would be difficult to change it now.

It is the ultimate intention to train the children in motor-mechanics, woodwork and domestic science. Whether the land can be cultivated successfully is doubtful as the water located on the property so far has proved to be salty.

I believe it is too early as yet to comment further on this mission but the superintendent and staff appear to be well equipped to carry out their policy and good results are likely to be achieved.

#### *Mt. Margaret Mission.*

Mission Body—United Aborigines Mission of W.A.

Area of Reserve—210 acres.

This mission is probably the best developed mission in the State and appears to be achieving encouraging results. The staff consists of a superintendent, a matron, two school teachers and eight mission workers. There were about 150 natives at the institution when I visited it, including about 60 children. The population included both full blood and caste natives and the approximate annual cost of the institution is about £2,000.

The natives appear healthy and well nourished and quite happy. The children are housed in adequate dormitories and the general appearance of the mission is pleasing, everything being orderly and tidy.

The girls are taught raffia and poker-work, spinning and weaving, dressmaking and general domestic duties. The boys receive a little tuition in carpentry, motor mechanics and painting. In addition the ordinary schooling is provided, the children being given concentrated teaching in the value of money and its purchasing power.

Many of the inmates have married and have been encouraged to purchase material and erect their own homes on the mission property, a small prize being awarded weekly for the best kept home. The scheme apparently has produced results because at the time of my inspection they all presented a clean and tidy appearance.

The married men secure employment on the stations in the district, leaving their families in the home on the mission, returning to them at the completion of the employment. Many of the married women and single girls are employed by the mission on raffia and needlework, being paid piece rates for their services.

A well equipped store at the mission provides the natives with practical experience in the spending of their money.

Music is encouraged, many of the children playing such instruments as violins, banjos, trumpets, drums etc. and the singing and orchestral work of the children is very creditable

The hospital is of a higher standard than I saw on any other institution and the mission authorities are to be commended on it.

There is no crop under cultivation as the water supply is inadequate but income is derived from the sale of arts and crafts work and from the sale of goatskins. Formerly there was some alluvial gold prospecting but at the time when I was at Mt. Margaret this activity appeared to have ceased.

In the way of future installations, workshops for vocational training are required and the installations of a water supply and electric light would be advantageous.

#### *Norseman Mission.*

The Mission Body—Federal Aborigines Mission Board, W.A. Area of Reserve—Approximately 20 acres.

This mission is situated about 10 miles from Norseman and caters for children only. There were 27 accommodated at the mission, many of whose parents reside on the native reserve in Norseman.

The staff includes a Superintendent and two assistants, one being a school teacher. The annual cost of maintaining this institution is approximately £1,400.

A small vegetable garden is under cultivation but it was evident that this mission was operating on a small scale and suffering from lack of staff and finance. There is little to be said about this establishment except that more institutional buildings are necessary.

#### *Kellerberrin Mission.*

Mission Body—United Aborigines Mission of W.A. Area of Reserve—15 to 20 acres.

This mission, situated adjacent to the native reserve, merely consists of a mission home. A small school is erected next door and the schooling of the children who live with their parents on the reserve is provided by the Education Department. The mission intends to build dormitories when possible for the purpose of housing the children but as it is only in its infancy there is little to report on this mission at the present time. The equipment at the school is inadequate but this appears to be a matter for the Education Department.

#### *Badjaling Mission.*

Mission Body—United Aborigines Mission of W.A. Area of Reserve—1,066 acres.

The Badjaling Mission is situated at Quairading adjacent to the native reserve and operates on a small scale only. It comprises a school, a clinic, a small maternity room and the missionary's quarters. The staff consisted of a Superintendent only at the time of my visit and no schooling had been provided for the previous two or three months.

Very few natives are left in the district, most of them having evacuated to Tammin, Kellerberrin and Bruce Rock. Those who have remained occupy huts dotted around the reserve. They earn good money around the district but seem disinclined to improve their lot.

There appears to me to be no justification for future installations on the mission. Although the superintendent maintained that there were 30 children attending school when it was functioning, it was apparent that many of these had moved on with their parents to other districts.

*Gnowangerup Mission.*

Mission Body—United Aborigines Mission of W.A.

Area of Reserve—29 acres.

The Gnowangerup Mission, situated at Gnowangerup on the native reserve, caters mainly for mixed bloods. The staff consists of a superintendent, two teachers and a sewing mistress. There are normally 150 to 280 at the mission, with perhaps a further 100 to be found temporarily at the institution. The children attending school number 60. Buildings consist of two mission houses, storeroom and school and several sheds and 25 small wooden huts occupied by native families. This mission is a faith mission and I was unable to ascertain the annual cost of the establishment.

No cultivation is attempted at the mission. The huts are of a poor type, the majority being without flooring of any description. Apart from the ordinary schooling the only vocational training provided is needlework for the girls. The children reside in the huts with their parents who obtain casual employment on the farms in the district and in the town of Gnowangerup.

If one excepts the christianising aspect, the only good purpose that this mission appears to serve is that it houses the native a little better than he would be normally and provides elementary education for the children. I favour the abolition of this mission and the substitution of something better in its place.

*Roelands Mission.*

Mission Body—Native Missions Council Inc., Mt. Lawley.

Area of Reserve—1,500 acres.

This mission is situated at Seven Hills, Roelands, in the south-west, in rich country with a permanent water supply and is ideally located for its purpose. The staff consists of the superintendent, matron, nurse and two teachers, cook, farmworker and four assistants. The mission caters for children only, there being 55 children accommodated when I made my visit. The annual cost of this institution is approximately £2,400.

The children are housed on the cottage system, a mission worker being in control of each cottage. The boys obtain practical training in dairying, poultry farming, orchard work and gardening, while the girls receive excellent tuition in domestic science including cooking. In addition ordinary schooling is provided for both sexes.

An interesting feature is the employment of a native girl on the teaching staff, named Gladys Vincent, who is a fully accredited missionary. She is 21 years of age and has already proved an outstanding success as a teacher and is very popular with the children. A small group photograph of Gladys and some of the children is attached hereto as a matter of interest.

The richness of the soil allows of intense cultivation and a particularly fine grapefruit orchard is operated on a commercial basis, resulting in a substantial return from the sale of the fruit. In addition, other fruit and vegetables are grown in abundance and a dairy herd and pigs and fowls are run on the property. The mission boasts an up-to-date milking machine and an electric light plant which according to the Mission Council has proved well worth the expense involved in its purchase. This productivity results in the children receiving the best of food and I would say that no other institution approaches the standard of diet provided at this mission.

The children are not in touch with any adult natives, many of them being orphans and there is consequently not the attraction in the way of parents and relatives to draw them back to the native camps when they leave the mission.

The mission has not been long in existence, the property formerly having been developed under the Chandler Boys' Scheme and it is only within the last 12 months that trainees have been placed in employment. It is thus too early to ascertain how these children will respond to this training but from the favourable reports so far received from the employers of those already in employment there is bright hope for the future. It will be very interesting therefore to watch developments of this mission during the next few years.

I noted, however, a few near white children at the mission and in my view it is regrettable that they are not accommodated at Sister Kate's Home, where their future would be more assured.

I would like to see a community hall and better sporting facilities provided at this mission in the way of future installations.

*New Norcia.*

Mission Body—Benedictine Community of W.A.

Area of Reserve—29 acres.

The mission consists of an institution housing 41 male and 41 female children, including 14 full bloods. The staff includes a superintendent, six fathers, two brothers and eight sisters. The annual cost of the mission is approximately £4,500. The buildings and appointments are excellent, in particular the dormitories, which compare with those of our public schools. The bedding is spotlessly clean and the flooring highly polished and one could not but help contrasting the bedding here with that seen in many other institutions where the pillows and mattresses were stained and discoloured with dirt and grease. The children are well fed, well housed and educated.

Ordinary schooling is imparted to both sexes and in addition the girls receive some domestic training, particularly in the laundry, while the boys gain a certain amount of experience in sheep and farming activities. There is, however, room for improvement, as on all other institutions, in vocational training facilities.

After receiving their education and training at the mission, the children leave and usually obtain employment in the rural districts. Those with parents return to them wherever they may be and in most cases the education and training is immediately undone.



Other than the provision of improved vocational training there does not appear to be anything urgently necessary in the way of future installations.

#### *Wandering Brook Mission.*

Mission Body—Catholic Church in Archdiocese of Perth.

Area of Reserve—9,670 acres.

This mission has not yet completed its building programme and consequently has not commenced operations. Nevertheless I feel that I should include particulars concerning it as I believe that when completed it will be the finest mission in the State.

First of all, for practically the first time a mission is being established to a proper plan and with a long-term policy in view. Money is not being stinted and the building plan provides for good, substantial and adequate institutional buildings with playing fields and sporting facilities.

The mission will cater for half-caste children only and the education and training will be designed to fit them for useful citizenship. Infants will be admitted to a foundling section where they will be under the care of the Sisters of St. John of God. A kindergarten will be established for their training until they reach school age when both sexes will receive ordinary schooling under the sisters until they attain the age of 9 or 10 years. At this stage the boys will be transferred to the care of the priests and brothers of the Pious Society of Missions and the girls to a junior section in the Nuns' Orphanage. Both sexes will continue their schooling but in each case the institution will be divided into junior and senior sections. This is very important in my view and the same principles should be adopted in all missions and institutions.

When the girls have completed education to about the sub-junior standard they will be taught domestic science and will assist the sisters in the laundry, dairy, orchard and in the poultry farm and also in preserving and pickling, etc.

The boys will be similarly educated, but if anything, to a higher academic standard. Having reached a suitable age they will assist in and study all types of farming, stock-raising, quarrying, timber-milling, blacksmithing, metalworking, etc., each following his own particular bent.

Having completed their training the mission hopes that many will marry and take their place in the white community as useful citizens, but should they desire to remain on the mission, suitable dwellings will be provided for them.

Besides the usual ovals for sport, a combined play-house and picture theatre is planned and also a general store and post office.

I believe this mission will be operated on ideal principles and it is certain that it will play a major part in the uplifting of the half-caste population of the south.

#### *The Future of Missions.*

There are many who denounce the missions claiming that mission trained natives are spoiled and cheeky and generally unsatisfactory workers. To a

certain extent this is true but the complaint that mission trained natives are not satisfactory was not as general as I anticipated, in fact there were several employers who expressed complete satisfaction with such employees. It seems unwise therefore to condemn all natives so trained and denounce all missions accordingly. Nevertheless it seems to me that there is room for further improvement in all the missions.

There is certainly a tendency on the part of some missions to encourage idleness. This is probably due to the fact that they are unable to absorb all the natives in regular employment on the mission. This is to the liking of the native who characteristically will accept all the benefits possible at the same time giving little in return. The missions should only retain those adult natives whom they can employ, the remainder after completing their education and training should be compelled to earn their own living instead of idling on the mission. This policy however could not be effected in all missions, notably at Drysdale or Kunmunya, but there is no reason why it should not be carried out on most missions.

The causes mitigating against the missions achieving successful results in my view are twofold. Firstly there is an absence of policy and secondly a shortage of money. It appears to me that if missions are to play their full part in the uplifting of the native race then the first essential is for the Government to lay down a positive policy to which they must adhere. The day of evangelising the natives unaccompanied by other activities to uplift them has gone. Something more than religious training, accompanied by elementary teaching of the 3 R's, is necessary. The need for the teaching of hygiene and the imparting of technical knowledge and training in handicrafts must be concurrent with evangelism. Education is of paramount importance but it must be practical in nature and designed to raise the living standards of the aborigines and to fit them for future citizenship. This envisages adequate training of mission workers and the co-ordination of all missions within a definite policy.

Mission workers should be carefully chosen and the Superintendent if possible should have anthropological training. Teachers including educational, technical and agricultural, nurses, etc., should be specialists and not as at present obtains in some instances, persons of poor capacity who have heard the call and find something agreeable to them in mission activity.

The statement that a mission having commenced activities assumes all responsibilities for the teaching and training of the inmates is not convincing. It is unquestionably a national responsibility and it is only just that missions, providing they comply with the policy laid down by the Government should receive Government assistance. It must be realised naturally, that the change-over cannot take place overnight but once the missions are aware of what is expected of them there should be a steady effort to attain the required standards.

It can hardly be expected, however, that mission bodies would be prepared to incur the extra expenditure that training on the suggested lines will involve unless they have some guarantee of more financial assistance from the Government than is the case at present. In the more settled areas no mission should

be permitted to commence or continue operations unless it abides by the Government policy. In the more isolated missions however this policy necessarily would require to be relaxed to a certain degree.

It is important I believe, that greater attention should be given to recreational activities. Generally speaking there is no organised activity to fill in the hours of leisure in the various missions and institutions.

