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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF

# THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR

# THE YEAR 1912.

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PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY COMMAND.

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BRISBANE:

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1913.

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# ANNUAL REPORT, 1912.

## TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT.

Office of Chief Protector of Aborigines,  
Brisbane, 31st May, 1913.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my report on the working of this Department for the year ended 31st December, 1912.

I left Brisbane on the 29th May last, on my annual tour of inspection in connection with aboriginal affairs. The first place I visited was the settlement at Barambah, and, after giving directions for the conduct of the institution during my absence, I proceeded on my journey, calling at Maryborough and Rockhampton, at both of which places I found matters in connection with my Department running smoothly. Leaving Rockhampton on the 5th June, I reached Townsville on the 7th. Here I found 196 natives employed under agreement, with a balance to their credit of £1,256 in the Government Savings Bank. After visiting some of the camps in the vicinity of Townsville, and discussing several matters with the local Protector, who informed me no trouble was being experienced in connection with the aborigines, I boarded the "Melbidir"—the little vessel having preceded me from Brisbane with instructions to await my arrival at Townsville.

Unfortunately, heavy rains, sufficient to flood the watercourses, interfered with my work inland, consequently I did not visit Ingham or Cardwell on my way North. I, however, made an attempt to inspect the proposed site of a settlement on the northern branch of the Hull River, intending to go up the river in the dinghy, but this proved impracticable, owing to the swollen tide and swift current of the stream. Being desirous of seeing the Pascoe River Reserve during wet weather, I went to Dunk Island, and from thence across to the mainland, with the intention of reaching the proposed site by land. In company with Captain Smith, the master of the "Melbidir," Mr. Bamfield, and a native, I landed about two miles to the northward of Tam-o-Shanter Point, in close proximity to the spot where the unfortunate explorer, Kennedy, landed many years since. Striking a course almost due west, after a walk of about five miles through a good deal of devil-devil country, often for over a mile up to our waists in water, and in pouring rain, we arrived at the Hull River, and an opportunity was given me to see the land, and satisfy myself it was above flood level. The reserve is

admirably adapted for a settlement, with patches of rich scrub, suitable for agricultural purposes, and areas of open forest for grazing.

On my return journey I again visited the locality, going up the Hull River some ten miles, at which point a landing could be made for the use of the Settlement. The entrance to the river is shallow, carrying only a depth of two and a-half feet at low water springs, but vessels drawing six feet could enter at high water. After crossing this bar there is not less than two fathoms of water for about nine miles up the river.

After leaving Dunk Island we dropped anchor at the fairway buoy, but, as the tide did not give sufficient water, and a heavy sea was running, we were unable to cross the bar.

At Cairns I interviewed the local Protector, but was unable to go inland owing to the wet weather.

Port Douglas was reached in due course, and here I found departmental matters running smoothly. There are 72 agreements in force, and I understand there is only one half-caste aborigine in the district. The books show 68 Savings Bank accounts, with a credit balance of £400. The aboriginal population number 170, and are described as good workers, quiet and easily managed. Opium is unknown, and the natives do not indulge in liquor. During the sugar season many of the natives are employed cane-cutting, and are paid as much as 22s. 6d. per week; those engaging them say they work well and are reliable.

My next port of call was Cooktown, where the Protector reports there are about 400 natives in his protectorate. The agreements number 126, with 115 bank accounts, the amount to credit being over £549. There is a good demand for aboriginal labour in the district, no less than 196 permits having been issued during the last two or three months to employ natives on boats engaged in the bêche-de-mer industry, and no trouble is experienced in collecting the wages. The health of the people is good, and very little opium or liquor finds its way to the camps. As an instance of the generosity of one of the employers in this district, I may mention that an aboriginal lad, employed by him, met with an accident, necessitating the amputation of his leg. The lad was sent by his master to the

hospital, where the limb was taken off, his employer not only paying all expenses, but also providing him with a wooden leg. The boy is now back with his employer, and looks well and happy.

At Coen, a good many of the natives are employed under agreement; these people are known as the Kooki-yella tribe, and prove useful servants. About 120 savings bank accounts show a credit of £600, but, included in this amount, there is a sum of £180 held in trust for certain of the aboriginal tribes—money earned by them cutting sandalwood, for which a bonus of 5s. per ton was collected by the Protector, in addition to the wages paid direct to them. That officer keeps a careful check upon the transactions, and, as a royalty on all timber exported has to be paid to the Government by the sandalwood getter, the matter of checking the earnings of the aborigines was made easy.

The aborigine Pluto, who not long since discovered a gold mine on the head of the Batavia River, is now out prospecting. This native has a sum of £195 to his credit in the Bank of New South Wales, Cooktown, and £12 10s. in the Government Savings Bank, besides owning five or six horses, with riding and pack saddles.

Protector Whelan tells me there are seven or eight half-caste boys and girls, who should be removed to one of the Settlements, also some twenty or twenty-five boys, from twelve to fifteen years of age, who do nothing but roam about the township and mining camps. These young fellows should be taken away, and taught something useful; otherwise, they will most certainly develop into drunkards and thieves, and, in other ways, become demoralised. Several old aborigines are camped about Coen, and they obtain a little Government relief in the way of food. At times there are as many as 70 of these old people, and the expenditure on their behalf is about £3 per month. Some of these old natives, however, eke out a little food by doing odd jobs for the residents, coming into the township in the morning and returning to their camp in the evening, and give no trouble whatever.

The Mission Station at Cape Bedford, fifteen miles to the north of Cooktown, is making excellent progress. On inspecting the school I found 33 children (12 girls and 21 boys) in attendance, all looking the picture of health and happiness. The teacher, Mrs. Schwarz, says they are well behaved and attentive to their lessons; and a glance at their copy and exercise books bore this out, as the books were scrupulously clean and neat. In fact, a more contented, bright and happy lot of children it would be difficult to find.

The plantation work, under the personal direction of Mr. Schwarz, has made considerable progress. A decorticator has been procured and is now being used to treat the sisal hemp, of which there is about 90 acres grown. The machine is run by a small steam engine, and, at the time of my visit, some 15 cwt. had been prepared and baled ready for the market. I fear, however, the plant now in use is too small to handle the large quantity of sisal hemp which will soon require treatment.

On the outstation of the McIvor River operations have been in a measure, at a standstill, owing to the exceptionally dry weather, but a nice rain has now fallen and cultivation is being actively carried on. Cape Bedford Mission is, I consider, an object lesson as to what can be done with a tract of land which most people would consider so sterile as to be a hopeless proposition as far as agricultural operations were concerned, and too much praise cannot be accorded Mr. Schwarz for his untiring perseverance in bringing such a place to its present creditable condition.

Last year the Hon. the Home Secretary was good enough to present the Mission with a fishing net; this has proved a valuable means of adding to the food supply, and several fine hauls of fish have been obtained. It is pleasing to note the care and attention exercised by the natives in looking after and preserving the net. The health of the people on the station was excellent, and, in fact, they are still the same cheerful, contented community as described by me in previous reports.

After calling at Cape Melville, and visiting some of the Islands *en route*, Lloyd Bay was reached on the 1st July. Here I visited Mr. Giblett, who has established himself on Lloyd Island, and is employing aborigines in cutting sandalwood and obtaining *bêche-de-mer*. At present 25 boys are under agreement to Mr. Giblett, and they all say they are treated well. There are about 350 aborigines in this locality, which is frequently visited by fishing luggers in search of crews, and I feel convinced the natives are supplied with intoxicating liquor by the visitors. Owing to the absence of the "Melbidin," when she was undergoing alterations and repairs in Brisbane, there was no patrol for some months, consequently advantage was taken of her absence, and the natives at Lloyd Bay, and for some distance north and south along the coast, were unduly interfered with.

I would again impress upon the Government the urgent necessity of at once placing an officer of this Department at the Pascoe or Claudie River to see that the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act are not evaded. A good site for a settlement could be selected either on the Claudie River, about five miles from the sea beach, or at a place known as "Kalloway" on the Pascoe River. I would recommend the Claudie River site, as there is good shelter in all weathers for boats; whereas at Kalloway the anchorage, although sheltered from the south-east, is open to east and north-west. At both places there are patches of good land and plenty of fresh water.

The Escape River was next called at, where a Mr. Robt. Bruce has an occupation license for an area of land on Turtle Head Island, which is practically inside the river. A good deal of work has been done on the place, and about 1,300 coconuts have been planted, and are doing well. Besides this, 900 banana plants have been put in, but they are not doing at all well; a small area of tumeric is also being tried as an experiment. Sweet potatoes do well in ordinary seasons, but last season, owing to dry weather, were a failure.

Mr. Bruce has one or two boats engaged in bêche-de-mer business, and employs a few aborigines as crews for his boats.

Proceeding to Thursday Island, Somerset was called at, and our anchorage was reached on the 6th July.

At Thursday Island, many matters were discussed by me with the Protector and with others interested in aboriginal matters, and recommendations, the outcome of these discussions, are now placed before the Hon. the Home Secretary.

In company with the Protector, Mr. Lee Bryce, I then visited nearly all the inhabited islands in Torres Straits. Nagheer was the first place *en route*, where I found the exceptionally dry weather had somewhat retarded the growth of the young cocoanut palms, and the occupier, Mr. Mills, estimates he has lost about 2,000 young plants. There are now 48,000 cocoanuts growing at Nagheer, and I noticed many of the palms, which were quite small at the time of my first visit, are now large trees, many of them bearing fruit. The quality of the nuts is said to be excellent. During last year, 7 tons of copra was sent to market, and there is now between 8 and 9 tons awaiting shipment, or in process of curing.

At Yam Island, I found Mrs. Smallwood in charge, and considerable improvement was observable, especially in regard to the approaches to the school and teacher's residence, which have been well formed and covered with gravel. The health of the people at Yam is very good indeed. A new school house built of plaited cocoanut leaves has been put up by the natives. The building is 30 ft. long, 15 ft. wide, and 9 ft. high, and serves its purpose admirably, being cool and weatherproof. The children attending school numbered 15 boys and 11 girls, a total of 26. Mrs. Smallwood says she has nothing to complain of as far as the behaviour of the children is concerned, and described them as being willing and obedient. The work performed in the school was most creditable, the children's books being exceptionally neat and clean. Several of the pupils showed a talent for drawing, one boy giving promise of excellent results in this direction, his freehand drawing being really well done. The teacher is proud, and rightly so, of the girls' sewing and crocheting, which is most excellent; in fact this work gives evidence of care in preparation, and is scrupulously clean and neat. These girls have also been taught to use flat irons in laundry work, and, as a consequence, the appearance of their garments is much improved.

Some difficulty had been experienced in persuading the natives to properly look after and work the Island boat "Yama," but Mr. Appel's visit, and the instructions given by him in this respect, together with the firm attitude taken up by the Protector, assisted by the teacher, have had a most beneficial effect, by stirring the people to exert themselves in using their boats, with the result that some good catches of shell have been made, besides obtaining a pearl valued at £255. The shell was sold at £135 per ton, the total receipts being £400. Of this amount, £100 has been expended in putting the "Yama" in

thorough repair, and the balance is held in trust by the Protector. After good results such as those referred to, the people, unfortunately, are inclined to lie back, and the Protector and teacher have a somewhat difficult task in persuading them to still keep going. However, I think the determined manner of both these officers, in insisting upon the boat being kept in commission, is the right one, and, in fact, the only one by which these Islanders will learn the necessity of keeping at work.

After leaving Yam Island, a course was set for Saibai, *via* Missionary Pass, and the Island of Daru, which belongs to New Guinea, taking advantage of the opportunity to procure some fresh vegetables and fruit. Passing along in close proximity to the New Guinea coast, and having to negotiate some very shallow water, Saibai was sighted, and, shortly after, the anchorage was reached.

Mr. Williams, who is in charge at Saibai, said the people were in good health, and no further signs of dysentery were apparent. There is, however, a shortage of food on the Island, owing to dry conditions prevailing. The population at Saibai numbers 98, consisting of 55 males and 43 females. The school children have made considerable progress since my last visit, and all look bright and happy. The village is a model of cleanliness, and is a credit to both the teacher and the natives. I noticed a good track about 5 ft. wide had been cut for a distance of two miles, thus making the eastern portion of the Island easily accessible.

Boigu, an island about twenty miles to the westward of Saibai, is also controlled by Mr. Williams; so, taking him on board the "Melbidir," the place referred to was visited. Only a few natives were on the Island, and they told me they had no fresh water, and had to bring it from the New Guinea mainland, which is only some three or four miles distant. The people were in good health, and mainly subsist on fish and the products of their gardens.

On the return journey to Saibai, the small Island of Dauan was called at, but only some twelve or fifteen natives permanently reside here. Dauan is about seven miles from Saibai, and the natives of these two places frequently visit each other—the children from Dauan attending the school at Saibai. The people complained of their gardens failing through dry weather, but a number of cocoanut trees around the village looked well, and appeared to bear a good many nuts. The Island, however, is a small one, with a very limited area suitable for cultivation, being chiefly an abrupt granite hill.

Twelve or fourteen hours' run brought us to Mabuia. The teacher, Mr. Minniss, informed me there had been no recurrence of the epidemic of dysentery which visited, and caused considerable mortality on, the island last year. The population of Mabuia totals 242 souls, 138 males, and 104 females. There are 60 children at school, who are well behaved and obedient, and appeared to be fairly intelligent. Their reading was good, and the singing very good; arithmetic seems to be a weak point of all aborigines, the subtraction and division given to these children being indifferently worked out. The multiplication tables

were gone through very well, and sums of addition quickly and correctly added. Considerable improvement was noticeable since my last inspection.

There appear to be several young women at Mabuag whose ages would range from eighteen to twenty-two years; these girls practically do nothing but loaf around, and I think could be profitably employed in making mats and baskets, which could find a ready sale at Thursday Island. Mr. Minniss has instituted a sewing class, the pupils being taught to make garments for the children and themselves, the work shown to me being carefully and well done.

The next place which claimed my attention was Badu. This island is the headquarters of The Papuan Industries Company, who have several boats, owned by the natives, working for them getting pearl-shell and *bêche-de-mer*. The company has erected some fine buildings, and has a well-stocked store, from which the boats may replenish their provisions and thus avoid the necessity of going to Thursday Island. Miss Richards is temporarily in charge of the school at Badu, and I learnt from her the population of the island is 250 persons, the males predominating. There are 70 children at school, ranging from five to fifteen years of age. The work done by the school children is very good indeed, and questions asked by me were answered readily and correctly.

At Adam, a village on Moa Island, a short distance across a channel from Badu, I found about 60 natives, including 25 children of school age. At present these youngsters are not receiving any education, but arrangements are being made to bring them to the Badu school.

