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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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# ANNUAL REPORT

of the

## Commissioner of Native Affairs

for the

### YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1953

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# Annual Report of the Commissioner of Native Affairs.

*The Hon. Minister for Native Welfare.*

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 30th June 1953, as provided by Section 73 (6) of the Native Administration Act, 1905-1947 (as reprinted), together with a duly audited Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 30th June, 1953.

This is the fourth Annual Report to be submitted by me. I am now in my fifth year of office as the head of the Department in Western Australia, and my twenty-seventh year of service on behalf of aboriginal natives under Australian administrative control. Consequently I feel I am now qualified to present a summary of my impressions concerning the administration and welfare of natives of this State based on five years of study and experience with them, and comparison with the retrospect of previous experience.

In the light of these considerations the picture as I see it is not a very happy one, but not entirely without hope. A great deal depends on the attitude of the Public and its representatives in Parliament, the Government, Local Governing Bodies, and the various authorities which in greater or less degree exercise authority and influence over the lives of aboriginal natives in all circumstances.

A true appreciation of the present condition of aborigines can be obtained only when viewed against a backdrop of the past history of their treatment and development. The prejudice and discrimination against them which has obtained and been practised in the past—and undoubtedly still exists at most points of their contact with the white community—have deep historical roots, but the cardinal cause undoubtedly stems from the manner in which they were treated at the time of first settlement by whites in this land, and when the nation was in the earlier stages of its development. It was a period when the use of cheap or even slave labour was the way of the world; certainly over every country which then had colonies it was the way of empire. There were then no moral qualms about general acceptance of the notion that the strange naked people who inhabited this island continent were something less than human; and so there began a theory of racial inferiority which became a key tenet in the extenuation of gross neglect, exploitation and worse, and latterly of legal, economic and social discrimination. The unremitting despotism, on the one part and degrading submissions on the other were handed down from generation to generation on both sides. Its widespread acceptance was given legal expression in the form of special racial classification and the passing of legislation which reflected the attitude of mind then held by our legislators, administrators, and the electors of the day. Aborigines were classed as "natives" and this immediately connoted a state of apartness. It approved of their pauperisation on the one hand and on the other directed a form of control which bordered on unwarranted interference of personal liberty unparalleled in the legislative treatment of any other people of the Commonwealth or its Pacific territories. Its effect on aborigines was to create in their minds a state of degradation, or at least of inferiority, and it appears to have gradually driven most of them into a state of passive resistance which may take years of patient and painstaking effort to remove.

This attitude on their part, for which we must accept full responsibility, coupled with that of most whites towards them, makes the task of effecting economic and social fusion of the two peoples one of formidable dimensions. It is one which cannot possibly be completely achieved by legislative direction or administrative action. The first fundamental requirement rests with the white community. The great obstacle to their development, uplift and eventual assimilation is colour prejudice. This is something which is outlawed in other countries but which, in Australia, is entirely beyond the scope of administrative or government control. It can be eliminated only by a self-purging on the part of those who entertain it.

## WHOSE PROBLEM?

In the eyes of the world the indigenous people of a country possessed by those of another country automatically become the dependants of the conquerors or possessors, who are responsible for their guardianship, tutelage, and development. In this light our approach to the social, economic, physical and spiritual needs of the aborigine of Australia has hardly been sound, or even basically realistic. To the contrary it has become one aspect of Australia's domestic administration that is most disconcerting to her friends and most frequently cited by her enemies.

The alienation of their lands, the over-running of their tribal areas, the reduction and dispersal of natural game and the subsequent increasing hybrid population have all posed grave problems for the aborigines from the time of their first contact with white civilisation; and they were basic problems because the very fundamentals of their existence were affected. Those problems they have to a certain extent solved themselves. Those of mixed blood origin living in the South have learned to live in the current changed conditions so successfully that their average level of existence is in most cases well above mere subsistence. Problems, social and economic, still face them, but they are problems which in the main they decline to accept, preferring to leave their solution to the people they hold responsible for their biological status and current plight.

Ignorance and prejudice have in the past completely nullified all efforts to improve the lot of the natives providing better administration, and education and training facilities in this State. Defective policies, for which administrators were not responsible, resulted in the passage of defective legislation, the nature and effect of which is restrictive, protective, punitive, and discriminatory. It is beyond human capacity for an administrator to function effectively under such legislation which is not understood by himself or by the people under the jurisdiction of his Department.

The net result of all this is that in Western Australia aborigines and their descendants have now reached a point beyond which without the guidance and assistance of a competent welfare authority they cannot readily progress. Their general standard of existence is at a level below that accepted as a normal, civilised living standard, and they represent a sub-economic group living cheek by jowl with members of a prosperous white community.

This problem therefore remains: How are these people to be lifted to equality with what we consider the normal standard? This is the problem which from motives of pure humanity and indeed from unadulterated self interest, is one for us to solve.

#### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The problem is one which may broadly be classified into two categories: First that of the full-bloods who are still living within the bounds of their tribal organisation, or though having diffused throughout the sparsely settled areas of the North and North-West still retain some of their tribal beliefs and practices; and secondly, that of the rapidly increasing hybrid population who are concentrated in the closely settled areas of the State, chiefly in the South. Of these two problems that constituted by the people of mixed blood descent is by far the more urgent. It is not one that constitutes a matter of "native" administration nearly so much as it calls for measures of social welfare, and it is for this basic reason that I found it to be so strange, baffling and complex. In other countries, (for example in Papua where I had over 20 years' experience of native administration), so-called "half-castes" are not legally classed as "natives", and are therefore not treated in that category for any purpose whatever. They are educated—usually in missions at the expense of their white fathers—and subsequently are assimilated into the white community as a matter of course. On the mainland, however, the "half-caste" has, generally speaking, been forced to live at the level of the aborigine. In the light of this knowledge it is most surprising to me that so many of them succeeded in becoming self-dependent and, in some cases, effected their assimilation into the white community. These are, however, exceptions to the general rule, and the problem posed by the present-day social and economic standards under which they are forced to live remains as being that of the vast majority of part aborigines.

Probably the most alarming aspect of the administration of these people is one over which administrations and the public have no control, but which more than anything else demands immediate attention and urgent legislative measures. I refer to the phenomenal rate of their population increase; from less than 1,000 in 1904 they have increased in this State to a total exceeding 7,000, and the rate of increase continues in compound proportion. This would pose a major social problem anywhere, but in the comparatively small total population of Western Australia one ethnic group which increases its numbers more than sevenfold in the space of less than two generations is a very important factor to be reckoned with, and when that group is legally, socially and economically a "class apart" within the framework of a small white community, sub-economic, dependant, largely illiterate and untrained, and unable to live up to a normal standard, the need for urgency cannot possibly be overstressed. If the rate of increase above-mentioned continues as it may well do in another generation or so today's total may well be doubled, or even trebled.

#### WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

There can be only one ultimate answer to the problem. It has been foreseen, discussed at top level conferences of native administrators, unanimously agreed to, but not put into general practice. The policy of effecting the assimilation of this group into the general community on the basis of reasonable equality in all facets of community life was first approved by a conference of native administration heads in 1937, at which this State was represented by a former Commissioner. It was reiterated and re-approved by at least two subsequent conferences; but in the sixteen years which have elapsed since it was first agreed to assimilation by official direction has progressed at a speed in inverse ratio to the birthrate referred to. It can hardly be agreed that State

legislation has accelerated the assimilation policy; to the contrary there is ample evidence that it has had the opposite effect.

If the problem is to be solved, the policy of assimilation must be accepted by whites without reservation at every reasonable level, and legislation passed that will accelerate and not retard its implementation. The legislation required should be so devised that it "classifies" only for a positive welfare purpose, just as, for example, "pensioner" designates a type of person eligible for certain benefits under the Commonwealth Social Services Consolidation Act, or "Member of the Forces" in the Australian Soldiers Repatriation Act. It is degrading and quite wrong in principle, I submit, to make racial categorisations for a purely welfare purpose, especially when the legislation concerned goes so far as to impose sanctions and special restrictions on the people concerned, merely because of their racial origin. Aborigines and their descendants could and should receive assistance from the Commonwealth and State without being categorised for the purpose in a way that deprives them of civic rights and personal liberty, and without legislative divisions of caste which must result in social discrimination, legal confusion and inevitable failure.

#### LEGISLATION AND ITS EFFECT.

Under the present legislation of the State and Commonwealth the Australian aboriginal native is not free. Few men of sense would question that. With only a few exceptions he is forced to carry the heavy burden of his colour, and even the few exceptions have the oppressive menace of the colour bar standing over them like a sinister shadow which never passes. For the educated and more enlightened aborigine the word "native" has become charged with a peculiar emotional depth and significance that very few people realise and understand. He could not himself explain but he does frequently make reference to its effect on his life and those of his family. He does not understand legislation which on the pretext of being designed for his protection, welfare and uplift, in stark reality has the effect of depriving him of some civic rights and even personal liberty. It is not surprising, therefore, that he seriously questions the motives of men who pass such legislation, and in the process, vilify and vitiate him and his kith and kin. He knows that many people whose skin colour is different from his own need the financial and physical assistance of the State for welfare and rehabilitation purposes and receive it without interference by the State legislature with their civic rights. He knows that aborigines in other States share and enjoy civic rights with the rest of the community without detriment to themselves or their fellow citizens, and he wonders why in Western Australia such matters are judged on his ability to "hold his liquor" or vote intelligently at elections.

*Status:* In Western Australia all people of aboriginal descent who have more than quarter aboriginal blood are classed as "natives" and unless individually exempted from it come under the jurisdiction of the Native Administration Act.

The first question is: Why draw the line at the quarter-blood? There are many quarter-bloods who frequently stand in need of assistance in the same way as "natives", because on a final analysis at the social and economic level in Western Australia it is their colour, and not their caste, which is the first consideration of those dealing with them; but because of the "caste line" they are unable to get it. Many quarter-bloods are first degree relatives of natives, and are forced to live with them. The privilege of repeated marriage is not the sole prerogative of the white woman. Many native women have children of mixed parentage, and sometimes of mixed caste; they are all of one family, caste being no barrier to their welfare or happiness. They do not mind being in such circumstances, but, for some unexplained and inexplicable reason, our legislators do.



Today we are dealing with five generations of cross breeding, and the proportion of aboriginal blood existent in many of these people has been reduced to an extraordinary degree. The caste records of the Department, which for obvious reasons could never have been accepted as absolutely correct and conclusive, reveal that fractional degrees of caste are now expressed as low as sixtyfourths, and in some instances even one hundred and twentyeights. At first sight this may not appear to be a matter of much consequence, but it is for this reason: if his caste record shows that he possesses, e.g. seventeen sixtyfourths aboriginal blood, i.e. one sixtyfourth of aboriginal blood above that of a quarter-caste, then he is classified as a "native" and is subject to the discriminatory clauses of all legislation that make special reference to natives. Thus in one family some children may legally be "natives" whilst their sisters and brothers may, for legal purposes, be "whites", with all consequential disabilities and restrictions in regard to rights, privileges, immunities and responsibilities. How can they possibly understand such legislation, and when they do, what must be its effect on their attitude towards it, and us?

*Social Services.*—All qualified aborigines who are not nomads, and who need and can satisfactorily use it, receive Child Endowment. At the time of my assumption of office this Department controlled many child endowment payments, the control usually taking the form of orders issued on a local store instead of payment in cash. Quiet but thorough investigation revealed that the need for retention of this system no longer existed, that it has been abused in some instances, and that it militated against the interests of both the Department and the recipients. Its discontinuance in 1951 did not result in repercussions of any kind, but it did vastly improve the attitude of natives towards the Department and its Field Officers.

Aboriginal natives generally are as much entitled to social service benefits as any other Australians, the provisions of the Commonwealth Social Service Consolidation Act notwithstanding. The Federal social service authorities hold the view that because there is a State Department responsible for the welfare of aborigines the Federal Government is absolved from responsibility for payment of some social service benefits. Here again we find a lack of knowledge of State legislation. Section 4 of the Native Administration Act provides that the Native Affairs Department must provide aborigines with food, clothing, blankets, medicine and medical attendance, etc., *when they would otherwise be destitute*, and the Department's Vote from the State Treasury is closely aligned to that statutory requirement. Approximately 2,000 aborigines or part-aborigines are in direct receipt of special welfare treatment from the Department, in most cases through Missions; four-fifths of the remaining 20,000 are members of station, mining and other communities and are almost completely independent of the Department but under the surveillance and general supervision of its field welfare staff, and the remainder live as tribal, *entitled* beyond the frontier of white expansion and as yet unaffected by it. Thus it will be seen that the Federal Authorities are quite wrong in their assumption and that many aboriginal mothers are being penalised by its ignorance.

Under the Commonwealth's social service legislation persons with a preponderance of aboriginal blood over that of the half-blood are not eligible for the maternity allowance, old age, invalid or widow's pensions unless they are exempted from the State's welfare act. Apart from these obvious anomalies, this legislation is a flat contradiction of the Commonwealth Constitution which does not permit the Commonwealth Government to legislate for or interfere with the administration of "natives" in a State. Representations made by this Department and several public welfare bodies to the appropriate Federal authority have, to date, been fruitless.

Under the Commonwealth's Income Tax Assessment Act, however, aboriginal workers in receipt of wages have them taxed at the source; but because they are uneducated and illiterate many—indeed the vast majority—do not furnish income

tax returns and therefore are denied the benefit of the substantial refunds their large families would otherwise entitle them to receive from the Commonwealth Treasury. These poorly paid workers also pay social service contributions, but many, for the reasons outlined, are ineligible for its benefits. Promises made that this iniquitous treatment of a defenceless people will be subjected to review by amendment of legislation have so far proved to be a pie-crust variety.

*Liquor and Licensed Premises.*—The relevant sections of the State's current licensing and native administration legislation prohibit persons of aboriginal heritage, excepting those who are quad-rooms, exempted "natives" or holders of Citizenship Rights Certificates from obtaining or drinking intoxicating liquor; they prevent them from being on licensed premises at all, from being within their precincts for any purpose other than to work for the licensee. Thus it prohibits the native total abstainer (and there are many), the high school student, the decently clad and well behaved worker, from being supplied with a bed or a meal on licensed premises. As a result of this discrimination against them, hundreds of aborigines of both sexes have through-out the years been forced to sleep along the river fronts, in parks and vacant lands, behind horse stables and so on; latterly educated, respectable young men and women emerging from the warmer environment of our high schools, technical colleges and city employment have been chilled, embittered and disillusioned by the effect of this "colour bar" legislation. One wonders if better sense will prevail in time to prevent the wholesale destruction of the splendid work being put into these children today by our high schools, missions and the warm-hearted people, individually and unobtrusively, with no better reward in most instances than the knowledge of their humanitarianism. It cannot be denied that this legislation also is most effective in respect to people who are least concerned with its intention. All children under 21 years of age are prohibited from drinking intoxicating liquor, but white children are not denied the right to occupy a bed or have a meal in an hotel—native children are. On the other hand for natives whose main object is to obtain liquor this legislation does not provide an effective barrier. They do obtain it by illegal means with the utmost facility, often assisted by whites, including some employers or prospective employers. I do not want to be misunderstood in this matter. I am not here concerned with whether an aborigine drinks or not—that is a matter which concerns the individual in Australia where general prohibition is not enforced. I am concerned with the discriminatory aspect of it, and its effect on those worthy young aboriginal men and women who are striving to establish themselves within the entire framework of our white community, and subsequently on their children. In the more general sense, and speaking as an Australian citizen, I personally regard the enforcement of prohibition on one particular section of an adult community whilst being legally permissible, as anomalous and, in principle, of doubtful justice.

Deciding the fate of a welfare measure on the question of freedom of access to licensed premises by natives manifests a Mother Grundy attitude that must be deplored in any modern state. Certainly it lacks foresight and realism and, in Parliament, statesmanship of the kind that is virtually needed if this grave problem is to be even partially solved in our time.

*Social Assimilation.*—A section of current legislation which is similar in its effect, but in a different way, to the legislation referred to above, is that section of the Native Administration Act which makes it an offence for a non-native to cohabit with a "native." Presumably this section was originally intended to prevent the growth of a half-caste population; if this is so your attention is drawn to an earlier passage in this report.

In the past five years I cannot recall one case wherein this section was used to prosecute a non-native for the purpose of protecting an aboriginal woman who needed it. During the year under report, for instance, seven non-natives (all white

men) were convicted under this section—six in the metropolitan area and one in the country. In no single case was there any particular aspect which is not paralleled in the everyday life of our white community in much greater proportion, and in circumstances which, if a "native" were not involved, would not be noticed. The fact that 85 per cent. of the convictions were recorded in the metropolitan area (where there is only one per cent. of the State's aboriginal population) is in itself revealing enough.

However, it is in respect to those who do not need it that this strange legislation is again most profound in its effect. Cases by the dozen could be quoted of attractive young girls, even school-girls, having been insulted and shocked by the action of Police and mischievous-minded busy-bodies when they have been in the company of a non-native of the opposite sex. In this connection motorists and others have unwittingly committed a punishable offence and have been warned by the Police for giving a native of the opposite sex a "lift" on country roads; it is an offence for a person to have a native of the opposite sex in his or her house, without the permission in writing of a Protector of Natives. Under circumstances imposed by this section the social assimilation of respectable, educated young natives must inevitably suffer setbacks.