At nightfall the boys and girls are usually herded into their separate dormitories and expected to go to bed and sleep. With very young children there could be no objection to such a practice, but it is unreasonable to expect the older children to retire so early. Older girls at an institution upon the occasion of a visit of an Inspector once protested against this practice by singing the "The Prisoner's Song" over and over again for hours. One could hardly blame them for their attitude and it is only natural that in these circumstances the boys and girls will get up to some mischief. It is this system of locking them in dormitories without lights almost as soon as day has gone which I believe is the cause of so much vandalism in the dormitories.

There should be community halls on all the missions and institutions, providing sporting and recreational facilities for the children in the leisure hours. Magazines, books and comics, etc., should be made available to them and would encourage them to read more. Tennis courts, cricket pitches and playing fields should exist on all institutions. It is just as important to look after this side of the native child's education as it is to teach him to read and write. The saying that the devil finds work for idle hands is particularly true when applied to the native.

Some missions attempt to exercise control over the movements and employment of natives on completion of their mission training. This practice should cease. When the native passes out of the mission there should be no attempt on the part of the mission to interfere with the employment of the native. If there is ground for the belief that the native is being exploited or is not receiving fair treatment, then the mission should refer the matter to an Inspector or Protector whose duty it is to safeguard the natives' interests. Missions which lay down conditions of employment for their trainees and attempt to exercise dominion over their movements are assuming a responsibility which rightly belongs to the Department and any action in this respect only tends to create friction between employer and natives. It is not intended to convey by these words that a Children's Mission such as the Roelands Native Farm should be discouraged in attempting to place their trainees in the best homes possible.

With the object of implementing the suggestions above made, I recommend that the Government lay down a policy for missions on the lines referred to above, that increased subsidies be granted to missions conforming with the Government policy and that all missions be compelled—

1. To lodge with the Commissioner a detailed statement of policy with annual reports on progress.
2. Advise the Commissioner of all changes of staff, disclosing qualifications of new appointees.

3. Furnish to the Commissioner for approval block plans of the mission and plans of all buildings thereon.
4. Submit to the Commissioner for approval plans and specifications of all proposed new buildings.
5. Furnish to the Commissioner annual financial statements relating to the mission.
6. Comply with the instructions of the Commissioner in respect to education, diet, housing and medical treatment of inmates.
7. Comply with all other matters necessary for the purpose of implementing the said policy.

I will now discuss the various institutions under Government control.

#### *Moola Bulla Native Station.*

Manager: Mr. A. George.

Area of Reserve—1,118,473 acres.

This settlement is ideally placed for the training and development of the Northern natives, being situated in the heart of the Kimberleys in good cattle country. The staff includes a manager, book-keeper, head stockman, mechanic, cook, stock camp cook, general hand and five native general hands. There were about 200 natives on the institution including about 50 half-castes. The children numbered approximately 50 and it is a regrettable fact that no schooling has been provided on the settlement since about 1943. It was explained to me that since that time the Department has not been able to secure teaching staff. According to figures supplied to me by the Department, the cost of maintaining this institution during the year 1946-47 was £8,606, the revenue derived during the same period mainly from sale of cattle was £8,467, so that the institution was practically self-supporting for that year at least.

There are about 25,000 cattle on the property in addition to 400 horses and a number of mules, donkeys and goats and fowls.

To refer to Moola Bulla as a native institution in its present run-down state would be palpably absurd. Beyond the fact that dormitories are provided for a number of children, there is nothing to distinguish this station from any other station in the North.

The main objective in the establishment of Moola Bulla in the first instance was to reduce cattle killing by the natives but it may be assumed that another objective was the advancement and development of the Kimberley natives and there was every reason to anticipate beneficial results in this direction. Unfortunately however it has not been developed in the manner designed and in recent years it has suffered a regrettable decline. The failure of Moola Bulla to progress according to plan undoubtedly is due chiefly to the war and its aftermath but there appears to have been a certain amount of lassitude on the part of the Department also. At the time of the present manager's appointment in 1941 he reported to the Department on the unsatisfactory state of affairs then existing. As

a result inspections were made by other Government officials who supported the new manager's complaints. The war circumstances at that time of course prevented any action being taken to improve Moola Bulla but it is surprising that some attempt has not been made during the last two years to effect some improvements.

The lack of institutional buildings is as extraordinary as it is regrettable, not even a school-room or a dining-room existing. In fact, other than the two dormitories, no institutional buildings exist at all. Many of the buildings on the property are in a bad state of repair and require either demolishing or repairing. The manager's residence is over 30 years old and is rapidly reaching a state when renovations will be uneconomical. Some of the staff quarters consist of small unventilated rooms with earth floors while the structure which serves the dual purpose of a store and office is positively disgraceful.

Actually the present site is not satisfactory and perhaps this is the reason why the Department has been disinclined to spend money in effecting improvements. The site would be much better changed and the institution rebuilt according to a proper institutional plan. This would involve the expenditure of a great deal of money which may not be available. Alternatively the present settlement should be re-organised and a careful examination of all buildings should be made and those beyond repair should be dismantled and the remainder repaired and modified where necessary. A certain number of new buildings will have to be erected and provision should be made for schooling and training facilities, and in addition adequate staff accommodation.

If the Department desires to obtain and retain staff of the right type, then something much better in the way of accommodation is necessary. If one excepts the verandahs of the girls' dormitories, no accommodation is provided for many of the working natives.

The Department has circularised all stations in the North requesting them to provide better housing for their working natives. While this action may be commendable in itself, it is a strange request coming from an authority which has made no effort itself to provide housing for many of its own native inmates.

I believe there is a good future ahead of this institution, but it should be developed along institutional lines and not merely as a cattle station.

#### *Udialla Native Station.*

Manager—Mr. L. Buckingham.

Area of Reserve—approx. 3,000 acres.

Udialla Station is situated on the Fitzroy River about 60 miles south of Derby and was purchased by the Department in 1945 for the purpose of establishing a native institution to provide facilities for the training of native children. The land adjacent to the river is specially suitable for vegetable growing and tropical agriculture. In the past the property has carried about 3,000 sheep continuously and as a result about one-third of the land is denuded of

all growth. This presents a problem in itself and will materially affect the carrying capacity of the property. However, about 1,200 sheep are being grazed at present.

The war has interfered with the development of Udialla, but there is no reason why a start should not be made now. It is true that a staff consisting of a manager and two assistants is already on the property and that a number of natives have established themselves there, but nothing in the way of institutional buildings has been attempted as yet. The staff quarters have been erected in the main from bush timber and other material with the aid of native labour, and obviously can only be of a temporary nature.

The institution possesses practically nothing in the way of farming implements, and although vegetables are being cultivated it is plain that everything is being done under great difficulties. It is unfair to the staff to expect them to live under these primitive conditions indefinitely. Adequate living accommodation and the necessary farming implements should be provided without delay and in due course the necessary institutional buildings and facilities should be constructed.

#### *Munja Native Station.*

Manager—Mr. E. Smith.

Area of Reserve—756,000 acres.

This station is situated on the extreme north-west coast on the Walcott Inlet about 60 miles south of Kunmunya Mission.

The staff includes a superintendent, stockman, general hand and a cook. This latter position however was vacant at the time of my visit. The native population on this station numbered 94, 93 of whom were full bloods and included 14 children. No schooling or vocational training is provided. According to the manager, there were only about 600 head of very wild cattle on the property although the station books showed 2,000 as the figure. At one time peanuts were successfully grown at Munja Station but in recent years this has fallen away, last year the total production being confined to a few bags. Munja Station costs about £3,000 per annum to maintain and the income derived from it is negligible. The station is merely a feeding depot and a holding place for lepers occasionally brought there by the police.

I was informed that negotiations between the Presbyterian missionary authorities and the department have been proceeding for some months with the object of Kunmunya Mission taking over Munja Station. In my view this would be a most desirable move as there does not seem to be any justification for two institutions in this area.

The number of natives at Kunmunya Mission and Munja Station together totals about 160 and it is obvious that there is no need for two institutions to cater for this small total. According to Dr. Musso, who made a close examination of the position in 1944, there would be no tribal difficulty in the amalgamation of these natives. In that year he estimated the number to be 280. According to the doctor approximately 40 per cent. of this number

were elderly and likely to die within five years and he estimated that leprosy and disease would claim a further 70 natives during the same period, leaving about 100 natives all told by 1949. With the present population of 160 it will be seen that Dr. Musso has not been very wide of the mark in his predictions. With this rapid decline which shows no signs of abating, as there are only about 20 children in all at both centres it is evident that the Munja Station is not serving any good purpose and plans should be made to discontinue its activities if the present negotiations break down.

*Moore River Native Settlement.*

Superintendent—Mr. S. Currie.

Area of Reserve—12,629 acres.

This settlement is situated some miles west of Mogumber in country which from a productivity aspect is of little value. The staff consists of a Superintendent, matron, farm manager, two nurses, two attendants, manual instructor and an assistant. The number of natives at the institution was 260 including 160 children. The approximate annual cost of this settlement is £12,000. The stock on the 1st July, 1947, comprised one bull, four cows, three heifers, 12 calves, nine horses, 56 pigs and 609 fowls.

Another property consisting of 873 acres of suitable farming land situated about 11 miles from the main settlement was acquired a few years back. Upon this property chaff, hay and vegetables are cultivated.

The schooling of the children has been taken over by the Education Department which provides three qualified teachers. In the way of vocational training the boys are given instruction in carpentry and the girls are taught domestic science and needlework.

Even a cursory inspection of Moore River will convince anyone that the outlook from an institutional view-point is absolutely hopeless. The various attempts during the last 150 years to educate and train the native race has demonstrated beyond doubt the difficult nature of the task. The results so far obtained have been anything but encouraging and even where the best of conditions and circumstances exist all kinds of complexities arise. In the conditions which exist at Moore River there can be no possible chance of success and its continuance without a drastic change of policy represents a waste of money and effort.

There are three main types of natives admitted to the settlement. Firstly, children of both sexes for education and training, secondly, delinquent natives for what is described as disciplinary correction and thirdly, natives suffering from venereal disease for medical treatment. Furthermore a number of indigent natives reside on the property in typical native camps a few hundred yards from the main settlement. All of the inmates mix quite freely and it is not surprising therefore that over the years many of the school girls have become pregnant. In view of the ample opportunity for sexual intercourse which exists during the hours of daylight, opportunity of which advantage is taken, one wonders at the incongruity of locking the girls in dormitories at night. It may be likened to bolting the stable door after the horse has gone.

Any advantage that the children may obtain from their schooling is immediately nullified by the contact with the undesirable adult population of the institution. Education in these circumstances beyond teaching the children to read and write is a complete waste of time, in fact it is doubtful if a worse method of training these children could be devised, for in fact they are gathered up and placed in a settlement which forces them to associate with some of the worst types of natives. As a policy it is not only stupid but also futile. It is only fair to add that the present administration is fully aware of the undesirable conditions existing at Moore River and has advocated a drastic change in the present policy.

It is abundantly clear in my mind that the only chance of successfully training the children is to segregate them from the adults. In certain parts of the State this may not be possible but where possible institutions should be provided for children only. The children at Moore River, in my opinion, should be removed from the present contaminating influences to a children's institution and Moore River should be retained only for the adult natives.

The buildings at Moore River in general present a dilapidated appearance which is accentuated upon entering them. A great number offer a sad spectacle of decay and neglect. The walls, almost without exception, are dirty and in some cases have partly crumbled away. A few of the buildings are in good condition but many have fallen into a state of disrepair, and some are probably beyond renovation.

The gaol at two o'clock in the afternoon was almost pitch dark inside and this should be remedied immediately.

Sanitation and hygiene are merely words without meaning at Moore River, the lavatory, bathroom and laundry conveniences being not only primitive but in some cases disgraceful. The bedding in the children's dormitories was filthy and it was evident that a preconceived idea that native children cannot be expected to be clean was being fostered.

With the removal of the children many of the present buildings would not be required. If this recommendation is followed the settlement would require re-organising and many of the buildings at present in such a bad state of repair should be demolished. Drainage, sanitation and laundry facilities should be overhauled and a necessary standard maintained.

*Carrolup Native Settlement.*

Superintendent—Mr. G. Clune.

Area of Reserve—4,976 acres.

This settlement is I think, the best of the Government settlements being situated in fair country about 30 miles from Katanning in the Great Southern area. The staff includes a superintendent, matron, first assistant, storekeeper, nurse, farm manager and general assistant.

The population mainly mixed bloods was 163 including 103 children. The stock at the 1st July, 1947, was as follows:—One bull, nine cows, four heifers, six calves, five horses and about 700 sheep and 400 poultry. The annual cost of Carrolup is approximately £7,000.

Last year 205 acres of oats and 91 acres of wheat were sown but the crop was a failure. This year it is proposed to sow about 400 acres of wheat and oats and with a newly appointed farm manager better results than last year may be anticipated. Only about a third of Carrolup land is cleared and the cleared portion has not been fully developed. According to the Assistant Superintendent of Farming, further clearing and developmental work would undoubtedly raise the carrying capacity to four or five times the number at present being carried. In order to develop the property to the full, a progressive plan of clearing and pasture development should be carried out.