The gardens, both at Adam and Badu, have suffered greatly through the exceptionally dry weather, and, as a consequence, the natives are cultivating some of the small islands close to their villages, with fairly successful results. A marked improvement is noticeable in the construction of new houses at Badu, and the village presents a much cleaner appearance than formerly.

The St. Paul's Mission for South Sea Islanders, established by the Church of England, is also situated on Moa Island. The station was looking neat and clean at the time of my visit, and the superintendent, Mr. Cole, informed me that the population is 115, comprising 54 males and 61 females. There are 39 children attending school, and the superintendent describes them as apt, and amenable to discipline. The health of the people is good, and they presented a healthy and clean appearance. Mat-making is being undertaken by the women, and the men are employed in cultivation. Although many of these South Sea Islanders are married to island, or aboriginal, women, yet, strictly speaking, the mission at Moa does not come under the jurisdiction of my Department.

After returning to Thursday Island to replenish stores and other necessaries, I visited Cocoanut Island. Here the population numbers 70, and there are quite 25 children who should be at school, but are receiving no education. The water at Cocoanut Island is not suitable for

domestic purposes, so the natives obtain their drinking water from The Sisters, or Aureed, both of which islands are about eighteen miles distant. The islanders own one lugger, the "Puma," which is free of debt and in good order. The soil here is not so fertile as on most of the islands, but, notwithstanding this, a good supply of sweet potatoes, yams and cocoanuts are grown. The people explained that, owing to their having been recently vaccinated, no work had been done for over a month. Cocoanut Island is, I fear, a favourite rendezvous for fishing boats, and, in the absence of any Government authority, abuses are sure to crop up.

At Yorke Island, some twenty-five miles from Cocoanut Island, there is a population of between 80 and 100 people, with about 20 children, but, in addition to these, the Cocoanut Islanders visit Yorke, and are, to all intents and purposes, Yorke Islanders. It is proposed to establish a school at Yorke Island, and I would suggest that the people at Cocoanut be brought to Yorke, which would ensure a good number of children attending the school. Yorke is well watered, healthy and fertile, and, altogether, much more suitable for the natives than Cocoanut.

Stephen Island was the next place of call. The population here totals 28 only (12 men, 6 women and 10 children). This island is small, about 100 acres in extent, of a volcanic nature and very fertile, but, unfortunately, the water obtained from the wells is not at all good. There are two "company" boats, the "Cissy" and "Ugar," belonging to the Stephen islanders; both of these boats are well looked after, regularly worked, and are out of debt. The few children at Stephen attend the school at Darnley.

A run of about three hours brought us to Darnley, the population of which is about 300 souls. The school, under the direction of Mr. Guillemot, shows a roll of 71 (45 boys and 26 girls). The children have made fair progress since my last inspection, and the teacher informed me the young people are attentive and well behaved. A good deal of sickness, chiefly dysentery, had been prevalent at Darnley, but at the time of my visit it had quite disappeared. The principal water supply on the island is far from being good, and it appears to me to be unhealthy, and something should be done to improve these conditions.

A new building, to be used as teacher's quarters, has been erected on a site which is more suitable and healthy than the previous one. A school house, in convenient proximity to the teacher's residence, has also been constructed, by the natives themselves, of grass, and admirably suits the purpose for which it is intended.

On reaching Murray Island I found 108 pupils attending the school, and the teacher, Mr. Bruce, speaks well of them. The children presented a healthy, bright and happy appearance. I asked them several questions in arithmetic, which they answered readily and correctly, and their reading and writing was also good. Like the rest of the islands I visited, the dry weather had almost prohibited work in the gardens, and, as a consequence, the yams failed, but, fortunately, the sweet potatoes and bananas did better.

Mr. Bruce informed me that during the last twelve or eighteen months the natives have sold copra to the value of £540.

I returned to Thursday Island by way of Cumberland Pass, and, after attending to various matters in connection with my Department, which occupied three or four days, made a start in the steamer "John Douglas" for the Gulf Mission Stations and Mornington Island, having also received special instructions to endeavour to find a place to the westward of Mornington known as Massacre Inlet. The Government Resident, Mr. Lee Bryce, accompanied me.

Mapoon Mission Station was reached in due course, where, on inspection of the school, I found 73 children in attendance, viz.:—29 boys and 44 girls. The teacher, Mrs. Ward, speaks highly of the behaviour of her pupils, and they look bright and intelligent. The young people went through an interesting examination in many subjects, their knowledge of geography and the crowned heads of Europe, being remarkable. Their knowledge also of the use and value of economic materials, and the manufacture of articles, was surprising. The younger children went through their lessons in a most satisfactory manner, and their teacher cannot be too highly commended for the pains she must have taken to bring her pupils to such a state of proficiency. I feel sure that many of our schools for white children would suffer by comparison with that of Mapoon. The large proportion of half-caste children at school is somewhat noticeable, but these children come from all parts of the North, being rescued by the police as waifs and strays, and committed, as neglected children, by a bench of magistrates, to the reformatory at Mapoon.

A visit was made to the farm, some four miles distant, where I estimate about 60 acres has been partially cleared. The exceptionally dry weather had seriously interfered with farming operations, and, with the exception of a few patches here and there, there was practically nothing growing. The cocoanuts, however, were looking well, and have made good growth since my last inspection. Mr. Hey, the superintendent, told me there had been no sickness of any consequence amongst the natives, and that, on the whole, they had caused little or no trouble.

On arrival at Urquhart Point, a camp of about 30 natives, who were out fishing, were interviewed. They had a small cutter, and were looking for *bêche-de-mer*. These people belonged to Weipa Mission Station.

After a long river trip, the landing at Weipa mission was reached, and next morning a walk of about three-quarters of a mile brought us to the station. There are about 300 natives who frequent the station, with 57 children at school (35 boys and 22 girls). Mrs. Brown, who was in charge of the school, speaks well of the children; the copy books were creditably written, and the elder pupils have reached the compound addition and multiplication stage in arithmetic. Many questions on general subjects were asked by me, and answered by the pupils quickly and correctly.

Mr. Brown, the superintendent, has made considerable progress in the area under cultivation, which has been doubled since my last visit two years previously. A good deal of cassava, sweet potatoes and sisal hemp is now being grown, besides a number of cocoanuts. A really excellent sample of vegetables was shown me, such as cabbage, kohlrabi, eschalot, parsley, tomatoes, etc.; these were produced from a small patch of ground set aside for the purpose, and the plants presented a healthy and flourishing appearance.

The stock, comprising several young mules, was doing well, although the milking herd was in low condition. The health of the people was good.

At Aurukun, the next Mission Station visited, a large number of bush natives, about 80, gathered to meet me. During the evening Mr. Richter, the superintendent, Mr. Lee Bryce, and myself strolled through their camp, and had a talk with them. I found several men I knew, having met them along the coast previously, and obtained some useful information from them. The next day I inspected the school, and found 42 children in attendance, but, unfortunately, their teacher, Mrs. Owen, was away. Several of the children were suffering from colds, and a good deal of coughing was in evidence; however, they appeared to be recovering.

The fruit trees on this station grow luxuriantly. Mangoes, citrus fruits, granadillas and cocoanuts are all looking healthy and strong, and bearing well. The food crops, however, have not been a success this year, the season being unpropitious.

Trubanaman, on the Mitchell River, was next visited. This Mission Station was only started a few years since, and, under the very practical management of Mr. H. Matthews, more than satisfactory progress has been made. There are about 100 natives permanently resident on the Station, and all were in excellent health, appearing bright and happy, especially the children. At the school there are 23 children under the care of Miss Matthews, who takes a great interest in the little folk, and is gradually teaching them the elementary knowledge necessary. It would be unreasonable just yet to expect much advancement in the school, but a marked improvement is noticeable, the sewing of the girls being very good indeed.

The cultivation consists of 17 acres, principally under sweet potatoes and cassava. The fruit trees, such as mangoes, pineapples, citrus, and bananas, are doing remarkably well, and, in addition, there is a most creditable vegetable garden.

During my visit the camp blacks brought a white man to the station, whom they had found lost on the Mitchell River. It seems this man attempted to make his way across country from the O.K. mines, Chillagoe, to Clonecurry, and became hopelessly bushed, but was fortunate enough to strike a camp of natives, who piloted him into the Mission Station, taking three days to do the journey, in which they would probably cover a distance of sixty miles. Of course, I liberally rewarded the natives, and Mr. Matthews attended

to the white man, rendering him every assistance, and providing him with a guide to put him on the main road to Normanton.

In Mr. Matthews, the Church has been fortunate in securing the services of a thoroughly practical man, and both Mrs. and Miss Matthews are constantly among the natives, ministering to their welfare, and generally attending to the children. I venture to say that, in a few years, under the present capable management, Trubana-man will be one of the most successful Aboriginal Mission Stations in Queensland.

On reaching the sea beach, on my return journey to the steamer, I found about 60 natives awaiting me, to whom I distributed tobacco.

There is a large tract of country to the north of the Mitchell River, between the Archer and the Mitchell, and the aborigines here are numerous. They are known as the Monkanooos, and frequent the district about the Coleman and Kendall Rivers, and are inclined to be treacherous. A few miles to the north of the Monkanooos' "touri," there is another tribe called the Baekanoos. These two tribes are often hostile to each other, and, occasionally, some big fights are indulged in. Both these tribes are physically strong people, and very courageous, and syphilis and allied diseases are quite unknown amongst them. There is an abundance of game in their country, and, although some can speak a few words of English, they have practically not come into close contact with whites. Unlike most of the camp natives, these tribes congregate in large numbers, and it is not unusual to find as many as 300 and 400 camped at one spot. The spear and womera are practically their only weapons, and, needless to say, they are extremely expert in the use of them, and seldom, or never, miss their quarry. Some evidence of civilisation is, however, noticed in their use of wire for spear heads, of pieces of iron laboriously, but carefully, converted into tomahawks, and hoop iron made into knives. They are more than ordinarily fond of tobacco, in fact so much so, that, periodically, a runner, or messenger, is sent to one or other of the mining camps to obtain a supply. No food or blankets have as yet been issued to these tribes, as they will not approach the civilised places to obtain them, and, unless under a strong escort, it would not be advisable to send such goods to them. It is to be regretted these people should be allowed to continue in their wild uncivilised state, as, sooner or later, their country will be occupied by the white man, and, unless some steps are taken to create a reserve for them, disease, starvation and death are sure to overtake them.

After steaming all night, *en route* to Mornington, the Island of Pisonia was reached, where we dropped anchor. The next day we steamed along the coast to Mornington, landing at different points and interviewing small parties of natives, amongst whom I distributed knives, tomahawks, beads, calico, etc. As a report of the incidents of this part of my journey has already been furnished, it will be unnecessary for me to again describe it.

After locating Massacre Inlet, buoying and placing a beacon in the channel as instructed, a course was set for Karumba, at which place I arrived on the 27th of September. After an all-night journey up the Norman River in the launch, Normanton was reached early next morning. Here several official matters engaged my attention. I found some 60 or 70 natives camped around the township, most of whom are casually employed by the residents. I also noticed several young natives, of ages ranging from twelve to fifteen years, who apparently do nothing but play about. I certainly think these youngsters should go to work, especially as plenty of employment could be found for them on the pastoral holdings, within a reasonable distance of Normanton. I regret to say a good deal of syphilitic disease is in evidence, and, as the hospital authorities are disinclined to take such cases into their institutions, it is somewhat difficult to deal with them. A good number of agreements are in force at Normanton, and the credit balance in the Government Savings Bank amounts to £559. The employers pay the wages regularly, and are satisfied with the natives engaged with them.

Proceeding on my journey, Croydon was next visited. Some 13 aborigines are receiving relief to the amount of £8 or £10 per month. About 50 natives are camped within a mile or so of the town, and make a living by casual employment, in a similar manner to those at Normanton. The Protector informs me the natives are healthy and peaceful, besides being easily managed, and there is no trouble with either liquor or opium. There are twelve Savings Bank accounts, with a credit balance of £100.

At Georgetown I interviewed Protector O'Neill, who informed me the aborigines in his district were healthy, and when at work were excellent servants, and little or no trouble is experienced in collecting the wages. There are 64 agreements in force, the credit balance in the bank being £815. The Protector also says the employers treat their native servants exceptionally well, and few, if any, complaints are made to him. The books at Georgetown were in excellent order, and any information asked for by me was quickly available. In a cursory look at the Savings Bank pass-books, I noticed the individual credits ran from £10 to £40.

On my arrival at Cairns, I interviewed Protector Malone, who informed me there were about 500 aboriginals in the district. About 80 or 90 agreements were in force, the credit in the Government Savings Bank being £363, spread over 167 accounts. Most of the aborigines about Cairns readily find employment, and the Protector takes great interest in their welfare. There is little or no sickness amongst them, but sometimes a little of both liquor and opium finds its way to the camp. There is a number of children, who so far receive no education or training of any kind. Otherwise, all aboriginal matters at Cairns were very satisfactory.

On reaching Kuranda, I found between 50 and 60 natives camped on the river; they were all in good health, and several are working under agreement. These people are a very quiet and

contented lot; no opium, drink, or disease is found amongst them, and they are spoken of as excellent workers. Here, again, I noticed some 12 or 15 children of school age, who simply roam about, learning nothing of any use to them.

At Atherton and Herberton, the local Protector informed me that the population of his district was 600 natives, the sexes being nearly equal, with a fair number of children. About 250 of the natives are employed under agreement, and the credit in the bank totals £900. Employers pay the wages regularly, and the natives are fairly healthy. Notwithstanding the keen vigilance of the police, it is feared a good deal of opium finds its way to the aborigines, and several convictions have been obtained. A little liquor is also in evidence occasionally.

At Atherton there is a large number of Chinese, and they are credited with being the medium through which the aborigines procure the opium; and it is stated that, in order to evade the law and its consequences, they now supply the natives with morphia, instead of opium, being under the impression that this drug does not come under the category of opium and is not prohibited by law.

Yarrabah Mission Station was my next place of call. I found the main camp at the station scrupulously clean, and I understand there is a great decrease in the number of cases of malaria and other allied complaints; in fact, considerable improvement is noticeable all round, and the natives appear to me to be more contented and happy. Mr. Needham, who is in charge of Yarrabah, expressed himself as being well satisfied with the behaviour of the inmates. The population of the mission is about 260. A system has now been inaugurated by which the aborigines, it is thought, will be more independent. They are allowed to cultivate small areas of land, in groups or communities, the products of which they sell, and use the proceeds for their own benefit. Several consignments of bananas have been sent South, and realised fair prices; also a good deal of fishing is carried on, principally line fishing, and the catch is readily sold at Cairns. Mr. Needham is of opinion the scheme of allowing the natives to cultivate small areas for themselves is likely to have good results, and one of these small settlements has a credit of £15. A large number of coconuts has been planted and several of the old palms are now bearing, but, so far, no attempt has been made to make copra, the nuts being used for food and for planting.