*Employment.*—Natives must be employed under permit. This system, intended to protect native employees, sometimes has the effect of bonding them to their employers. Under current legislation a native worker is under the supervision of a Police officer or Protector and may not absent himself from his service or quit his work without reasonable cause. Thus he is not permitted to barter his service, or change his place of employment whilst under the provisions of the Permit to Employ without the consent of his employer.

*General.*—Other sections of the Native Administration Act and other pieces of legislation in lesser degree affect the lives and conditions of natives. They are too numerous to be dealt with here.

It is a common mistake to suppose that the period of culture conflict between white and black in Australia belongs only to the days of our early colonial history. Twenty thousand persons of aboriginal descent in Western Australia show that it is still in progress today. The white race, as the dominant race, is charged with the responsibility of making their highroad of history and development as free from obstacles and hardship as it can and our legislators have laid upon the Department of Native Affairs the duty of acting as guide. The Department's task is to act, not as a buffer between white and black, but as a bridge, and to assist them though the process of their absorption. It cannot perform its task to the satisfaction of itself or the people it is trying to help if the tools placed in its hand are blunt and defective. The onus of responsibility rests squarely on the shoulders of our legislators and the architects of Government policy. It is the duty of the Department to align its administration with such policy and legislation irrespective of any personal views and opinions its expert officers may hold. Experience over the past five years has proved conclusively that where the recommendation of the Department conflict with political self-interest they are frequently shelved or set aside. In this circumstance one is reminded of John Stuart Mill's statement that "A state which dwarfs its men in order that they may be more docile instruments in its hands even for beneficial purposes, will find that with small men no great thing can really be accomplished." Until Australia genuinely places native interests on a higher level in the handling of its social, economic and political affairs, it is clearly not entitled to pass judgment on the administration and treatment of natives in other countries.

#### EDUCATION.

Education is perhaps the most significant index of over-all native progress. As long as he is ignorant and illiterate the aborigine—including the

"half-caste"—is unqualified for the better jobs; without the improved income which comes from better jobs he is handicapped in finding better housing; poor housing breeds disease, crime and discouragement. Given education he is enabled to speak up for his rights; he increases the prestige of his community and his own self respect and is able to thereby develop friendly face-to-face relations with the white population. Most of all he achieves real cultural status and the sense of social responsibility which exerts continual and inexorable pressure against the web of discrimination which confines him.

Under the impetus of the enlightened policy of the State Education Department in Western Australia, native education is making great strides. Unfortunately, due mainly to the seasonal and casual nature of their employment, it has not been possible as yet to collate statistical information which would permit an estimate of current literacy among adult natives. In the field of primary education, however, the position in the South has vastly improved over recent years, and it would be safe to estimate that at least 90 per cent. of native children of school age now attend school. In the North, outside of towns, where natives live as station or mining communities, the position is not so satisfactory, but is receiving the attention of the Education Department. The Director of Education, from a background of wide experience in the Eastern States and the Northern Territory, has developed a special section of his department under Superintendent Thornbury to deal with native education. Curricula for wholly native schools, designed to suit the requirements of the pupils and their state of immediate and future economic and social absorption, have been carefully drawn up and distributed, together, with specially designed school readers. This wise and understanding administration, in my view, based on the conviction that given equality of opportunity the aboriginal child can attain an educational standard at least comparable with whites in similar circumstances. Consequently as a contribution towards the accepted policy of the ultimate assimilation of natives into the white community its value is beyond assessment.

Defective policies beyond the control of the Education Department will, however, result in unbridged gaps in the lives of young natives. For example, I know of more than one Mission authority which subscribes to the view that the limit of scholastic attainment for even part aborigines in the South is something approximating fifth standard, sufficient only to satisfy the needs of a peasant class. The State welfare and education authorities do not agree, and Missions subsidised by this department are by administrative direction required to maintain "efficient" schools which means that they must conform to the requirements of the Education Department. In the South the Normal State School standard is required.

Frequently native children receive a good primary education but when they leave school lack of suitable accommodation makes it difficult for them to continue on to secondary and tertiary education or, in the case of those with the necessary aptitude, to further trade training. Within the limits of its resources the Department has attempted to bridge the gap by the establishment of hostels in the metropolitan area for the accommodation of boys and girls attending high school. A few more girls attending high schools in the country are boarded out by the Department at a Mission. Much more could and should be done in this way; apart from all else the value of these young people in terms of social and economic progress to the native cause, is inestimable. Not long ago native girls and boys were forced to seek a living at an early age as rural workers and domestic servants respectively; now, in increasing numbers they are being educated and trained as clerks, typists, telephonists, welfare assistants, nurses, and apprentices in the building, electrical, manufacturing and other trades. What does this mean? Among many things of a personal nature it means that an army of community leaders and spokesmen for the native



cause is being developed—an army that must and will make itself heard. Already several have delivered addresses in public and over the air, and contributed stirring articles to the press. It means that they will gradually take up their own case with the white community, and manage their own welfare administration. Already 12 native clerks are employed by this Department and in each case they have replaced white officers. It means that in the very near future native Patrol Officers will be appointed to districts throughout the State to carry on the administrative, inspectional and welfare work now in the hands of white officers. It means that the accepted picture of the native as being ignorant, lazy irresponsible and amusing will have to be drastically modified. At least one educated native has, as a writer, already made the white community in Western Australia keenly aware of the cruel injustice of prejudice. There are others who, to my knowledge, will soon be equally capable of dealing with the intemperate statements which from time to time appear on the lunatic fringe of daily press correspondence.

The policy of the Press is generally in harmony with that of the State Departments herein referred to, but has not, as yet, so far as I can judge, been sufficiently influenced by current international thought and concept as expressed from time to time by trained scientists and experienced administrators to strike forcibly at some of the myths which exist at public and political levels. It is not always wise to ignore the advice of the specialist and modern science when the patient is suffering from a deep-seated cancerous growth.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

Next to education, employment is probably the most important avenue of advancement towards native assimilation. Unlike education, however, progress cannot be reported at this stage. In the North, where aborigines are members of station and mining communities—as has been stated they are reasonably well established and at least physically secure. The mixed-blood population of the South is, however, in a most precarious economic plight, and for this state of affairs the nature of their employment is almost wholly responsible. It has been very ably described by the District Officer of the Great Southern District, Mr. C. R. Wright Webster, who says: "The natives of the Southern District are mainly 'hybrids' or caste natives. They no longer dominate the labour field in the South as they used to do. The reason for this is the increasing number of New Australians who each year, as their two year contracts with the Government terminate, launch out as contractors and labourers in jobs such as post cutting, fencing, clearing, including the operations of 'chopping down' and 'burning up' and are even taking such jobs as general rouseabouts on farms.

The natives, however, are still in great demand as shearers, a lucrative field of enterprise not yet entered by New Australians in the South of the State.

The advent of the New Australian into the field of employment which formerly the native depended on almost entirely for his means of livelihood has affected the availability of employment for the native. Many farmers, tiring of the "sub" system—whereby the native, before he starts a job, demands an advance for stores, usually £5—and also of the unreliability of those natives employed by them, have switched to New Australians for such jobs as post-cutting, fencing and clearing, contending that by so doing they are never worried for "subs" or advances, the jobs are done quicker, and that New Australians are more reliable in regard to turning up on the job on time.

Even in the domestic field New Australian women are ousting native domestics. In many of the Great Southern towns employment was available to native women and girls for such work as domestic laundry, polishing and cleaning and as hospital maids. New Australian women are gradually filling these positions to the exclusion of native women.

"On the other hand the reliable element amongst the natives have no difficulty in regard to employment. There are many farms in the South where native labour is exclusively used and many homes, particularly in the South-West, where domestic positions are filled by native girls and where employers have expressed themselves as most satisfied with their native employees even, in many instances, reverting to native labour after trying New Australian labour.

However, as more and more New Australians complete their two year contracts as assisted immigrants and become free to enter the various avenues of employment—some quite lucrative—which are now dominated by native labour, the employment position for natives, chiefly the unreliable element amongst them, is bound to deteriorate. This ingress of new blood into the labour field may have the good effect of making unreliable natives change their ways in order to ensure employment for themselves.

Wages on the whole are satisfactory. Employers for the most part pay well. The basic wage and, in contract work, award rates are strictly followed and in some cases amounts higher than the award rates and basic wage are paid. Cases in which employers are underpaying are very rare and are promptly attended to.

The unfortunate feature of native employment is that it is seasonal for the most part and therefore not permanent. Only a small percentage of natives are in permanent employment in this District, chiefly in domestic service and a few as permanent hands on farms. At a rough estimate I would say that only 5 per cent. of the Southern hybrids are in permanent employment.

The generality of natives in the South with their employment restricted to such seasonal work as seeding and harvesting, crutching and shearing, potato planting and harvesting and other temporary wages work and simple labouring jobs—besides contract work such as post-cutting and fencing and clearing—would not be employed on an average for more than eight or nine months in the year. It is not uncommon while on patrol to meet natives at their camps who have been a week, two weeks or even three weeks out of work in between jobs. Then there is also the slack season, generally in the early winter months when seeding has been completed, crutching done and it is too wet for clearing operations. During this slack season employment is very hard to find.

Employment for eight or nine months of the year places a severe strain on the native breadwinner. Some are more fortunately situated than others in that they can supplement their larders by kangaroo meat, but these are the few fortunate natives who happen to live near uncleared bush country. Rabbit trapping also helps to tide those who have traps over this difficult period.

There is no doubt that this dependence on seasonal occupations by the majority of natives, whereby their employment is restricted to eight or nine months in the year, places them in a sub-economic group. Store accounts accrue and medical expenses are incurred whilst natives are not employed, to be paid for later when employment is found. It can therefore be appreciated why the average native is nearly always saddled with debt of some sort or other. Particularly crippling are the present heavy hospital expenses."

If it is accepted that the majority of natives, on their present stage of development, belong to a sub-economic group, then there is no reason why they should not be treated similar to those of other sub-economic groups such as age and invalid pensioners, to quote but two, for the purpose of medical treatment. There are many who may scoff at this suggestion pointing out that natives receive good money for shearing, clearing, etc. This is admitted, but at the same time it must be remembered that out of this money they are expected to meet their debts and obligations accrued during those portions of the year they are not in employment due to unavailability of work. It is pathetic to see cases, not uncommon, of native mothers who have brought a child to the doctor and then, given a prescription, go back to their

camps without the medicine because they have not the money to pay and the husband is out of work.

Under this heading the reports of other District Officers which follow are interesting and informative.

#### CONCLUSION.

The foregoing observations represent my sincere beliefs and opinions, supported above and below by those of my senior Field Officers. They represent what we believe to be "the native problem" as

it is seen by us who live in almost daily contact with it. We feel that as prejudice and discrimination are eliminated from our way of life, the natives' rights will be established, but with the utmost sincerity of purpose we press for urgent consideration of our view that the only way to learn democracy is to practice it and that no positive progress will be made until natives are given the opportunity to do so. Given this, and with the help of God and us, it is not impossible that they will make the twentieth century one of notable achievement for natives and white Australians alike.

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## Section "A."

## DISTRICT REPORTS.

## CENTRAL DISTRICT.

*Introduction.*

By comparison with last year's this annual report presents a slightly more hopeful picture. A more stabilised staff situation has enabled a better personal contact with aborigines to be maintained; patrolling in two sub-districts was distinctly accelerated; a positive start on the housing of part-aboriginal families was made; more accurate population statistics have been secured.

There has been an infinitesimal increase in aboriginal crime and misdemeanour—five convictions more than there were last year, an increase of .9 per cent. Once again a big proportion of convictions was for offences for which only aborigines can be charged.

An increase in the issue of rations, blankets and clothing has been evident.

## Part 1.—ADMINISTRATION.

1.—*Staff.*

Five new appointments, three resignations and four transfers took place within the district during the year—a much more favourable staff situation than the previous year when staff movements etc. brought about fifteen changes in personnel. Compared with eleven transfers in that year only four transfers this year allowed a more stable staff position and enabled a more continuous personal contact with aborigines to be maintained.

The number of aboriginal clerical assistants at the district headquarters was increased to two.

2.—*Missions and Institutions.*

Of the nine Missions in the District two have no inmates, four cater almost exclusively for children and three cater for children and adults. Two of the missions are in remote marginal areas and their special function is not paralleled by that of other missions. They serve as contact points and to minister to the direct physical needs of the aboriginal people in the outback.

Some index to the valuable contribution of these missions to aboriginal welfare is contained in the following figures. Throughout the year a total number of 454 children (including 30 State Wards) and 159 adults was accommodated in their institutions. The total number of recorded children in the district is 1,986 which means that seven missions are undertaking the welfare, care, custody and education of almost 22 per cent. of all the children in the district.

All missions, with the exception of the United Aborigines Mission, Warburton Ranges, have been visited several times by field officers during the year.

3.—*Protectors of Natives.*

Fifteen new appointments of non-official persons brought the total number of protectors to 85 of whom almost half are police officers. The requirements of Section 61 of the Native Administration Act (concerning aborigines before the Courts) and the complicated administrative procedures imposed on the Department by Section 37 (Natives' Medical Fund) form the bulk of their official duties. Apart from these functions valued assistance has been rendered in individual welfare cases. As far as possible protectors have been relieved of administrative burdens by field officers with whom, in the main, they have co-operated well. The chief value of the protectorship system is that it provides an intelligence network for the field officer.

Details are Honorary protectors, 2, Departmental Officers 11, Mission Superintendents 8, Non-official persons 25 and Police Officers 39.

4.—*Patrols.*

No very great increase of patrolling was established over the previous year's figures, although there was a satisfactory acceleration of this activity in the Central Sub-district, where eight patrols were completed as compared with four in 1951/52. The increase was offset principally by lack of staff in the Eastern Goldfields, and, since Mr. Butler's resignation, lack of a suitable patrol vehicle there. District Officer's inspections and other patrols totalled 20 for a total distance of 14,600 miles.

The Murchison Sub-district was organised into more efficient patrol sub-divisions and the number of patrols was increased to six. District Officer's inspections were confined to the Central and Eastern Goldfields sub-districts.

Preoccupation with administrative matters more closely connected with accounting matters than with aboriginal welfare again prevented a full quota of patrolling, but despite this irksome handicap there was an improvement in all but the Eastern Goldfields sub-district, which, as far as statistical information and welfare contact are concerned, is still almost terra incognita.

5.—*Reserves.*

Three new reserves have been created and seven have been cancelled. Among those cancelled were some originally created for agricultural use by aborigines who have since died or who have been unable to make the intended use of them; the others were all created years ago to fill needs which do not now exist. They had been unused for years, but had remained apparently forgotten on the books.

New reserves were created at Moora and Cue to replace unsuitable existing reserves and a new reserve was created at Kurrawang (near Kalgoorlie) to fulfill a special purpose. Apart from the construction of a netting fence around the new Moora reserve no constructional work was done on reserves during the year. Tenders were called for the erection of facilities at Meekatharra and Merredin and plans were being prepared for facilities at Kurrawang and Moora.

In November, 1952, a reserve was created at Kurrawang, about eleven miles from Kalgoorlie, to meet four special needs:

- (a) Care of hospital ex-patients and repatriates awaiting transport.
- (b) Rationing of indigent aborigines native to Kalgoorlie.
- (c) Camping facilities for transient aborigines between terms of employment.
- (d) Camping facilities for tribal aborigines who visit Kalgoorlie for ceremonial purposes.

Mr. W. Sharps, of the Gospel Hall, Kalgoorlie, offered to superintend the reserve and received the approval of the Australian Assemblies to erect a house on it. To give some official recognition to the Gospel Assemblies' contribution to the project, registration as the "Kurrawang Native Mission" was granted. A controlling Trust was appointed by the Assemblies. Plans were prepared for the erection at Departmental cost of hygiene and ablution facilities and a ration store. Rations were supplied for issue by Mr. Sharpe under the control of the Departmental officer at Kalgoorlie.

Shortly after commencement of this project it was necessary to remind Mr. Sharpe and to reiterate clearly to the Trust the official purposes of this reserve and to discourage any attempt to attract aborigines to the reserve for permanent settlement.



Meanwhile a serious divergence of opinion had arisen within the Gospel Assemblies which led in May, 1953, to the resignation of the Trust. An Eastern States committee was to take over management but by the end of the year nomination of all members of the new controlling body had not been notified. All Departmental arrangements for erection of facilities on the reserve were held in abeyance.

#### 6.—Public Relations.

There was continued manifestation of public interest in aboriginal welfare throughout the district and the public indifference of a few years ago is now being supplanted by the growth of two clearly defined groups; the protagonists of aboriginal advance to civil liberty and equality, and the antagonists of their and the Department's representations for a more liberal policy designed to substitute welfare assistance for direction and control of aborigines. This latter group seems to hold the collective view that aborigines must be "kept in their place", are not capable of advancement to equality with whites and that any other view is pure theorising. As is expected, strong sectional interests are involved.