The school is staffed by Mr. and Mrs. White, both qualified State School teachers of the Education Department. The teaching here has attained a standard not seen elsewhere in the native schools and is largely due to the excellent methods adopted by Mr. White. About half a dozen children are in the 6th standard and I understand that their work is equivalent to that of white pupils in the same class in the State schools. The art work, however, is remarkable, being very much advanced on white standards. No vocational training unfortunately is provided on this settlement. It is a matter of regret that the good work Mr. and Mrs. White are doing among the children is largely wasted because of the undesirable associations entered into by the children after school hours. Similar conditions to those existing at Moore River exist at Carrolup inasmuch as delinquent natives and natives suffering from venereal disease are sent here too. In the same way they are a contaminating influence on the children. I believe that similar action to that recommended in regard to the Moore River children should be taken in regard to the Carrolup children.

The buildings on this institution are a big improvement to those on Moore River but a fair amount of maintenance work requires attention. In this direction improved hospital accommodation is the most urgent required. An electric light plant is badly needed on a settlement the size of Carrolup, as is also an improved water supply. The installation of a pump, together with overhead tanks, would enable the settlement to be developed on attractive lines and an adequate water supply would allow more fruit and vegetables to be grown which in turn would greatly improve the diet of the inmates. Similarly the acquisition of a few more cows should result in plenty of milk and butter being available.

#### *La Grange Feeding Depot.*

Superintendent—Mr. D. Barker.

Area of Reserve—450 acres.

This Depot situated about 200 miles south of Broome caters for about 60 natives. There are a number of goats, fowls and pigs at the centre and a small vegetable garden which could be developed on a good scale with a better water supply. Two wells on the property have been neglected and require cleaning and repairing. Some one inch piping and a small centrifugal pump or a windmill is needed and should be provided, to enable the garden to be developed and the diet of the natives improved. A baker's oven is also required. Mr. Barker is a new superintendent but is very keen and if provided with the above requirements I feel sure he would develop the depot on attractive and beneficial lines.

#### *Cundeelee Ration Depot.*

Officer-in-Charge—Mr. C. A. Carlisle.

Area of Reserve—280,000 acres.

This depot is situated about 30 miles north of Zanthus on the Trans-Australian Railway Line. It was established originally with the object of restricting the begging activities of the natives along the railway line. Insofar as achieving this objective it may be said that Cundeelee is a failure. The only justification for its continued existence is that a number of indigents and children who might otherwise starve are rationed from this centre. The Officer-in-Charge of the Depot is a married man with a wife and three young children.

The quarters can only be described as shocking and it is amazing that this officer has continued in office under such conditions. When questioned by me he informed me that except for one visit from a Departmental Inspector a few weeks before my visit, no one from the Department had ever seen the Depot. This obviously explains the poor quarters, for I cannot imagine that anyone in authority having once seen them would not have had the position remedied. The building, which consists of three rooms, all earth floors, was constructed by the present officer's predecessor, who, incidentally, was his father, from bush timber and iron. The iron has been stretched from one post to the next and nailed and so on while the roof is of corrugated iron nailed to bush timber. There are no internal doors in the structure, which is unlined and not one piece of sawn timber has been used in its erection.

Inside the building in the winter months it is impossible to escape from the bitter cold draughts and it must be extremely unhealthy. The wife of the Officer-in-Charge told me that the children always have colds in the winter and I do not wonder that this is so. In addition to the already intolerable conditions no bathroom or wash-house is provided. I would like to see Cundeelee abandoned but if there are children and indigents in this area requiring assistance it would be difficult to adopt this course.

There is good soil at the Depot but money would be required to provide a small dam if vegetables are to be grown with any success.

The Officer-in-Charge informed me that he would be prepared to erect suitable quarters with native labour if the necessary material was provided. If the Depot is to be continued these materials should be forwarded without delay.

#### *Cosmo-Newbery Native Feeding Depot.*

Superintendent—Mr. A. J. Donegan.

Area of Reserve—339,645 acres.

This Depot which is situated about 60 miles east of Laverton in particularly isolated country, shows signs of developing into a native settlement in which case it will be necessary to extend its activities and increase the staff. Developmental work including the Officer-in-Charge's residence has been completed almost entirely with native labour under the supervision of Mr. Donegan, to whom all credit is due. The lawns, fruit trees, vegetable gardens, fowl runs, stockyards, are particularly fine and present a most pleasing appearance. The Department is very fortunate to have an officer of Mr. Donegan's ability and type in charge of this Depot.

This centre is situated in good grazing country and according to Mr. Donegan is capable of running 1,000 head of cattle. At the time about 160 head of cattle were being reared and it is advisable that the herd should be built up by the inclusion of further cows and heifers.

The number of natives being rationed fluctuates but averages approximately 80. No schooling facilities exist at Cosmo-Newbery and this has resulted in a drift of some of the natives to the Mission at Mt. Margaret where their children can be educated. This depot with advantage could be developed into a small settlement, providing schooling and other facilities for the full blood natives of this area. Mt. Margaret Mission should then be encouraged to cater for mixed bloods mainly, leaving Cosmo-Newbery to accommodate the full blood population.

An engine to provide lighting and which could also be used for water pumping is also needed for future installations for effective working. The depot as I have before stated is in an isolated position. The road between the depot and Laverton, the nearest town, is a very bad one and it is a very rough and long drawn out journey in the motor-truck. It is desirable that either the telephone be connected to the depot or a motor utility be provided to overcome the present isolation.

There are three other institutions which, while not native institutions within the common meaning of the term, nevertheless require consideration. They are the Holy Child Orphanage, Broome; Sister Kate's Home, Queen's Park, and the Native Girls' Home, East Perth.

#### *The Holy Child Orphanage.*

This institution which is a girls' orphanage was established in 1941 with 15 children from the town who were either orphans or children who could not be supported by their parents. In 1942, owing to the war situation, the orphanage was moved to Beagle Bay Mission. There were then 22 girls accommodated at the orphanage, but when its activities recommenced in Broome in 1945 this number had increased to 45. The girls are cared for excellently in every way at the orphanage and are educated at the Broome Convent. It is plain however that the locality of this institution, is undesirable, being in the heart of Broome, and would have been much better situated in a more remote locality.

#### *Sister Kate's Home.*

This institution cares for the quarter-caste and lighter native children and serves an excellent purpose. The children are educated at the State School nearby and are housed on the cottage system in pleasing conditions. Many of these children are so near white as to pass for white children and their employment after leaving the institution does not present the ordinary difficulties. Children from this home enjoy a good reputation and many have found a place in the white civilisation. The administrators of the institution are to be congratulated on their excellent methods and results achieved.

#### *The East Perth Girls' Home.*

This institution, which is under the control of the Department, is used principally as a vacation centre for native girls employed in the country. The scheme is a commendable one for it is very desirable that native girls should have some satisfactory home in which to spend their holidays. Without some such centre there would be the danger of some of these girls living on the native reserves during their holidays, a danger which should be avoided at all costs. The home is also used as a temporary home for girls during breaks in their employment and also as a training centre for the young girls from the settlements, prior to their being placed in employment. A matron is in charge of the home and the annual cost is £700.

It is a pity that the home is not located in a more suitable district and is not of larger proportions to cater adequately for the girls. I understand, however, that the Department has secured a suitable area of land in Victoria Park and that in due course a more suitable building will be erected. The new buildings should be planned on modern lines and make provision for bedrooms for the girls in lieu of the present dormitory system.

#### IN RELATION TO THE PASTORAL INDUSTRY: WAGES AND NATURE OF RATIONS AND OTHER PROVISIONS FOR NATIVES IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS: LIVING ACCOMMODATION AND AMENITIES: OC- CUPATIONS IN WHICH NATIVES EM- PLOYED.

##### *Kimberley District.*

Except in isolated cases wages are not paid to the full blood employees engaged in the pastoral industry in this section of the State. On the other hand, mixed bloods in the main receive payment for their services, the wages ranging from about £1 to as much as £2 15s. 0d. per week in some cases.

In order to retain the services of the full bloods, the stations are obliged to feed and clothe the working natives and their dependents. In addition tobacco rations are usually issued periodically to all natives on the station.

The method of feeding the natives differs on the various stations but frequently the working natives are fed from the kitchen while the remainder are supplied with dry rations.

The non-payment of wages in the Kimberleys for our full blood natives has resulted in much criticism overseas, particularly in London. It is a factor which is seized upon to illustrate in somewhat extravagant terms that the natives of the north are virtually slaves. As far as I can ascertain the Kimberley District is the only one in Australia where natives are not paid for their services. It is becoming increasingly apparent, even to Kimberley residents, that this state of affairs cannot continue forever. Sustenance in return for service is not in accord with modern civilisation and the payment of wages eventually is inevitable. If it is inevitable as I believe, then it is necessary to plan ahead so that when the time comes the native will be able to appreciate his earnings and to spend them wisely and to the best advantage.

The obvious method is to train the children in the value and use of money so that at some time in the future they will be able to appreciate and benefit by the payment of a wage.

Schooling in the north should not aim at a high standard of education, the emphasis should be placed on reading and writing, simple arithmetic to include money values, weights and measures etc., and particularly on hygiene and improved living standards. Missions and institutions should establish small stores and the children should receive pocket money periodically and under benevolent supervision be allowed to spend their money in the stores.

Any system of payment of wages must be introduced gradually. A sudden decision to pay natives in cash would not be in the best interests of the natives themselves. The present generation have no sense of money values whatsoever and they would become a prey to the unscrupulous hawker who would persuade them to spend their money on useless articles. It would also encourage drinking and gambling and would have the effect of throwing many of them out of employment, because the stations would very probably be obliged to employ only the efficient workers and the remainder being destitute would become dependent on the Government. Furthermore, experience in the past has demonstrated that the natives fall a ready prey to the evils associated with drinking and having once sampled its pleasures and realising that money would provide these it would not be unlikely that the money possibilities of their lubras would be exploited. There is no doubt in my mind that the premature cash payment to natives before they have been educated properly in its use is one of the greatest factors in their degradation.

The fact that in this year of 1948 the Kimberley native has no idea of the value of money and no knowledge of its real functions is really an indictment against ourselves. It is obvious that unless some steps are taken to educate these people not only in money values but in other matters also, then assuming that they do not die out in the meantime, the state of affairs which exists today will be exactly the same in 50 years' time. A start must be made in the advancement of these northern natives and the sooner the better.

The transition period between their stone-age civilisation and our 20th century standards cannot be unduly hurried. Of necessity the change must proceed gradually and anyone who imagines it can be done without great difficulties presenting themselves from time to time and without many disappointments and failures and even despair at times does not fully appreciate the problem. It may well be that before the process has been completed the full blood may be extinct, on the other hand the adoption of different methods in their treatment and training may arrest the present decline in the race but in any event there can be no justification for a policy which allows them to drift into extinction without any serious attempt to uplift them.

There are many stations which treat their natives liberally with regard to food and clothing and which in addition organise picnics and sports meetings for them when all and sundry receive gifts of beads, razors, sweets, belts, etc. On these stations the payment of wages to the natives would not be of any real benefit to them at present. Naturally, however,

there are other stations where the native is not so well treated and others again where his conditions are far from satisfactory.

The payment of a small wage of say 2s. 6d. or 5s. a week to each male and female worker, not in cash, but by way of a credit on the station books, would improve conditions considerably for these latter natives and would do much to ensure something approaching a standard for all the natives employed in the pastoral industry. In addition the stations should continue to feed and clothe the dependents as in the past. Surely this is not too much to expect for a race of people upon whom the pastoral industry is entirely dependent.

It becomes necessary at this stage to make reference to the system of travelling inspectors. The present number of inspectors is totally inadequate and the districts they are required to patrol are too vast by far. One inspector should be engaged full time in the Kimberleys, in which case he would be required to inspect each station every three months, or more often if practicable. It would be his duty to supervise the spending of this credit in the station store and where the station managers are willing to co-operate, an arrangement could be made whereby natives themselves would be enabled to draw upon their credit under the benevolent supervision of the manager. In such cases it would be the duty of the inspector to examine all such transactions.

I believe in a few years' time when the children at present in missions and institutions have completed their training and providing that that training is more extensive than at present, consideration will then have to be given to prescribing a definite scale of wages or at least a definite minimum wage.

As far as mixed bloods are concerned, I favour a definite minimum wage at present for all employed in the pastoral industry throughout the State. The more capable ones should be paid according to their worth, but in fixing a minimum wages for the ordinary worker provision must be made for the non-efficient worker who otherwise would be thrown out of employment altogether. I feel sure that if representatives of the Department and the pastoralists were to confer on this point a definite agreement could be arrived at as was done in the Northern Territory in similar circumstances recently.