Leaving Yarrabah, we anchored under Fitzroy Island, and next day proceeded to Innisfail, taking the "Melbidir" for the first time right up to the town wharves. In the Innisfail district, there are about 550 aborigines, 139 of whom are under agreement, including 6 women. The credit in the savings bank, for 154 accounts, amounts to nearly £600.

The Protector, Sergeant McNamara, states that the employers regularly pay the wages due to the natives. During the crushing season, about 50 aborigines obtain employment cane-cutting, and are paid 2s. per week. In the busy season,

the demand for aboriginal labour is very great. Unfortunately, in this district, a good deal of opium finds its way to the natives, and no less than £600 in fines, for supplying this drug, has been collected during the last eighteen months. In every case the offenders were Chinese.

After leaving Innisfail, I visited Dunk Island on my way to make a further inspection of the proposed site for a settlement on the Hull River. Mr. Bamfield most kindly placed his oil launch at my disposal, and accompanied me on the trip. The entrance to the Hull River is about two miles to the southwards of 'Tam o' Shanter Point, with a sandy bar carrying only 2 ft. 6 in. at low water springs, and from 10 ft. to 12 ft. at high water. After crossing the bar, the water deepens to 2 fathoms, and the north branch of the river carries this depth for a distance of nine miles up, which will be the landing for the new settlement. The land is of a very fertile nature, being composed of a dense tropical scrub, with patches of open forest, and is not more than four miles in a direct line to the sea-coast. There is abundance of fresh water, and plenty of good timber. I consider the place admirably suited for an aboriginal settlement, and am very pleased indeed to say that immediate steps are being taken to establish the station.

The establishment of a settlement at the Hull River will, I feel sure, be the means of stopping the supply of opium to the natives, and will also have the effect of controlling the undesirable relations now so much in evidence between the Chinese and the aborigines.

In the Cardwell district, Constable Reed, who is the officer in charge, told me there were about 360 aborigines, including 100 children. The health of the natives is good, and several are employed under agreement. Immediately around Cardwell, opium is not much in evidence, and little or no liquor is indulged in by the natives. As a proof of this, there has not been a case against an aboriginal for drunkenness for more than two years. Constable Reed has taken a most lively interest in the welfare of the aborigines in his district, and is very energetic in his patrol work, which necessitates his travelling over some most difficult and mountainous country, through dense scrubs, and often boggy or swollen watercourses, this requiring a full knowledge of bush-craft, and not a little courage.

Protector Connolly, at Ingham, informed me there are about 50 aborigines under agreement in his district, most of whom are employed on the sugar farms. The natives are not inclined to take liquor, but they manage to get a little opium.

After visiting a small camp of aborigines at Palm Island, I reached Townsville on the 22nd October. Here I found departmental matters running smoothly, and Protector Sweetman advised me there was little or no trouble in connection with the natives.

Going on to Charters Towers, Protector Sweetman informed me there was no sickness amongst the natives. Plenty of employment is offering at fair wages, and the employers pay the boys regularly. The



books show 122 accounts in the bank, with a credit balance of £2,113, and the individual accounts run from £4 to over £62. The natives employed on the pastoral holdings, in this district, complain that there is a shortage of aboriginal women, and they are unable to obtain wives. In fact, in most of the districts, this complaint was made to me, and I fear it will become a serious matter in the near future, unless some action is taken, such as forming settlements, and inducing the aborigines, now roaming about the bush, to reside on these places, when, perhaps, wives for these boys in employment could be drawn from this source. There is a small camp or two in close proximity to the town, and these natives seldom go to work, but loaf about the place and cause annoyance to the residents, besides relying for their upkeep on the natives at work, from whom they get money when they visit the town. It would, I think, be desirable to remove these indolent people to a settlement.

From the aborigines' manner of living, and especially from their always having a fire burning on the bare ground in front of their "gun-yahs," close to where they sleep, they are peculiarly subject to accidents from fire, their feet often being burnt severely, and sometimes other parts of their bodies.

Internal diseases are uniformly ascribed to witchcraft, or sorcery; some blackfellow, it is alleged, ill-disposed towards the patient, has swallowed a stone, or a bone, and vomiting it up again, has spat it out at him, a process which is sure to make him ill, if not to kill him. The wizard is supposed, moreover, to possess the power of conveying himself underground to the object of his deadly malice, and when the charge of sorcery is thus fixed upon a particular individual by the supposed injured party, he is given up to death by his own tribe, and no injury is inflicted on the avenger who puts him to death.

In cases of disease, the practice of some tribes is to place the skin of a dead man either under, or over, the patient. This is supposed to be a powerful specific against sorcery or witchcraft; but the most frequent specific employed by the natives, in the case of internal ailments, is as follows, viz.:—Proceeding on the supposition that the patient is under the influence of sorcery on the part of some hostile or ill-disposed native of some other tribe, his wife, sister, mother, or some other near female relative (for it is generally a female who officiates on such occasions) undertakes to deliver him from the malign influence by a kind of incantation, in the efficacy of which they have unbounded confidence. For this purpose, the patient is extended on his back, and a narrow belt of the skin of some animal, such as an opossum, bear, or flying fox, which sometimes the natives wear around their bodies as a girdle, is bound around his body, or head, according as the one or other is affected. A vessel containing water is next placed beside him, of which the operator takes a mouthful; then, seizing the end of the belt with both hands, the operator rubs it violently along her gums till the blood flows, ever and anon spitting out the blood into a small hole dug in the ground to receive it. Under this process, the disease or malign influ-

ence is supposed to pass out of the body of the patient, along the belt, into the mouth of the operator, who spits it out with the blood, the attendants chanting all the while.

Occasionally, the aboriginal practitioners blow upon the patient as strongly as they can, but for what specific purposes I have not been able to ascertain. Frequently, also, the exorcist of the tribe pretends, with great grimace, and a not very interesting ceremonial, to extract from the body of the sick person the bone or stone which the sorcerer has in some mysterious manner conveyed into it, and which occasions the disease; but, no doubt, the general opinion would be that if any beneficial effects should ever result from any of these peculiar modes of treatment, it must be owing entirely to the influence exercised on the imagination of the patient.

On my return journey to Brisbane, I called at the Barambah Settlement, and found there were about 8 acres of malting barley ready to harvest, and, notwithstanding the exceptionally dry weather, the ears had filled well and the crop gave promise of a fair yield. Two acres of oats were almost ready to cut, and will be turned into hay for use on the Settlement. About half an acre of sweet potatoes and a large quantity of vegetables, including over 5,000 cabbages, had been grown, and used for food for the inmates. The new buildings in course of erection were nearing completion, and will add much to the comfort of the officers, who, hitherto, have had to put up with very indifferent quarters. The sawn timber used in these buildings has been cut by a portable sawmill, on contract, the log timber being procured on the reserve, and has proved most convenient and economical. While on this subject, I may say I am strongly of the opinion a small sawmill should be installed at Barambah, as there is an abundance of first-class hardwood timber growing on the reserve, and a large quantity of sawn timber is constantly being required for the Settlement improvements. The engine could also be used for pumping purposes, and the water thus secured could, by means of pipes, be taken to the camps, thus materially improving the sanitary arrangements, and enabling the inmates to successfully cultivate small gardens; in fact, such a plant would be most useful in many ways.

The cattle, numbering about 350, were looking well, and the percentage of calves was good. This herd produces most of the meat used on the place, about three bullocks per fortnight being slaughtered for this purpose. In addition to the cattle, 350 goats are depastured, and they are doing exceptionally well, providing a very much appreciated change of diet for the inmates.

Over 500 acres of the reserve have been ring-barked, and the improvement in the pasturage is very noticeable. About three miles of almost new fencing has been put up, or repaired, and a new wing to the stockyard, with killing pen, gallows and cemented floor, has been completed.

The shade trees surrounding the officers' quarters, having been treated with dynamite,

are now making exceptional growth, and they should, in a year or so, add to the good appearance of the Settlement.

An epidemic of pneumonia visited the Settlement in September and October, and, notwithstanding the efforts of the visiting medical officer, and the unremitting attention of the nurse, carried off no less than twenty-one natives—principally adults. During the course of this illness, both the doctor and nurse had a very anxious and strenuous time.

The hospital has proved a great benefit, as patients can be treated much more effectively than under the old conditions of camp life.

Both the matron and the nurse are very sympathetic and kind to the women and children.

At school, there is an attendance of about 100 pupils. The teacher says they are diligent and attentive—many of them being bright, and quick at their lessons.

There is now an excellent team of eighteen working bullocks on the Settlement, nearly all of which have been broken by the natives themselves, the steers being selected from the herd on the place. This team is called upon to perform all kinds of work, such as the carting of supplies from the railway station, hauling log timber to the sawmill, ploughing, etc., and has proved most serviceable, much more so than a team of horses would have proved, and the bullocks are preferable in many ways.

The school children have started a little garden, and their efforts in this direction are creditable. Following out my directions, the children are given some practical instruction in simple agriculture, under the supervision of a trained aborigine, who has sufficient knowledge of the work to carry out these duties.

#### EXHIBITION OF ABORIGINAL HANDIWORK.

For the last three years a section has been allotted us in the building at the National Agricultural and Industrial Association's Exhibition, in Brisbane, in August, where non-competitive exhibits of aboriginal handiwork have been made. In 1911 and 1912 the various mission stations, aboriginal schools, and settlements responded heartily to the invitation, and our display last year, covering a space of 20 ft. by 64 ft., created a great amount of interest, and was crowded with sight-seers as long as the show was open. An aboriginal gunyah, built of tea-tree bark and tenanted by a full-blooded aboriginal couple and young piceaninny, occupied the centre of the section and attracted a great deal of attention, for, strange as it may seem, many of the visitors to the show had never seen anything of that kind before.

The exhibit included school work, writing, drawing, sewing, needlework of all descriptions, carving, native weapons of hunting, fishing, and war, samples of products grown and prepared on

the mission reserves, with photographs illustrating the progress made and the industries engaged in. The stalls were attractively arranged, each institution having a separate section, in charge of its own representative.

A splendid collection of articles was sent from each of the mission stations at Mapoon, Weipa, Aurukun, Cape Bedford, Yarrabah, Trubanaman, and Deebing Creek, from the Government settlements at Barambah and Taroom, and the Islands of Moa, Saibai and Murray, in Torres Straits. The aboriginal girls in service in Brisbane and in the country made a fine exhibit of fancy needlework and sewing. The work, generally, displayed a high standard of excellence, and the Society awarded 31 certificates of merit. A number of photographs are shown in this report of the different sections in the exhibit.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS.

##### Aboriginal Girls, Brisbane.

The number of aboriginal and half-caste girls out in domestic service, under the supervision of this office, at the end of last year was 154, of whom 116 were in country situations, the balance being employed in and around the suburbs of Brisbane, and consisting of those whose circumstances make it inadvisable for them to be sent far away, or who are entitled to remain, by reason of long service in the same situation and, of course, good behaviour. One hundred and forty-one agreements were entered into, in each case for twelve months' service, and it will be seen that the very small number of agreements cancelled speaks well for the good behaviour and steadiness of the girls at work.

The amount of wages collected and placed to their credit in the Savings Bank was £1,428 2s. 8d., and the withdrawals, for cash advances and expenditure upon clothing, amounted to £1,127 3s. 7d., leaving an amount of £2,160 14s. 5d. to their credit in the Savings Bank on the 31st December, 1912.

A marked improvement is noticeable in the condition and appearance of the girls sent out into the country, ample proof that, from the point of view of health alone, the decision to restrict the employment of females in the city has been a beneficial one.

Every safe opportunity and encouragement has been given to the girls when reaching marriageable age to meet with and marry men of their own race, and thus provide themselves with the natural protectors so necessary to them at that stage. It is hoped by these means to reduce the growth of immorality among them, which is less the result of evil tendencies than of their unprotected condition.

Another satisfactory result of these measures has been the marriage of twelve of the girls to men of their own race, mostly from the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, the women afterwards accompanying their husbands to employment on the farms and stations in the country. Three

girls were granted exemption from the Acts, and six were removed to the settlement at Taroom for insubordination and misbehaviour. Several girls were removed from situations for unsatisfactory conduct and sent back to the settlement at Barambah, and a number of young girls, who had reached the age at which it was desirable they be taken from the reserve and sent to some employment, were sent to the office from the Deebing Creek Mission and the Barambah Settlement.

There were no deaths. One girl became insane and was removed to the asylum at Goodna, but, after a few months, was released and returned to work.

At the latter end of 1911, an additional Protectress was appointed as a visiting inspector of all aboriginal females, whether in service or in camp. Her duties are to visit, without notice, all places where aboriginal females are employed or accommodated and inquire into the conditions prevailing, to personally inquire into all disputes between employer and employee, and report the result of her inquiries to the Chief Protector, to allow any necessary action to be taken. In addition to the thirty-eight girls employed in town, who were each visited about once every four months, 171 inspections were made of girls in the country, the districts visited being Allora, Beaudesert, Blackall, Benarkin, Blackbutt, Boompa, Biggenden, Bowenville, Childers, Crow's Nest, Colinton, Clifton, Cooran, Dalby, Esk, Gladstone, Gayndah, Gatton, Harlin, Helidon, Harrisville, Ipswich, Kileoy, Kingaroy, Kilkivan, Logan Village, Murgon, Moore, Maryborough, Manly, Nambour, North Pine, Oakey, Pinalba, Rockhampton, Rosewood, Stanthorpe, Sandgate, Southport, Samford, Toowoomba, Toogoolawah, Texas, Warwick, Yandina.

In a majority of the situations the conditions were found to be satisfactory, with the exception, here and there, of small causes of complaint, which the employers promised to rectify when pointed out by the inspector. Twenty-four reports were made where serious causes of complaint were found, and drastic action, in some cases to the extent of removing the girl, was taken. The particulars of complaints were as follows:—Insufficient clothing, 7; insufficient clothing and unsuitable accommodation, 5; unsatisfactory accommodation, 3; immoral conduct of girl, 2; girl overworked, 2; girl allowed out late at night, 1; employing without agreement,

1; neglect of girl's child, 1; insufficient clothing and too low wages, 1; girl charged with impertinence and disobedience, 1.