The following report from the Murchison Sub-district is of interest:

"Station owners and whites generally in most parts of the Murchison are keenly aware of the Department's change in policy. In most instances station owners cannot bring themselves to believe that the present policy is sound or right. In this territory even those who claim to be pro-aborigine submit that an aborigine "must be kept in his place." Police officers contribute strongly to this latter policy in almost all instances. . . . To fight against discrimination and prejudice in the Murchison is to fight the entire recognised social system of the white community.

"In years past (recent years) a fairly good relationship has apparently existed between aborigines and whites on the basis of the attitude of "we are good to you" from the station owners and other employers. Aborigines, with no alternative, have made the best of such conditions and have lived on a superficially friendly basis with whites.

"Recently publicity has been directed against employers (including mostly station owners) tending to show them up as exploiters of a downtrodden and defenceless race. Such an accusation, applied to station owners in this sub-district, is in very many cases severely unjust. It may not have been meant to apply to Murchison district employers. However, they have accepted the glove and while at one stage they "tolerated" a "neutral" Department, they are prepared to strongly oppose one which has a policy designed to assist aborigines to have equal rights and privileges with whites."

It is a field officer's duty to associate himself with the interests of the aborigines whose cause he is bound to advance and it is therefore inevitable that he will be exposed to hostility in all cases where white and aboriginal interests are economically or socially opposed. It is some satisfaction to report, therefore, that aboriginal confidence in Departmental officers is becoming more pronounced. About four years ago the Departmental field officer was in the unfortunate predicament of being the nut in the cracker, since, without personal considerations and merely because of his official position, he was subjected to hostility by both whites and aborigines alike. At least we are now beginning to redeem ourselves in the eyes of the aborigines, and although dislike and resentment of the Department has not been altogether dissipated, we are making some progress towards gaining their goodwill.

#### 7.—General Administrative Functions.

As was the case last year, native administration legislation, out of step with the times, brought its usual burden of petty, time-consuming administrative functions. These can best be exemplified by the following figures relating to medical accounts handled through the year:

Natives Medical Fund	1,430
N.A.A.T.	411
Recoverable and Private Contractor	929
<b>Total.</b>	<b>2,770</b>

On a working year of 255 days an average of 10.8 accounts were dealt with each day. Each account had to be scrutinised by a Protector or a field officer and a classification made according to the aboriginal patient's individual personal circumstances at the time of treatment. The result has been that field officers, who should have been going about their proper functions have been too long tied to their desks by clerical matters.

## Part II.—Aborigines.

### 1. Vital Statistics.

Estimates of the number of aborigines in the district were computed by field officers this year, instead of by police officers as formerly. The figures quoted below are based partly on recorded census statistics, partly on information of births and deaths from the Registrar General's Department and partly on estimates made on patrols. As the principal basis of computation is a recorded field census the total figure is probably a more realistic estimate than that available before. As most of the increase of 3,013 over the 1951-52 total is made up by aborigines previously missed, it is impossible to determine from a comparison of figures how much, if any, of the increase is due to preponderance of births over deaths.

Figures are:—

Sub-district.	Full-Bloods.				Others.				Grand Total.
	M.	F.	C.	Total.	M.	F.	C.	Total.	
Central	52	36	12	100	435	428	780	1,643	1,743
Murchison	320	230	150	700	500	450	500	1,450	2,150
Eastern Goldfields	473	400	271	1,144	214	159	273	646	1,790
<b>Total</b>	<b>845</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>1,944</b>	<b>1,149</b>	<b>1,037</b>	<b>1,553</b>	<b>3,739</b>	<b>5,683</b>

### DISTRICT TOTAL.

Classification.	Adult Males.	Adult Females.	Children under 16.	Total.
Fullbloods	845	666	433	1,944
Others	1,149	1,037	1,553	3,739
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,994</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>1,986</b>	<b>5,683</b>

No attempt has been made to estimate the number of aborigines beyond settled areas.

## 2. Health.

No accurate information on this subject has been provided by outstations to enable me to compile a general statement for the District. Last year an extract for a patrol report was chosen as typical of aborigines in closely settled areas.

The following extract is from the Murchison Sub-district annual report:

"Health and diet are so closely connected that both are dealt with in the one section of this report.

It can be said that there has been no incidence of a large number of obvious chronic complaints of either a general or particular nature. This cannot be taken, however, to be an indication of general good health.

Among the lesser obvious complaints is a high incidence of eye infections, scabies and to a somewhat lesser extent stomach disorders and serious colds—bronchitis, pneumonia, influenza, etc. These latter ailments took the lives of far too many aboriginal infants.

Of ailments which are not obvious to the untrained, such as tuberculosis and venereal disease, it is difficult to arrive at an estimate of their incidence. However, it would appear that the incidence of V.D. amongst aborigines is certainly not low and that the number of reported cases in comparison with the number of unreported ones would tend to indicate to the statistician who might examine Public Health records that the incidence of the diseases was not at alarming proportions. It is felt that because of aborigines' ignorance to the seriousness of this complaint and its methods of treatment, that a lesser percentage of them would report than could be expected of a white community.

Lack of a balanced diet and the use of one deficient in many requirements has a definite deleterious effect on the health of Murchison aborigines.

On some stations diet is well balanced and sufficient. At such places aborigines invariably can be noticed to be in a better state of general health than at places where diet is lacking.

The accusation often levelled at aborigines—that they are lazy—is an accusation which may be heard on the stations where their diet is quite different from the diet of the station manager. If it were expected of the manager to live on the rations issued to his aboriginal employees his first reactions would be that "a white man can't be expected to work without he's fed".

It is a common assumption among some station owners, especially in the Eastern and Northern Murchison, that an aborigine can thrive and work on a diet which in no way compares with that of whites.

In his natural state the aborigine ekes out an existence in conditions where a white man die. This does not mean that he can sustain considerable effort on the same diet or a similar one, without such effort having a serious ill effect on his health.

It is with interest that one may note, that where diet is poor there is a lack of vitality amongst aborigines and a lethargy which is not apparent to any marked extent where aborigines receive varied and sufficient rations which contain the elements of a balanced diet.

Away from stations, and even on them in instances, ignorance of those things required in a diet cause aborigines, from choice, to live on a substandard ration. It is not uncommon to find whole families from infants upwards living on a diet consisting largely of biscuits, chocolate and aerated waters—the latter commodity being consumed in fabulously large quantities.

Like so many other facets of aboriginal life in the Murchison the health and diet of aborigines (which is markedly dissimilar from that of the whites) requires a survey to be made

by qualified persons in order that facts may be obtained and measures instituted to combat deficiencies in diet brought about mainly by ignorance and to remedy automatically those ailments or lack of general good health which are direct results".

## 3. Education.

Approximately 22 per cent. of the district's aboriginal children under 16 years of age are being educated in Mission institutions. Of the remainder those who are in settled areas attend State Schools. On the whole, absenteeism among aboriginal children is higher than among white children, partly because their parents, who are so often uneducated or ill-educated themselves, have not developed a full sense of responsibility towards the education of their children, but mainly owing to their parent's difficulty in obtaining fixed and stable employment.

I have not yet obtained statistics of the number of aboriginal children in schools or details of their standard and progress. Such information is vital to development of future planning and policy.

## 4. Aboriginal Labour and Employment.

There has been no change in the general situation disclosed last year, except that the falling off in demand for aboriginal labour has continued. This has been reflected in the increase of ration issues to middle aged and elderly aborigines who formerly were able to maintain themselves but now find it difficult to obtain even casual odd jobs.

## 5. Crime.

Court returns reveal that 537 convictions for petty offences and seven convictions for criminal offences were recorded against aborigines. Of the petty offences 303 were for drunkenness and 119 for receiving liquor. The criminal convictions were for wilful murder, two; assault and occasioning grievous bodily harm, one; robbery with violence, three; and breaking and entering, one.

Only one Court of Native Affairs was held during the year when the fullblood Darkie was tried on a charge of assault occasioning grievous bodily harm. The Court sat at Wiluna in February, 1953, and comprised Mr. T. Ansell, R.M., President, and Rev. D. L. McCaskill, Commissioner's representative. The defence was undertaken by Mr. A. O. Day, Patrol Officer. Darkie was convicted and sentenced to 75 days' imprisonment.

## 6. Projects.

*Housing.*—In 1951 five applications had been McDonald House were availed of by 11 girls and six boys from this district. From the beginning of the 1953 school year accommodation at these hostels was restricted to those children who were continuing with secondary education and alternative accommodation was found for (or by) youths and girls in apprenticeships or employment. In the case of some apprentices on low wages it was found necessary to subsidise their board and lodging at private boarding houses. Such subsidies are paid on a reducing scale which diminishes with each rise in wages so that the apprentice becomes financially self-dependent as soon as it is economically possible to do so.

*Housing.*—In 1951 five applications had been lodged by aborigines for tenancy homes under the Commonwealth-State rental housing scheme. None of these applicants has yet been housed. One man, whose family had been occupying poor rental accommodation in Geraldton, placed greater faith in his own efforts than in his chances of State assistance. Although working in Carnarvon, he purchased a block of land at Wonthella, brought building materials from Perth and, working in his spare time, erected a wood and asbestos house himself. Two others have been beset by financial difficulties, mainly owing to high medical expenses, and cannot afford to continue with any housing venture. Of the remaining two, one has lost interest and the other is contemplating a move from the country to the metropolitan area and has asked that all negotiations be suspended.

In addition to these applications, by the end of the year six applications by aborigines under the leasehold conditions of the State Housing Act were in the hands of the State Housing Commission and another had been lodged with this department for transmission to the Commission. Approval of four of these applications had been notified by the end of the financial year; constructions of two houses at York being commenced about May, 1953, and negotiations in respect to one at Kwolyin and one at Bayswater being well advanced.

In conjunction with the Almoner's Department of Wooroloo Sanatorium the Department made special representations in February, 1953, to the State Housing Commission on behalf of an aboriginal ex-patient who was in receipt of an invalid pension. Medical advice was that it was essential that he be found accommodation of good standard to avoid a breakdown in his health. A request was made for special cheap rental premises for the pensioner, his wife and child. The State Housing Commission allotted a high priority to the application and a house at Ascot was made available in June, 1953. Unfortunately, the applicant could not be advised in time as he was temporarily absent in the country. Other accommodation at Carlisle was found for him by the Commission the following month.

#### 7. Rationing.

An increase in sustenance issues to aborigines has taken place this year and has been brought about partly by the necessity to care for those who are debarred by their caste and status from receiving Commonwealth Social Service benefits and partly by a recession in employment opportunities which has affected mainly the middle-aged and old. Formerly these were able to support themselves by odd jobs and casual work, but this does not now seem to be offering.

Exclusive of rations issued through Mount Margaret, Warburton Ranges, Kurrawang and Cundeelee Missions, issues on a more or less permanent basis are as follow:—

Sub-district.	Adults.	Children.	Place of Issue.
Central ....	5	1	Perth
	5	....	Moora
	1	1	Quairading
	1	....	Meckering
<b>Total</b> ....	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	
Murchison ....	10	....	Mullewa
	35	6	Wiluna
	1	....	Three Springs
	4	5	Yalgoo
	2	....	Mt. Magnet
	4	4	Meekatharra
	1	....	Cue
	3	....	Peak Hill
2	....	Ninghan Station	
<b>Total</b> ....	<b>62</b>	<b>15</b>	
Eastern Goldfields	4	....	Kalgoorlie
	9	....	Southern Cross
	5	5	Norseman
	20	....	Mulga Queen
<b>Total</b> ....	<b>38</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>22</b>	

A total of 120 adults and 86 children (exclusive of those on cash subsidy) are being rationed through missions, which means that of 5,683 aborigines in the district 340 have been totally dependent on the Department for sustenance.

#### 8. Tribal Activities.

Patrols in the Eastern Goldfields and North-Eastern Murchison areas during the year brought to light some information of aboriginal ceremonial activities which apparently still have a strong influence on the cultural life of aborigines in the sparsely settled areas and to which even less than

full-blood aborigines are to some extent subject. It is not possible to say whether there has been a re-vitalisation of aboriginal culture as has been reported among aborigines of the Pilbara area; it is possible that in the Murchison and Eastern Goldfields the extent to which these ceremonies are practised has been more or less constant, but that they have only recently come to official notice.

The following is taken from the report of a patrol in the North-Eastern Goldfields area in November and December, 1952.

#### *The 'Kurangada'.*

Prior to the patrol there had been reports of a migration of aborigines from the Warburton Ranges to Mount Margaret and from there to Kalgoorlie, but this was not borne out by Mr. R. S. Schenk of Mount Margaret Mission, who has been a close observer of aborigines for the past 30 years. He states that there has been a good deal of movement of aborigines but this has not been unusual as there has always been a fairly free interchange of aborigines between the Warburton Ranges and Mount Margaret. Every year there is a congregation of aborigines at Mount Margaret for Christmas festivities and it has been inevitable that a few have drifted into the settled areas instead of returning to the ranges.

Tribal ceremonial apparently still has a strong influence on aboriginal life and custom throughout the whole of the Eastern Goldfields and there appears to be a cycle of special corroborees periodically permeating the area. As these probably portray the traditional history of the aboriginal race it is essential that all initiated men take part in them as part of their tribal education. As far as I could ascertain they have their origin in Central Australia and are passed from tribe to tribe through the Northern Territory, across to the Kimberleys, down the Canning stock route to Wiluna thence by two routes, the Warburton Ranges and Cundalee, to South Australia and back to the Centre.

Foreknowledge of the coming of one of these corroborees probably has the effect of accelerating the normal arrangements for initiations, with the result that increased ceremonial activity causes considerable aboriginal movement throughout the whole area. Aborigines may travel in large parties to attend these special ceremonies and this has probably caused the impression that a general migration is in progress.

At Cosmo Newbery a group of about 60 Warburton Ranges aborigines had apparently been idling there since the middle of last year. It was a mixed group of old men, young men, women and small children and it had not only been the dryness of the Warburton track that had prevented their return to their own country. I felt certain that they had originally come for some ceremonial purpose, but could not understand why they had remained so long and suggested that it was time they returned to the ranges. They agreed, but asked to be allowed to remain until after Christmas, when the corroborees would be completed. They then told me of a special corroboree which had been in progress for many months and by way of explanation showed me to two secret corroboree grounds which are strictly forbidden, on pain of death, to women and uninitiated men. At one, hidden under bags and brushwood, were about 100 sacred Mimburu: flat, oval, carved pieces of wood about 3 feet long, which are an essential part of this corroboree—the Kurangada. Some of the Mimburu were originals, others were copies, and negotiations were under way for their personal distribution among the Cosmo Newbery people and those of the Warburton Ranges. The latter intended to send theirs back to the ranges on the Mission truck after Christmas under guard of three young men. The rest of the party would follow on foot.



The Kurangada has come through the Kimberleys, down the Canning Stock route to Wiluna and thence to Mulga Queen. There it divided, some of the Mimburu going to Mount Margaret, Kalgoorlie, Cundeelee and then to Ooldea; the others came to Cosmo Newbery and would pass from there to the Warburton Ranges. From James Murray Green, a full-blood who was educated at a Perth orphanage and is now-re-educating himself in tribal lore. I learned that the Kurangada tells the story of the original migration of aborigines into Australia. His theory is that they came from South Africa, at a time when there was either connecting land or a chain of islands between the two countries, and followed the sea around the western and northern coasts. According to Green's translation of the corroboree, the eastern half of Australia was under ice and the migration led down the edge of the ice to what is now Central Australia. There the aborigines settled and with the passing of time, spread, north, south and west. Even for this very sketchy explanation of the corroboree I was dependent on James Green and it is therefore subject to confirmation before acceptance; but I was left in no doubt whatsoever of the high degree of importance attributed to the corroboree by aborigines throughout the eastern goldfields or of the intense interest they exhibited in it. It is therefore easy to assume that such ceremonies as these have a big influence on their life and conduct.

It was later ascertained from the same informant that the Kurangada was the second in a series of four such special corroborees and that the third is now being anticipated by the aborigines in the Laverton-Leonora area.

In the Wiluna-Meekatharra area a special ceremonial, parts of which are highly secret, has been practised during the past two years. It is known there as the Kurangara and was probably originally identical with the corroboree reported in the Eastern Goldfields, as Wiluna lies on the route by which these special ceremonies are said to travel. In this area, however, the name Kurangara has been associated by aborigines with deaths which have occurred during the past year. There has been definite evidence of the presence of Jin-nagarbi (men specifically appointed to punish transgressions of tribal law) wearing the distinctive dress of kangaroo skin cloak and Kurdaitcha shoes. These rumours and a good deal of patent apprehension among aborigines give rise to the suspicion that some tribal ceremonial leaders, possibly from desert areas east of Wiluna, have grafted on to this special ceremonial, unhealthy and harmful practices not embodied in the original corroboree. It is difficult to differentiate between fact and rumour, truth and superstition; but there has been sufficient evidence of aborigines' concern over Kurangara to warrant investigation and this is being done.

### 9.—Metropolitan Social Welfare.

Although the information in this report is stated in general terms to reflect conditions throughout the district as a whole, I can not forbear to make special mention of matters relating to a specific area. There has been Press and public reference on more than one occasion to aborigines in the Metropolitan area of Perth, particularly alluding to prostitution and delinquency. It is a common truism that more is heard of divorce than of happy marriages and it is no less true to state that the activities of a minority of aborigines earn them more public attention than is accorded to the many who are living law abiding and useful lives. The harmful reputation these few are gaining for aborigines generally is out of proportion to their numbers and it is desirable that the situation be stated in its true perspective.