I do not support the contention that the mixed bloods should receive the same rate of pay as the white man where they perform the same services. It is obvious that their living conditions cannot be compared with those of the white man who is a unit in an elaborate social structure and who must receive a comparatively high wage to live up to the required standard. The basic wage of the white is fixed by judicial authority and is based on the cost of maintaining a home and family. The white man has to make certain provisions regarding old age, sickness, education of his children, etc. None of these matters concerns the average native. Neither his living conditions nor his commitments are comparable with those of the white and in my opinion these facts should not be lost sight of in fixing his wage. Furthermore too much money in the hands of the native is not good for him. He is not yet civilised enough to appreciate its uses and too much is often more harmful to him than too little. In the usual case he makes no provision for tomorrow and too

much money encourages him to indulge in gambling and drinking and instead of advancement for him it has a detrimental effect on him.

Accommodation for the natives on the stations in general does not exist if one excepts the non-descript bush mias erected by the natives themselves from discarded materials. These are always unsightly and usually filthy, the surroundings being littered with bones and rubbish. In some cases the managers insist on a periodical clean-up but the natives' habits are such that in a short time things are just as bad again. In general no amenities are provided on the stations for the natives in the way of lavatories, bathing or washing facilities. For the most part the station managers consider that something more in the way of accommodation and amenities is required and some have already made a start in this direction. One large station has installed showers and a row of lavatories on the Army system.

As I have remarked earlier it would be foolish to believe that the natives can be raised to the social plane of the whites overnight, but it was generally conceded by the station people, that much more could be done to improve their living conditions and amenities. Indeed, it is not only due to the natives as a right but it is also highly desirable in the interests of the health of the employer and his family and white staff who depend on these people from the unhygienic camps for the domestic services in the homestead. Furthermore, it is useless to try and educate the children at missions and institutions if when they leave the mission or institution concerned they are forced by circumstances back to the native camps on the stations. It is only logical that there must be a general move to improve living conditions for the natives including the provision of huts, lavatories, showers and washing facilities. The provision of these amenities without the strict supervision on the part of the station managers at first would be merely a waste of time and money but with the co-operation of the pastoralists there is no reason why beneficial results cannot be obtained. It would not be unduly arduous for the station manager or one of his white employees to ensure that the huts and surroundings were cleaned at least once a week and with regular visits by the departmental inspector the natives would soon become accustomed to their new facilities.

It is commonly said that they will not occupy huts even if they are provided and while this may be universally true as far as the older natives in the Kimberleys are concerned, I do not believe it can be said of the younger generation. In the course of my travels I have seen many huts occupied by natives. In these cases it was necessary at first to train and supervise them in the use of these huts but this only indicates that with supervision and perseverance they will in time avail themselves of these facilities. They probably will not sleep in them in the hot weather but it is the white practice also to sleep outside during the summer months and in any event they would be available for them for storing their belongings and would be readily used in the wet weather.

I do not advocate that time and money should be wasted on improving the accommodation for the older natives as it is extremely unlikely that there

would be any response from them. Improved accommodation and amenities should be provided in the main for the younger natives especially those who have had mission or institutional training so as to prevent their slipping back to the bush camps as has happened so often in the past. These younger natives who have been trained to use beds should be provided with beds on the stations and not compelled to sleep on the ground as is the case on so many stations at present. The type of hut must be of simple construction yet suitable. Unventilated, windowless tin huts of approximately six feet by six feet as seen on some stations are not suitable. This type of hut is frequently pointed out as evidence that the natives will not occupy huts. If huts of this nature are erected for them it is not surprising that they are not used. The huts should be constructed of material readily available, with wooden or concrete flooring, roof of iron or waterproof thatching and for single employees the size should be about six feet by eight feet and for married couples about 12 feet by 12 feet and each building should be provided with a lean-to verandah about six feet wide.

The nature of rations issued to the natives in the Kimberleys is far from satisfactory. It is not that they do not get enough to eat but they get so little variety and so few of the vitamins considered to be necessary in the case of whites. Those natives fed from the station kitchens no doubt fare better than those on dry rations. Dry rations consist mainly of meat, tea, flour and sugar, which conforms substantially with the standard of dry rations issued by the Department itself to indigents.

Medical men have expressed the opinion to me that generally speaking the native diet is deficient and that an improvement would result in reduced susceptibility to disease. In the Kimberleys the natives' diet consists practically of meat and bread and tea three times a day: dairy produce, fruit and vegetables being almost unknown to them. On many stations the white manager's food is very little different so that it is difficult to insist on better food for the natives in such cases. However, the fact that a manager is willing to live frugally is no argument for providing inadequate food for the native employees. The isolation of the Kimberley stations creates difficulties in the food supply but some stations in season cultivate fine vegetable gardens and the natives employed on these stations enjoy a certain benefit therefrom. But here again a further obstacle is encountered, this time from the natives themselves, who frequently will not eat vegetables other than onions. There can be no doubt that the natives' diet is deficient in fats and vitamins and that some improvement is necessary. How to effect that improvement, however, presents many difficulties.

More frequent visits by the Departmental Inspector to the stations would enable him to discuss this diet question with the various managers with the object of improving the standard and it is certain that an appreciable improvement could be anticipated.

*The North-West including the Pilbara, Ashburton and Gascoyne Districts.*

The natives of the North-West as far as living conditions and wages are concerned are much better off than their brothers in the North, yet strangely



enough it is in the North-West rather than the North that there is discontent over their conditions among the natives themselves.

From Broome to as far south as Carnarvon the natives generally are not badly treated both in respect to wages and food, although I do not say that there is no room for improvement. As I proceeded south from Broome I noticed that the wages gradually increased from about 10s. or 15s. a week on the stations adjacent to Broome, to as much as £2 a week in the Gascoyne district. The mixed bloods usually receive higher wages than the full bloods, in some cases receiving the equivalent of white standards and, moreover, on many stations are provided with adequate accommodation.

Working natives are mainly fed from the kitchen, the dependants receiving dry rations. The discontent referred to earlier in this section exists in the Port Hedland-Pilbara districts. Some 600 natives in all, including women and children, the majority of whom previously lived and worked on the stations, at the time of my inspection were congregated in two groups, one 12 miles out of Port Hedland and the other at Moolyella near Marble Bar. They were generally referred to as "the strikers" because some two years ago they walked off the stations where they were employed because they were not satisfied with their conditions. There can be no doubt that Communistic influence brought about the position but it is equally obvious that there was a certain amount of fertile soil in which to sow the Communistic seed. These natives were not rationed by the Department but fended for themselves on a community basis, their main source of income being derived from surface mining, shelling, kangaroo hunting and dogging.

A great deal of friction was apparent between the pastoralists and the natives and it seemed quite certain that only a percentage of them would ever regain their former employment. The attitude of the pastoralists was that in future they would only employ the efficient ones and all in all it seemed that the natives had lost more than they were likely to gain from the strike.

On their part the natives demanded better wages, better food and accommodation. It is difficult to foresee the outcome of the Pilbara situation. Many thought in the early stages that the natives would soon capitulate or that there would be some compromise effected within a short time. After two years however the rift appeared to be wider than ever with little hope of early settlement. A disturbing factor is that the effects of this state of affairs is being felt in Derby. During my visit to that centre natives employed in the town informed me that they also intended striking for better treatment. It only required Communistic influence to bring about the same state of affairs in Derby. Great vigilance should be exercised by the District Inspector to forestall any such influence and it will be necessary to adopt firm action at the first signs.

It seems to me that the present system of supervision, or perhaps I should describe it as lack of supervision, has been largely responsible for the state of affairs at Port Hedland. The natives maintain that until they struck they rarely saw anyone from the Department with whom to discuss their grievances. When it was too late they received frequent and abortive visits from Departmental officers. Their

complaint is that the Department prior to the strike was disinterested in their conditions and on the rare occasions when an Inspector did visit their place of employment, according to them, he spent most of his time with the manager and had little to say to them. This last allegation may be an exaggeration but it is quite evident that an Inspector who has to patrol the whole of the state north of Onslow, not only a vast area but an area over which transport is impossible at certain times of the year, obviously cannot visit each district more than once or twice a year at the most. It is equally obvious that upon his infrequent visits to the various centres he could not possibly visit all the stations. Had the Pilbara district been adequately patrolled by an Inspector acting in the interests of the natives and one who had their confidence, it is probable that their grievances would have been discussed with their employers and a satisfactory settlement reached. Unfortunately it appears that too little notice was taken by the Department of their conditions, which in many cases required improving. Steps should be taken immediately to avoid any repetition of striking by the natives in the North-West and the North. It is essential for the Department to know the conditions under which all natives are employed and to be in a position to insist that they receive fair treatment.

This can only be effected by adequate supervision which in turn means the appointment of more Inspectors with smaller districts to patrol. The employers must have some standard set down by the Department with which to comply. At present it is the employer who pleases himself as to what wages are to be paid and whether or not accommodation or any other amenities are to be supplied. Such a system can only lead to unsatisfactory consequences, for despite the fact that the majority of stations treat the natives reasonably well there is always the small percentage who do not. Some stations in the Pilbara district were paying their natives 10s. a week and keep and they were expected to purchase their clothing, which in effect amounted to working for clothing and keep, and frequently, instead of having a credit at the station store, they were in debt.

In my opinion a minimum wage for native workers engaged in the pastoral industry in the North-West should be fixed. Provision should be made for the non-efficient workers and also for the domestic female servant who may not be worth the full minimum wage. The better workers should receive a wage above the minimum based on their ability. It is advisable that the stations should be compelled to supply clothing in addition to wages and this factor should be considered in fixing any minimum wage. Where necessary accommodation in the way of huts and amenities should be improved.

I am convinced that on the majority of stations the food position is not as bad as the natives make out. I believe that most of them are treated reasonably well in this direction although on some stations no doubt there is room for improvement. The most satisfactory method I believe is to leave the food position to the Inspector who could discuss the matter with the stations where he considered an improvement was necessary.

If these suggestions are carried out there is no reason why many of the present strikers should not be re-engaged on the stations. The position of those

natives who may not regain their former employment on the stations would be better left in abeyance until the effect of the above suggestions, if adopted are perceived.

Accommodation in the north-west is much the same as that provided in the north except that a greater number of stations have already made a move in providing huts. In most cases the natives occupy these huts and they are certainly a big improvement on the usual native camps with all their attendant filth. There is a definite need for a concerted effort by the stations throughout the whole State to eradicate these native camps. With the active co-operation of the stations I believe it could be accomplished in less than 20 years, probably a good deal less. Surely this in itself would be a worthwhile objective and one well worth a little trouble and inconvenience. During the 150 years of white occupation of Australia the native has continued to live in filthy squalid humpies. It would be a worthwhile achievement to end all this and it would do much towards solving the native problem.

#### *The Murchison District.*

The natives in this area include a large percentage of mixed bloods. Here again the wages vary considerably on the different stations, ranging from £1 to £4 per week. Here again there is also the need for considerable improvement regarding accommodation and amenities and although some stations have already made a move in this direction, others have done nothing.

The feeding of the natives appears to be reasonably adequate and they seem quite happy with their lot, although there is a certain percentage of them with town experience who fail to settle down on the stations and frequently cause discontent among the station natives. This does not appear however to be due to any complaint against the treatment received on the stations but rather is due to the greater attractions offered by the towns.

#### *The Eastern Goldfields.*

Similar conditions exist in this area as in the Murchison. The most urgent needs here also are better accommodation and amenities. More frequent inspections are advisable for the purpose of seeking co-operation from the stations in improving the living standards and diet of the natives.

#### *Occupations in which Natives are Employed.*

Natives are employed in the pastoral industry mainly as station hands. As such their duties include work among the stock in which they are most proficient. In addition many of them become quite expert in windmill maintenance and repairs and others carry out blacksmithing and mechanical work. The females are employed as cooks and in general domestic work.

With the idea of giving effect to my views it is recommended that regulations be framed providing:—

1. For the payment of a small wage to be drawn in the form of goods through the employers for permanent full blood employees engaged in the pastoral industry in the Kimberley district.
2. For the provision of a minimum wage for all full bloods employed in the pastoral industry, other than those employed in the Kimberley district, with special provisions for the inefficient workers and domestics.
3. For the provision of a minimum wage for all mixed bloods employed in the pastoral industry throughout the State, with special provisions for the inefficient workers and domestics.
4. For the Department to prescribe a standard of accommodation under regulation 81 to be observed by employers of native labour.

#### HEALTH AND DISEASES OF NATIVES, PARTICULARLY INCIDENCE OF LEPROSY AND WHETHER STATIONARY OR INCREASING.

So far as occasional inspection may reveal, the health of the natives throughout the State appears to be good. Appearances, however, are often deceptive and many complaints such as leprosy, tuberculosis and venereal disease are not discernible by casual inspection.

The appointment of a travelling medical inspector some years ago was an important step forward in the medical welfare of natives but unfortunately the position of Medical Inspector has been vacant since Dr. Musso resigned some 18 months ago and consequently no thorough inspections have been carried out since.