The effect of these regular inspections has been noticeable in a marked improvement of the conditions under which these girls have been working and also in the general demeanour of the girls. To aid in the work of improvement and to ensure a consistent policy, a comprehensive set of regulations has been drawn up, laying down reasonable and sensible rules as to sleeping accommodation, ventilation, quality and variety of food, quantity and suitability of clothing, opportunities for necessary washing and repairs, sanitary conveniences, moral control, etc., and these are issued to all present and intending employers. Considerable opposition and friction occurred at the commencement of the inspections, a few of the employers objecting to what they affected to regard as unnecessary interference with their servants, but, in reality, because they were conscious of obligations unfulfilled. One result of the inspections has been a uniform increase in the wages of aboriginal girls in service, the minimum rate now being 3s. a week and clothes, or 6s. a week if clothing is not provided by the employer, and upwards, according to age and value, at the discretion of the Protector.

There were nine girls admitted to the Salvation Army Maternity Home for confinement. In addition to the nine children born, four others were admitted to the home for nursing. Agreements were obtained from two men for the maintenance of their illegitimate children. At the end of the year, there were six infants in the home and three girls awaiting discharge. Of the four children at Nudgee Orphanage at the commencement of the year, two girls were sent to service, and one, a boy, handed to the care of his relatives, leaving one girl, who goes into the service of an orphanage in the country.

Visits of inspection were paid to most of the institutions at intervals, and very satisfactory reports received as to their condition, and the appearance of the inmates. We cannot adequately express our appreciation of the sympathetic and willing help granted us, at all times, by the Police, the Government medical officer, the medical superintendent and secretary of the Brisbane General Hospital, and the matron and staff of the Salvation Army Homes, in the care and treatment of the girls and women from time to time passing through our hands.

## LABOUR CONDITIONS.

TABLE I.—DISTRIBUTION OF PERMITS, &amp;c., APPOINTMENTS OF PROTECTORS (1911 AND 1912).

Issued in the Petty Sessions District of—	Protector.	Stationed at—	Date of Appointment.	1911.				1912.			
				MALES.		FEMALES.		MALES.		FEMALES.	
				Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.	Casual.	Permanent.
Somerset ... ..	Lee Bryce, Wm. M. ...	Thursday Island	18-11-11	...	545	...	...	...	576	...	19
Cairns, Mareeba ... ..	Malone, Hugh ... ..	Cairns ... ..	22-7-11	20	132	...	55	59	150	...	27
Cook, Palmer ... ..	Bodman, F., Sergeant	Cooktown ... ..	2-7-08	20	119	...	17	13	229	...	13
Coen ... ..	Whelan, Daniel, Sergeant	Coen ... ..	16-8-11	37	8	63	1	10	43	40	...
Norman ... ..	Brett, Geo., Inspector and Sutton, Geo., Acting-Sergeant	Normanton ... ..	19-10-11 6-12-11	20	34	...	4	...	58	...	8
Etheridge ... ..	O'Neill, Jas., Sub-Inspector	Georgetown ... ..	11-3-11	2	53	1	2	3	...	...	...
Cloncurry, Camooweal ... ..	Byrne, R. J., Sub-Inspector	Cloncurry ... ..	19-6-09	...	59	...	8	6	68	...	9
Mackay ... ..	Quinn, M., Sub-Inspector	Mackay ... ..	7-1-11	...	37	...	3	8	56	...	7
Ayr, Bowen, Cardwell, Ravenswood, Townsville	Sweetman, E. J., Sub-Inspector	Townsville ... ..	22-9-11	4	132	...	14	6	172	...	35
Ingham ... ..	Connolly, P., Acting Sergeant	Ingham ... ..	11-12-10	...	60	...	3	...	100	...	3
Charters Towers, Cape River ... ..	Wyer, Jos., Sub-Inspector	Charters Towers	22-6-12	...	133	...	8	7	122	...	16
Hughenden, Richmond ... ..	Pontley, M., Sub-Inspector	Hughenden ... ..	28-1-11	21	104	...	14	11	101	...	15
Winton ... ..	Dillon, Geo., Sergeant	Winton ... ..	4-6-10	36	13	...	4	34	10	...	6
Boulia ... ..	Watson, C. W., Constable	Boulia ... ..	8-6-12	5	51	...	21	7	80	...	...
Adavale, Augathella, Charleville	Graham, R. M., Sub-Inspector	Charleville ... ..	6-4-12	16	143	...	28	20	131	...	28
Cunnamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Wooroorka	McHugh, Patrick, Sergeant	Cunnamulla ... ..	12-10-12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thargomindah, Nocundra, Erromanga	Frisch, G. A., Acting Sergeant	Thargomindah ... ..	12-10-12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaburra, Tambo	McGrath, John, Sub-Inspector	Longreach ... ..	26-6-09	41	57	...	5	37	57	...	10
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Stanthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Toohy, Daniel, Inspector	Toowoomba ... ..	9-10-11	...	2	...	...	3	8	...	...
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Tenningering, Tiaro	Short, Patrick, Inspector	Maryborough† ... ..	9-6-10	...	646	...	37	2	38	...	9
Banana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure, Alpha	Masterson, M., Inspector	Rockhampton ... ..	22-7-12	...	...	...	...	5	99	...	8
Bollon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Kelly, J., Sub-Inspector	Roma ... ..	24-12-10	20	20	...	2	26	10	...	3
Beaudesert, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Dugandan, Esk, Gatton, Goodna, Harrisville, Ipswich, Laidley, Logan, Marburg, Maroochy, Nerang, Redcliffe, Rosewood, South Brisbane, Woodford	Geraghty, James, Inspector	Brisbane* ... ..	2-12-11	32	49	...	...	...	58	...	...
Brisbane, &c. (for aboriginal females)	Mrs. Whipham, Senior P.A.; Mrs. Beeston, Visiting P.A.	Brisbane* ... ..	10-4-09 26-8-11	...	...	...	183	...	...	...	141
Burke ... ..	Gilchrist, Geo., Acting Sergeant	Burketown ... ..	3-6-11	...	29	...	6	...	38	...	6
Croydon ... ..	Porter, T. O., Sergeant	Croydon ... ..	7-9-12	...	3	...	2	...	13	...	1
Herberton and Thornborough ... ..	Martell, E., Acting-Sergeant	Herberton ... ..	30-10-09	2	137	...	21	54	255	...	32
Mourilyan ... ..	McNamara, J., Acting Sergeant	Innisfail ... ..	28-1-11	...	157	...	6	2	138	...	5
Port Douglas ... ..	Hosankamp, Henry, Acting Sergeant	Port Douglas ... ..	4-6-08	...	68	...	4	12	61	...	11
Burke (west of 139 east longitude)	Logan, A. J., Constable	Turn-off Lagoon	15-6-12	...	...	...	...	4	20	10	2
Turn-off Lagoon	Quinlan, W. P., Constable	Windorah ... ..	8-6-12	15	35	...	...	...	...	...	...
Windorah ... ..	Hayden, W.M., Constable	Birdsville ... ..	7-5-12	2	20	...	...	2	16	...	7
Diamantina ... ..				293	2,846	64	448	331	2,707	50	421

\* Agreements issued at Chief Protector's Office and at Deebing Creek Mission.

† Including Barambah Settlement.

Ninety-four natives were engaged by the Police Department as trackers, where possible choosing married men accompanied by their gins. The boys are thus much more contented and settle down much better to work. At the more distant stations, some difficulty has been experienced in getting boys to settle down, as there is a scarcity

of gins in many of the districts, and, after a few months, the boys want to leave and go closer to the townships, where more women are to be found. It had been several times pointed out that the low rate of wages, £1 per month, paid by the Police Department, failed to attract good men, and, accordingly, last year provision was

made for an increase to £2 a month for first-class trackers and £1 10s. per month for others, but even yet the pay is low when compared with

that received by the two Queensland natives employed by the Victorian Police—viz., 4s. per day, less 1s. 6d. ration money.

TABLE 2.—SHOWING NUMBER OF NATIVES CONTROLLED BY EACH PROTECTOR, WITH SOME IDEA OF CORRESPONDENCE AND PATROL WORK.

LOCAL PROTECTORS.	POPULATION.	LETTERS.		PATROL.	
		Inward.	Outward.	Miles Travelled.	Days Absent.
Boulia ... ..	400	200	550	* ...	* ...
Birdsville ... ..	300	500	500	900	45
Brisbane ... ..	364	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Burketown ... ..	450	70	70	1,000	30
Cairns ... ..	500	500	600	* ...	* ...
Charleville ... ..	300	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Charters Towers ... ..	150	429	383	* ...	* ...
Cloncurry ... ..	150	150	200	* ...	* ...
Cooktown ... ..	450	165	180	300	20
Coen ... ..	1,000	120	160	3,886	187
Croydon ... ..	114	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Cunnamulla ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Georgetown ... ..	166	210	141	* ...	* ...
Innisfail ... ..	400	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...
Herberton ... ..	625	615	709	700	...
Hughenden ... ..	196	428	724	615	27
Ingham ... ..	300	100	100	* ...	* ...
Longreach ... ..	101	1,000	1,000	4,500	...
Maryborough ... ..	700	363	496	600	28
Mackay ... ..	160	30	30	Nil	Nil
Normanton ... ..	600	* ...	110	* ...	* ...
Port Douglas ... ..	200	160	214	140	7
Roma ... ..	550	126	177	993	37
Rockhampton ... ..	584	* ...	* ...	2,828	147½
Thargomindah ... ..	250	10	10	* ...	* ...
Thursday Island ... ..	3,500	902	878	3,600	100
Toowoomba ... ..	67	40	30	450	...
Townsville ... ..	500	380	505	1,450	125
Turn-off Lagoon ... ..	200	* ...	13	* ...	* ...
Winton ... ..	60	95	140	600	30
Windorah ... ..	100	* ...	* ...	* ...	* ...

\* No separate record kept; done in connection with police work.

TABLE 3.—ABORIGINES' WAGES HELD IN TRUST BY PROTECTORS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1911 AND 1912, SHOWING DEPOSITS AND WITHDRAWALS DURING THE YEAR.

Government Savings Bank at—	Credit Balance, 1911.	1912.			
		Number of Accounts.	Deposits.	Withdrawals.	Credit Balance.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Boulia ... ..	1,185 4 2	96	470 18 2	160 13 1	1,336 5 2
Birdsville ... ..	316 7 1	23	413 16 1	109 12 0	620 11 2
Barambah (Abor. Settlement) ... ..	1,232 7 3	457	1,467 8 3	1,236 15 4	1,415 16 11
Brisbane ... ..	42 19 11	6	49 7 0	12 11 0	82 15 7
Brisbane (Aboriginal girls) ... ..	1,859 15 4	154	1,428 2 8	1,127 3 7	2,160 14 5
Burketown ... ..	1,255 18 11	136	101 14 0	118 2 11	969 14 6
Cairns ... ..	303 12 3	168	149 19 8	54 10 8	365 16 0
Charleville ... ..	364 9 9	57	179 1 4	83 4 8	452 10 5
Charters Towers ... ..	2,412 2 6	126	840 9 3	237 3 1	2,144 16 1
Cloncurry ... ..	712 13 1	113	421 5 5	44 5 6	1,146 13 6
Cooktown ... ..	549 5 3	157	156 6 4	39 6 3	603 14 7
Coen ... ..	388 14 4	84	146 4 0	...	534 18 4
Croydon ... ..	84 19 0	12	55 18 8	25 3 6	109 16 10
Cunnamulla* ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Georgetown ... ..	603 5 11	52	366 13 0	230 15 6	739 3 5
Innisfail ... ..	353 12 0	165	330 17 9	21 0 6	703 15 4
Herberton ... ..	656 12 6	235	237 9 4	73 2 9	894 1 10
Hughenden ... ..	1,480 12 3	138	1,421 18 10	1,314 3 6	1,597 17 6
Ingham ... ..	583 17 0	146	431 3 0	53 8 5	1,015 0 0
Longreach ... ..	1,747 4 10	104	363 0 0	99 2 0	2,080 9 0
Maryborough ... ..	183 8 7	24	51 1 10	30 1 4	204 13 1
Mackay ... ..	52 10 5	30	106 11 6	41 0 0	147 8 1
Normanton ... ..	766 12 11	132	136 1 4	44 17 6	576 15 6
Port Douglas ... ..	400 0 0	86	184 8 11	29 8 6	570 18 8
Roma ... ..	145 14 3	13	91 4 6	75 16 9	145 6 7
Rockhampton ... ..	456 12 1	73	321 5 7	192 17 3	710 18 3
Taroom ... ..	9 12 0	62	111 9 6	21 2 5	99 19 1
Thargomindah* ... ..	...	...	...	...	...
Thursday Island ... ..	260 6 4	68	694 0 0	119 0 0	835 0 0
Toowoomba ... ..	12 5 1	5	19 6 4	8 16 11	31 11 5
Townsville ... ..	581 13 2	196	1,091 4 1	418 18 9	1,253 18 6
Winton ... ..	410 10 9	26	214 2 11	115 5 5	509 8 3
Windorah ... ..	550 3 3	56	208 5 4	54 1 2	724 10 5
Total ... ..	£19,953 10 2	3,197	...	...	24,784 18 5

\* Previously included in Charleville; now separate protectorates.

By the foregoing return, it will be seen that the amount of money held in the Government Savings Bank to the credit of the natives in employment has increased by several hundred pounds, and now averages over £8 per head of the natives in employment, or about 30s. per head of the estimated total aboriginal population of this State. The question is often asked as to what use is to be made of this large amount of money. To this we answer that the money is the private property of the aborigines that have earned it, and it is held in trust for their own use and benefit in time of need. There are persons who refer to it as a shame that a portion of the few shillings a week earned by these people should be kept back from them to swell a bank account, but it is our contention that there is no reason why the aborigine, any more than his white brother, should be encouraged to selfishly spend all his earnings on himself while in health and employment, to become a tax on the community when misfortune overtakes him. And it is worthy of note that the people who are loudest in their denunciation of the reserved pay system are the first to hand their native employees over to the care of the State when sick or disabled. And though, in the minds of many such people, it is waste of money paying the native any wages but bare food and clothes for his work, yet payment, often at exorbitant prices, is expected for any services rendered to the same native in his hour of adversity.

In most districts, however, both employer and native are daily becoming more reconciled to the system of banking portion of the wages, and, except for a little discontent occasionally when a Protector finds it necessary to check an extravagantly inclined young buck, very little trouble is now experienced. By this system, the Department has been saved a great deal of expenditure in the way of relief, which, of course, has been paid from the accounts of the natives requiring it. But, in addition to relief, no reasonable request for a withdrawal from his account for amusement is refused the native who, by his conduct, deserves it.