It is suspected that about a dozen aboriginal women are engaging in prostitution in Perth and that four or five men are acting as procurers for this purpose, actively aided and abetted, according to some reports, by some taxi drivers. They do not constitute an alarming proportion of the

total number of aboriginal or part aboriginal people of Perth; what is disturbing is that among the women involved are several young girls, and social conditions among some of the aboriginal people are such that further recruitment to their numbers is distinctly possible. About half of those engaging in this practice are older, mature women who have probably been following the profession for many years. Although they are, in all probability, products of environmental influences, there is little that can be done for them now as there is practically no hope for them of character reformation. Among the younger group are some who have been before the Children's Courts as neglected or delinquent children; but the State provides no satisfactory facilities for their reformatory detention and the Children's Courts, or for that matter any welfare organisation, have no means to deal with the special problem they create.

Women and girls in these two groups provide the unhealthy example for others, already unsettled by economic and social disabilities, who may by force of circumstances drift into the same way of life unless a sufficiently strong influence is exerted to counteract it; and it is these for whom something should be attempted. It is easy for any white person, from the security of happy homelife, a comfortable home and satisfying recreational and social fulfilment, to condemn as dissolute and immoral the activities of some of the young coloured people of Perth and its suburbs; but these people face life from a different aspect. Because of their lack of education or training, employment is for many of them insecure, intermittent or just monotonous drudgery. They are faced with the prospect of spending their evenings in the drab surroundings of an unlit humpy on a piece of waste land or in the loneliness of a boarding house room. Their social contacts are confined to others of their race who, themselves have no facilities for social or recreational entertainment. In the face of such emptiness it is little wonder that they come into the city to seek some life and colour to relieve the drabness of their lives.

Theirs is a social problem which can only be partly relieved by an official welfare department. Some have been assisted to find congenial employment, others have been directed to suitable accommodation; but their need is greatest after 5 p.m. and it is on a social basis that they most need help. Their position is somewhat analogous to that of servicemen in strange cities during the war, who, away from the ties and familiar activities of their homes, would have been lost in a sea of loneliness and boredom if they had not had recourse to the social and recreational facilities provided by patriotic organisations.

One attempt only has been made to meet this particular need of aboriginal people in Perth and that has come from the aborigines themselves—the Coolbaroo League's weekly dance and social evening. This is far from sufficient; the need for healthy recreation as an antidote to empty and aimless lives exists every night of the week and the establishment of a social welfare club provides an immediate objective for the many people whose desire it is "to do something to help the aborigines." Financial contribution to such a project would be worth-while expenditure from this Department's welfare funds.

(Sgd.) B. A. McLARTY,  
District Officer,  
Central District.

### SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

#### Introduction.

This is the fourth Annual Report to be submitted by me. The Southern District of the Department is in its fifth year of existence under the present system of administration inaugurated by the present Commissioner of Native Affairs.

Since the inception of the present Southern District, I have been in charge as District Officer, commencing on the 14th May, 1949.

#### *Extent and Population.*

Since my last Annual Report the extent of the district has not altered and comprises the Great Southern below Beverley in the Road Board District of that name and the South-West below Yarloop in the Harvey Road Board District.

The population figures for the Southern District for the year under report are, 2,139 natives, comprising 1,914 caste natives and 225 full-bloods, the latter all detribalised. Of the total of 2,139, 536 are male, 470 females and 1, 133 children.

#### *Staff.*

There has been no alteration in the staff of the Southern District since my last Annual Report, the District Staff comprising besides myself, the only Field Officer, the Assistant to the District Officer and the Office Assistant, who is the short-hand typist.

#### *Patrols.*

The same three patrol areas were used in the year under report as in previous years, namely the Northern, Southern and South-Western, each being visited in turn by the District Officer.

In the year under report 90 days were spent on patrol and a total of 10,283 miles travelled on patrol and on official work outside of patrols.

The patrol is still the only regular means of contacting the native population in the outlying areas of the District. It also affords the opportunity for the Field Officer to keep a finger on the pulse of public feeling in relation to the native question and to become informed of the views of the people in regard to the work of the Department and in regard to Government policy relating to the urgent social problem which is so much discussed everywhere and which is today receiving so much publicity in the press and on the air, namely, the problem of our native people and their eventual assimilation.

The value of the patrol system in that important part of a field officer's duties—public relations—cannot be over-estimated. Adroitly and astutely handled this contact with the public can be a great power for good in a variety of ways. But, more appropriately, further reference to the immense value of patrolling will be withheld for the final paragraph of this report which will deal with "Public Relations."

#### *Employment and Wages.*

(See Commissioner's Introduction.)

#### *Living Conditions and Housing.*

For the majority of natives in the South living conditions have not altered. The grimy tent and the tin humpy made of scraps of tin and iron over a bush timber frame still constitute the only home they know. Lacking in sufficient accommodation, comfort and facilities, these "homes" are the breeding ground of discontent and apathy. With no standards to live up to and no hope of anything better in the near future, the occupants of such camps are left without any incentive to strive for better things.

This inadequacy in living conditions coupled with the restrictive and outmoded provisions of our existing legislation, which amongst other things, makes it an offence for a native to do something which is no offence if done by a white man, only tends to create amongst the hybrids of the South an anti-social attitude the consequences of which succeeding generations may live to regret.

The coloured man is under no misconception as to the great injustice of his position in regard to the provision of better living conditions. In a State where, during the year under report, approximately 6,000 houses were built by the State Government, a mere half dozen or so houses were allotted to natives—one-tenth per centum. The need of the native is as great as that of his white brother, possibly greater. Yet the native is expected to improve his conditions on his very meagre resources.

How many white men can afford to acquire materials and put up a structure which conforms to the standards of the local authority? Inevitably, the native can only improve his living conditions with Government assistance under some form of housing scheme. The sooner such a scheme is implemented on a permanent and regular basis, the sooner will hope in the future be restored to a people whose earnest desire is for proper and decent housing so that they and their children can participate in a way of life of which they are at present only spectators.

The present State Government has provided a ray of hope in the announcement, made at the end of the year under report, that 25 houses are to be made available for natives. It has gone even further, the 25 houses have actually been allocated to selected native applicants, 10 of these houses to natives in this Department's Southern District. The Government's future intention in this important respect is not known, but it is safe to say that stepped-up regular allocation of houses to natives must have far-reaching effects. As I envisage it, three or four native families provided with homes in each of the major Great Southern towns, within the next three or four years, will, apart from providing proof of a rational—and long overdue—approach to one of the most pressing problems of the hybrid native, also be the means of providing the natives of this district with a badly needed incentive.

Meanwhile the Department is pressing on with its efforts to improve the living conditions of natives who are compelled by circumstances to live on reserves, by the provision of facilities such as water supply, ablution blocks, laundries and lavatories.

In the year under report the first reserve in my district to be so provided with facilities is the Narrogin Native Reserve. This reserve has been connected to the local water scheme and a laundry, a shower, and two lavatories put up, as well as tapped water at two separate points. A 1,000 gallon tank, on bush timber stand, has also been provided for use in an emergency such as water rationing. A further set of conveniences for this reserve has also been approved and are pending construction.

At Katanning Native Reserve a connection to the town's water scheme has been made during the year under report. Also facilities, namely a laundry, two showers and two lavatories, have been approved and are pending construction.

Other native reserves in this district for which similar facilities have been recommended are Mount Barker and on a modified scale, Tambellup. Complete facilities including water and electricity are contemplated for the proposed Gnowangerup and Kojonup Native Reserves. It is my intention to propose such facilities for all reserves where natives reside in any numbers. The visible evidence of how such facilities, particularly laundry and ablutional facilities, have improved the standard of dress and of hygiene and personal cleanliness amongst the Narrogin natives—to the extent that it has been noticed by local residents and visitors alike—is my justification for seeking extension of these facilities to other centres of communal native life.

Apart from the provision of facilities on certain reserves, at some of the major Great Southern towns where native welfare bodies have been formed by local citizens, in each case there are plans to provide cottages on the local reserve for deserving native families. At two places, Narrogin and Katanning, construction of cottages has actually begun. I shall deal more fully with this aspect of improvement of living conditions under the separate heading "Welfare Bodies," in the later stages of this report.

That there is a genuine desire amongst the native hybrid of the South to improve his living conditions is evidenced by instances of natives who seek permanent positions on farms and as domestics so that they may thereby obtain good accommodation. Apart from the 30 or so domestics in this district in good living-in accommodation there are four native families living in new cottages erected



for them by their employers, one who has built his own new home at Brookton and several who are accommodated in good cottages on properties where they are permanently employed. Many, too, have purchased their own blocks of land with a view ultimately of having their own homes thereon.

#### *Education.*

In the South the native child has the same opportunity for education as the white child. Field staff of this Department keep a close check on the attendance at school of native children. The majority of native parents are now thoroughly aware of their responsibility to keep their children attending school and well turned out. Results are most gratifying, for although in a number of cases native children from bush camps do not come up to the sartorial and hygienic standards of white children, the majority of native children attending the State schools do. Offending native parents are constantly being reminded by the field staff of their duty in this important regard, as also in the matter of regular attendance.

Regularity of attendance is affected chiefly by two factors, the first, frequent movement of parents from one area to another with consequent disruption of schooling, and the second, employment of the parent in an area beyond the school bus radius. In the first case the seasonal nature of a native's occupation tends to shift him from place to place with a consequent change of school which reacts unfavourably on the schooling of the child. In the second case the very nature of the native's occupation, clearing bush country and fencing new ground, generally away from school bus routes, prove the handicap.

The net result is, in these cases, interrupted schooling, which in turn results in native children being of an older age group than the average for their class in school.

In spite of this the general picture, after only a very few years of unopposed education for natives side by side with white children, is most satisfactory. Several native children are showing definite academic promise while a few are outstanding. The majority are up to the average of the white children.

Native children attending State Schools take a keen interest in the sporting activities of their school and in several instances are valued members of their school teams in different branches of sport.

The teachers of the Education Department continue to give every encouragement to their native charges. Some teachers I have met have gone out of their way to be helpful and on many occasions native parents have expressed to me their appreciation of the interest of the teacher in their children.

Colour prejudice, unfortunately, still exists among children, in a very mild form, in certain schools, but head teachers are quick to immediately suppress any manifestation of this characteristic amongst white children.

Apart from the State Schools in my District, the four Missions functioning in the District also provide for the education of native children. Under a separate heading I will deal with the activities and progress of Missions later.

#### *Health and Medical.*

Natives of the Southern District continue to maintain a satisfactory standard of health. Full use is being made by natives of the medical facilities available to them and their families including immunisation facilities for the children.

While some hospitals continue to segregate native patients from white, others make no such differentiation; but even where there is segregation treatment of natives by hospital staff is kindly and sympathetic. Hospital facilities for natives are generally adequate throughout the district except at the Gnowangerup Hospital where shortage of staff is given as the reason for refusal to accept native maternity cases.

Doctors, too, give of their services unstintingly to natives who are quick to appreciate this fact. Unfortunately many doctors find it necessary to write off bad debts due from natives for treatment given to their families. This is most regrettable, though in many instances known to me the native concerned just cannot afford to pay. The same is the case with many hospital accounts.

During the year under report there has been a change in the system of paying Doctors for treatment of natives. Up to January 1st, 1953, Doctors were paid for attention to natives in every case and the Department was responsible for recouping the cost of treatment from the native in those cases where the native was neither a member of the Natives Medical Fund nor covered by employment permit. Since 1st January, 1953, however, this Department only pays the Doctor in cases where the native is covered by the Natives Medical Fund or is indigent; otherwise the native must pay the Doctor direct. This naturally has led to dissatisfaction amongst the doctors because, due to the native having no permanent address, it is rarely that the doctors know where to send an account. Some doctors have admitted to me that, under the present arrangement, as soon as they receive an account back classified as payable by the native himself they immediately treat it as a bad debt and write it off.

#### *Missions.*

There are four native missions functioning in my district. Two of these, the Roelands Native Mission Farm Inc., and the United Aborigines' Mission, Gnowangerup, are old established Missions. The other two, namely, the St. Francis Xavier's Native Mission, Wandering, and the Baptist Aborigines' Mission, Marribank, are of recent origin.

All four Missions at present cater exclusively for children but it is the declared policy of one of these four Missions—the newest in the field—the Baptist Aborigines Mission at Marribank, to eventually accept old men and women at the Mission and to provide a home for them in their old age. There are several aged natives in the district, whom the Department is providing with rations, for whom such an arrangement would be a great boon.

*Roelands Native Mission Farm, Inc.*—At the end of the year under report there were 79 children at this Mission, though during the year the number was as high as 83.

During the year a large boys' dormitory and a large new dining-cum-assembly hall have been completed. These two capacious buildings, built by voluntary labour supplied by well-wishers of the Mission in their spare time, are a great credit to the Mission. Well planned and well constructed, the buildings will meet the growing demands of this very successful and expanding native mission. There are now two large dormitories, one for girls and the other for boys, the boys' dormitory being situated on a site overlooking the stream and the sloping hillside clothed in trees.

In view of the number of very small children being admitted to the Mission, a kindergarten is being started and on the occasion of my last visit to the Mission the buildings for this purpose were being got ready.

The school at the Mission is now under the Education Department which Department has provided two teachers for this school who are accommodated at the Mission. Two other teachers are on the Mission staff. The Special Inspector for Native Schools has inspected the School on the Mission and his report indicates a satisfactory state of affairs.

Apart from the children educated at the Mission itself, which teaches up to the 7th Standard, there are seven girls from the Mission attending the Bunbury High School as pupils. These girls in their maroon skirts and blazers present a smart appearance and their general bearing and behaviour have been very favourably commented on locally. Five of these seven girls have a nursing career in view, the other two propose to become teachers.



There are other younger girls at the Mission showing distinct promise, as well as two lads. It is the purpose of the Mission Superintendent to eventually help these girls and boys into career jobs. There are other children at the mission, chiefly girls, who because of the absence of academic promise are unable to qualify for career jobs. These are found employment suitable to their needs and qualifications, in the case of the girls usually domestic service in good homes selected by the Superintendent himself. The medical care of the Mission inmates is in the capable hands of the Mission matron who is a double certificated nursing sister. Cases requiring the attention of a doctor or hospitalisation are conveyed to Bunbury, 17 miles away. Dental attention is provided by visits of a Schools Dental Officer with the equipped van of the Schools Dental Service.

This mission maintains a high standard in every respect and has been consistently successful in placing boys and girls from the Mission in satisfactory and suitable employment.

The Annual Reunion held in January and to which ex-students flock from all parts of the State is a fitting tribute to those responsible for the management and conduct of this Mission.

*United Aborigines Mission, Gnowangerup.*—During the year under report there were 26 children boarding at this Mission of whom 14 were full-bloods.

Much progress has been made by this Mission since the submission of the last Annual Report. The addition to the staff of a master builder and carpenter has proved a great boon. This gentleman has been responsible for the addition of a spacious new room on to the kitchen and dining block which it is proposed to equip and use as a Common Room for the boys for recreational purposes. Addition of verandahs to the existing boys' dormitory building is the next item on the building programme. This will provide the extra accommodation, particularly for summer use, needed at the Mission. It is hoped to make an early start on this addition.

During the year an outbuilding has been equipped as a workshop with a wood machine and the necessary equipment for instruction of the boys in woodwork and carpentry.

For the girls, a lady now on the staff is an expert weaver and knitter and it is planned to start instruction in these handicrafts as soon as the necessary equipment is secured.

There are seven babies at the Mission. Due to a staff transfer the trained mothercraft sister has left and there is at present no creche at the Mission as there was last year. Instead the seven infants are quartered with the various staff families where they are being brought up as members of the respective families. This in my opinion is better than the creche arrangement. The two bottle babies, amongst the seven, are in the capable hands of an ex-matron of Carrolup Native Settlement, a qualified nurse and midwife, who is a member of the Mission staff.

There are 32 children now on the roll at the Mission School. This number comprises children from the Mission boarding establishment as well as children from the native camps on the Mission property.

This school, too, like the one at Roelands Mission, functions under the aegis of the Education Department. The two teachers at the school are both provided by the Education Department, the head teacher being accommodated on the Mission property in the building formerly used as the maternity ward.

There is some doubt in regard to the position of this school. Earlier the plan was eventually to have a new and suitable building provided by the Education Department, though there were no immediate prospects of such a building being provided. Now, it seems, the plan is to enlarge the Gnowangerup State School so that the native

children from the Mission could attend there instead of having a separate school at the Mission for them; it is uncertain if and when this will eventuate.

As the Mission is only two miles from Gnowangerup there is adequate provision for medical attention, inmates being taken to the Doctor who has taken over the practice during the year. The new doctor is painstaking and very sympathetic in his attention to natives. He attends native maternity cases at the Mission itself where a small maternity ward has been constructed to replace the old one now used as the Headteacher's residence. Native maternity cases are still not accepted at the Gnowangerup Hospital on the ground of shortage of staff.