Formerly the Medical Inspector was under the control of the Commissioner of Native Affairs but recently there has been a change in this matter and now the Medical Inspector comes under the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Public Health. I understand that under the new organisation District Medical Officers in the North-West and North will carry out the medical inspection of natives in their separate areas in conjunction with their normal duties. It is too early yet to ascertain whether the new system of control will operate as successfully as the old but in principle it seems to be the logical course. It appears to me that the medical care of natives should be the responsibility of the Department of Public Health which already provides a similar service for the white population. The Commissioner of Native Affairs is not a medical man and has not the expert knowledge required to exercise a competent supervision over health matters.

The North and North-West are exposed to both endemic and epidemic diseases such as malaria, hookworm and dysentery. Hookworm and dysentery are conditions which may be spread by bad sanitation. In the Fitzroy Basin in 1934, 150 natives and 16 whites died from an epidemic, at the time thought to be influenza but which was later diagnosed as malignant malaria. It seems to me therefore to be desirable that the Department of Public Health should have some greater control over natives regarding health matters than in the past.

Furthermore with the advent of air travel there is the danger of quarantinal diseases such as cholera, yellow fever and small-pox being introduced into Australia at any time. The outbreak of any of these diseases would be a national calamity and in its event it would be imperative for the Commissioner of

Public Health to exercise temporarily all the powers which the Commissioner of Native Affairs now holds in regard to the Northern and North-West natives. Effective practicable legislation to provide these temporary powers would probably present many difficulties but in any event in my view they should not be necessary. There is no reason to suggest that there would be anything but co-operation between the Commissioner of Public Health and the Commissioner of Native Affairs in the event of such an outbreak and with the control of the medical services in the North and North-West now vested in the Commissioner of Public Health, no difficulties should be experienced.

The administration of the native hospitals situated at Port Hedland, Broome, Derby and Wyndham, however, remains the responsibility of the Department of Native Affairs. This is in my view a pity as I believe the interests of the natives would be served better if they were under the control of the Department of Public Health also. Not one of these hospitals can be said to be satisfactory.

The Derby and Broome hospitals in particular present dismal pictures. There are two wards at the Derby establishment, each 16 ft. x 16 ft., one for each sex. During the period of my inspection one was occupied by eight female patients suffering from venereal disease and the other by an accident case. There were several other patients but due to the lack of accommodation their beds were in the open. Lawns or gravel were non-existent but dirty sand there was in abundance and of necessity these beds were propped up in the dirty sand. It is interesting to note that the Derby Native Hospital averages 40 patients. What was described to me as a native kitchen consisted of an oven with no protection other than a few sheets of iron. It was necessary to remind oneself that this establishment really was intended to be a hospital.

The Broome hospital is little better, the wards consisting of three small iron buildings containing about eight beds. There were no verandahs or windows in two of these buildings and it is amazing that such unsuitable wards were ever erected in the first place in a town noted for its trying summer heat.

The hospitals at Wyndham and Port Hedland, while presenting an improvement on those at Derby and Broome, are far from satisfactory. With the exception of that at Port Hedland, all of them are ill-planned and it is most unlikely that they were ever subjected to approval from any medical source. Periodically some additions or improvements of some sort receive official approval but frequently months pass before the Public Works Department proceed with the work. When at Wyndham I saw a rain-water tank in sections lying in a shed and awaiting erection at the Native Hospital by the Public Works Department. I was informed that it had arrived from Perth over 12 months previously but the Public Works Department had not been able to find time to erect it. Whatever the cause, the fact that such delays occur is a disgusting state of affairs and if the Public Works Department cannot carry out the work within a reasonable period then private labour should be employed.

In my opinion there is room for a major base native hospital in the Kimberleys, and Derby appeals as the most suitable location for it. The existing hospitals at Broome and Wyndham could be

utilised mainly as casualty clearing stations. The existing site of the native hospital at Derby was badly chosen and the hospital itself is so poorly equipped regarding buildings that it is doubtful if it is worth patching up. There is no electric light laid on and no water supply during the hours of darkness. If my suggestion that a Base Hospital be established is adopted, the Commissioner of Public Health should be the authority to plan the design. The possibility of re-organising the existing native hospital at Derby and with the aid of additions converting it along the desired lines should not be overlooked and here again the Commissioner of Public Health is the proper authority to make this decision. Consideration should be given to establishing at the same time a small laboratory which is badly needed in the North.

As far as actual disease among the natives is concerned the greatest scourge and most dreaded of all is leprosy. As previously mentioned there has not been any organised inspection of the natives for about 18 months and consequently I am unable to provide facts or figures to support the general opinion that it is on the increase. Patients admitted to the Leprosarium in Derby in 1942 number 33, in 1945 38, and in 1947 41. There were 32 discharged as cured in 1945, 30 in 1946 and 31 in 1947. During these last three years there were 35 deaths.

There does not seem to be any doubt however that leprosy is on the increase. Both Dr. Cook, the Commissioner of Public Health, and Dr. Hertz, the District Medical Officer at Derby, are emphatic on this point. Dr. Cook says the leprosy now has such a heavy incidence in the North that it compares with the highest endemic areas in the world. He maintains that it is increasing in the East Kimberleys and that from formerly being a disease confined to the full blood it is now extending to the half caste and there is a decided risk that it may be transmitted to the white population. It is interesting to note that of the 228 patients in the Leprosarium at 30th June, 1947, 25 were half castes. Dr. Herz describes the Prince Regent area as a hot bed of leprosy.

It is apparent that the periodical inspection of as many natives as possible should be re-introduced without any undue delay. I do not believe that the District Medical Officers in the North and North-West will be able to tackle this big and urgent undertaking successfully and in my opinion the appointment of a special Medical Officer, under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Health, to undertake these inspections would be the most suitable arrangement. However the Commissioner of Public Health would be better qualified to advise on this point after the present system has had a fair trial.

Before leaving the subject of leprosy I would like to refer briefly to the Leprosarium at Derby. This establishment is worthy of the greatest praise and I cannot speak too highly of it. The buildings are substantial and eminently suitable for their purpose. The most modern treatment is provided and it speaks volumes for the organisation and staff, that the native patients appear to be reasonably contented despite the fact that many of them are away from their own country and are virtually isolated. It would be impossible to express adequately the admiration that one feels for the devoted and self sacrificing nursing staff who uncomplainingly give their services without reward in the interests of the natives. There are some people who are under

the misapprehension that the leprosarium is controlled and financed by the Commonwealth Government, but this is not so. The State Government is responsible for this fine hospital and deserves every credit for it. The annual cost of this establishment is in the vicinity of £10,000.

Other than leprosy the most common diseases encountered in the north and north-west are Granuloma and other skin and eye diseases and venereal disease. It is probably that a certain amount of malaria exists along the Fitzroy River but only regular medical inspections can determine this. Yaws is not so frequently met with but it cannot be said to be uncommon. I ascertained that many natives in the vicinity of Pardoo Station become blind at the comparatively early age of 45 years and this requires investigation. In the southern part of the State venereal disease and eye diseases are the most prevalent, while throughout the whole State the natives are very susceptible to influenza and the common cold, and it seems that they possess no resistance whatever against any form of chest complaint. Although it can not be established definitely without medical examination and perhaps X-ray, there are good grounds for suspecting that tuberculosis has a stronger hold among the natives than is generally realised. Most medical officers in the north and north-west confirm this suspicion and there are in fact five or six sufferers from this complaint at present in the Broome Native Hospital where it may be added no proper facilities for treatment exist.

The health of the natives living on the fringe of the towns in the southern portion of the State, according to medical opinion, is inferior to that of the white people. It would hardly be expected otherwise when it is realised that they have no sense of food values and their diet must necessarily suffer accordingly. Add to this factor their appalling living conditions and one wonders why their health is not poorer than it is.

Hospitalisation of natives varies according to the accommodation available at the various hospitals. In many instances natives receive treatment under similar conditions to whites. On the other hand there are a number of hospitals with insufficient accommodation to provide an adequate service for the natives. The native section of the Roebourne Hospital, for example, is very badly planned and is totally unsuitable from the point of view of both the patients and the staff. Similarly at the Beverley Hospital, sick natives are housed in a tent on the hospital grounds, which is most undesirable from all aspects.

Where half-caste natives are living under good conditions and are clean in their habits there is no reason why they should not use the same accommodation provided for the whites but where they come from filthy insanitary conditions, as they frequently do, one cannot expect anything but complaints if they are accommodated with the white patients.

In those areas where the circumstances warrant it, and where provision does not already exist, all Government Hospitals should be provided with adequate accommodation for native patients as soon as practicable. Where necessary other hospitals should be required to furnish suitable accommodation for them.

Another matter which requires consideration is the position of medical practitioners treating sick natives. At present the sick natives fall into three main classes:—

- A. Indigents.
- B. Those covered by the Medical Fund.
- C. Those capable of paying their own accounts.

Medical practitioners who treat natives coming within the first class may be recouped for their fees by the Department of Native Affairs. The doctors' accounts in respect to natives treated and coming within the second class are met by the Department from the Medical Fund in accordance with the prescribed schedule of charges. Medical practitioners, however, who treat natives coming within the third class have little or no prospects of collecting their fees.

Many of these natives earn reasonably high wages and are quite capable of paying their way but in the majority of instances they evade their responsibilities wherever possible. Their nomadic habits make it practically impossible for a doctor to receive payment. One cannot but agree with the B.M.A. that this burden is unfairly falling upon a few doctors who happen to be practising in districts frequented by natives. The schedule referred to above was drawn up in 1938 and in view of the increase in costs since then it is only reasonable that the charges laid down in the schedule should be reviewed, providing the Medical Fund is to be continued. I intend, however, to recommend later that this fund be abolished.

Suggestions by the B.M.A. that the Department of Native Affairs should meet the accounts of those natives falling within the third class and reimburse itself from the natives concerned would be most unsatisfactory from the departmental point of view. Anyone who has any knowledge of natives will realise the difficulties which would be experienced in attempting to collect debts from them. Later in this report I intend to recommend that a percentage of all wages due to natives should be withheld and paid to the Department to be held in trust for them. The Department should be authorised to settle any lawful debts incurred by the natives from these funds. If this scheme is inaugurated medical practitioners who treat natives coming within the third class would receive payment in the majority of cases for their services.

Although perhaps not as urgent as medical inspection, there is also an immediate want of urgent dental examination. There are hundreds of natives, including children, all over the State, requiring immediate dental treatment.

It is a regrettable fact that there is no dentist permanently located north of Carnarvon. The white population of the north and north-west is to a certain extent catered for by regular visits to the northern ports by a dentist from Carnarvon. It would be impossible of course for him to give treatment to the innumerable natives who are in need of it. Actually a travelling dentist is as urgently required as a travelling medical officer for the welfare of the natives.

With the introduction of the Commonwealth Benefits Agreement Act, 1945, and the proposed Free Medicine Scheme the need for the Medical Fund is being largely superseded. Hospitals other than native hospitals which provide accommodation for native patients are being recouped by the Commonwealth and the Medical Fund accordingly is not providing the full benefits originally planned. If the control of the Native Hospitals is transferred to the Department of Public Health these hospitals most likely will become registered hospitals within the meaning of the Hospital Benefits Agreement Act and thus entitled to financial assistance under that Act. At the present time these hospitals are not recognised under the Act and receive none of the benefits.

Again, natives covered by the Medical Fund in effect are debarred from the benefits under the Workers' Compensation Act. I can see no good reason why natives in employment should not come within the scope of this Act.

Furthermore the provision requiring employers to contribute to the Medical Fund is having a detrimental effect upon the employment of natives in certain parts of the State. In the south I heard complaints voiced repeatedly by employers that it was too expensive to employ a native for a day or two on work of a casual nature, because of the requirement to contribute to the Medical Fund. In such cases it is cheaper to employ white labour when available. Employers frequently engage a native for a short period and after obtaining a permit and paying the Medical Fund contribution, find that the native deserts his employment after a day or two, leaving the employer in the unenviable position of having paid over his money in return for almost nothing. If the employer has to engage another native to complete the work he is required to make a further contribution to the fund.

In my opinion the time has arrived when the Medical Fund should be abolished and employers compelled to effect cover under the Workers' Compensation Act for native employees in the same manner as they do for white employees. This no doubt would require an amendment to the Workers' Compensation Act and should provide for compensation payable to a native to be paid to the Commissioner of Native Affairs in trust for the native concerned, and for a special schedule to cover native cases.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the native hospitals be brought under the control of the Department of Public Health and improved to a standard prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health.
2. That a Base Hospital with a small laboratory be established at Derby.
3. That a travelling Medical Inspector and Dental Inspector be appointed as early as possible, such officers to be under the control of the Commissioner of Public Health.
4. That where necessary additions to Government Hospitals be effected to provide adequate accommodation for sick natives including maternity cases and that where necessary other hospitals be induced to provide similar accommodation for native patients.