There has been a general increase in wages all round. Active young stockmen earn from 10s. to 25s. per week and found, and a minimum rate, for young boys and girls, of 3s. per week and clothes, or 6s. per week if they find their own clothes, has now been fixed. There is a great demand for these young blacks, both male and female, whose services are valuable in many branches of labour. Unfortunately, in some of the Western districts, labour union agents have caused some trouble, by persuading aborigines in service to enrol themselves as members of the union, leading them to believe that such membership exempted them from working under agreement and having their wages paid through the Protector. As this created an inclination, on the part of many of the intelligent aborigines and half-castes, to defy the authority of the Protector and ignore the claim of the employer, it was deemed necessary, in those districts, to advise all aborigines that such membership would not alter their position with regard to the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Acts, and to also remind employers of the redress available to them, for broken agreements, under the Masters and Servants Act. But the majority of employers

are disinclined to take any such action, and, as a result, our efforts to uphold discipline, and impress upon the native the obligations of his agreement, are frequently rendered futile.

Many of the cattle stations in the North are worked entirely with aboriginal labour, for suitable white men cannot be obtained. Yet, strange to say, it is mostly these stations that object to paying wages to the Protector for the blacks employed by them. After working these blacks for years without any interference, they have come to regard them as goods and chattels, and warmly resent the action of the Protector who dares to question such ownership. In some places, boys were working as stockmen at a wage of 5s. a week, and often buying their own clothes out of that at the station store. A higher rate of wages has been insisted upon, and, in most cases, the employers have agreed to pay 15s. per week rather than lose the boys' services.

In the sugar season there is great demand for the services of able-bodied men, who, by the sugar bounty regulations, must receive a minimum rate of 24s. per week.

Around the settlement they find ready employment at scrub-felling, ringbarking, pear cutting, fencing, burning off, chipping, corn-pulling, &c., but most of them prefer stock and station work or droving. The work is more interesting, and they are very fond of the riding and travelling about.

At most of the larger towns there is to be found a camp of blacks, old nomads, who will not settle down to employment. Many of them make a good living at marsupial shooting, as furred skins have a high market value, and it is not uncommon to see a family with a serviceable camp outfit and a horse and buckboard or spring-cart. Others, not so intelligent, take odd jobs of gardening, woodchopping, scrubbing, &c., receiving in payment a few shillings, broken victuals, or old garments. In one town it was found that a number of the residents had formed a ring among themselves to monopolise the services of a few good workers, thus practically keeping the natives in permanent employment and evading the provisions of the Acts. To prevent this, the Protector insisted on a permit being obtained for every native so employed, and, in addition to his meals, at least a shilling a day to be paid to the Protector for the boy. In other places, no natives may be casually employed on Sundays or after 5 p.m. on any other day, and the police compel them to return to their camps before dark. The practice of permitting casual work, in these circumstances, enables many of the old people, who could not and would not obtain regular work, to keep themselves fairly comfortably, and saves the Department many hundred of pounds in the way of relief.

During the year 61 successful prosecutions were undertaken against people for illegally employing or harbouring natives, and fines and costs, amounting to £266 4s., imposed.

#### LABOUR CONDITIONS ON BOATS.

Most of the employment of aborigines in the pearlshell and bêche-de-mer industries is controlled from Thursday Island, although a number

of boats work from Cooktown, Cairns and Townsville, not only in the fishing industry, but also trading and carrying sandalwood. I give here an extract from the report of Mr. Lee Bryce, the Protector at Thursday Island:—

“ In the early part of the year some difficulty was experienced in obtaining labour for the fishing boats; 77 permits to recruit were issued, and, in many instances, the boats returned without obtaining boys. No complaints were made by the boys regarding their treatment by employers, and it is apparent, from their appearance, they are well fed and made as comfortable as the conditions of their employment will permit. Every endeavour is made to induce all able-bodied males over school age to engage in work, either on their Islands or the fleets, but there is a strong inclination to play about on the beach until a shortage of food is imminent.

“ Very little improvement can be expected from the older men, and, unfortunately, their example has a bad effect on the youths about to leave school. It is discouraging to teachers, after years of labour, to see boys, who have been trained in habits of industry, develop into idlers.

“ A fair number of mainland boys are employed on swim-diving boats, bêche-de-mer cutters, and obtaining sandalwood; their wages run from 14s. to 30s. per month, and are spent under the supervision of a Government agent. They leave here with supplies of food, tobacco, and calico, but it is more than probable that a large percentage of the goods is given away at native camps before they reach their homes.

“ Generally speaking, the conduct of the boys is good and few serious complaints are lodged by employers.

“ The pernicious system of ‘ advances ’ is gradually being broken down, and the limit of ‘ slop-chest ’ reduced to a minimum. It is not uncommon for a boy, discharged with £12 or £15 in cash, to request an advance of two months’ wages when signing on again a few days later.

“ During the last ‘ lay up ’ season, the pearlers rendered valuable assistance by retaining their crews on articles until we could gather a boat-load for a particular island; they were then paid off, allowed a few hours to purchase goods, and sent away to their homes.”

#### “ Melbidir.”

The Master, Mr. Malcolm Smith, reports:—

“ I took up my duties as Master on the 1st January, 1912, the ketch then being in the hands of the Marine Department having a 27 horse power motor engine installed in her. On 12th January she was taken down the Brisbane River on a trial trip, when she made 6½ miles per hour on measured mile.

“ After fitting and ballasting her, and having two large tanks installed for the benzine supply, I left Brisbane on the 30th May under orders for Townsville, where the Chief Protector joined us on the 11th June. We left next morning for Hull River to visit the site of the proposed settlement, calling at Dunk Island *en route*. We found

the Hull River in flood and had to return, setting a course then for Innisfail, which we also failed to reach, the water at the bar being too shallow. Cairns, Port Douglas, and Cooktown were visited, the Chief Protector going ashore on Departmental business, then, after landing four aborigines and the Assistant Superintendent at Cape Bedford Mission, we sailed for Thursday Island, calling at Escape River and Somerset on the way, and arriving at our destination on 6th July.

“ On 13th July we left, with Mr. Lee Bryce, Government Resident and local Protector, on a visit to the Torres Strait Islands, calling at Nagheer, Yam, Daru, Saibai, Mabuig, Badu and Moa Islands, arriving back at Thursday Island on the 25th. After cleaning copper and examining the stern gland at Red Island, we left again on 3rd August for the Eastern Islands of Torres Strait, visiting Cocanut, Yorke, Stephens, Darnley and Murray, getting back to Thursday Island on the 10th.

“ For four days the ketch was on the slip having the stern gland—which, through faulty fixing when the engine was installed, had been a constant source of worry—repaired.

“ As Mr. Howard journeyed in the ‘ John Douglas ’ on his trip to Mornington Island and the Gulf Stations, I patrolled the east coast, with orders to wait for the Chief Protector at Townsville.

“ I arrived at Townsville on 14th September, but returned, in obedience to later instructions, to Cairns, where the Chief Protector joined us on 8th October. Next morning we left for Yarrabah, afterwards visiting Dunk Island and Innisfail, and then on to Hull River, where the Chief Protector made his inspection. Cardwell, Lucinda and the Great Palm Islands were next visited, and, at Townsville, Mr. Howard left me, to proceed south by steamer, instructing me to return to Thursday Island and assist in departmental work in Torres Strait till I returned to Townsville, early in the following year, to meet him again on his next trip.

“ At Thursday Island I had an improved stern tube and gland inserted, and then took the Government Medical Officer and Commissioner of Public Health on a visit around Torres Strait, inspecting the islands and vaccinating natives.

“ The engine, since the insertion of the new tube and gland, has been working well, but the vessel badly needs recoppering, the last copper being put on in 1907.

“ The crew have behaved well and performed their duties satisfactorily, and we have had no sickness on board.”

#### CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

Fourteen half-castes—viz., 8 males and 6 females—who were eligible under Section 33 of “ *The Aborigines Protection Acts of 1897*,” were granted certificates of exemption from the provisions of the Acts. Each application was carefully considered, entirely from the point of view of the welfare of the native concerned, for, frequently, applications are made which, it is quite

evident, have been inspired by an employer anxious to evade the provisions of the Acts. A few such applications were refused, the applicant for some reason not being eligible. To be eligible for such certificate the applicant must be a half-caste, 16 years of age and not married to, living with, or habitually associating with aborigines, besides otherwise satisfying the Protector that he or she is of good character and intelligent. No occasion arose this year for the revocation of any certificates previously issued.

### RECOGNISANCES.

Bonds were entered into by employers in 34 cases for the return of natives removed to other districts or States under agreement. All such natives were returned at the end of their term or the agreement renewed by mutual consent. It was not therefore found necessary to enforce any of the bonds held.

### FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

The following list shows the various centres at which relief rations were distributed to indigent natives and the average amount issued:—

Centre.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Anandale ... ..	2 10 0
Ayr ... ..	1 16 5
Badu ... ..	0 7 9
Bedourie ... ..	2 13 0
Betoota ... ..	4 0 0
Birtsville ... ..	4 10 6
Boulia ... ..	5 0 0
Bowen ... ..	1 2 4
Buckingham Downs ... ..	2 0 0
Burketown ... ..	6 10 0
Cape Bedford ... ..	7 0 0
Chatsworth Station ... ..	3 6 8
Clarke River ... ..	1 5 0
Coen ... ..	1 10 0
Croydon ... ..	8 0 0
Diamantina (retired trooper) ... ..	1 10 0
Diamantina (camp natives) ... ..	4 15 0
Duaranga ... ..	1 5 0
Emerald ... ..	0 14 0
Halifax ... ..	0 15 0
Hammond Island ... ..	2 10 0
Keeroongooloo ... ..	3 6 8
Kuranda ... ..	0 10 0
Laura ... ..	3 10 0
Maytown ... ..	2 0 0
McDonnell ... ..	2 10 0
Miriam Vale ... ..	0 15 0
Moreton ... ..	1 0 0
Mount Perry ... ..	0 18 0
Musgrave ... ..	0 12 0
Nocundra ... ..	1 0 0
Percyville ... ..	2 5 0
St. George ... ..	5 0 0
Thornborough ... ..	2 10 0
Thylungra ... ..	2 10 0
Tinnenburra ... ..	5 0 0
Townsville ... ..	4 5 0
Urundangie ... ..	3 0 0
Winton ... ..	2 0 0

Five new centres were established and three closed, as need for relief was reported in the former places, and the natives either died or were removed in the latter.

No genuine case of need was refused, but, in several instances, where old people made application for rations, it was found that, by reason of age and infirmities, they were unable to look after themselves or prepare the food if granted. If able to stand the journey, such old people were

removed to a settlement, where they can be much better cared for in every way.

The cost of rations issued to natives varied from 6d. to 1s. a day per head, according to circumstances and cost of provisions.

### BLANKETS.

The work of distributing the blankets throughout the State was, as usual, superintended by Mr. G. G. McLennan, Government Store-keeper. In his report he says:—

“The work of despatching the blankets to the far distant centres did not commence so early this year as in previous years, owing to delay in receiving them from the contractors, which delay, I was informed, was occasioned by industrial disturbances in England at about the time the blankets were ready for shipment. However, I am pleased to say that no serious inconvenience was caused to the recipients by the delay referred to.

“The apportionment of the blankets to each centre of distribution was made in accordance with the Hon. the Home Secretary’s instructions—viz., by myself, in conjunction with the Chief Protector of Aborigines, on the basis of last year’s distribution, and, as very few or no complaints were received regarding shortness of supply, it is reasonable to assume that the allotment was satisfactory.

“Except in a few instances, all the distributing officers reported distribution. The exceptions are Archer Mission Station, 23; Nocundra, 87; and a portion (6 pairs) of the despatch sent to Betoota, all of which I have shown in my report as having been issued to unspecified persons.

“The instructions regarding distribution have, in the majority of cases, been closely followed.

“At the request of the Master of the Claremont Island Lightship, a number of wrappers for females, tomahawks, butchers’ knives, and tobacco were supplied for distribution to the blacks in the neighbourhood of the Claremont Islands.

“Last year, 5,198½ pairs were issued, as against 5,386 pairs issued this year; the excess being due to the present year being the alternate year of supply to Aboriginal Homes, &c.

“No reasonable request for blankets for the blacks has been refused. At the same time, every care was taken to prevent duplication of supply in the cases of individual blacks.

“The recipients this year were 2,900 men, 2,565 women, 1,332 children, and 165 unspecified persons—total 6,962. The number of centres of distribution was 140. The total number of blankets distributed was 5,386 pairs.

“As near as can be ascertained, the cost of distribution this year and the attendant expenses were:—

	£ s. d.
5,386 pairs, at 9s 6d. ... ..	2,558 7 0
Forwarding charges, &c., say ... ..	120 0 0
	<hr/>
	£2,678 7 0



“ The following comparative table shows the number of blankets issued and the persons benefited during the last 10 years, viz.:—

Year.	Pairs.	Persons.
1902 ... ..	6,858½	8,341
1903 ... ..	4,914	6,072
1904 ... ..	4,296½	5,466
1905 ... ..	4,652½	5,594
1906 ... ..	5,391	6,704
1907 ... ..	5,011	6,155
1908 ... ..	5,622	6,947
1909 ... ..	5,180½	6,335
1910 ... ..	5,607½	7,091
1911 ... ..	5,196½	6,297

“ The distributors were mostly police officers, and the work of distribution was discharged by them in a very satisfactory manner.”

### DRINK AND OPIUM.

Although the records show an increase in the number of aborigines arrested for drunkenness and also in the number of prosecutions for supplying drink, the Protectors are practically unanimous in reporting a very gratifying decrease in the amount of drink obtained and consumed by the natives.

The prosecutions for supplying and being in possession of opium are also greater in number than was recorded for the previous year, but nearly all these are reported from Cairns, Herberton, Innisfail, Ingham, and Croydon. In the majority of the districts the drug does not appear to be in evidence. The increase in the number of prosecutions is really an indication of greater vigilance on the part of the police, and more success in their operations, born of longer experience of the methods and character of the people they have to deal with. In nearly all country towns, there are a few old natives who manage to obtain grog in some sly way or other, principally through the agency of loafers and other coloured men not so prohibited. Fourteen convictions were obtained against such persons in Rockhampton, 8 in Longreach, 7 in Hughenden, and 5 in Thargomindah, and, in each case, a fine of at least twenty pounds (£20), with costs, was imposed. No trouble is now experienced through the misconception of country justices of their power as regards reducing the minimum fine in these cases, our Protectors having instructions to draw the attention of the Bench to the clauses of the Amendment Act, forbidding such reduction, at an early stage in the proceedings. An amusing case is reported from Port Douglas. Two white men, most likely with designs upon the women of the camp, brought a supply of grog to give to the inmates, but the native King, Jimmy, promptly arrested them and handed them, and the evidence of their guilt, over to the police.