Dental attention is provided by periodic visits of a dentist under the Schools Dental Service Scheme.

*St. Francis Xavier's Native, Mission, Wandering.*—This Mission, which only commenced to function as a Mission in December, 1949, when its first inmates were received, at present caters exclusively for native girls though its long range plan includes a section for boys as well. At the end of the year under report there were 30 girls at the Mission.

Building plans at the Mission are temporarily suspended whilst attempts are first made to make the Mission self-supporting by an extensive programme of clearing, cropping and increased wool production from the Mission's farming activities. This is, in my opinion, a wise move, as expansion involving further expense without consolidating the present satisfactory position would not only undermine the Mission's financial position but lower existing standards.

This Mission has very fine buildings made of stone quarried locally, and at present comprise a large dormitory, kitchen and dining room and a large school room with rooms for the bigger girls, all in one main block. There is a separate laundry block and also an ablution block, both with modern fittings. Close to the main block for the girls is the two storeyed convent building occupied by the Nuns.

A separate temporary block houses the male staff of three headed by the Superintendent. This building is of asbestos with iron roof on a cement floor.

There are 21 children attending school at the Mission; in addition there are four babies and five older girls over 14 years of age training as domestics.

Earlier in the year under review the educational standard at this Mission gave cause for concern. The Convent was staffed by four refugee Italian nuns from China who had hardly any command of English with a consequent deterioration of the standard of education. Just before the close of the year, however, four English speaking nuns from Germany arrived in this State, two of whom are being appointed to the Mission along with two other nuns from Tardun, one of whom apart from being an experienced teacher is considered to be an outstanding one. It is expected that with the new staff at the Convent the educational needs of the Mission's inmates will be satisfactorily met.

According to the Superintendent plans have been made for two boarding establishments at Riverton in the metropolitan area, one for native boys and the other for native girls, the boys' establishment to be staffed by Priests and Brothers and the girls' establishment by Nuns. The object of these two establishments is to provide secondary education and training for promising boys and girls from the Mission.

Girls sent to employment from this mission have been found to be well trained and are giving every satisfaction in their positions.

The health record of this Mission continues to be very good. Any medical attention necessary is provided at Pingelly by the doctor there.

*Baptist Aborigines Mission, Marribank, via Katanning.*—This Mission began functioning in November, 1952, when it took over the property formerly known as Carrolup Native Settlement, and subsequently Marribank Farm School, which was administered by the Department.

At 30th June, 1953, there were 12 children in the Mission, 10 of whom were committed by the Court to the care of the State as neglected children under the Child Welfare Act.

This Mission has not as yet completed a year of operation. There are not enough children of school age in the Mission to justify setting up a Mission School as yet. At present school age children are sent daily to Katanning, 20 miles away, to the Junior High School there.

Apart from the Superintendent and the Farm Manager and their respective wives the other members of the staff were a native married couple who were doing an excellent job, the man with the farming operations and his wife with caring for the smaller children. This couple have since left and their place taken by two single ladies. Another family of three have also joined the Mission staff since.

A programme of renovations and repairs is being carried out in preparation for the ingress of more children to the Mission.

This Mission too aims at being self-supporting and is committed to a programme of clearing to provide more cropping area. An efficient farm manager on the staff handles this aspect of the mission work.

Accommodation for the children at present is not in the two separate dormitories, due to the very few children in the Mission. The dormitories will be used later. At present the smaller children are accommodated in the cottage occupied by the two single ladies who care for them. Bigger girls live in the same cottage and the bigger boys in a room in the hospital buildings for which at present there is no use. Meals are prepared and served in the home of a staff family.

With the addition of more staff and the admission of more children which the Superintendent hopes to bring about by personally visiting native families in the district, it is hoped that the Mission will be "a growing concern" by the time my next annual report is due.

*Welfare Bodies.*—During the year under report native Welfare bodies were formed at four centres in the Great Southern, namely Narrogin, Wagin, Katanning and Kojonup. Two other welfare bodies, one at Gnowangerup and another at Mount Barker, are in the course of formation.

The object of these welfare bodies is to attempt positive welfare measures in their respective districts in the interests of the natives of those districts. The common aim of all these native welfare Committees or Councils, as they are styled, is the improvement of the living conditions of those local natives who occupy the native reserve or camps in the district. There are, besides, other aims and objects enumerated in their respective Constitutions which are based on the Constitution of the W.A. Native Welfare Council at Perth, with modifications to suit local conditions. On these Committees or Councils interested in and pledged to work for native welfare are persons of all shades of thought and professions, ministers of religion and laymen of various religious denominations, farmers, housewives, schoolteachers, businessmen and representatives of organisations such as the Country Women's Association, Returned Soldiers League and Local Authorities. This manifestation of public interest in the welfare of possibly the most underprivileged section of the community is most gratifying. If the example of these bands of public spirited citizens was emulated by other communities in my district who knows what far-reaching consequences may not ensue in the years ahead.

I enumerate below the plans and achievements of the different Native Welfare Committees or Councils in the Southern District.

*Narrogin District Native Council.*—Formed at a public meeting in Narrogin on 9th September, 1952, this body wasted no time in getting to grips with its local problem. At busy bees on the newly gazetted native reserve in which native residents of the reserve joined willingly, 200 feet of piping were laid and connected to the town's water supply, a laundry and a shower built and two sanitary conveniences shifted from the old reserve, a 1,000 gallon tank installed on a bush timber stand. At a later date a small cabin comprising one room and verandah—capable of being built on to—was put up for a local native family on the new reserve. The native has already paid in full for this home and an additional room is to be built on to it.

Already being prefabricated is the second home for a native family on the Narrogin reserve; to be known as Coronation Cottage this building will have two rooms and back and front verandahs.

The entire plan for this reserve is 7 blocks arayed on either side of a crescent shaped road with a cabin on each block. Communal laundry, shower and sanitary facilities will serve these homes.

Apart from this, this native council has been instrumental in securing four building blocks in the townsite for sale to natives desiring to own their own homes.

Many successful Social Evenings have been held, all at the Lesser Town Hall. A social sub-committee looks after this aspect of the Native Council's work.

Religious services and instruction have also been brought to the natives of the District through the interest of the Clergymen on the Native Council.

*Wagin Native Welfare Committee.*—Taking their cue from Narrogin, the next Committee to be formed was at Wagin in December, 1952. This Committee has been handicapped by lack of a native reserve at Wagin. Somewhat slow in moving after formation this Committee has assisted me with the selection of a site for a native reserve at Wagin and Government sanction of the site as a reserve is awaited, after which the Wagin Native Welfare Committee propose to follow Narrogin's example and construct small cottages on the reserve for deserving native families who at present camp on the town's outskirts.

*Kojonup Native Welfare Association.*—This Association was formed in March, 1953, at a public meeting which was called by local organisations headed by the Country Women's Association after the Local Authority had declined the request of the Kojonup branch of the C.W.A. for the convening of a public meeting to discuss the question of formation of a Native Welfare Committee.

The Committee of this Association is responsible for the selection of a very suitable site for a new native reserve at Kojonup. Gazetial of this site is expected shortly, after which the Committee plan to arrange for extension of water and electric supply to the reserve and then to proceed with a plan similar to that of the other welfare bodies, namely to build small cottages on the reserve for use of local native families. The Department will arrange for the provision of communal facilities on this as on other reserves.

This Committee also plans to provide social evenings for its local coloured community. The first of such evenings has already been held.

This Committee has already done much to eradicate the strong prejudice existing against natives in the district. Amongst their members the Committee numbers some of the strongest champions of the native cause I have yet met. I feel certain that as time goes on much will be achieved by this committee, not only materially but in a moral sense as well.

*Katanning Native Welfare Committee.*—The last of the four Native Welfare bodies to be formed in the year under report, this Committee is the first in achievement.



As a result of the strong public support it has enlisted and because of a successful appeal to the public, materials and money have been made available to this Committee to carry on at once with its plans. These include the construction of four four-roomed cottages on the Katanning Native Reserve to be connected to the water and electricity supply. So successful has their appeal been to date that all the timber for the frames of the four cottages has been donated as well as a good deal of other material for these cottages.

The first of the four cottages is almost ready for occupation; the second has the framework completed. Each cottage is to be surrounded with a picket fence enclosing an area to be used as a garden. Neatly laid out and evenly spaced these four cottages when completed will, besides being a source of great satisfaction to their native occupants, also be proof of what courage, enterprise and initiative can achieve.

The Committee, through the Laymen's Fellowship Council of Katanning, many of whose members are on the Committee, is also responsible for bringing religious services and instruction to the natives on the reserve.

To assist the efforts of this committee the Department is providing a laundry, showers and lavatories on the reserve, having already had the reserve connected to the town's water supply. Tenders for the construction of the facilities have closed and construction is expected to commence shortly.

Two other Native Welfare bodies have been recently formed, at Gnowangerup and Mount Barker. It is too early yet to be able to make any report on these two committees, hence comment on their functioning must of necessity be held over for my next Annual Report.

At this stage I feel I must refer to the welfare effort of a small group of persons who though not a properly constituted committee yet functioning as individuals under the inspiring leadership of a Collie medical practitioner have, during the year proud of. This group of persons in busy bees and by voluntary labour has built a 6-roomed house for a native family at Collie on a quarter-acre block. Another house has been commenced as part of a plan to construct one house a year. This group envisages a housing scheme for natives permanently employed in the Collie District and to this end has requested that portion of a State Forest be excised therefrom to provide the land to build upon.

The above efforts of quite ordinary people, with no capital start with, but with a great deal of good will and determination, some vision and much faith, are a pointer to the community of what can be achieved in a field of enterprise wide open and begging to be explored.

*Public Relations.*—I cannot think of any more important part of a field officer's duties than that which brings him into contact with the public of his district and so affords him the opportunity of feeling the public pulse on the important question of native welfare. For want of a better term I refer to this part of my duties as my "public relations" work.

It is the patrol system in force in this Department that gives the field officer this very valuable opportunity of making the public contacts which are such an integral part of his job. It is not by accident that welfare bodies come into existence. Realising what an important part such welfare organisations can play in support of the Department, I have missed no opportunity to foster, by means of public addresses, group discussions and personal contacts, the formation of such bodies or organisations. Often it has been slow, painstaking work, sometimes after months the thread has been resumed from where it was left off. The net result today is six keen native welfare organisations sincere in their desire to promote the welfare of the native people of their districts.

Besides, the informed opinion represented by these bodies as a result of their contacts with an officer of the Department will surely go a

long way to eradicate within their various sphere of influence not only the more common misconceptions so prevalent amongst the general public in respect of "the native question" but also the ignorance and prejudice which are attributes of the uninformed mind on this very vexed question.

I am strongly of the view, therefore, that public relations work should be the *sine quo non* of a field officer of the Department—an indispensable and important part of his work.

#### Conclusion.

I am reluctant to conclude this report without a reference to the splendid work being done in the welfare field by that band of individuals known as "Protectors of Natives". Included in their number are laymen and women, churchmen, housewives, and Police Officers. Busy people, saddled with the responsibilities of their various positions, yet they give of their time, most of them willingly, and all of them without emolument, to assist a people less fortunately circumstanced than themselves. This assistance is often of inestimable value to a field officer with a large district to administer. To me in particular the protectors of my district have been of incalculable value, for having no other field officer to assist me I have had to rely to a very large extent on their help and co-operation.

If the Native Welfare Bill now before Parliament becomes law, there will no longer be "Protectors of Natives"; a word of long standing will be removed from the Departmental vocabulary and another "institution" no longer required—but which has served its purpose—will pass into the limbo of things soon to be forgotten. Therefore, in these closing lines of my Annual Report for 1952/53 I should like to pay tribute to and acknowledge my deep gratitude to the "Protectors" in the Southern District from whom at all times I received every courtesy and co-operation in the performance of my duties.

(Sgd.) C. R. WRIGHT,  
District Officer,  
Southern.

## NORTH-WEST DISTRICT.

The North-West District comprises those land areas known broadly as the Gascoyne, Ashburton, Roebourne-Tableland and Pilbara districts. For purpose of administration within this Department the former two areas are grouped as the Gascoyne Sub-district and the latter two as the Pilbara Sub-district. Activities over the past twelve months are discussed below in two parts.

### PART I.—ADMINISTRATION.

#### Staff.

There have been no changes in personnel during the year under review, a factor which, in my opinion, has contributed towards efficiency. In welfare work it is essential that the administrative staff enjoy the confidence of the people it aims to help, and this confidence cannot be gained overnight. Present postings are:

District Office, Carnarvon.—Mr. F. E. Gare District Officer; Mr. R. E. Winder, Native Assistant.

Sub-District Office, Port Hedland.—Mr. H. R. Tilbrook, Assistant District Officer.

### MISSIONS AND INSTITUTIONS.

#### Carnarvon.

During March, 1953, the Churches of Christ Federated Aborigines Board organised another of its extremely effective building drives at the Carnarvon Mission. Some thirty-two supporters from all over Australia contributed their services voluntarily for a period of three weeks, and in that time almost completed a large kindergarten block, and erected the skeleton of a second girls' dormitory.



The Mission now has ninety-four inmates, and quite a considerable waiting list. It is hoped that in time it will cater for the needs of all native children in the Gascoyne and Ashburton areas. It is an excellent institution, well directed and well staffed.

The State School attached to the Mission is also efficiently staffed and is fully achieving its purpose.

#### *Jigalong.*

When it was established this Mission undertook the difficult task of educating the children of tribal natives having very little knowledge of the English language. This aspect has been taken over by the Education Department, and a trained teacher is now in residence.

Apart from catering for the requirements of some fifty children the Mission attends to the material and spiritual needs of a like number of adults. Accommodation has never been adequate and will no doubt be improved as time and money permits.

The difficulties encountered in conducting an institution of this kind in a remote locality are enormous, but the Mission is displaying a pleasing air of progress.

#### *Reserves, etc.*

During the year an effort has been made to relinquish all unnecessary reserves and to reduce the number of areas prohibited to natives. Broadly speaking, camping areas are now retained only near townsites, and remote, unused reserves which have outlived their purpose have been cancelled. In the Pilbara, where many natives are dependent on mining for a livelihood, every effort is being made to retain reserves known to be rich in minerals.

The object of equipping each used reserve with reasonable facilities has been largely achieved at Carnarvon and Marble Bar, and is well in hand at the main reserve at Roebourne. Estimates are now being obtained for similar work at Onslow and Port Hedland, and some progress is expected in the coming year. These facilities are most necessary, but the finance available will not permit of their rapid erection. The neglect of half a century has left an unfortunate legacy in this regard.

#### *Protectors.*

The accepted policy of dispensing with the services of police protectors wherever possible has been followed and only four such appointments now remain in the whole of the district. In order to avoid any possibility of giving offence no action is taken until a police staff movement occurs. The needs of the particular area are then considered, and if the services of a local protector are required every effort is made to find a lay volunteer. In actual practice it has been found that with an active field staff the number of other protectors required is not great. The widely scattered population, and the few townships existing, contribute towards this state of affairs.

#### *Patrols.*

The subsidised vehicle of the Assistant District Officer, Pilbara, has continued to give good service, and he carried out effective patrols to the limits imposed by available finance. Carnarvon did not receive a patrol vehicle until February, 1953, and as a result it was not possible to complete a full programme of patrols.

Experience has shown that only in particular areas is it necessary to visit the average station more than once in 12 months. Townships require more frequent visits, and unforeseen emergencies may necessitate special trips at any time. Generally speaking, it has been found that the present field staff can effectively carry out the very essential duty of patrolling the whole district.

#### *Generat.*

Towards the end of the year under review the Pilbara area was visited by an anthropological party consisting of Dr. and Mrs. Birdsell of California, and Mr. Tindale of Adelaide. Detailed studies of a large number of natives were carried out by them.

### **PART II.—NATIVES.**

#### *Vital Statistics.*

The studies of the anthropological party mentioned above indicate that in most of this State full blood aborigines are producing sufficient children to replace only 5 per cent. of the present population. This is a startling conclusion and appears to be incorrect when figures of births and deaths over a short period are studied. However, the results from such careful research must be accepted, and the apparent discrepancy can probably be accounted for. Under present conditions of improved medical facilities, supervised employment and enhanced earning power (resulting in a higher standard of living) the expectancy of life has increased very considerably. This does not alter the fact that comparatively few full blood children are being born and the net result, at the moment, is a steady increase in the average age of the aboriginal community. It may thus be some years before the full effect of this trend becomes obvious, but, in the opinion of Mr. Tindale, the reduction in numbers will come with dramatic suddenness. He predicts that within 25 years, unless the present trend is reversed, the aborigines in touch with civilisation will be reduced to a mere handful.

Contact with the white community is obviously the cause of this devastating decline, as tribal desert natives appear to be holding their own.

Conversely, the hybrid population is steadily increasing and in some small townships outnumber, or will soon outnumber, the white population.

#### *Health.*

The importance of this aspect of native welfare is realised by all, and as a result some real advances have been made. During the year the Department of Public Health has had erected new native wards at Port Hedland, Roebourne and Onslow. The position, in this regard, can now be considered satisfactory. In the main, doctors and hospital staffs are extremely sympathetic and understanding, and a noteworthy feature is the rapid increase in the number of babies being born in hospitals, rather than in the bush. In fact, the present tendency with the more sophisticated natives is to appeal to medical staffs for treatment of the most minor ailments. The cover afforded by the Natives Medical Fund encourages this, to some extent, and a partly contributory scheme would probably condition the native more to take his full place in the community.