5. That the Medical Fund be abolished and that the Workers' Compensation Act be amended by the insertion of a special schedule for native cases and to provide for compensation payable to natives to be paid to Commissioner of Native Affairs to be held in trust for such natives.

6. Schedule of fees payable to doctors for treatment of natives be revised.

#### THE SYSTEM OF PROTECTORS AND WHETHER POLICE SHOULD BE RETAINED AS PROTECTORS.

Under the Native Administration Act, the Minister is empowered to appoint protectors and it is apparent that without this provision the administration of the Act would be virtually impossible. Of the hundred or more protectors appointed under the Act by far the greatest proportion of them consists of police officers.

A police officer is not a protector as of choice, he is appointed not because he possesses any special qualifications or experience, but merely because he happens to be the police officer stationed in the particular district concerned. He receives no extra remuneration for acting in this capacity and it is therefore not surprising that in many instances he has no real interest in his work.

There are several police officers who have proved to be excellent protectors but generally speaking the system is a bad one and has been condemned by various Royal Commissioners and investigators into native affairs throughout the continent during the last 30 years.

The usual objection raised to the employment of police as protectors is that the two duties are incompatible and cannot properly be performed by the same person. The police officer in his dual position is required to prosecute a native and at the same time defend him. This objection is so obvious and so well founded as to require no further comment.

There are however other objectionable features to the system, not so obvious perhaps but equally valid. The aborigines are as a rule in fear of the police and this in itself is an inherent weakness in the system. Moreover in the isolated districts the police officer wields a great deal of power. His word is law and if he happens to be unsympathetic towards the natives then it is a poor look-out for them.

Apart from the fact that many police officers are suitable and efficient protectors, it cannot be denied that others are totally unfitted for appointment. There are some who adopt an extremely harsh attitude towards the natives, some who fail to discriminate between the good and the bad and some with no understanding of the natives who err on the side of leniency towards them. This of course is inevitable in such a system but although it is universally condemned, no satisfactory alternative seems to be apparent.

To maintain a staff of official protectors other than the police would undoubtedly be more suitable but unfortunately would not be practicable as it would be impossible to secure the right types and in addition would seriously increase the cost of the administration.

Reallocation of the present districts and the appointment of more inspectors, enabling them to patrol their respective territories with greater regularity, would do much to remove the present disabilities. Consideration should also be given to the payment of a small remuneration to police protectors as an incentive to carry out their duties with greater zeal and in order to give the Department of Native Affairs some greater control over them than exists at the present time.

#### PROVISIONS FOR THE EDUCATION OF NATIVE CHILDREN.

This matter is perhaps the most important referred to me for the native child is the adult of tomorrow and his future and the future of his race depends largely on our educational policy today.

In dealing with this question it is convenient first of all to set out what is being done at present to educate the native race. The children may be divided into three main classes, those reared on pastoral properties, those brought up in the towns and those located at Missions and Government Settlements.

The first class, which includes a high percentage of full blood children, are to be found mainly in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Ashburton, Gascoyne and Murchison Districts. A great number of these children receive no schooling whatsoever owing to their isolated existence. Many of the stations in the Kimberleys, for instance, are hundreds of miles from the nearest State school. White children placed in similar circumstances obtain their schooling by means of correspondence courses, which, however, are dependent upon supervision by the parents or some other responsible person. It is obvious that this method of tuition would not be practicable in the case of native children as the necessary supervision would not be available. It is true that some of these children find their way to the Missions usually as a result of departmental action but in the main they do not leave the stations and consequently receive no schooling at all.

The second class of native children are in a much more favourable position regarding education than their less fortunate brothers and sisters on the stations. In practically all the towns educational facilities exist in the way of State schools and in some cases convents and mission schools also. Native children are admitted to all State schools and may only be excluded on the grounds that they are suffering from any contagious, offensive or infectious disease or are habitually of unclean habits. The policy of non-segregation has at various times and in various towns raised storms of protest from the white parents. When one visits the native camps and perceives the squalid, filthy conditions under which the average native child is reared, it is not surprising that the white parents feel so strongly about the matter. When white children become infected with serious eye and other diseases commonly associated with native children, there is every justification for white parents bitterly resenting the policy which exposes their children to infection. There are some persons sympathetically disposed towards the natives who are intolerant of white protests and who argue quite reasonably that a black skin in itself is insufficient reason for excluding the

native children from the State schools. A great many of such persons are not parents themselves or if they are they do not fully appreciate the position in some of the country towns. It is my opinion that the root of the objection is the lamentable home conditions and environment of the native children and not so much the colour of their skin.

It is unarguable that the environment of the native camp can only result in a low code of morals, bad habits and serious exposure to infection. In these circumstances it is not a strange phenomenon, but only a natural consequence that parents of white children object to their children being compelled to associate with children reared in such an environment.

My views on this question are contained in an interim report in connection with the Carnarvon State School. Since that report was submitted a native school has been erected adjacent to the mission and a difficult matter has been settled to the satisfaction of most persons concerned.

My views have not altered and I still hold the opinion that the policy of non-segregation should not be fixed but administered according to the particular circumstances of each case, but the general policy should not be administered loosely and there should be substantial reason before the policy is changed in any particular case. The interim report referred to above was as follows:—

#### *Honourable Minister for Native Affairs:*

Pursuant to your letter of 21st July, 1947, requesting me to conduct a survey into native affairs, I have the honour to submit an interim report relative to the schooling of native children from the Church of Christ Mission, Carnarvon, at the State School, Carnarvon.

The Mission was established early in 1947 and shortly afterwards arrangements were completed for the inmate children to attend the State school in Carnarvon. From the outset there was intense opposition from the white residents to the proposal to educate native children side by side with white children. During recent months this opposition has in no way abated, but rather has developed into bitter antagonism and has reached the state where white parents are openly threatening to restrain their children from attending school.

Apart from the ordinary school work taught in the schools, some of the aims of education of native children may be stated as follows—

- to inculcate habits of personal hygiene and cleanliness;
- to establish an improved moral standard;
- to promote honesty and thrift and care of personal and public property; and
- to cultivate the correct attitude towards each other, to their parents, white persons and to authority generally.

Generally speaking I believe that the policy of non-segregation in the schools assists materially in teaching native children these fundamentals of good citizenship and that viewed from this aspect only, the segregation of native children from white is not in the best interests of the natives.

In my opinion, however, there are other matters requiring consideration and for this reason I believe that any policy laid down, whether one of segregation or non-segregation, should not be rigid but elastic, in order to suit particular circumstances. The general policy regarding education of native children is, and has been for some time, one of non-segregation. As a general policy I support it, but I am of the opinion that in certain circumstances, segregation may be more desirable.

The circumstances existing at Carnarvon in my view come within this category.

The children from the Mission number approximately thirty (30) and prior to the formation of the Mission lived with their parents on the stations, mainly in primitive and unhygienic native camps. Owing to their background and environment the morals of these children leave much to be desired. Since entering their new life they have learned to sleep in beds, to use eating utensils and to keep themselves moderately clean and generally to conform to white standards of living. But it is asking too much, I think, to expect them to acquire permanently these desirable characteristics in a matter of a few months and although on the surface they may be responding to the teaching in a most encouraging manner, there is little doubt that at the present time they would lapse if the opportunity occurred.

It is most likely that the period of training which they have undergone is so short that they are not yet fitted to take their place alongside white children. It could be argued, however, that that in itself would not be sufficient grounds for segregation, but there are additional matters which in my opinion justify the intense public feeling in Carnarvon.

The school is already shockingly overcrowded and although the Government has already intimated that a new school of adequate size is to be erected the present shortage of labour and materials will necessarily delay this project for some time yet. The commencement of the new school year will bring a further influx to the school of about twelve (12) native children, in addition to the normal number of new white pupils and the accommodation, which is already strained to breaking point, will be unable to cope with this increase.

During my survey, practically all teachers have informed me that the average native child cannot be educated beyond the fourth or fifth standard. In addition, many native children are unable to assimilate knowledge as quickly as the average white child so that it is likely that the presence of so many native children in the school will have the effect of retarding the learning of the white children.

Moreover, the school bus, which transports the Mission children and the white children from the banana plantations to school already has to make two trips to cope with the numbers. One white parent complained to me that his child had to leave home at 7.30 a.m. and did not arrive home again until after 5 p.m. With the additional children requiring transport this year it may be necessary for the bus to make three trips, thus making an extremely long day for many of the children.

During the past year an eye epidemic broke out in the school and many white children, in addition to native children, became afflicted. The epidemic was of such a serious nature that the Commissioner of Public Health arranged for an ophthalmic nurse from Perth to spend two months in Carnarvon to give the necessary treatment to these children. Although the allegation made to me that the native children were responsible for, or aggravated, this epidemic, cannot be substantiated, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that this is so, when it is realised that native children are most susceptible to afflictions of the eye.

In addition, the openly expressed hostility of the white parents has in some instances been transmitted to the children and the hostile atmosphere created cannot be in the best interests of the native children themselves.

For these reasons, I believe that these native children from the Mission should be segregated and receive their schooling at the Mission itself. The native children resident in and adjacent to Carnarvon itself should continue to attend the State school and my remarks regarding segregation are not intended to them, but to the Mission children only.

I therefore recommend that a school be established at the Church of Christ Mission, Carnarvon, for the schooling of children attending the Mission and that a qualified teacher from the Education Department be appointed for the purpose of educating the children of this school.

F. E. A. BATEMAN,  
RESIDENT MAGISTRATE.

9th January, 1948.

So far as the native children attending the State schools are concerned, it is to their credit that they are usually clean in appearance, courteous, obedient and equally as well, if not better behaved than the white pupils. They are accepted by the white children who play quite freely with them in the playground. The fact that native children often excel in the sporting field tends to raise their status with the white children. I noticed, however, in several instances that away from the precincts of the school the native children tend to segregate themselves. This did not appear to be due to any design on the part of the white children and it may be that the native children realise that outside the school they have nothing in common with their fellow pupils and probably an inferiority complex causes them to withdraw from their company.

Scholastically they hold their own with the white pupils until they reach the 4th or 5th standards. In fact, up to the 3rd standard they often excel but from then on they gradually fall away and a comparatively few only are able to attain the standards of the 5th and 6th classes. There are some who maintain that the half-caste child has equal ability to the white but this is not borne out by facts. Practically every teacher I have discussed this matter with held the same view—until the 3rd or 4th standard they hold their place but from then on a gradual slipping back occurs. This circumstance may possibly be explained by the fact that their attendance at school is rarely regular and in many cases their tuition commences comparatively late in life. It is by no means uncommon to see native children of 11 or 12 years of age in the 3rd or 4th standards side by side with white pupils eight or nine years old. This, of course, is not in the best interests of either class of children.

Furthermore, no one will deny that home environment plays a vital and major part in the training of the child. The home environment in the case of our own children in the majority of cases is favourable to them but the opposite obtains in the case of the native children. Their home environment is all against their climb to future citizenship and is a heavy burden rather than an assistance to them.

Whatever be the explanation it is interesting to note that encouraging and surprising results have been obtained at the Carrolup Native Settlement School. Here some native scholars have attained the 6th standard and I was informed that their work was up to the ordinary State School standard. The art work of these pupils is outstanding and far and away ahead of white standards. The results are uncommon and are due, I believe, to two reasons. Firstly, the exceptional qualities of the teachers, Mr. and Mrs. White of the Education Department, who seem to be peculiarly fitted to the task of teaching native children; and secondly, the small number of scholars. In the 6th standard the number, about six or seven, enables a certain amount of individual tuition to be given and I do not believe that these results could be expected if these six or seven were being educated in a white class of say 30 or 40 white pupils. This indicates that native children can attain higher standards provided the right methods are adopted. The right method appears to be to segregate these children into separate native classes above the 3rd standard.

Smaller classes consisting of native children only would allow greater individual tuition than at present and results comparable with those at Carrolup would probably be achieved.

The third class of natives has already been referred to previously in this report and there is little that can be added in respect to them. They are given an elementary education on the missions and in most cases are provided with some form of vocational training which, in my view, is not wide enough in scope to fit them for their future life.

Insofar as the natives on the pastoral properties are concerned, there does not appear to be any possibility of providing schooling for them all at present. The Government Settlements at Moola Bulla and Udialla and the missions at Forrest River and Beagle Bay and the new Pallotine Mission should be able to provide education for many of these Kimberley children. If the school at Moola Bulla is re-opened and a new school is inaugurated at Udialla then there is every hope that a great number of these children should receive schooling. Beyond this there does not appear to be any practical method of overcoming the difficulties associated with their isolation. A mission recently commenced at Carnarvon is providing schooling for a number of native children who formerly resided on the Gascoyne stations with their parents. There are many other children in the Pilbara, Ashburton and Murchison districts for whom the outlook is not encouraging.