In some places, where the drink traffic is troublesome, everything is done to lessen the opportunities and temptation for the blacks obtaining liquor, by giving them written orders on the stores for goods instead of cash, and, on the Barambah Settlement, where they earn fairly large sums of money at work outside, a retail store is established, where they may spend their earnings for the benefit and improvement of themselves and their families.

Most of the offenders, in the cases of supplying opium or having the drug in possession, are of the Chinese race. They give it to the natives, sometimes in payment for work performed, but mostly as an inducement to obtain the women for immoral purposes. Great difficulty is experienced in catching them, and I am afraid the usual course of inflicting a fine as penalty has not sufficient effect as a deterrent. It is suggested that if imprisonment without the option of a fine were imposed, it would be of greater effect in checking the evil.

The number of prosecutions successfully undertaken during the year, and the fines, &c., imposed, were as follows:—Supplying drink—41 convictions, fines and costs, £936 14s. 6d.; supplying opium—20 convictions, fines and costs, £479 7s. 8d.; having opium in possession—127 cases, fines and costs, £1,181 14s.; selling poison (morphine)—8 cases, with fines and costs, £61 13s. In the Cairns district the use of morphine instead of opium is becoming more noticeable. It is no offence to have this drug in possession, nor is any provision made for the punishment of persons supplying it to blacks, and the only machinery for checking its supply is under the Poisons Act, for selling it without a license.

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

The officers of the Department have been, if possible, more active and zealous in their endeavours for the benefit of young women and children. Every effort was made, where information of such cases was received, to rescue these poor creatures from the unhealthy surroundings they were almost invariably found in, and place them where they would receive proper care and training. During the year 7 young children were removed to the Barambah Settlement and 6 to Taroom, 1 young female was brought to Brisbane and sent to service, 1 girl and 3 young children were sent to Cape Bedford Mission, and 1 girl to Yarrabah Mission.

For the young girls, budding into womanhood, domestic service with respectable people is found, and the change from camp life, with its semi-starvation and insanitary conditions, to one of comfort, cleanliness, and regular nourishing food, makes a wonderful improvement in their appearance and disposition. As stated earlier in this report, to enable the Department to deal more effectively with this branch of its work, a travelling Protector has been appointed, whose duty it is to visit and inspect the conditions of all aboriginal females and children, whether in camp or in employment. This officer has professional nursing experience, and is thus particularly qualified for the work of inquiring into the circumstances and character of these young females. Noticeable improvement has been made in their conditions at service, and, as a result of adverse reports made, several girls have been removed from unsuitable situations and sent to work elsewhere. Twenty-one prosecutions were instituted for unlawfully permitting females on premises, and fines, amounting to £86 17s. 6d., were imposed. A trained nurse has also been established at the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, and provision made for a similar officer at the Taroom Settlement,

Recognising that, although domestic training and protection is necessary for the young females, it does not constitute all they require, opportunities were afforded many of them, as they reached marriageable age, to mate with men of their own race. As a result, 22 such marriages are reported, being 10 half-castes and 12 aboriginal girls, mostly at the Barambah Settlement; in every case the legal marriage, before a clergyman, being arranged at the natives' own requests. The domestic training received in earlier days often made itself evident, in the half amusing and half pathetic attempts on the part of the young wife to imitate, to the best of her ability with the limited means at her disposal, the civilised methods and style of living learnt and observed while in service. Many of their little homes are quite nicely furnished with home-made articles, and would compare favourably with many an early settler's home in the bush.

Where it was the wish of the girls, and it appeared to be for their welfare, permission was granted them to marry men of alien races, the legal marriage, of course, being in every case insisted upon. Twenty-four such permits were granted, 7 being to half-castes and 15 to aboriginal girls, the nationalities of their husbands being as follows:—Pacific Islanders 7, Malays 7, Japanese 2, Chinese 1, South American 1, Indian 1, Europeans 3. These marriages seem to have been well advised, for no complaints have been received.

In addition to the children removed to the various institutions by order of the Hon. the Home Secretary, four children were committed by the Bench to the Industrial Schools at Deebing Creek, Mapoon, and Westbrook for a number of years. Two children were released, by Minister's authority, from Deebing Creek Industrial School and sent to service from this office. The number of children at present being cared for in the various Homes and Industrial Schools is as follows:—Mapoon 5, Yarrabah 8, Deebing Creek 2, Riverview 1, St. Vincent's Orphanage 1, Yeronga and Breakfast Creek 6, Barambah 9.

### HEALTH.

Reports showing a very satisfactory state of health among the natives were received from nearly all sources. Practically no epidemics were experienced, and a proportionate decrease in the number of bronchial and pulmonary complaints, which seem to always follow these epidemics, is evident. At Brisbane General Hospital, 39 natives were admitted for treatment, being principally venereal, consumption, throat and chest complaints, gastric and abdominal inflammation, eye and skin diseases, and accidents. Only two deaths were reported. At Toowoomba Hospital, 12 patients were treated; the records show 3 cases pneumonia, 2 senile decay, 2 accidents, 2 colitis, mumps, convulsions, and heart trouble. There were 7 deaths. At Rockhampton 32 cases received medical attention, principally colds, accidents, venereal, and senile decay. There were 12 deaths. At Port Douglas, 27 cases of sickness were treated, principally bronchitis, pneumonia, toothache, malaria, senile decay, spear wounds,

and 1 venereal; 7 deaths were reported. At Charters Towers, 14 cases were treated, principally accidents, pneumonia, and dengue; 2 deaths were reported. At Herberton, 15 deaths occurred from internal complaints, senile decay, and accidents; pneumonia being at times very prevalent. At Roma, 8 deaths occurred, mostly from consumption, internal complaints, and accidents. At Winton, 9 deaths occurred from senile decay, consumption, and venereal.

In all, 100 deaths were reported to this office, of which 41 occurred at Barambah Settlement, and 20 at Taroom Settlement, the high percentages for these places being accounted for by the large numbers of natives removed to the reserves when in the last stages of disease and senile decay, to ensure their receiving medical attention and care.

In addition to the above list, 47 deaths occurred in Torres Strait, in all cases from tropical dysentery, and a number of old people on the mainland of Cape York Peninsula succumbed to a mild form of influenza, which broke out in the camps in the early part of the year.

An outbreak of dysentery occurred in the Eastern Islands of Torres Strait early in April and lasted till late in August. Eighty-five cases were reported on Darnley Island alone, nine terminating fatally. The water supply near the main village is blamed for this, and, to obviate any recurrence of the epidemic, the spring has been cleaned and a water service through galvanised-iron pipes laid on to the beach. A careful examination was made by the Government Medical Officer, and stringent measures taken to stamp out the disease, by burning the houses and effects of the patients, and any other building considered to be in an insanitary condition.

Most of the teachers are succeeding, after years of persevering effort and advice, in persuading the natives to rebuild their houses and remodel their villages on modern lines. The houses, which are made of grass or palm leaves, are now being built on high stumps, with separate cooking and living rooms, and not more than one family may occupy each building. The houses must be a certain distance apart and built in a proper system of streets, the roads of which are kept in order by each occupier being responsible for the cleanliness of the section opposite his building. At Saibai, which is spoken of as the model island of the Straits, the freedom from disease is no doubt due to the great improvement made in this direction by the teacher, Mr. Williams. Dr. Elkington, Commissioner of Public Health, spoke in such glowing terms of the sanitary conditions of Saibai Island, that the inhabitants of many of the other islands are doing their best to emulate the example set by the Saibai natives.

During April and May, Dr. Elkington vaccinated 1,300 Torres Straits natives, and explained to the people how they should improve their methods of living, in order to reduce the danger of epidemics.

At the Gulf Mission Stations, there was very little sickness of any serious kind. Malaria was practically non-existent. Towards the end of the year, the usual feverish colds and influenza made their appearance, some developing into pneumonia. No medical officers visit these

institutions, the officers relying upon some slight experience of home treatment or medical knowledge possessed by them, and, judging by the low death rate, with remarkably good results.

Of the missions on the East Coast, Cape Bedford reports only one case of sickness (consumption), which proved fatal. At Yarrabah, about 50 cases of mild malaria, 8 cases of ankylostomiasis, and a few cases of rheumatism were treated. Several children were stung with jelly fish, one of whom died. A visit was paid to this station by Dr. Baxter-Tyrie, Government Medical Officer of Cairns, during September.

At the Government Settlements at Barambah and Taroom, the sick lists were much heavier and the death rates larger, due, as already stated, to the introduction of large numbers of incurable and old natives, who afterwards developed ailments, perhaps contracted before their removal, and infected the other residents. At both these places, regular medical attention is provided, with trained nursing and a well-stocked dispensary, and, at Barambah, a serviceably-equipped hospital and surgery. It is impossible to estimate the number of cases receiving attention at Barambah, an average of about 40 patients a month being attended to by the Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. Junk, and the resident certificated nurse being occupied, often day and night, with her hospital accommodation taxed to its fullest capacity. At Taroom, in addition to numerous minor ailments, 10 males and 5 females were receiving attention for consumption and venereal disease. One case, in which a young child was severely burnt on the stomach through her clothing catching fire, is worthy of notice. Although the surface burnt extended from the breast right to the abdomen, being in places 4 or 5 inches wide, probably severe enough to kill an ordinary white child, the matron, Mrs. Addison, after weeks of patient and careful attention and nursing, succeeded in effecting a complete cure. A photo of the scar which remains is shown among the illustrations.

The majority of the Protectors report the prevalence of venereal disease in a greater or less degree. The Protectors at Thursday Island and Ingham both deplore the fact that this disease is prevalent in their districts, but state that practically little can be done to alleviate the sufferers without proper means of isolation and treatment. Six cases of this disease, principally granuloma, were treated at the General Hospital, Brisbane, the patients, in most instances, coming from the Barambah Settlement, or being treated before removal there.

It is worth noting that the Brisbane Hospital, the busiest and most crowded of its kind in Queensland, readily admits and treats any aboriginal venereal patient sent to it, yet the majority of the hospitals in the country and smaller towns absolutely decline to treat any patient suffering with this disease. The excuse made is that the treatment extends over a long period and the drain upon the hospital resources for drugs, dressings, maintenance, &c., is too severe. It certainly seems a most selfish and inhuman attitude for these hospitals to adopt, that the poor, miserable victims of this terrible disease should be denied their only chance

of life and health, because the institutions, to which they should look for assistance, desire to display satisfactory balance-sheets. Nor does it seem fair, as they are generously subsidised by the Government, that they should shirk this portion of their work, which consequently falls upon the shoulders of the overworked institution in Brisbane, which, recognising that the sufferers cannot be allowed to die from neglect, has never yet turned away an applicant. At the best, however, in most cases, the treatment received can only be of a temporary nature. Without the isolation, dieting, and cleanliness necessary until the disease is entirely eliminated from the system, such treatment must often be time and labour wasted. But this is no excuse for denying them such relief, if it is only temporary.

We will not be able to deal effectively with this scourge amongst the natives until Lock Hospitals, for proper isolation and treatment, similar to those now proving such a success in Western Australia, are established. A complete proposal was placed before the Hon. the Home Secretary last year, and heartily supported by him, but no provision was made in the Vote for the necessary expenditure. These isolation hospitals are necessary, not only for the relief of the suffering aborigines, but in the interest of the white races also; for, as stated last year, several of the medical officers report that they have no doubt a great many of the complaints of gonorrhœal origin found among young Europeans are contracted from intercourse with the aboriginal women, camped near the towns, who are themselves affected with the disease.

#### CRIME.

The record of crime is a slightly larger one than that of last year, but this is almost accounted for by the increase in the number of cases of drunkenness.

Of the more serious offences there were—murder 5, rape 1, stealing 19, stealing boats 5, burglary 1, attempting to steal 1, indecent exposure 1, attempted rape 2, shooting with intent 2, receiving stolen goods 1, unlawful wounding 1, insanity 1. Of the minor offences, the list shows—Drunkenness 156, common assault 14, obscene language 9, desertion from hired service 12, ship desertion 15, creating disturbance 12, resisting arrest 3, being on a dwelling for an unlawful purpose 3, attempted suicide 2, grievous bodily harm 2, destruction of uniform 1, unlawfully using a horse 1, found in gaming house 2, aggravated assault 1, wilful destruction of property 1, going armed in public 1, assault on police 1.

The majority of the minor offences were the outcome of indulgence in drink, and most of the criminal offences, except, of course, those against morality, were caused through tribal quarrels. The desertions from hired service or from ships represent those only brought before the court, but, on the East and West Coast of Cape York Peninsula, many of the aboriginal crews of fishing boats desert after a few weeks' or months' work, particularly if the opportunity occurs when the vessel is close to their own country. It is practically useless in such cases to institute proceedings, for the arrest of the

offender would be a difficult task, and, in most of the desertions from shore service, the employers decline to enforce their agreements, as it would not, from their point of view, be worth while.

In addition to the 20 children and girls removed, as already shown, for their protection and education, 30 males and 23 females were removed to the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement, and 18 males and 13 females to the Taroom Settlement, principally for leading vagrant and immoral lives, to remove them from bad influences and the opportunities of obtaining grog, or, being old and helpless, to provide them with necessary food and attention during their last days.

#### TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS.

I cannot do better than quote from the report of Mr. W. M. Lee Bryce, Government Resident and Protector of Aborigines at Thursday Island, in Torres Strait:—

Excellent progress was made last year in the Island schools, and the attendance has been more regular, owing to the enforcement of regulations, which provide for the punishment of parents and guardians who do not send their children to school every day.

More attention is given to industrial work among the girls, and the results are most gratifying to all concerned. I am strongly of opinion that industrial instruction is of paramount importance to both sexes, and the ordinary scholastic work could, with advantage, be curtailed to permit an extension on the industrial side.

On islands where it is possible to give instruction in needlework, the girls have done remarkably well, the result being that material is not wasted as formerly, and the women and children are well clad.

The elder girls and women have so much spare time that, in a few months after leaving school, they lose all inclination to continue the habits of industry and usefulness they acquire as scholars, and, if left to their own devices, would spend the greater part of the day idling about on the sand beach. To counteract this tendency, some of the teachers formed classes for the making of fans, hats, baskets, and mats, and, although the industry is in the elementary stage, the women and girls at Yam and Badu have already disposed of a fair quantity of goods and appear anxious to continue the work, which is of a congenial nature and provides pocket money for the workers. A schoolroom was erected by the residents of Darnley Island and occupied during the greater part of the year. The teacher's residence has been removed to a more suitable site on the hill and some necessary additions effected.