There have been no epidemics of a really serious nature during the year. A threatened outbreak of dysentery in the Ashburton, just prior to the Onslow races, fortunately, did not materialise.

#### *Education.*

The facilities existing in this district for the education of aboriginal children are inadequate. The Mission at Carnarvon caters for the Gascoyne area, and will, as it expands, probably provide sufficient accommodation for the children of the Ashburton. But north of this, in the Roebourne-Tableland and Pilbara localities it is practically impossible for a full-blood aboriginal child to receive even a rudimentary education. This is a most unsatisfactory situation and during the coming year every effort will be made, so far as is possible at District Office level, to remedy the position. It is true that the experiment at the White Springs Mission proved an expensive failure, but the fundamental scheme appeared sound, and it may still be possible to make use of the buildings erected there.

The task of an aboriginal endeavouring to hold his own in our community is extremely difficult, and a sound education is probably his greatest single aid. Without this only a really outstanding personality can hope to succeed.

### *Employment.*

The pastoral industry continues to prosper, and for most of the year there is ample station employment to absorb all native labour available. Practically all stations realise the value of aboriginal stockmen, and for a substantial part of the year the demand exceeds the supply. The demand for aboriginal women to assist in housework is constant, and can rarely be met in full.

Experience at Carnarvon has shown that a great deal can be achieved in the general interests of natives by undertaking the duties of an employment office. A continually growing proportion of labour engaged in the Gascoyne is obtained through this office, and it is thus possible to ensure that workers go to good conditions. This is much more satisfactory than a system in which natives seek their own positions, often not even knowing what wages are offered, and stay on, month after month, without enlightenment. It may be wondered why they do this, but the fact remains that they do. Under this system frequent patrols must be made, if only in an attempt to arbitrate between employer and employee. In this way something can usually be accomplished, but as the Assistant District Officer, Pilbara, has reported, "Many managers are quite vehement in their assertions that they will improve the lot of the natives under their control, but I find that a week after my visit conditions begin to deteriorate and by the time I visit the station again, I have to start all over again." Under the system in which labour is hired through a departmental office the function of patrolling is somewhat different. By means of regular inspections, generally annually, an accurate and up-to-date record of conditions offering at all stations in the district is available in the office. This can be passed on to natives seeking employment, and it follows that those stations offering unsatisfactory conditions simply do not attract sufficient labour. If such a station complains of this fact, either direct to the office or to a field officer on patrol, suggestions can be made which, if acted on, will probably rectify the situation. Such suggestions are usually welcomed, and the employer realises that any improvements made must be maintained to be effective. Lasting improvements can thus be effected with a minimum of friction.

Obviously, the labour exchange method can only be effective where the departmental office is situated in the natural commercial centre for the area. This condition applies at Carnarvon, and to an increasing extent at Port Hedland. In the remaining areas the ordinary patrol method must be used to the best possible advantage. Departmental offices are not justified at Onslow and Roebourne, and police protectors have not the time to act really effectively in this capacity.

It was reported last year that the Roebourne-Tableland area was the worst in this district from the point of view of native employment. This continues to be the case, but there is evidence that conditions are definitely improving. A number of stations in this locality are quite satisfactory and others appear to be following their lead. The natives of this area are very much attached to their home country, and until recently accepted inferior conditions rather than leave. Lately, however, a drift away has shown some signs of developing. This fact, coupled with the presence of an effective field officer at Port Hedland has probably served to convince employers that improved conditions are necessary if their labour force is to be retained.

An improved morale is particularly noticeable on the Roebourne reserve where most of the locally employed natives live. By their own efforts these people are improving their habitations and standard of living. Such a move was impossible previously, because their earnings were then sufficient only for bare subsistence.

In the Pilbara the operations of the Northern Development and Mining Company have resulted in a pronounced shortage of native labour available to stations. During the year the findings of the Select Committee appointed by the Government to enquire into the activities of this Company

have been made public. Very broadly, the Committee recommended that the experiment be allowed to continue, and that the enterprise should stand or fall by its own efforts.

At the time of the Committee's investigations the number of natives associated with the Company was 663. At the time of writing, some fifteen months later, the number is still in the vicinity of 600. So it is evident that this body of people has some considerable stability.

From a departmental point of view objections to the organisation of the Company have been two-fold—firstly, the administrative machinery was inadequate, and secondly, the natives have no legal title to the assets which their efforts are building up. The first of these objections has now been largely overcome, but to date no real advance has been made concerning the second. However, indications are that some progress may be made in the near future.

The operations of this Company mean that natives in the Pilbara have a choice of occupation—pastoral or mining. This results in the station natives receiving higher pay than if no such choice existed. For the same reason many stations have improved their accommodation for natives, and have generally bettered working conditions.

Conditions in the mining camps of the Company remain somewhat primitive, but an adequate diet is provided. As practically all of this mining is alluvial the camps are only temporary, and permanent structures are not justified. In some camps however, very substantial buildings have been erected, and even the most transient camps have many good features. Cleanliness is perhaps the chief of these.

The Company is not yet in a financial position to pay its employees a regular wage. However, this does not appear to worry the workers, who are confident that the assets of the company do in fact belong to themselves. Although this is not the exact legal position their trust in the Company's management seems to be sufficient for them.

If mining by natives were to collapse it is extremely doubtful if all these people could be re-absorbed by the pastoral industry on satisfactory terms. Some employers state that, on principle, they will never employ natives again. However, such resolutions usually waver before economic considerations. A much stronger reason is the higher return which these natives would expect from station work. Whereas an employer could previously afford to maintain perhaps twenty men for little more than the cost of feeding and clothing (by no means lavishly) the workers and their dependents, that same employer would not be prepared to feed and house that same number adequately, and pay substantial wages as well. He would be more likely to employ half, or even less than that number.

Consequently, if the Northern Development and Mining Company were to fail, for any reason, it is conceivable that this Department would be required to carry on some organisation which would enable several hundred natives to continue mining for a livelihood. This would be a feasible proposition, but would present some administrative problems. Not the least of these would be the assistance which illiterate natives would need in order to comply with the complex requirements of the Mining Act. Obviously such problems would be reduced if natives were to be permitted to mine unmolested on their own reserves, and for this reason every effort is being made to retain such reserves known to contain minerals of value.

### *Child Welfare.*

The growing practice of aboriginal mothers bearing their children in hospitals simplifies the task of birth registration and the obtaining of Social Service benefits. The many claims now being received on behalf of older children are much more complicated. It is usually not very difficult to satisfy the requirements of the Department of Social Services, but the Registrar General is much more exacting. Much of the information required can only be gained on patrol, which some times means unfortunate delays. However, every effort is made to deal with these matters expeditiously.



There has been very little evidence of parental neglect during the past year, and action under the Child Welfare Act was necessary in the case of only one family. As a general rule full blood aboriginal mothers are extremely fond of their children, and are prone to over-indulge rather than neglect them.

With the exception of Roebourne, native children living near townships attend school. By arrangement, teachers draw attention to any instance of apparent neglect, but such cases are extremely rare.

The discrimination, under the Social Services Act, against people of more than half aboriginal blood, causes bewilderment and resentment, and remains inexplicable.

The greatest single need in this District is for more schools for native children.

#### *Crime.*

The vast majority of natives coming before courts of law are charged with offences involving liquor. Present legislation is unrealistic in this regard and there can be no doubt that such technical offences will continue while the Native Administration Act remains in its present form.

The absurdity of the blanket statement that all natives go beserk under the influence even a little of alcohol is proved by the fewness of serious charges arising from the consumption of liquor. In this District, over the past year, there have been virtually none. Alcohol can not be blamed for the only two offences of a serious nature committed. These involved charges of attempted rape, and perjury. On the former charge Doogiebee, also known as Mick, was convicted at Marble Bar on 12th February, 1953, and sentenced to five years hard labour. For the offence of perjury Duxie Tittums and Dora Indich, at Carnarvon, on 29th April, 1953, were placed on personal bonds of £25 each.

#### *Civic Status.*

The past year has seen an enormous increase in public interest in the question of native welfare. As a result of this it seems probable that some legislative action will soon be taken to relieve the unhappy legal position of the aboriginal, and his mixed blood descendants. In drafting such legislation many difficulties will be encountered, but the present position is completely unrealistic and cannot continue indefinitely.

One of the defects of the existing system is the sharp line drawn between those people "under the Act," and those not so classified. Many of the latter are at a considerable disadvantage in our community, partly because they too often have had only a scanty education, and partly because of prejudice. Even if this Department were empowered to assist such people they would rarely avail themselves of our help. To do so would be to run the risk of being considered a "native," and their pride would prevent them from risking such a stigma.

In the northern part, at least, of this State it is possible that the community would best be served by one welfare department to help all people needing assistance, irrespective of race. Such a department could assume responsibility for child welfare, and destitute adults. It could give advice on Social Service matters and simple legal problems. It could provide Court representation in certain cases and could possibly act, to some extent, as a labour exchange.

In more populous areas there are solicitors, labour offices etc. to handle these matters, but north of the 26th parallel such facilities are practically non-existent. In the matter of Court representation alone, the disadvantages of this isolation are evident. A considerable proportion of the full citizens of this country have no knowledge at all of court procedure, and are at a distinct disadvantage when opposed by an experienced police prosecutor. In that regard at least, they suffer under the same handicap as does the average native-in-law. The cost of obtaining legal assistance from south is, of course, prohibitive.

From the point of view of native welfare, the advantage of such a department would be to place the native needing assistance on the same basis as the white needing help and would provide one step along the road to assimilation.

(Sgd.) F. E. GARE,  
District Officer—North-West District.

### NORTHERN DISTRICT.

*District.*—Comprises the East and West Kimberleys, and referred to as the Northern District.

*Northern District Office.*—Situated at Derby.

*Broome Sub-District Office.*—Situated at Broome.

*East Kimberley Sub-District Office.*—Situated at Wyndham.

During the last twelve months I, in conjunction with my Officers, have been able to patrol most of the District, visiting Stations, Missions, and Institutions therein, and have pleasure in submitting herewith my Annual Report.

#### *Missions—*

The following Missions are situated in this area—

- Holy Child Orphanage, Broome.
- St. John of God's Convent, Broome.
- Beagle Bay Mission.
- Lombadina Mission.
- United Aborigine Mission, Sunday Island.
- Wotjulium Mission.
- Kalumburu Mission, Drysdale.
- Forrest River Mission.
- Pallottine Mission, Balgo.
- United Aborigine Mission, Fitzroy Crossing.

With the exception of Kalumburu Mission, I have personally visited the others on at least one occasion during the last twelve months. However, it was possible to meet the Superintendent of Kalumburu Mission on two occasions, when we were able to discuss matters pertinent to that Mission.

It is not my intention to give an individual report of each Mission as this aspect has been covered in my Patrol Reports. I would like, however, to make some general observations:

- (1) There is no large scale teaching of trades at Missions. A few are taught sufficient for the requirements of the Mission concerned. This should be an important part of Mission training which badly needs developing. In this respect Missions could do a great benefit to their natives, fitting them for better positions in the outside world.
- (2) Whilst on the subject of teaching, which is dealt with more fully under the heading "Education," I would stress the absolute need for trained Education Department teachers at all Missions. Some have already realised this necessity, but if all were similarly situated the most important aspect of these people's progress towards assimilation and survival would be nearer accomplishment.
- (3) Missions should not differ greatly from other employers of labour, especially in regard to the payment for services rendered. These wages should be paid in cash, and every endeavour made to include the teaching value of money to them as part of their training.
- (4) Missions must allow some tribal customs to die out naturally. Repressions could bring about repercussions which would be both embarrassing, and possibly serious, to those concerned. Every endeavour should be made to be tolerant in such matters, substituting something better for the custom they would wish given up.



- (5) The cooking in community kitchens is satisfactory for the dormitory boys and girls, but families should be encouraged to lead a normal life, and allowed to cater for themselves and live as families. This could be considered a part of every married woman's training.
- (6) At some Missions the single girls are locked up at night in dormitories. I do not consider it a very satisfactory arrangement for the following reasons—
- It is my opinion that the very action of locking up these young girls magnifies and stresses the sexual thought in the minds of those concerned. It at least emphasises the fact.
  - The very dangerous hazard of fire, which could be disastrous. The fact that the walls and roof may be non-inflammable, does not eliminate bedding and clothing lighting.
  - Sudden illness of any one of the inmates may be fatal if immediate assistance is not obtained, and how this help can be obtained by the inmates is difficult to imagine.

It is advanced that there would be no need for this drastic control if a responsible person was housed either in the dormitory, or close to it, and not as at present on some Missions, quite a distance away, where it would be most difficult to hear the cries of the inmates.

- (7) It is appreciated that whilst a Mission is being conducted by a Church organization, a certain amount of religious instruction is expected, but this can be overdone, in which case it would definitely affect the other aspects of the training of their natives so vital to their assimilation.
- (8) Some Missions in this District are very isolated, having commenced their Missions in tribal areas where civilization has been slow to follow. It has been noted, however, that in at least one case, there is a strong desire to remain as far from other forms of civilization as possible, for it is felt that the Mission would be affected by this outside influence. On the other hand, some Missions are situated very close to towns, and yet do not complain in this manner. It is felt that Missions should be able to conduct their affairs in the midst of civilization, no matter what its form, as well as in more remote positions. In fact, it should be advantageous for a Mission to be situated where its people are able to draw a comparison with those living outside it.
- (9) All Missions should make every endeavour to become self-supporting. Industries should be commenced with a view to this. Where necessary application should be made to this Department in the first instance, for assistance in this direction. Many are improving their Missions in this respect, and some are able to provide the essentials for their people. However, none has yet reached the stage of being self-supporting.
- (10) It is evident that a few Missions, for financial reasons, are unable to provide all that they should for their natives. This applies particularly to those who are unable to support adequately the workers on their Missions. In such cases action may be necessary to investigate the possibility of such Missions continuing as institutions, for it is becoming an accepted fact that we cannot lose any time in the welfare of what natives remain.

I wish to state here my appreciation for the kindness and co-operation which I have received from every Mission. My criticisms, although perhaps frank, are offered with a desire to help in a constructive way.

There are no "A" Grade Missions in my area, and I feel sure that if the steady progress I have noted on all Missions is continued, it will not be very long before this is remedied.

#### Population Statistics—

The following population statistics are supplied for this District. It will be noted that they vary considerably with all previous figures submitted from this area. This is due in the main to the "hit and miss" system of seeking statistics through Police Officers in the past, who naturally were neither in a position to obtain accurate figures, nor sufficiently interested in all cases to burden themselves with this additional work.

The figures submitted on this occasion have entailed hours of work by staff of this District, obtaining a census throughout the year at every station visited. I would be over-optimistic to assert that they were accurate, for this could only be realized after much more work is carried out with the co-operation of all concerned. However, I do submit them knowing that they are the most accurate ever compiled, and within a reasonable margin of being exact.

For the sake of interest and future reference, I am showing the manner in which the final figures were arrived at.

Classification.	Adult Males.	Adult Females.	Children under 16 Years of Age.	Totals.
Fullbloods .....	1,619	1,426	762	3,807
Other than fullbloods .....	120	125	315	560
Totals .....	1,739	1,551	1,077	4,367

#### Stations.

There are approximately seventy stations in this District on which natives are employed.

Conditions of employment vary a good deal, but many are realising that if the native is to be prevented from being eliminated altogether, then he must be better cared for in more ways than was previously considered necessary. The economic factor is playing a major part in obtaining improved conditions for these people. There is more realization today than ever before that the native is the potential labour force of the Kimberleys whilst he remains.

A pleasing feature is the manner in which a number of stations are providing their natives with better conveniences, in some cases with quite modern toilet and ablution facilities. At first, the idea of supplying such necessities to natives was considered foolish and a waste of money. However, it has been proved the native does react well to these improvements.

Unfortunately, these conditions are the exception rather than the rule. One hears too much the excuses of labour and material shortages, and promises that are never fulfilled.

I am satisfied that there is progress being made in the way of improving the native's life on stations, and in fairness to those who are co-operating in this respect, the time must come, and soon, when action will have to be taken to force those who are apathetic and/or not prepared to spend the money on these very necessary improvements, to carry out their responsibilities.

I wish to show my appreciation for the courteous manner and kindness shown to my officers and myself at all stations visited during the year, and it is not in every case the fault of the manager that the conditions we are seeking for the native are not supplied.

### Patrols.

Statistics of patrols carried out in this district during the year 1952/53 are as follows:

*District Officer.*—Nine patrols were made. These covered the whole district.

Mileage by road	....	....	7,692
Mileage by sea	....	....	680

Total 8,372 Miles.

*Assistant District Officer.*—Two patrols of the whole of the East Kilberley Sub-District were carried out, covering a total road distance travelled of 2,394 miles.

During the course of our patrols conditions relative to the natives' welfare at stations, missions, institutions, and at all places where natives are employed, were investigated, and assistance given to the employer and employee wherever necessary.