In regard to the pastoral districts generally, in my view it is most undesirable to remove the native children from the stations to the towns for schooling. The influence of the towns spoils the native for future employment on the stations and they should not be encouraged to enter the towns if it is at all possible to educate them otherwise. The pastoral industry is an important one to the economy of the State and it is almost entirely dependent on native labour. So long as the natives receive fair treatment on the stations it is in their best interests, as well as the State's, that they should be employed in the pastoral industry.

The native children receiving education in the towns become wedded to the town life and on maturing are disinclined to accept employment on the stations. When they do they are often unsatisfactory workers and cause trouble and discontent among the other natives. It is obvious that all natives cannot become concentrated in the towns but if the children on the stations are brought into the towns for education then this concentration in the towns will result.

I consider that as far as the children in the Kimberleys are concerned the full bloods should be educated at Moola Bulla or at the new Pallotine Mission and the half-castes at Udialla. To take Kimberley children to Beagle Bay, which is situated too close to Broome, is in my opinion a step in the wrong direction. For this reason I also believe the Carnarvon Mission is too close to Carnarvon but the mission authorities are in no way to blame for this as every effort was made to secure a more suitable site but without success.

As far as the Murchison district is concerned, I believe it would be possible for an approved mission body to establish a school and dormitories for the education of the native children in this district on

one of the central station properties. Some of the pastoralists are in favour of such a scheme, which would have much to commend it. The parents of the children would be able to see them periodically and the children would thus be educated in their own district and free from the contaminating influence of the towns. Such a scheme, if tried and found to be successful in the Murchison district, could be extended with advantage to other pastoral districts. For the present, this education should not aim at high standards, the objective being to teach the children to read and write and, in addition, to inculcate habits of personal hygiene and to establish a higher moral code.

Up to this point I have endeavoured to deal with the schooling of native children throughout the whole State. I intend now to discuss what I consider to be the major native problem, the future education and training of the half-caste population situated in the more closely settled areas of the State south of Geraldton, and particularly in the Great Southern regions. I use the term "half-caste" for convenience, but include all mixed bloods in the term.

Before considering this matter in detail it is first of all necessary to determine future policy to be applied to this section of the community and, secondly, having arrived at the policy, to search for the best methods of implementing it.

Dealing with the policy aspect first, it is my opinion that there can be only one policy and that is one of assimilation. This policy, in fact, has been agreed upon in principle by all the Governments of Australia, the alternative one of segregation having by now been almost abandoned. It is perhaps unfortunate that many people misapprehend the term assimilation as applied to the aboriginal race. The term does not mean advocacy of inter-marriage between blacks and whites, as some people seem to think. In actual fact, there are comparatively few marriages between black and white and in the vast majority of cases the natives marry amongst themselves, the half-castes having a tendency to look for their mates among the lighter castes. The term assimilation does not intend to alter this state of affairs but merely aims at educating and training the natives in order to fit them to enter our own economic and social life. There is no reason why the half-castes with proper training should not be absorbed into our own economic and social structure as carpenters, blacksmith, painters, farm workers, housemaids, cooks, nursing assistants, etc. In India and Ceylon there are hundreds of coloured shop assistants in the large stores and no one thinks anything of it, yet in our own State the employment of a half-caste in a store would probably result in a considerable loss of trade to the store concerned. Is this due to the prejudice against the black skin of the native, or does it go deeper than that and result from the characteristics of the native himself? I personally believe it is due to the latter reason rather than the former. If we analyse the average native we find that he lives under the most filthy and primitive of conditions and that he is unclean in his habits, idle and unreliable and addicted to gambling and drink when he can get it. If, on the other hand, he were clean,



tidy, industrious and reliable and lived under conditions similar to our own, I firmly believe that the prejudice would be largely broken down and the native problem would be well on the way towards solution.

Assuming then that assimilation is the national policy, how can it best be effected? Among the half-castes there is a vast store of potential labour only waiting to be trained to fit it into our civilisation to the mutual advantage of both races. A failure on our part to provide this training is likely to have serious implications in the not too distant future. In the settled areas of the south there exists at present all the seeds of racial hatred. It is in our own interests to see that these seeds do not germinate. In the south of the State there are approximately 3,500 half-castes, presenting an ever-increasing problem from day to day. They are rapidly increasing in number and promise in time to develop from a state of being a mere nuisance as at present to becoming a definite menace. The problem has to be faced resolutely. There can be no partial methods, for the longer any complete plan for their development is delayed the more difficult the problem will become and a solution will be virtually impossible. The time has arrived I believe when we must pursue a positive long-term policy as opposed to the negative protective measures of the past.

Education then must be made to fit these people into our own economic and social structure. They must be changed from a nomadic, idle and discontented race to a settled, industrious, contented section of the community.

It is simple to state this objective in words but far from easy to define the best methods to achieve the desired results. Most writers on the subject impress the need for a long-term policy but few of them discuss the question sufficiently in detail to demonstrate how the policy is to be effected.

In examining methods adopted in the past it seems that all these methods have attempted to educate the native child in accordance with our own standards but at the same time preserving native family life. It cannot be denied that the native family life and our own standards are as wide apart as the poles and are completely and irrevocably incompatible. To attempt to raise the status of the children in such circumstances is absolutely hopeless. Attempts on such lines will only prolong the native problem for generations. Any tendency towards upliftment, which may be achieved during the day at school, collapses immediately the children return to the native camp and the parental association is renewed. It is a sheer delusion to think otherwise. How possibly can children progress when after the day's schooling is over they are forced to return to the disgraceful verminous conditions of native camps, where six or seven children together with their parents and perhaps an adult relation or two and more often than not a dog, occupy on a communal basis a shack, inadequate in size and constructed of old kerosene tins and bags. Can it be wondered if their moral codes are low? This hovel which is never weatherproof but full of draughts and leaks is their home, the only one they have ever known. Is it not the natural consequence that these children, reared in such conditions, will grow to be counterparts of

their parents, unclean, idle and useless creatures; in fact there is every possibility that they will develop into lower types than the native adults of today.

It would appear that the normal action to take to end this shocking state of affairs is action to ensure an immediate improvement in the living conditions of the natives. Even if the present economic condition was such as to make this possible, there is considerable doubt as to whether this would bring about a satisfactory solution.

A great number of the adults of today appear to be beyond redemption and it is unlikely that they would respond to any change for their welfare. These types if provided with a new home would have it as filthy as a native camp in a matter of weeks. Vandalism would occur and it would be only a matter of time before half a dozen families would be sharing the accommodation. The home environment of the children of these types would be little better than before.

These remarks, however, do not apply to all natives. There are many who would respond to better housing and would endeavour to uplift themselves and their families. These types I consider should be encouraged and given every assistance possible to improve themselves and their conditions.

The answer to this problem of child education and training I believe is to make the native population subject to our own law regarding neglected children. If white parents neglect their children the children are removed from their control. The same action should be adopted in respect to the native children. The welfare of the children is the only thing which should be considered and the fact that the parents are likely to be heartbroken for a few weeks should not influence the administration any more than the fact that white parents in similar circumstances suffer grief. Those native parents who will not make any effort to improve their conditions and help their children are not fitted to retain them. I feel sure that the fear of losing their children would be a tremendous spur for those borderline cases to move themselves out of their lethargy and compel them to do something for themselves and their children.

There are dozens of native parents who are directly responsible for the neglect of their children. They are distinterested in their schooling, keeping them home on the slightest of pretexts. Many of them wander from town to town quite careless as to whether their children attend school or not or whether they have any shelter at all from the weather, exposing them to all kinds of harm. Furthermore the children are more often than not underfed and ill-nourished, the child endowment money being frequently wasted in gambling and drinking. These children are neglected a thousand-fold more than many white children deemed to be neglected under the Child Welfare Act. I believe it is our duty to these children and the future of this State to put an end to this neglect.

Neglected children should be placed in children's institutions and given every opportunity in the way of education and vocational training to fit themselves to take their place in the white civilisation. It is important in my view that these institutions should be restricted to children only and the ideal would be to segregate the sexes into separate institutions. If

this is not possible there should be isolation facilities within the settlement in order to segregate the sexes at night. The practice of meeting this requirement by locking the girls' dormitories at night is an undesirable one and something more satisfactory should be provided in its place. It would be in the best interests of the children to isolate them completely from all adult natives in order that the younger ones would grow up with no knowledge of the native camps whatever.

Realising that there is a vast difference between native and whites in tradition, outlook and inherent ability, I favour a special curriculum for native children in these envisaged settlements. Higher education is unnecessary except in rare cases and the objective should be to eradicate laziness and indolence and replace them with industry and consistent effort.

The education should aim to inculcate habits of cleanliness and promote the desired moral and spiritual values. Both boys and girls should be kept in the settlements to the age of at least 16, the last two years being devoted to vocational training. For the boys trades such as carpentry, cabinet making, plumbing, blacksmithing, mechanics, sheet metal work, leatherwork etc., should be taught and as soon as possible they should be applied to making useful articles for the settlement and employed on maintenance work. For the girls training to include domestic science, cooking, laundry, washing, polishing, scrubbing and cleaning floors, cupboards, etc., setting tables, care of rooms, needlework, sewing, knitting, etc.

The adequate facilities in the way of workshops and domestic science rooms must be provided to carry out these plans but after the settlements have been established a great deal of work could be accomplished by the senior boys of the manual classes. The objective should not be to produce skilled tradesmen or super-domestics, but the training should fit the children for situations in which they will be placed in after life.

I feel that it would be advantageous for all native children to spend some time at these children's institutions for vocational training. Those children residing with their parents in satisfactory conditions would continue to attend the State schools. After passing out of the fourth standard however they should be sent to these institutions for higher education. These children would be in the same position as white children at boarding schools. During holidays they would be free to return to their parents and their parents would be free to visit the school and see the children at reasonable periods.

The settlements should be established in good farming and grazing country if possible and not situated at too great a distance from Perth. After leaving the schoolroom and during their vocational training the boys, under competent supervision, should be able to make the settlement partially self-supporting by growing crops and vegetables and by raising sheep.

Sporting facilities should be provided on a similar plan to our colleges, in fact the settlement should be described as a college and the boys encouraged to take a pride in their school. In this manner football and cricket matches should be arranged against white teams and effort should also be made to encourage

the children to read. Reading is of immense value to a child and I have noticed that the present native children have no inclination or ability to read in their leisure hours. The cost of establishing a small college library would be negligible and this aspect should be more thoroughly concentrated upon. It is evident that educational and vocational training alone will not give the half-caste a proper footing in our civilisation. There will always be a certain amount of racial prejudice to delay and hinder his uplifting but this, as I have previously pointed out, can be largely minimised by his own character and conduct.

Training on the above-mentioned lines will do much towards this end but there must be co-operation from the white community. Once an experiment on the above lines is commenced the public must become interested. The work of the pupils should be exhibited and sections of the community encouraged to visit the college and become interested in the children. A preliminary football match before one of the league games, between a team from a native college and a white team, would create a good impression. Obtain the public interest and beneficial results will follow for the children.

The new Wandering Mission will operate somewhat on the same lines as I have suggested and will, when functioning, accommodate 500 children. I would prefer to see two Government institutions established in addition, one for the boys and one for the girls and these establishments should be able to cater adequately for the remainder of the children in the south. The institutions must be well planned and equipped with reasonably substantial buildings and should not be inferior to the Wandering Mission. I strongly urge that the institutions should be established on the right lines as I believe that if the schemes are cut down by economy too much, it will endanger the whole project. A few of these native children may possess the ability to proceed beyond the sixth standard. If so, consideration should be given to awarding a Government scholarship to those exceptional children who should be given the opportunity of carrying their studies further.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That Moola Bulla Native Settlement be developed to cater in the main for the full blood children of the Kimberley District.
2. That Udialla Native Settlement be developed to cater for the half-caste children of the Kimberley District.
3. That a special native curriculum be used in native schools on Government settlements and missions.
4. That where possible schooling be provided on Government institutions by qualified schoolteachers of the Education Department.
5. That two new children's institutions, to be known as colleges, be established in the south to provide education and vocational training for the native children of the south.
6. That legislation be enacted to provide for the removal of neglected native children from their parents by the Commissioner of Native Affairs, to these institutions with a right of appeal to a Magistrate by aggrieved parents.

7. That children at Moore River and Carrolup native settlements be removed to these new institutions when established.

**DISTRIBUTION OF TRIBAL NATIVES AND THEIR NUMBER. NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF OTHER THAN TRIBAL NATIVES. NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVES IN CATEGORIES OF FULL BLOOD, HALF-CASTE AND LESS THAN HALF-CASTE.**

For convenience I have considered these three matters under the one heading. The number of tribal natives for some years now has been estimated at 10,000. It is a figure which has been carried forward year after year in the annual reports of the Commissioner of Native Affairs and has not taken into consideration the known decline in the native full blood population. It would be impossible of course to furnish the exact number or even the approximate number of these myal natives but it seems certain that this figure of 10,000 is greatly exaggerated. During my travels I discussed this matter with many, including police officers, missionaries, protectors, station managers and others, and all agree that 10,000 is an exaggerated figure. From my conversations I would say that 6,000 would be a more accurate estimate and one which is on the liberal rather than the conservative side.