At Mabuiag, the quarters were reroofed and repairs to the school completed, prior to the wet season.

New verandas have been erected at the Saibai house and the building made water-proof. After the rains cease, a new bedroom will be erected at Yam Island, and suitable verandas added to the existing small dwelling.

The teachers' houses are not at all suitable for a tropical climate, and, when new residences are to be erected, it would be well to follow the recommendations made by Dr. Elkington regarding the type of building required. The cost will certainly be greater than that in connection with the existing buildings, but a comfortable home is one of the few compensations we can offer to the men and women who take up duty in places where they are practically cut off from communication with their own kind.

There are many places where one would like to establish a Government representative, not only to educate the children, but also to limit the influence of alien crews; but the question of finance, and the obtaining of suitable teachers at the low salary offered, are difficulties not easily overcome.

Every endeavour has been put forth to induce the Cocoanut Island people to go in a body to Yorke Island, but, up to the present, we have not succeeded. Cocoanut Island is a wretched place to live on, produces very little native food, and, for several months every year, water for domestic use has to be brought from adjoining islands. A large number of diving boats use the anchorage, and, for that reason alone, I would like to see an official resident on the island, or the people removed elsewhere. Twenty-seven children are now receiving an elementary education from a Torres Straits native, who has qualified as a London Mission Society teacher.

The Yorke Island people were delighted to learn that the Home Secretary had decided to establish a school there.

The adoption of these suggestions would involve a considerable outlay, but, if any permanent work is to be done in Torres Straits, an increased expenditure is inevitable, until the islanders have been educated to reap the full benefit of their great natural resources.

There are 21 vessels, or "company boats," as they are called, worked by the natives, in the pearl-shell and bêche-de-mer industry, on the communal system. Ten of these are controlled from this office and bring their produce to Thursday Island for sale, their returns last year being £1,690 10s., including £441 for sale of copra on account of Murray Island natives. The catch of these boats for the previous year was £884. There is a balance of £284 to their credit in the Government Savings Bank and, at present, they are all free of debt. The remaining eleven operate from the station of the Papuan Industries Limited, where they sell their produce and provision their boats. Their returns for the past year show £2205 as the total catch.

A new agreement has now been made with the Papuan Industries Company, which allows them a fair commission on the turnover, and will materially increase the earnings of the natives.

Some of the islanders do not work their boats regularly or exhibit any inclination to keep them in good order. The teachers do all in their power to overcome these failings, but, I am convinced, the only remedy is the proclamation of

stringent regulations, to enforce a fair amount of work by every able-bodied man, and to penalise offenders.

These boats reduced their debt from £1,479 to £1,029, and there is every prospect of a greater reduction this year. Only one vessel, the "Wakimab," required extensive repairs during the year.

The islands were visited as often as possible, and new rules, relating to administration, explained to the people, who take a keen interest in the subject and do not readily assent to anything which appears to curtail their liberties or tends to spur them on to improve their methods of living or working. Frequent visits are absolutely necessary to ensure good results, and I sincerely hope it will not be long before a suitable vessel is provided for this duty. The "John Douglas" is now at Cooktown, under the control of the Treasury Department, and there is no Government vessel here which I can use for patrol work.

The birth rate in Torres Straits is equivalent to 38.46 per 1,000 of the total population, or 71.24 per 1,000 of the adult population. A total of 47 deaths was recorded, equivalent to 24.1 per 1,000 of the total population; of these only 10 were children, 3 of whom died shortly after birth, owing to neglect.

#### Badu Island, Torres Strait—

The Teacher, Mrs. E. Zahel, reports:—

"The total population is 216, including: adults—males 67, females 43; children 106. There were 8 births, 8 deaths, and 3 marriages.

"The school has made fair progress during the year, but, as it was not reopened until March owing to the migrating of most of the inhabitants to the small islands during time of sickness, the children had forgotten a good deal. Five of the elder boys have been signed on to the ketch 'Dogai,' thus receiving some training. A class has been formed in school for the girls to learn basket making, and they are getting on well. As so many children come to school in dirty clothes, a public washing day every week has been instituted, the elder girls doing the washing, while some of the boys get the water. A good many visitors have been to the school and expressed themselves as pleased with the bright, happy faces of the children.

"During February and March the natives migrated to the adjacent small islands to enable their village to get free of dysentery. During their absence two young infants died of the disease. During the rest of the year the health of the village has been splendid, except for a few feverish colds, which seem to be a regular thing amongst them.

"On 17th May, Dr. Elkington, Commissioner of Public Health, paid a visit to vaccinate the natives, and, on the following day, did so to practically the whole of the population. In consequence, some of their arms were in a very bad state and required a good deal of attention.

"Of the deaths during the year, four were infants, two of these dying of dysentery; of the

others, there were one old man and woman who had once been nearly drowned and had never quite recovered, it having affected their lungs.

"In the early part of the year the houses were in a bad state, so a meeting of men was called and they were asked to build fresh houses and repair others. It has taken some time to do this, as the men had to carry timber from a distance and can only work during dirty water time; but they learned in time the advantages of co-operation, several men combining to finish a house. As a result, we have eighteen new houses, some not quite completed, and nine or ten others have been repaired.

"The men, as a whole, have worked very well, some praise for which is due to the very good councillors, Alegeda and Sagigi, and the three policemen, Aupau, Tom Badu and Salitelu.

"A class for women has been formed, where they do sewing, mat and basket making. They have made over 50 baskets and several mats. The baskets have been sold and the money given to the makers.

"Very bad bush fires have occurred during the last three or four months, which have been disastrous to the native gardens, as well as to a part of the plantation of the Papuan Industries Limited. Several men have lost over sixty and seventy banana trees. Some are now preparing to make their gardens on the small adjacent islands, ready for the rainy season.

"As the price of pearlshell has been so good during the year, the boats have done very well, and the men have stuck to their work. Only once was there a stoppage, owing to a man being bitten by a shark; then diving was discontinued for a few days. The native boats 'Argan,' 'Badu,' and 'Wakaid' have paid £206 18s. 4d. off their debts during the past year, which shows better results than in any previous year. The return of catch for each boat is—'Argan,' 32 cwt. 3 qr. 15 lb.; 'Badu,' 31 cwt. 2 qr. 24 lb.; 'Wakaid,' 38 cwt. 4 lb. 'Nancy Lee,' owned by Tamwoy, caught 21 cwt. 23 lb. Sixteen cases were tried before the Court and 18 dogs were registered. The amount collected in fines was £10 16s., and in dog licenses 18s. Of this, £9 0s. 6d. has been expended in necessities for the village, such as food in time of dysentery, &c."

#### Adam Tribe, Moa Island—

The population is—males 33, females 17, children 45; total, 95. There were 2 births, 2 deaths, and 1 marriage.

There is no school at Adam, and as it was found in the past that bringing children over to Badu was a failure, it has not been renewed. There is certainly a need of a school, and of more supervision, which cannot be effectively carried out from Badu.

The soil at Moa is better than that at Badu, and the natives should have better gardens than they have, but want of rain and bush fires have hindered the growth.

On the whole, the village has been healthy, no epidemic occurring during the year. In May, Dr. Elkington, Commissioner of Public Health,

vaccinated the whole of the natives, and they had to be supplied with calico for bandages. The children at Adam do not look so well cared for nor so healthy as those of Badu, and a few suffered from sore eyes and fever.

Quite a number of new houses have gone up during the year, and others are still in course of erection, the old houses being very low, dirty, and with a ground floor.

The new church, which is in course of erection, has been partly paid for by the natives, and is a creditable piece of work, being made of coral lime and cement with ruberoid roof. The opening was put off, owing to the scarcity of food for expected visitors and the likelihood of its interfering with their pearlshelling during the busiest time of the year.

There are 2 councillors and 2 policemen. Namai, one of the councillors, is an intelligent and hard-working old man, who tries to do his best for the people.

Four cases were tried in Court, 7s. 6d. being collected in fines.

The return of catch of the boat "Adam" for the year is 22 cwt. 22 lb., and the debt on the vessel has, as a result, been reduced by £79 1s. 3d.

#### Darnley Island, Torres Strait—

The Teacher, Mr. P. C. Guilletmot, reports:—

"The population of Darnley Island is as follows:—Adults—Male, 97; females, 83; children under 16 years of age, 139; total, 319. The number of births was 16, deaths 7, and marriages 2.

"The number of school children on the roll was 79, and the average attendance 70. The subjects taught were reading, writing, dictation, arithmetic, and geography (Australia and Oceania). Instruction was also given in gardening (cotton growing), first aid, and hygiene.

"The school is now held in our own building, built, as previously reported, by the people. It is a large, fine and cool building, and quite suitable in every respect. The Government Carpenter has put in doors and shutters. Extra timber has been added to the structure lately, in order to make the house secure for the coming north-west season. So far, the children are taking their lessons squatting, native-like, on the floor, as we have no forms. Exercises, drawing, &c., work is done on tables, the pupils using packing cases to sit on.

"The children have made fair progress during the year. Their conduct is good, and, in punctuality and personal cleanliness, they have greatly improved. An epidemic of tropical dysentery, lasting for four months, greatly interfered with the routine and school work generally. The monitors have both been regular in their attendance, and have given every satisfaction and valuable assistance, especially with the younger children.

"Garden work is done on certain days of the week, but, owing to a very meagre rainfall, spread over a very short north-west season, it has not been the success I had expected. The

girls have a very nice experimental plot of Caravonica cotton, a sample of which I have shown you and also sent to the Brisbane Exhibition along with some other school work. I feel confident that this will give an impetus to cotton growing on the island, for which, I have been told, it is very suitable. I am of opinion that, had the season been a more favourable one and the dysentery not interfered with our work, the cotton would have been even much better. The boys have been rather unfortunate, as none of the cotton seed (there were three plantings made) germinated. This, however, seems to have had no disheartening effect upon them, as they are going, so they told me, to try to beat the girls next season. This is a good spirit, and shows that all our labour amongst this generation, at least, has not been in vain. A number of the old people have also applied to me for seed, and, as far as I can see now, there will be about 100 acres of cotton planted next year. The main thing now is to encourage the people by distributing seed and providing information as to the proper cultivation of this valuable product.

"The school teacher's residence has now been removed from its former insanitary and unsuitable locality to a fine commanding position on the hill, purchased last year by the Department at my urgent representation. It is now an ideal place in every way, and even fastidious visitors have expressed themselves in no uncertain terms about it, one gentleman saying that it was the finest position in Torres Straits. A new side veranda has been added, which has made the dwelling much cooler and pleasanter to live in. The house is built of corrugated iron and contains three rooms, with 8 ft. 6in. walls (the two front rooms only being ceiled), also kitchen, bath, and store room, and has now verandas on three sides. The building has been partly painted by me, and I would be glad if more paint material could be supplied to enable me finish the job. A very fine flagstaff, with yards about 45 ft. high and well rigged, has been placed in front of the residence, from which, on King's birthday, the arrival of Q.G. vessels, and other high occasions, the Union Jack proudly floats.

"The natives of the island own one boat, the 'Erub,' the working of which has again been very irregular. It seems impossible for the majority of these men to work continually and consistently, with the result that the better element, at my suggestion and pressure, have shipped under different owners on the pearling fleets about here. They receive, without exception, good wages, food, and treatment, and, consequently, are in the position to provide for their wives and families in a far better manner than those who are working the 'Erub.' The cutter itself is in good working order, and, at the time of writing this report, the company has a credit balance of £9 5s. 9d. in the Government Savings Bank, but very little money has been distributed amongst them as a result of their labour.

"Large plantations of yams, bananas (several kinds), manioc, sugarcane, sweet potatoes, taro, pumpkins, maize, watermelons, pipaws, and mangoes have been made; but the crops, owing to an insufficient rainfall, have been a great failure. Even this does not seem to move

the natives into greater activity in working the boat 'Erub.' Several others, mostly Pacific Islanders, have hired cutters from owners at Thursday Island, and have done well in the *bêche-de-mer* business.

" I have already referred to the removal of the school teacher's residence. About twenty new houses, all of an improved type—even two corrugated iron houses—have been built, and it is hoped will improve the health of the people. A new substantial courthouse and gaol will be built next year; the old one was getting rather shaky and had to be demolished. A hospital will also be built on a suitable place of the Government compound, and it is hoped that a better control of infectious diseases can thus be exercised.

" The Wanetta Pearling Company has been granted an area of 10 acres for the establishment of a station. A comfortable three-roomed dwelling and outhouses have been erected there, and a portion of the land under lease is being cultivated, and a pig and poultry farm established.

" The councillors have been fairly regular in their attendance at the monthly council meetings. These meetings are held on the first Saturday in every month, to arrange for work of a public nature, such as making and repairing roads, bridges, culverts, and for inspection as to the cleanliness of villages, wells, houses and yards. The whole of this work has been well done, and the people have given every assistance. The councillors also assisted me during the dysentery period, and did much to avert a general scare. We have four policemen, and they also have done their duty, sometimes under rather trying conditions, nobly and well.

" The health of the people during the whole of the year has been very bad. In April an epidemic of dysentery broke out, and lasted well into the month of August. Eighty-five cases were notified, and nine people of all ages died. From its first outbreak, houses or whole villages, where the sickness occurred, were strictly quarantined and disinfected, and the school closed. A large supply of specific medicines and disinfectants was immediately requested from the authorities at Thursday Island and very promptly sent, with instructions by the Government Medical Officer. It was, doubtless, due to this, together with strict surveillance of all cases, and quarantine, that so few deaths occurred. Dr. Wassell, the Government Medical Officer at Thursday Island, in company with the Government Resident, Mr. W. M. Lee Bryce, visited the island professionally on 25th June. A thorough inspection of the villages was made, and instructions given as to the burning of several badly-infected houses, the cleaning of wells, &c. The greatest trouble I had in fighting the disease was the people's prejudice to the 'white man's medicine' and their own filthy methods of administering their 'cures.'