My experience has shown that conditions are worse where employers and their natives have not been contacted regularly. I have found that most of them react favourably when their co-operation is sought. We can only blame ourselves to a great extent if they remain ignorant through lack of contact with our officers in respect to our wishes towards the welfare of the native.

This has been a fairly successful year in regard to patrolling, but even, so, much has not been accomplished, which we will endeavour to rectify in the new year.

We have to contend with many difficulties and hardships in travelling to missions and stations in the more remote parts of the district, and added to this the cost of plane travel to those places where the stay of only a few hours makes the expense unwarranted. However, a way will be found to overcome these difficulties, for these places are entitled to the same service from this Department as those which are more accessible.

In conclusion, I would like to state that personal contact is worth more than any amount of correspondence from an office desk, and I will endeavour to have a more vigorous patrolling programme carried out next year within this District.

### Education.

Perhaps the most important aspect in the proper assimilation of the native to our standard of life in his opportunity to learn about it.

Education, therefore, should play a most important role in the youth stage in order that an intelligent interpretation of our ways may be more readily understood.

It is with keen interest and appreciation that the more vigorous attack on schooling for natives by the Education Department is evident. This new phase is noticeable in at least one mission where it already has two teachers from that Department, one of whom is of native origin, although not a full-blood. Such steps are both pleasing and important, for without education these natives must retrogress. Their only hope of survival lies in the speed in which they can learn to take their place in our form of civilisation.

It is to be hoped that the Education Department intends to insist on a standard of teacher and curriculum at all missions and institutions.

Very little, or nothing, is being done for the children on stations. However, the officers of this department are making every attempt to encourage the parents to send their children to the nearest school, where this is practicable.

I have had it mentioned to me that schools should be set up on stations, but I do not consider the number of children on any particular station would warrant this action. The better

solution, in my opinion, would be to establish schools and hostels at strategic points throughout the district, and do our utmost to educate the parents to send their children to them.

The education of native children should not be delayed any longer than can possibly be helped, for too much time has already been lost in this respect, and if left much longer it will be too late.

Another pleasing aspect is the non-segregation being insisted upon by the Education Department. The previous attitude in this connection was the foundation of many of our social ills and prejudices we are contending with today.

### Medical and Health.

The following services are provided for natives in the district by the Department of Medical and Health:—

Native Hospitals at Broome, Derby and Wyndham.

Flying Doctor Service to quite a number of stations once a month.

The Australian Inland Mission have two hospitals, one at Hall's Creek and the other at Fitzroy Crossing, which are primarily intended for Europeans, but who kindly extend their services to cater for sick natives. One cannot stress too much appreciation of the services they render in this respect.

During the year I was able to accompany the Flying Doctor, Dr. Grigoroff, when, in conjunction, we were able to conduct a patrol of stations over an area of 1,000 miles. From this one trip I realised the amount of service which can be given by such visits to these stations in comparison with the normal quick visits by plane, when the time limit is too short to even visit the station proper, unless there is an urgent case, for the full examination of the natives. Such interviews with natives in this latter case are usually done under the wing of the plane, for in many cases the stations have not erected any shelters or conveniences.

As a layman, I would say that this district does not get the regular medical surveys it should, and a visit to stations by a health inspector who will insist that sanitary and other hygiene facilities are provided, is a most urgent matter.

The segregation of natives at hospitals for medical treatment is one that is not in keeping with today's dawning outlook on the assimilation of these people, besides adding to the cost of staffing, maintenance, etc., of two institutions when one would suffice.

It is not intended to convey that I am ignorant of the fact that some natives have habits which are disgusting to our standards, but a wing of the same hospital could quite easily accommodate such persons. There is no differentiation made in our large public hospitals and it is difficult to understand why it is so carefully included in the scheme of medical treatment in other parts. Perhaps it is the continuation of what has always been, without serious consideration to what could be done in this respect.

It would appear from figures supplied by the Health Department that leprosy is no longer the incurable disease it was once considered. There has been a remarkable number of discharges from the Derby Leprosarium and a proportionately small number of new cases.

On the whole, stations are sending their sick natives to hospital quite freely, although facilities at most stations for attendance to these patients remains somewhat crude and inadequate.

The unselfish devotion to service given by the sisters at the Leprosarium and Derby Native Hospital is admirable and worthy of our note. Their co-operation in every respect has been appreciated.

### Employment.

Generally speaking, the majority of able-bodied males and females are employed in this district.

The distribution of labour is reasonably fair, except for a few stations who are fortunate to be situated in a tribal area where there are still a number of that tribe living.

Contrary to popular opinion, there is no marked desertion from stations to towns in this area. Naturally, there is an attraction for natives to visit the towns, for the lack of amenities on stations as a general rule leaves much to be desired, for in only a few cases is any effort made to supply these people with any form of distraction or amusement in their otherwise monotonous existence.

#### *Accommodation.*

Much has yet to be accomplished by employers in respect to this very important aspect of natives' living conditions.

Also, a problem to be solved is the provision of land and a scheme for providing homes in the towns for the better class of native. There are a few in this class now, who I am sure would react very well if given the opportunity to purchase their own homes, providing the instalments were within reach of their income.

Several stations have made noteworthy improvements to their accommodation for natives, at the same time providing adequate and efficient ablution and sanitary facilities. On the other hand one still witnesses in the Kimberleys the hovels and bush mia mias which are allowed to serve as the native living quarters.

A standard of accommodation may have to be insisted upon if these apathetic employers will not carry out their obligations of their own accord.

#### *Certificates of Citizenship Rights and Exemption*

No. of Citizenship Rights granted during the year	8
No. of Certificates of Exemption granted during the year	17
No. of Certificates of Exemption cancelled in lieu of Citizenship Rights being granted	5
No. of Certificates of Exemption suspended	—
No. of Citizenship Rights suspended	1
No. of Certificates of Exemption cancelled due to death of holder	1
No. of Citizenship Rights cancelled due to death of holder	1

The number of Certificates of Exemption and Citizenship Rights applied for and granted during the year is not a true picture of the number of natives who could justifiably be given these "privileges." Many on stations are worthy of them but have less opportunity of applying.

#### *Wages.*

There are still two methods of paying wages to natives in this District. The first being the direct cash payment system, and the second the "book entry" method.

After a good deal of emphasis by Officers of this Department, who were requested by the natives themselves in the first instance, the majority of employers now pay their native employees in cash. A few more stubborn and less co-operative, persist in the other form of payment.

The "book entry" system is considered open to many abuses, apart from the important aspect that natives do not understand it, nor feel that they are being paid for services rendered.

The amount paid in individual cases is still fairly low, although there is a tendency to pay more to those who are showing aptitude towards their work. Providing that the accommodation, rationing, and clothing provided are satisfactory, increased wages at this stage are not so important and could possibly be harmful to their employment.

#### *Diet.*

The rationing of natives at Missions and Stations, although perhaps sufficient as to quantity, which is doubtful in some cases, leaves much to be desired in respect to variety and value.

This aspect requires a qualified person to discover in individual cases the nourishment value in the foods provided, but a layman can see that a diet consisting of mainly meat, most of it salted, flour, tea and sugar, is not very interesting or particularly nourishing.

There is a lack of such items as fresh vegetables, fruit, eggs, milk and fats, which are normally considered necessary for a balanced diet.

The attitude that what the native never had he never wants is a fallacy, for the persons who think that way expect the native to do his work, and are the first to complain when his services are not available because of illness, etc.

#### *Native Courts.*

Two Native Affairs Courts were convened during the year to hear the following cases:—

- (1) Regina v. Michael Albert—Indicted for the Wilful Murder of Anus Jacky.

The Court was held at Broome and consisted of Mr. K. H. Hogg, Chairman, and Mr. J. Beharell, J.P., Member.

The Court could find no justification for such killing in law, neither was it done pursuant to any tribal law or custom and the accused was sentenced to death in accordance with Section 657 of the Criminal Code, 1913-1945.

The Court was of the opinion that this was a case which should be recommended for His Excellency's merciful consideration, and respectfully recommended that the sentence of death be commuted to imprisonment with hard labour for a period of five years.

His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor in Executive Council, approved of the accused being pardoned in respect of the death sentence conditionally that he serve a sentence of imprisonment with hard labour for five years.

- (2) Regina v. Sambo @ Left Hand Charlie.

This case was heard at Hall's Creek. The accused was indicted for the murder of Wellpai @ Molly.

The accused was found guilty and sentenced to death.

His Excellency, the Governor in Executive Council, commuted the sentence of death to five years' imprisonment with hard labour to be served in the Broome Gaol.

The number of natives charged with various Police offences during the year was not very great. At all cases a member of this Department or a Protector of Natives attended to assist the accused. The general behaviour of the natives of this District during the year was most satisfactory.

#### *Assistance from Protectors of Natives.*

No report of this nature would be complete without reference to Protectors of Natives, who, through a desire to assist the native, unselfishly give their services at all times to this cause.

My appreciation and thanks go to all those who have assisted my Officers and myself during the year.

The importance of the right type of person to act in this capacity cannot be too strongly stressed. It is for that reason I insist on all recommendations for appointments of this nature being made through this office in order that the District Officer who is responsible for the welfare of his District should have the opportunity of further recommending or otherwise the person selected.

#### *Conclusion.*

An effort has been made to report on the activities of this District during the twelve months.

It has been a satisfactory year of work, and my sincere thanks go to my fellow officers, who have given of their time and service beyond the expected limit.

Miss L. Garlick, District Welfare Officer, who has recently taken up duties in this District, is already proving her calibre, and even at this stage I can



foresee an improvement in the welfare of the native women and children as a direct result of her efforts in this respect.

It is realized that much has yet to be accomplished for the welfare of the natives in this District, but with adequate staff during the next year I look forward confidently to a gradual improve-

ment in the state of their affairs which have been allowed to go unchanged too long.

Our task would have been more difficult without the able assistance from the Officers at your Headquarters, and their co-operation in all matters has been appreciated.

(Sgd.) J. BEHARELL,  
District Officer, Northern District.

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## Section "B."

### DEPARTMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AND MISSIONS.

#### ALVAN & McDONALD HOUSES.

Both homes continued to function very satisfactorily during the year under review. The only change was that boys and girls earning their own living transferred to private accommodation, so now only school boys and girls reside in these Houses.

One girl passed the Junior Examination of the University of Western Australia, qualifying for and receiving a Teacher's Bursary at Leederville Technical School. Another gained her 3rd Year Junior Technical Certificate and was awarded a bursary for a one year special training course at the Teachers' Training College. Two have been elected class prefects. In all there are 14 girls at Alvan House.

The six boys at McDonald House have made satisfactory progress at school. One boy topped his class. This boy hopes to earn a Teacher's Bursary. Another of the older boys is aiming at qualifying for apprenticeship to a trade.

All the girls and boys are keen about sport. All the boys play football both at school and with a local club. Two of them captain basketball teams at school. They also play cricket and tennis. The girls play basketball, hockey and softball, in addition to tennis. Mr. John Christmass offered to teach one girl pianoforte, making it in the nature of a five year scholarship. He selected one of the younger girls who has good average ability. This is a most generous contribution since Mr. Christmass is teaching already a maximum number of pupils and is giving his only free period to this cause.

#### SETTLEMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS.

Moola Bulla Native Station, La Grange Depot, Cosmo Newbery Settlement and Bennett House comprise the departmental Settlements and Institutions. All have functioned as previously reported.

At the three settlements there have been outbreaks of influenza during the year but otherwise the health of the inmates has been good.

A Hygiene School for natives drawn from various areas in the Kimberley District was conducted at Moola Bulla by the Public Health Department.

At Moola Bulla the average number of inmates was 264 with 71 children attending the school. There were 12 births and two deaths during the year.

The cattle at Moola Bulla suffered because of the very bad season. Mortality was estimated at 25 per cent. and a drive has been commenced to improve water supply and to improve pastures.

Dry conditions prevailed at La Grange and water supply has been very low. Twelve children continue to attend the school conducted by Mrs. de Grys. Two deaths are reported from this Depot but there are no births recorded.

At Cosmo Newbery Settlement there are two juvenile and one adult inmates under detention. Three juvenile inmates were discharged during the year. At the end of the year only eighteen indigent natives were on the settlement but during

the year the total reached sixty. At the end of the year the majority of tribal natives were following a corroboree which was conducted in the desert some 70 miles from the settlement.

#### Missions.

Everywhere there is evidence of a keener note in the Native Mission field. Increased financial assistance accounts for some of the noticeable improvement but the general awakened public interest and advanced thinking in native matters has had an enlivening effect on some of the missions wallowing in the slough of apathy, disillusionment and disappointment. The emphasis on native education by the Education Department and the interest taken in Mission Schools has been a great fillip to all concerned.

A new mission in the field is the Baptist Mission at Marribank near Katanning. At all Missions improvements are being made to buildings and facilities. The extent of these improvements varies with the amount of finance available for the purpose.

A special curriculum has been prepared for native mission schools and was implemented at the beginning of 1953. The effect of this is to have a standard education for all native children and to assist teachers by setting out the course. At Mt. Margaret, home science, manual training and aural music are extra features. Music and the formation of a brass band at New Norcia is part of the new inspiration. A 16 m.m. sound-movie projector presented by the pupils of St. Hilda's Girls School, Perth, to Forrest River Mission is a very useful adjunct to education provided by the State Primary school inaugurated this year. At Tardun Mission special attention has been given to letter writing by the children to pen-friends in Melbourne, Beagle Bay and Lombadina Mission.

Outside the school at Mt. Margaret the children are interested in scouting. Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies have formed packs under the guidance of Miss Ball who is now a Commissioner. At Wotjulum, industry and thrift has been encouraged. Each week, on one night, old and young gather for further instruction on practical necessities, as measuring with rulers, reading clocks and meters and such. Some make ornaments for sale and a branch of the Commonwealth Savings Bank has been established at the Mission. At Cundelee an economic and industrial interest has been given to the men by their working in the sandalwood industry. There is little or no profit in this hard work but it is a step in making them self-reliant.

At Kalumburu a lively interest has begun in agriculture and stock raising. The children of Tardun entered exhibits in the Mullewa Show for the first time. They won seven first prizes and five seconds.

These notes may not show great achievement amongst missions during the year, but they do indicate the abandonment of "sang froid" in some quarters and everywhere the dawning enthusiasm of a new heartened approach to native welfare.

## Section "C."

## HEAD OFFICE ADMINISTRATION.

*Finance.*

Departmental expenditure for the year amounted to £180,616/11/6 leaving an unexpended balance £131/2/1 of monies transferred from Consolidated Revenue Fund (See Appendix 2).

Although expenditure increased this year by £7,994 it is noteworthy that expenditure did not exceed funds allocated to this Department for the year 1952/53.

Office administration increased by £245 and an increase of £1,959 was shown at Bulk Rationing centres, due to establishment at Mulga Queen and increased issues at Derby, Roebourne and Wyndham.

Assistance to missions showed an increase of £17,064 mainly attributable to subsidies and grants-in-aid (For financial statement on Assistance to missions please refer Appendix 5).

Relief to natives increased by £5,643 due in the main to the payment of doctors' accounts in the first instance, whilst Departmental Institutional Administration was reduced by £11,050 due to the transfer of Marribank Farm School and Fitzroy Crossing Native Settlement to Mission authorities.

Loan expenditure £2,708/16/3 was confined mainly to structural alterations at Alvan House, furnishings at McDonald House, office and store at Wyndham and water supply at Moola Bulla Native Station (See Appendix 1).

*The Natives' Medical Fund.*

*Contributions.*—During the year under review 2,271 permits were issued to legalise the employment of 4,677 natives. This represents a decrease of 146 permits issued and a decrease of 753 natives employed under permit when compared with relative figures of the previous financial year illustrated in the table below.

In addition to the above 84 natives availed themselves of the benefits provided by the Natives Medical Fund by making voluntary contributions. The previous year 204 took advantage of this privilege.

Contributions to the fund totalled £11,743 but for various reasons £198 10s. was refunded which reduced the contributions to £11,544 10s., which shows an increase of £7,022 when compared with the 1951-52 net receipts. This large increase was attributable to the fact that contributions were increased threefold on all permits issued from the commencement of the financial year.

The following table reveals the number of permits issued, natives employed, contributions received and claims paid each year since the inception of the fund—:

Year.	No. of Permits Issued.	No. of Natives Em-ployed	Net Receipts.			Payments.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1937-38	1,071	3,665	2,209	10	0	970	0	8
1938-39	1,442	3,949	2,531	15	0	2,730	16	4
1939-40	1,538	4,075	3,075	0	0	3,417	0	2
1940-41	1,724	4,138	3,445	1	6	3,595	0	5
1941-42	1,914	4,366	3,826	5	0	4,086	0	10
1942-43	2,198	4,628	3,905	6	0	3,003	4	6
1943-44	2,453	5,625	4,359	10	8	3,726	17	6
1944-45	2,364	5,351	4,571	2	6	6,261	10	5
1945-46	2,427	5,463	4,301	6	0	4,181	10	2
1946-47	2,521	5,636	4,303	12	6	4,360	15	6
1947-48	2,755	5,648	4,356	15	0	3,499	5	6
1948-49	2,805	6,095	4,563	10	6	3,780	11	1
1949-50	2,844	6,264	4,651	15	6	3,542	1	0
1950-51	2,625	5,677	4,357	11	9	6,768	12	5
1951-52	2,417	5,430	4,522	6	4	6,367	13	11
1952-53	2,271	4,677	11,544	10	0	12,796	8	11

*Claims Paid.*—Between 1st July, 1952, and 30th June, 1953, an amount of £12,796 8s. 11d. was paid from the fund in settlement of accounts received from doctors, hospitals and chemists, etc., as follows:—

Doctors—£3,901 14s. 5d. (£3,414).