The tribal natives are concentrated mainly in the following areas. In the extreme north in the vicinity of the Drysdale Mission; in the Prince Regent area between Munja Native Station and Kunmunya Mission; south-west of Hall's Creek in the vicinity of Mount Erskine and Minnie Range; south of the Pallotine Mission in that area between Lake Mackay and Lake Haslett; south-east of the McLarty Hills

in the vicinity of Discovery Well; an area east of Murramunda Station taking in Mount Sears, the Wells and Emu Ranges and Lake Disappointment; in the Warburton Ranges and that section of the State extending east from Mount Cox and Mount Gordon to the Rawlinson Range and Mount Russell near the Northern Territory boundary and south to Mount Squires.

In ascertaining the figures relating to natives other than tribal natives, I have been unable to segregate the half-caste from the less than half-caste. This is due to the fact that none of the Departmental population returns or records make this distinction. These returns and records merely divide the natives into two classes, the full blood and the other than full blood. It will be realised that these returns for the most part are compiled by police officers and missionaries who would have little or no means of distinguishing between the half-castes and others closely allied to the half-castes but possessing a preponderance of white blood.

In order to furnish the information required under these headings in as convenient a form as possible, I am submitting herewith statistical population figures and a map of the State showing the areas where the tribal natives are mainly congregated. It will be seen from these figures that the South-Western Division contains 3,637 mixed bloods out of a total population of 5,896. The greatest number of mixed bloods to be found in any other division is 779 in the North (Kimberley) Division. This North Division naturally contains the largest number of full bloods, 5,104 out of a total full blood population of 10,338 (excluding tribal natives), while the South-West Division includes only 384 full bloods. The statistical information herewith was compiled by the Department and for that reason the population figures of the full blood tribal natives is still shown as 10,000.

**NATIVE POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1947.**

**ESTIMATED POPULATION.**

	Fullblood			Other than Fullblood.			Total.			GRAND TOTAL.
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	
Albany ... ..	1	1	1	2	...	...	3	1	1	5
Badjaling Mission ... ..	...	...	...	40	35	56	40	35	56	131
Balco Mission (Billiluna) ... ..	18	18	20	2	2	4	20	20	24	64
Bassendean ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Beaconsfield ... ..	1	...	...	3	4	5	4	4	5	13
Beagle Bay Mission ... ..	36	48	38	20	34	57	56	82	95	233
Bencubbin ... ..	4	1	1	1	1	1	5	2	2	9
Beverley ... ..	1	1	...	19	12	18	20	13	18	51
Boddington ... ..	...	...	...	12	13	12	12	13	12	37
Boyup Brook ... ..	...	...	...	10	11	30	10	11	30	51
Bridgetown ... ..	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	7	...	7
Brookton ... ..	1	1	...	24	11	21	25	12	21	58
Broome ... ..	290	190	100	165	126	90	455	316	190	961
Broome Native Hospital ... ..	6	3	2	3	3	3	9	6	5	20
Broomehill ... ..	...	...	...	2	3	6	2	3	6	11
Bruce Rook ... ..	...	...	...	3	5	6	3	5	6	14
Bunbury ... ..	3	1	...	33	21	35	36	22	35	93
Busselton ... ..	1	...	...	16	18	37	17	18	37	72
Carnamah ... ..	...	...	...	4	2	6	4	2	6	12
Carnarvon ... ..	40	36	43	30	24	98	70	60	141	271
Carrolup Native Settlement ... ..	28	18	10	23	34	75	51	52	85	188
Causeway ... ..	...	...	...	6	5	7	6	5	7	18
Claremont ... ..	1	...	...	...	5	5	1	...	5	6
Claremont Mental Hospital... ..	6	5	...	8	5	...	14	10	...	24

## NATIVE POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1947.

## ESTIMATED POPULATION.

	Fullblood			Other than Fullblood.			Total.			GRAND TOTAL.
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	
Collie ... ..	10	9	6	17	15	28	27	24	34	85
Coolgardie ... ..	9	8	...	4	3	1	13	11	1	25
Corrigin ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cosmo Newbery Feeding Depot ... ..	16	23	9	...	...	...	16	23	9	48
Cue ... ..	8	12	2	6	5	24	14	17	26	57
Cundeleele Native Feeding Depot ... ..	103	31	9	5	...	8	108	31	17	156
Cunderdin ... ..	...	...	...	5	7	8	5	7	8	20
Dalwallinu ... ..	...	...	...	7	5	3	7	5	3	15
Deaf and Dumb School, Cottesloe ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Derby ... ..	260	200	64	4	7	8	264	207	72	543
Derby Leprosarium ... ..	115	86	2	10	14	1	125	100	3	228
Derby Native Hospital ... ..	16	17	6	...	...	...	16	17	6	39
Dongara ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dowerin ... ..	...	...	...	4	2	...	4	2	...	6
Dumbleyung ... ..	...	...	...	11	9	11	11	9	11	31
Drysdale River Mission ... ..	130	130	...	...	1	1	130	131	1	262
East Perth Girls' Home ... ..	...	...	...	...	7	2	...	7	2	9
Esperance ... ..	1	3	...	2	1	3	3	4	3	10
Fitzroy Crossing ... ..	538	376	200	10	8	11	548	384	211	1,143
Forrest River Mission ... ..	67	59	57	1	2	2	68	61	59	188
Fr mantle ... ..	9	...	...	15	1	...	24	1	...	25
Gascoyne Junction ... ..	37	40	27	18	15	18	55	55	45	155
Geraldton ... ..	3	1	...	25	22	38	28	23	38	89
Goomalling ... ..	...	...	...	5	3	9	5	3	9	17
Gnowangerup ... ..	10	10	30	62	63	130	72	73	160	305
Greenbushes ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Guildford ... ..	2	2	6	17	26	27	19	28	33	80
Hall's Creek ... ..	315	186	32	...	...	5	315	186	37	538
Harvey ... ..	...	...	...	1	1	7	1	1	7	9
Jigalong Mission ... ..	33	41	34	...	...	...	33	41	34	108
Kalgoorlie ... ..	81	70	19	10	8	12	91	78	31	200
Katanning ... ..	...	...	...	40	35	33	40	35	33	108
Kellerberrin ... ..	3	...	...	30	25	30	33	25	30	88
Kojonup ... ..	...	...	...	36	24	47	36	24	47	107
Kunmunya Mission ... ..	31	40	49	...	...	...	31	40	49	120
La Grange Bay Feeding Depot Lakewood ... ..	219	154	56	10	4	...	229	158	56	443
Lakewood ... ..	3	1	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	4
Laverton ... ..	170	34	39	...	...	...	170	34	39	243
Lawlers ... ..	17	7	8	1	1	2	18	8	10	36
Leonora ... ..	60	20	...	56	14	...	116	34	...	150
Lombadina Mission ... ..	25	40	14	2	6	13	27	46	27	100
Marble Bar ... ..	260	165	36	27	15	9	287	180	45	512
Maylands ... ..	...	...	...	5	4	12	5	4	12	21
Meekatharra ... ..	20	18	18	90	85	74	110	103	92	305
Menzies ... ..	21	17	...	...	...	...	21	17	...	38
Merredin ... ..	9	7	10	4	4	21	13	11	31	55
Midland Junction ... ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	2
Mingenew ... ..	...	...	...	7	5	6	7	5	6	18
Moola Bulla Native Station ... ..	59	52	27	29	16	21	88	68	48	204
Moora ... ..	5	3	...	125	75	103	130	78	103	311
Moore River Native Settlement ... ..	23	21	21	38	58	105	61	79	126	266
Mt. Barker ... ..	2	1	2	27	22	41	29	23	43	95
Mt. Magnet ... ..	29	24	9	64	43	63	93	67	72	232
Mt. Margaret Mission ... ..	50	50	40	30	30	70	80	80	110	270
Mullewa ... ..	14	14	12	37	31	48	51	45	60	156
Munja Native Station ... ..	39	43	10	...	...	...	39	43	10	92
Murrin Murrin ... ..	75	60	50	15	10	20	90	70	70	230
Narambeen ... ..	...	...	...	4	4	4	4	4	4	12
Narrogin ... ..	2	...	...	25	33	65	27	33	65	125
New Norcia Mission ... ..	2	2	9	37	41	60	39	43	69	151
Norseman ... ..	33	11	3	2	...	...	35	11	3	49
Norseman Mission ... ..	...	...	9	...	...	16	...	...	25	25
Northam ... ..	...	...	...	46	27	55	46	27	55	128
Northampton ... ..	6	...	...	14	16	83	20	16	83	119
Nullagine ... ..	184	183	96	4	3	13	188	186	109	483
Nungarin ... ..	7	3	...	3	4	2	10	7	2	19
Onalow ... ..	140	80	90	25	20	15	165	100	105	370
Perenjori ... ..	4	2	...	8	6	8	12	8	8	28
Perth Institutions ... ..	2	1	1	...	1	5	2	2	6	10
Pingelly ... ..	...	1	...	18	12	32	18	13	32	63
Pinjarra ... ..	1	...	...	14	12	32	15	12	32	59
Port Hedland ... ..	125	157	31	40	34	73	165	191	104	460
Port Hedland Native Hospital ... ..	5	6	1	...	2	...	5	8	1	14

NATIVE POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1947—*continued.*ESTIMATED POPULATION—*continued.*

	Fullblood			Other than Fullblood.			Total.			GRAND TOTAL.
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	
Quairading ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	26	26
Ravensthorpe ... ..	...	...	...	4	2	2	4	2	2	8
Roebourne ... ..	141	105	117	24	19	50	165	124	167	456
Roelands Mission Farm ... ..	...	...	...	11	11	18	11	11	18	40
Sandstone ... ..	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	1	1	4
Shark Bay ... ..	7	10	...	15	10	10	22	20	10	52
Sister Kate's Children's Cottage Home ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	115	...	...	115	115
Southern Cross ... ..	8	6	...	1	1	2	9	7	2	18
Sunday Island Mission ... ..	36	37	37	3	7	17	39	44	54	137
Tambellup ... ..	2	1	...	7	5	13	9	6	13	28
Three Springs ... ..	3	...	...	10	5	13	13	5	13	31
Toodyay ... ..	...	...	...	4	2	1	4	2	1	7
Trayning ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Turkey Creek ... ..	235	234	58	6	...	2	241	234	60	535
Udialla Native Station ... ..	33	40	22	...	...	...	33	40	22	95
Wagin ... ..	...	...	...	17	10	24	17	10	24	51
Wallal Feeding Depot ... ..	10	1	...	...	...	...	10	1	...	11
Warburton Range Mission ... ..	190	142	70	...	...	...	190	142	70	402
West Perth ... ..	...	...	...	2	4	11	2	4	11	17
Wickepin ... ..	...	...	...	6	5	8	6	5	8	19
Williams ... ..	...	...	...	24	19	46	24	19	46	89
Wiluna ... ..	177	129	63	8	4	5	185	133	68	386
Wongan Hills ... ..	...	...	...	1	2	2	1	2	2	5
Wyndham ... ..	149	90	31	18	11	20	167	101	51	319
Wyndham Native Hospital... ..	16	17	4	...	5	9	16	22	13	51
Yalgoo ... ..	25	21	17	14	10	31	39	31	48	118
York ... ..	1	...	...	58	32	55	59	32	55	146
Totals ... ..	4,881	3,678	1,779	1,816	1,488	2,592	6,697	5,166	4,371	16,234
Unclassified ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,000
	4,881	3,678	1,779	1,816	1,488	2,592	6,697	5,166	4,371	26,234

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

## NATIVE POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION FOR YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1947.

Division or Zone.	Full Bloods.				Half Castes and Less Bloods.				Grand Totals.
	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.	
South-West Division	169	106	109	384	1,041	885	1,711	3,637	4,021
Eastern Goldfields Division ... ..	837	483	256	1,576	126	68	134	328	1,904
Murchison Division	260	205	110	575	183	147	197	527	1,102
North-West Division	1,191	977	531	2,699	193	146	286	625	3,324
North (Kimberley) Division ... ..	2,424	1,907	773	5,104	273	242	264	779	5,883
	4,881	3,678	1,779	10,338	1,816	1,488	2,592	5,896	16,234
Unclassified beyond the confines of civilisation ... ..	...	...	...	10,000	...	...	...	...	10,000
	4,881	3,678	1,779	20,338	1,816	1,488	2,592	5,896	26,234

Report on Survey of Native Affairs by F. E. A. Bateman (1948)

Corporate Author:

SF 25.6/2

[www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/wa\\_prot\\_list.html](http://www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/wa_prot_list.html)

[vn531959-13x\\_a.pdf](#)

# MAP OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1948

Scale 1 Inch = 50 Miles

Distribution of Tribal Natives.