Hospitals—£8,269 3s. 8d. (£3,195).

Sundries—£625 10s. 10d. (£759).

Payments to doctors and hospitals increased again during the year due mainly to increases in the fees charged by both doctors and hospitals. Last year's figures are in parenthesis.

At the 30th June all accounts received had been passed for payment but it is understood that accounts totalling a considerable sum, possibly a few thousand pounds, are likely to be received from the Hospitals Collection Service. An estimate of the accounts outstanding at the 30th June, 1953, cannot be calculated conclusively because all hospital returns were not to hand at the close of the financial year and it therefore could not be ascertained with accuracy the number of accounts that were actually payable from the fund.

During the year the sum of £2,500 advanced by the Treasury Department was refunded to the Treasury, but towards the close of the financial year due to the influx of accounts it was necessary to request a further advance from the Treasury Department of £3,830 3s. 11d.

A statement showing receipts and payments is attached—(See Appendix 3.).

*Trust Accounts and Investments.*

At the 30th June, 1953, Savings Bank accounts had been reduced from 199 to 73, with a total balance of £2,286 13s. 8d. Bonds to the value of £6,161 were held. During the year 126 savings bank accounts were closed and the proceeds handed to the respective natives so that they might handle their own affairs. Bonds to the value of £148 were treated similarly.

*Estates.*

Eight estates valued at £238 0s. 1d. were handled during the year.

*Maintenance.*

At the 30th June, 1953, 57 maintenance cases were being handled, this being a decrease of six over the year. This decrease was brought about by the finalisation of 11 cases, and the inclusion of five new cases. The new cases were orders issued by the court for the maintenance of children who had been committed to the care of the State. Those finalised were subject to court orders having expired when children attained the age of 18 years, or when orders were transferred to the institution or person maintaining the child concerned.

*Christmas Cheer.*

Before Christmas, 1952, this Department was fortunate in receiving a donation from the Lotteries Commission amounting to £600. This sum was distributed to native missions and institutions so that gifts and Christmas fare might be enjoyed by some 2,000 indigents, children and adults. This grant was deeply appreciated.

*Lotteries Commission Grants.*

Amounts of £4,327 16s. and £1,395 0s. 10d. were donated generously by the Lotteries Commission to native missions and departmental institutions, respectively. These amounts were gratefully received and it is wished to record appreciation for the assistance rendered in this manner.



### Population.

Appendix No. 4 shows the native population distribution of Western Australia as at 30th June 1953. The decrease of full-blood natives and the increase of caste natives is still noticeable. A comparative statement for years 1903 to 1953 appears hereunder.

Year.	Full-blood Natives.		Other Caste Natives.	Total.
	In Settled Areas.	Outside Confines of Civilisation.		
1903	*31,150		850	32,000
1908	11,000	20,000	*1,000	32,000
1927	12,815	10,000	2,833	25,648
1952	9,081	6,000	5,970	21,051
1953	7,872	6,000	6,914	20,786

\* Est.

### Education Statistics.

The Director of Education has advised that as at the 31st December, 1952, 1,450 native children were enrolled at schools in Western Australia. This number is made up as follows:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Numbers in Government Schools	624	585	1,209
Numbers in Non-Government Schools	111	130	241
Totals	735	715	1,450

### Native Courts.

During the year the charges brought before Courts of Native Affairs were:—

- (1) On 28/11/1952 at Broome, Michael Albert was charged with wilful murder. He was found guilty and sentenced to death but the Court recommended that the sentence be commuted to imprisonment with hard labour for 5 years. The Governor in Executive Council approved pardon of the death sentence in this case conditionally that Michael Albert serve a sentence of 5 years imprisonment with hard labour.
- (2) On 20/2/1953 at Wiluna, native Darkie was charged with assault occasioning bodily harm and was sentenced to 75 days hard labour, the sentence commencing 7/12/1952.
- (3) On 4/4/1953 at Hall's Creek, native Sambo (@ Left Hand Charlie was charged with the murder of female Wellpau (@ Mollie. He was found guilty but the Court abstained from passing sentence of death pending the approval of His Excellency the Governor to commute the sentence to imprisonment for 5 years with hard labour. The Governor in Executive Council approved that the sentence of death be commuted to one of imprisonment for 5 years with hard labour.

### Offences by Natives.

A total of 558 natives were convicted on 635 charges in the Courts throughout the State during the year. Offences connected with the supply and consumption of liquor numbered 459 and disorderly offences totalled 67. Offences against the person numbered 30 (including two murder and one manslaughter) convictions, offences against property totalled 37 (including 20 for stealing).

Of the 558 natives convicted:

- 115 were full-blood natives.
- 443 were other than full-blood natives.
- 450 were male natives.
- 108 were female natives.
- 548 were over 18 years of age.
- 10 were under 18 years of age.

### Offences Against the Native Administration Act, by Persons not Natives in Law.

Sixty-eight persons were convicted on 77 charges in Courts throughout the State during the year. Of the persons convicted six were natives holding certificates of Citizenship and three natives holding Certificates of Exemption.

Convictions for supplying liquor to natives totalled 59 and seven convictions were against persons found unlawfully at native camps and on native reserves. Cohabitation with native women accounted for another seven convictions.

### Children's Court Orders and Orders Authorising Detention Under Sections 13 and 39 of the Native Administration Act.

At 30th June, 1953, 90 orders against natives were in force consisting of 77 issued under the authority of Children's Courts, 11 issued under the authority of Section 13 of the Native Administration Act, and two issued by order of the Governor under Section 39 of the Native Administration Act. Of the total number of natives covered by these orders 66 were in missions and departmental institutions, four were in employment, 19 under the direct supervision of the Child Welfare Department and one had absconded.

### Citizenship.

During the year 116 applications were received for Citizenship Rights, making the total applications received to 30th June, 1953, since the inception of the Act, 844. Of these, 619 certificates have been granted, 116 applications have been dismissed, 24 have been withdrawn for various reasons, 49 have been adjourned by Magistrates and 36 are awaiting hearing.

### Exemption.

At the close of the year 416 Certificates of Exemption were in existence. Thirteen certificates were cancelled; six certificates were automatically cancelled on the granting of Certificates of Citizenship Rights.

(S. G. MIDDLETON),

Commissioner of Native Affairs.

18th November, 1953.

## Appendix No. 1.

## DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

Statement of Receipts and Payments, 1952-53.

## GENERAL LOAN FUNDS.

<i>Receipts.</i>			<i>Payments.</i>		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance of Loan Funds at 1st July, 1952	24,915	11 4	Moola Bulla Native Station—Water Supply— Item 83—42/43	968	1 1
Unexpended Balance at 30th June, 1953	22,206	15 1	Moola Bulla Native Station—Cool Chamber— Item 221—49/50	50	10 10
	2,708	16 3	Marribank Farm School—Cool Chamber— Item 373—49/50	11	2 7
			Alvan House—Furniture and Furnishings— Item 84—50/51	2	16 2
			Alvan House—Structural Alterations—Item 165—50/51	304	17 2
			McDonald House—Furniture—Item 209— 51/52	511	13 8
			Fitzroy Crossing Native Depot—Initial Capital Costs—Item 121—50/51	47	14 9
			Wyndham Reserve—Nissen Hut—Item 285— 51/52	812	0 0
	£2,708	16 3		£2,708	16 3

I certify that this Statement is correct according to the books and documents produced.

3rd September, 1953.

(Sgd.) W. NICHOLAS,  
Auditor General.

## Appendix No. 2.

## DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS.

## Statement of Receipts and Payments—1952-53.

## NATIVE AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TRUST.

Receipts.				Payments.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Grant under Section 5 Native Administration Act, 1905-47	....			10,000	0	0			
Transfer from Consolidated Revenue Fund	....			170,747	13	7			
Sub-Total	....			180,747	13	7			
Unexpended Balance at 30-6-53	....			131	2	1			
Note :				£180,616	11	6			
Revenue Collections (Credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund)—									
Departmental :									
Alvan House	....	436	2 5						
Bennett House	....	209	0 10						
Cosmo Newbery Native Settlement	....	531	15 5						
District Offices	....	441	13 5						
General (Permit fees, Citizenship fees and Head Office)	....	1,357	10 10						
La Grange Native Depot	....	255	15 1						
Marribank Farm School	....	2,627	10 7						
Missions (Recoup Subsidy)	....	944	18 7						
Moola Bulla Native Station	....	13,294	13 10						
McDonald House	....	241	12 1						
Relief to Natives	....	2,206	11 3						
				22,547	17	8			
Child Endowment (Credited to Consolidated Revenue Fund—Rebates)—									
Alvan House	....	166	1 6						
Bennett House	....	31	17 2						
Cosmo Newbery Native Settlement	....	303	17 6						
La Grange Native Depot	....	649	8 8						
Marribank Farm School	....	35	8 7						
Moola Bulla Native Station	....	2,393	4 5						
McDonald House	....	88	15 9						
				3,668	13	7			
Institutions—									
Alvan House :									
Contingencies	....	2,207	5 1						
Salaries and Wages	....	813	16 9				3,021	1	10
Bennett House :									
Contingencies	....	1,595	9 11						
Salaries and Wages	....	702	3 1				2,297	13	0
Cosmo Newbery Native Settlement :									
Contingencies	....	3,976	2 4						
Salaries and Wages	....	1,532	9 3				5,508	11	7
Fitzroy Crossing Native Depot :									
Contingencies	....	1,291	11 8						
Salaries and Wages	....	99	15 5				1,391	7	1
Kurrawang Native Depot :									
Contingencies	....	1,479	5 10				1,479	5	10
La Grange Native Depot :									
Contingencies	....	4,568	2 4						
Salaries and Wages	....	1,799	0 7				6,367	2	11
Marribank Farm School :									
Contingencies	....	1,605	9 4						
Salaries and Wages	....	1,143	13 8				2,749	3	0
Moola Bulla Native Station :									
Contingencies	....	16,486	6 2						
Salaries and Wages	....	7,534	2 5				24,020	8	7
McDonald House :									
Contingencies	....	1,971	17 9						
Salaries and Wages	....	738	0 2				2,709	17	11
Office Administration—									
Head Office :									
Contingencies	....	3,675	5 8						
Salaries and Wages :									
Commissioner	....	1,440	10 2						
Deputy Commissioner	....	1,125	1 8						
Head Office Clerks	....	15,681	17 9						
Welfare Officer	....	625	6 2				22,548	1	5
Regional Office—Broome :									
Contingencies	....	1,100	9 11						
Salaries and Wages	....	1,967	16 10				3,068	6	9
District Office—Carnarvon :									
Contingencies	....	412	8 11						
Salaries and Wages	....	1,483	18 3				1,896	7	2
District Office—Central :									
Contingencies	....	595	6 6						
Salaries and Wages	....	5,002	9 1				5,597	15	7
District Office—Derby :									
Contingencies	....	1,780	17 2						
Salaries and Wages	....	1,699	8 7				3,480	5	9
Sub-District Office—Kalgoorlie :									
Contingencies	....	1,626	14 6						
Salaries and Wages	....	565	7 5				2,192	1	11
Sub-District Office—Mullewa :									
Contingencies	....	938	7 9						
Salaries and Wages	....	1,043	9 6				1,981	17	3
District Office—Narrogin :									
Contingencies	....	736	4 2						
Salaries and Wages	....	2,296	17 9				3,033	1	11
Carried Forward	....			£180,616	11	6			
							93,342	9	6







Appendix No. 5.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF SUBSIDISATION OF MISSIONS BY DEPARTMENT OF NATIVE AFFAIRS FOR YEAR 1952-1953.

Mission.	Average No. of Natives Assisted.			(1) Expenditure. Subsidy.			(2) Expenditure. Blankets and Clothing.		(3) Expenditure. Medical, Transport, etc.		Overall Subsistence Expenditure. (Excludes Grants in Aid). Equals Total of Columns (1), (2) and (3).		Expenditure. Grants in Aid.		Total Expenditure for Year on Missions.	
	Children under 21 Years.	Adults.	Total.	Bulk Ration.	Cash.	Per Head Per Annum.	Blankets and Clothing.	Per Head Per Annum.	Medical, Transport, etc.	Per Head Per Annum.	Subsistence Expenditure.	Per Head Per Annum.	Grants in Aid.	Per Head Per Annum.	Expendi- ture.	Per Head Per Annum.
Beagle Bay, via Broome	73	21	94	£	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.
Pallottine, via Hall's Creek	36	14	50	.....	2,279	24 4 11	42	0 8 11	136	1 9 0	2,457	26 2 10	.....	.....	2,457	24 5 7
Church of Christ, Carnarvon	93	.....	93	.....	1,066	21 6 5	196	3 18 4	3	0 1 2	1,265	25 6 0	.....	.....	1,265	12 0 47
A.A.E.M., Cundeelee, via Zanthus	15	54	69	3,255	3,009	32 7 1	250	2 13 9	44	0 9 5	3,303	35 10 3	8,744	.....	12,047	3 9 56
Forrest River, Wyndham	12	19	31	.....	530	47 3 6	507	7 7 0	157	2 5 6	3,919	56 16 0	37	.....	3,956	1 14 6
U.A.M., Fitzroy Crossing	1	25	26	649	.....	17 1 11	149	4 16 1	.....	.....	679	21 18 0	467	.....	1,146	1 9 06
U.A.M., Gnowangerup	21	.....	21	.....	418	24 19 3	63	2 8 6	3	0 2 4	715	27 10 1	1,191	.....	1,906	4 37
Holy Child Orphanage, Broome	34	1	35	.....	1,114	19 18 1	19	0 18 1	.....	.....	437	20 16 2	.....	.....	437	1 6 26
Aborigines Rescue Mission, Jigalong	47	51	98	3,159	.....	31 16 7	110	3 2 10	7	0 4 0	1,231	35 3 5	395	.....	1,626	3 8 78
Kalumburu, via Wyndham	20	35	55	.....	830	32 4 8	648	6 12 3	71	0 14 6	3,878	39 11 5	.....	.....	3,878	1 0 29
Kurrawang, near Kalgoorlie	.....	31	31	1,413	.....	15 1 10	199	3 12 4	.....	.....	1,029	18 14 2	.....	.....	1,029	1 4 79
U.A.M., Kellerberrin	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45 11 7	49	1 11 7	1	0 0 8	1,463	47 3 10	16	.....	1,479	.....
Lombadina, via Broome	27	21	48	.....	1,157	.....	205	4 5 5	.....	.....	1,362	28 7 6	.....	15 1 8	1,362	47 9 3
Marrbank, via Katanning	2	.....	2	.....	.....	24 2 1	45	0 17 4	.....	.....	45	0 17 4	.....	.....	45	.....
Methodist Mission, Mogumber	57	3	60	.....	1,691	.....	676	11 5 4	59	1 0 0	2,426	40 9 0	6,230	.....	8,656	.....
Mt. Margaret, near Morgans	81	25	106	.....	3,313	.....	177	1 13 5	60	0 11 4	3,550	34 9 10	418	.....	3,968	.....
New Norcia	83	.....	83	.....	1,847	.....	135	1 12 6	3	0 0 7	1,985	23 18 2	.....	.....	1,985	.....
Church of Christ, Norseman	36	.....	36	.....	978	.....	93	2 11 8	47	1 6 1	1,118	31 1 1	.....	.....	1,118	.....
Natives Mission Farm, Roelands	76	.....	76	.....	2,625	.....	252	3 6 4	59	0 18 2	2,936	38 15 3	2,000	.....	4,936	.....
Sunday Island, via Derby	18	1	19	.....	368	.....	114	6 0 0	.....	.....	482	25 7 5	258	.....	740	.....
Wotjulum, via Yampi	31	86	117	.....	2,058	.....	513	4 7 8	63	0 10 9	2,634	22 10 3	.....	.....	2,634	.....
Pallottine Mission School, Tardun	46	.....	46	.....	1,394	.....	222	4 16 0	24	0 10 5	1,640	35 13 0	.....	.....	1,640	.....
St. Francis Xavier's Mission, Wandering	28	.....	28	.....	962	.....	99	3 10 8	9	0 6 5	1,070	38 4 3	.....	.....	1,070	.....
U.A.M., Warburton Ranges	66	20	86	2,139	.....	24 17 5	654	7 12 1	.....	.....	2,793	32 9 6	.....	.....	2,793	.....
Totals	903	407	1,310	10,615	25,839	27 13 6	5,417	4 2 9	746	0 11 5	42,417	32 7 7	19,756	15 1 8	62,173	47 9 3
Sister Kate's, Queen's Park	54	.....	54	.....	672	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	672	.....
Broome Convent (Day School only)	.....	.....	.....	.....	125	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	125	.....
															62,970	

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