" On 26th April Dr. Elkington, the Commissioner of Public Health, arrived here in the 'John Douglas' and vaccinated about 180 people against smallpox. The Doctor also made exhaustive inquiries *re* tropical and other diseases, inspection of villages, houses, &c. Much useful instruction and information was given to me by

Dr. Elkington, for which I was duly thankful. Towards the end of the dysentery epidemic, pulmonary complaints were the order of the day, and two fatal cases occurred. During the months of September and October, dengue and colds, with feverish symptoms, were very prevalent among young and old, and, in the beginning of November, a slight outbreak of dysentery occurred again. I have been kept extremely busy during all these epidemics, and it will doubtless surprise you when I say that the number of calls I made, medicines dispensed, vaccinated arms dressed, sores (some of an awful nature) attended to, &c., was well over 2,300, a fairly respectable medical practice.

" The planting and replanting of cocoanuts has been well maintained, and I estimate the number of nuts planted since my last report to be over 2,000, not counting those planted along the public roads. The South Sea element of our population, the best gardeners, are not willing to plant any more cocoanuts, as they are afraid that the natives, the owners of the land, will not allow them to make use of the land when once the trees have started to bear. I consider that, to encourage these people in growing cocoanuts, and to avoid any further trouble and friction, the land, with due regard to the natives' requirements, should be surveyed, and each inhabitant, other than an aboriginal, should receive a piece of land for a house and another portion for garden land, for which an annual rent should be paid. At present the natives themselves are robbing one another of land, and to be just and fair to everybody is a very difficult matter under present conditions, as the contending parties, in nearly every instance, have given such diverging opinions of what is their own.

" Altogether, 32 cases have come before the native court during the year, and the fines and costs collected amounted to £10 18s. The offences were—Laying poison on another man's place 1, staying ashore without permit 2, harboring strangers 3, immorality 6, neglecting to send children to school 5, leaving or entering quarantine area 4, defamation 1, disobeying the orders of the councillors 4, fighting 1, assault 1, stealing 1, disturbance 1, preventing crew from watering 1, land case 1. There have been, as usual, several family squabbles, but they were amicably adjusted without going to court. There were no serious crimes.

" Forty dogs were registered at Darnley, and 4 at Stephen Island, at a tax of 1s. per head."

#### Mabuiag Island, Torres Strait—

The Teacher, Mr. W. C. Minniss, reports:—

" I opened school, on the 8th January, with a roll attendance of 52 children (26 boys and 26 girls), and closed school in December with an attendance of 61 (29 boys and 32 girls).

" The senior class of 5 boys and 6 girls did not come back after the Christmas holidays, the boys going to work on the boats, the girls staying to help their parents working in the gardens, &c. They were all over school age and had the consent of Mr. Lee Bryce, our Protector at Thursday Island. The school is divided into four classes, the subjects taught being reading,

writing, arithmetic (simple and compound bills of parcels), geography (Australian and local), also singing.

“Mrs. Minniss has a class for the senior girls, teaching them sewing and household work, such as laundry work, baking and cooking. The girls, however, do not seem to be fond of it, and I am afraid do not appreciate Mrs. Minniss’s efforts. The children come clean, and fairly regularly, to school, and conduct themselves well. The school was open for 212 days, and the average attendance was 26 boys and 30 girls.

“The population is 250, composed of: Adults—married, 48 males, 45 females; single, 27 males, 23 females; children—57 males and 50 females. There were 9 births, 6 deaths, and 2 marriages.

“The boats have not done so well this year as they have done in previous years, but the weather has had a good deal to do with it. Most of the time when the clear water came in it started to blow, so that prevented the boats from getting as much shell as should have been got. The ‘Uropi’ cutter is clear of debt the ‘Mabuiag’ is still in debt to the Papuan Industries Company, but I hope to have her clear of debt shortly.

“Twenty-one of our young men signed on to diving boats, at the beginning of the year, at a wage of £2 10s. a month, thus helping their families considerably, by bringing in a certain amount of food and calico, so that, on the whole, the natives have not suffered in any way from want during the past twelve months.

“The gardens were, to a certain extent, a failure this last year, owing to a continued drought. Sweet potatoes were very scarce, compared with other years. The manioc, or South Sea arrowroot, is a great standby for the natives, as it grows without so much moisture and flourishes wherever it is planted on the Island. The natives are very busy just now getting their gardens ready for the wet season, which seems long in coming.

“We have been particularly free from sickness in the village during the last 12 months, only a few mild cases of dysentery occurring at the beginning of the year, but, taken in time, they were all successfully treated and there were no deaths. There were also a few cases of malarial fever, but all amenable to home treatment with quinine, &c. Dr. Wassell paid us a visit on 14th December, to vaccinate the natives, but the council met and asked him to postpone this until after the wet season, which he consented to do. He examined the village and paraded the natives for inspection, discovering one case of granuloma; otherwise the village was clean and healthy. He also recommended some houses being pulled down and new ones built; these had already been condemned, both by Mr. Lee Bryce and myself, and instructions given for new ones to be erected.

“I am pleased to say that the L.M.S. Samoan teacher, who for a long time had been a source of trouble, has been expelled from the Island by Mr. Lee Bryce, having been found guilty of immorality with one of our native girls. He had always set the natives a very bad

example, in every way, by keeping a dirty house and grounds, and I had been compelled to report him several times, both to Mr. Milman and to Mr. Butcher. The people in the village seem glad to be rid of him.

“Two cases were heard before the Court. One, a case of slander, was dismissed for want of proof. In the other case one of the natives had wilfully disobeyed the Protector’s orders; he was fined £1 and cautioned against doing so again.

“Mrs. Minniss and I both appreciate the kindness of the Department in granting the new iron for the roof of our dwelling house. It was just finished in time, for, immediately, after the rain commenced, but we will be quite comfortable during this north-west season.”

#### Murray Island, Torres Strait—

The Teacher, Mr. J. S. Bruce, reports:—

“The school was opened after the summer vacation on 23rd January, but, owing to a number of children having this year again gone with their parents to visit Thursday Island, and not returning in time for the opening, the enrolment was small, being 80; it was not until early in March that the full complement was enrolled—viz., 111. The number attending at the end of the year was 106—viz., 56 boys and 50 girls. Throughout the year the children have made good progress in their school work. The attendance has been fairly regular, except when sickness interfered, and their general behaviour has also been good. The children are divided into three classes, with drafts attached to each, and the course of instruction is arranged as nearly as is possible to the syllabus in the regulations of the Department of Public Instruction. The school was closed for the summer vacation on 20th December.

“The cases brought before the court during the year were, as usual, not of a serious kind. I am pleased to say that wife assaults are yearly getting less in number, and the severe punishments formerly indulged in by the husbands towards their wives are now reckoned as the doings of the past. Hard labour and imprisonment has had a beneficial effect in gradually suppressing this kind of assault.

“Monthly meetings of the council were held at the courthouse, when arrangements were made for the carrying out of any work of improvement required, the keeping of roads in repair, cleaning of villages, wells, &c. The councillors and police have been attentive to their duties, and have given me good assistance in the carrying out of whatever was required of them. I was present at all the court cases and meetings of council.

“The court cases dealt with were—Assault and disturbances in village 8, wife assaults 6, land disputes 6, slanderous language 4, immorality 1, careless burning 1, debt 1. Several persons were punished for irregular attendance of their children at school, and others for not having the surroundings of their dwellings clean. Twenty-nine dogs were also registered. The receipts from fines and registration of dogs amounted to £8 1s.



" In the early part of the year there was a good deal of sickness amongst the people, principally cases of dysentery and fever. During the months of August and September, influenza and fever were very prevalent, and very few of either adults or children escaped from an attack of these diseases, but from October until now we have been fairly free of sickness. The Health Commissioner, Dr. Elkington, visited here in the latter end of April, when he vaccinated a large number of adults and children. He also made a thorough examination of all the people suffering from chronic sores and others.

" The food supply from the gardens has been rather scanty throughout the year, owing to the late wet season we had. The yam crop was a failure, but late planting of large patches of sweet potatoes assisted greatly in providing a good supply of food. Unfortunately, a large number of the young cocoanut plants that were planted out during the last few years have died off through the drought, and others were destroyed by bush fires. This has rather disheartened the planters, but we have arranged to have a replanting of nuts when the wet season sets in. The yield of cocoanuts this year has been very limited, in comparison with that of last year, so that the quantity of copra prepared has been much less, but the industry has now got a good start and should be a permanent one, seeing that the people quite understand now the benefits they derive from it. During the year there was forwarded to the Government Resident of Thursday Island, for sale, 238 bags of copra, which realised the sum of £263 7s. 2d., which amount was expended in the purchase of food and other requirements for the people.

" Two luggers and a cutter are now owned by the islanders, but only fitful spurts of work have been done with them during the year, and to accomplish that required continual encouragement and supervision. The boats are all free of debt, with the exception of a debt contracted this month for repairs to one of the luggers. There is also a mosquito fleet of dinghies (13) at work, owned by individuals, some of whom have done good work with them.

" About fifty young men have been engaged at intervals during the year for work on the pearling and bêche-de-mer boats at good wages.

" The following is a statement of produce sold for the benefit of the Island, exclusive of the produce grown and fish caught for home consumption:—Fish and shell sold on account of company boats, £236 11s. 1d.; fish and shell sold on account of individuals owning boats, £108 5s. 11d.; copra sold on accounts of individuals owning boats, £263 7s. 2d. Total, £608 4s. 2d. Another consignment of fish and copra is ready for dispatch to Thursday Island on 3rd January."

#### Saibai Island, Torres Strait—

The Teacher, Mr. T. A. Williams, reports:—

" My report of the school of Saibai Island covers only from 5th February until 12th October, for, unfortunately, from this date I was confined to hospital through illness and forbidden by medical authority to return to the

islands before the midsummer holidays expired, hence the cause of the low number of school days for the last quarter.

" The population of the islands north-west (viz., Saibai, Dauan, and Boigu) is as follows:—Saibai: Adults—males 44, females 54; children 133; total 231. Dauan: Adults—males 9, females 13; children 27; total 49. Boigu Group: Adults—males 11, females 24; children 52; total 87. The above statistics do not include young men at work outside on the fleets, for from Saibai there are 47 men employed among the various fleets, and another 15 men form crews for the 'Saibai' lugger, and 'Papua' cutter, the native company boats.

" The people have been very short of food during the year, the gardens having failed to produce enough food to keep the community, and the wells dried up until not a drop of water could be found on the island. The people had to go over to Dauan, five miles away, to get necessary water, filling bottles, kerosene cans, and hollowed out cocoanut shells. All the able-bodied men went out to work, many having part of their wages paid to their relatives left on the island. A fund has been started for a store, which is managed by the councillors, who pay ready money for flour and meat, and retail to their fellow islanders at Thursday Island price. This gives them a small profit, including discount, which goes towards the island improvement fund. The populace have appreciated this arrangement, and the bags of flour and tins of meat soon disappear for ready cash, thus saving them from being under obligation to the Government for assistance during time of distress.

" We were visited on 10th May by Dr. Elkington, Chief Quarantine Officer-General; Mrs. Elkington; Inspector Cato, of the Health Office, Brisbane; and Mr. Frank Taylor, of the School of Tropical Disease at Townsville. The populace were vaccinated, though at first they were rather dubious, but the benefit of vaccination was explained to them, and as the white teacher was first operated on, publicly, amidst an interested gathering of the whole village, there was no difficulty afterwards in getting each one to join in with the local 'fashion.' When the vaccination began to take effect, however, complaints against the Commissioner were forthcoming, such as:—'No good doctor, this fellow, he 'nother kind, him make us sick. Him cranky fellow, proper gammon us people.' &c. Some of them were very sick, or imagined themselves to be, but a little attention soon put them right. I visited Dauan and Boigu group to attend to their sore arms, but, as I could not stay at these islands, I left medicines with instructions how to act and attend to those who were sick.

" The state of health for the past twelve months has been very good. At Saibai, there have been two deaths while giving child birth, and two very young children died from unknown causes. At Dauan, one adult female died from diabetes, and at Boigu, two male children died from dysentery. The number of marriages were—Saibai 6, Dauan 1, and Boigu none.

" The average school attendance has been very high throughout the year. No child was absent except where caused by illness, such as

slight attack of fever lasting a couple of hours only, and yaws, which have crippled them for the time being. There has been no accident throughout the year. The number of children on the roll is 45 boys and 43 girls, total 88. Their progress has been steadily but slowly going forward. The subjects taught are—Reading from the Royal Reader, Part II., Class I., the others from the alphabet upwards. Some of the boys could not get beyond the 'cat, rat, mat' stage, so, as they were strong, strapping fellows, I advised them to go out to work in the *bêche-de-mer* boats, which they did, being of an age to do so. Writing includes dictation, copy-book, transcription, and letter-writing. Arithmetic comprises compound multiplication, division, and addition, with mental problems, also addition and subtraction of fractions. Geography is principally of the Australian coast, with history of discoveries of familiar places.

"The conduct of the children has been excellent. No child has given cause to be punished throughout the year, for all have striven to excel, not only in assisting to keep the village clean, but in conduct and cleanliness.

"The councillors and police have performed their duties faithfully, but require considerable supervision and direction. The native teacher, councillors, and populace have lived very happily together, no one party giving cause for strife. 'Ueli' and 'Katarina,' native L.M.S. teachers, have done their very best to set an example of industry and cheerfulness, and they have nobly succeeded.

"A few offenders have been punished for having dirty houses, and three for using obscene language to children. There were two cases of immorality; in each case the culprit left the island, for a term, to work in the fleets at £2 10s. per month.

"There have been numerous silly complaints and family disputes, but all these have been settled over a pipe of tobacco and a little friendly advice, ending in shaking hands, contentment, and peace."

#### Yam Island, Torres Strait—

The Teacher, Mrs. E. Smallwood, reports:—

"The population of this island comprises: Adults—males 28, females 27; children—males 21, females 28; total, 104. There have been 7 births during the year, 2 deaths, and no marriages.

"The Island has been quite free from any serious sickness. There have been a few mild cases of fever, and colds and coughs have been prevalent. Two of our number have passed away, San Filimoni and Policeman Cologne. The latter was a faithful servant, and will be much missed in his work. Both men were divers in their prime.

"Dr. Elkington, the Commissioner for Public Health, visited this island on 8th May, when he vaccinated all the men, women, and children that were on the island at the time. Very sore arms were the result for a time, but, with the daily dressing, all had healed nicely in about three weeks, and everyone was able to resume work.

"The short rainy season and, in consequence, the rapid drying of the ground, has

caused a very poor food crop again this year, and the people have had to purchase rice and flour as substitutes. The women work most assiduously in their gardens, while their husbands and their elder sons are out in their boats.

"The cultivation consists of maize, yam, sweet potatoes, pumpkins, manioc, sugarcane, papaws, bananas, watermelons, a few pines, custard apples, tomatoes, limes, mangoes and jack-fruit. Mr. Minniss, of Mabuiag, very kindly made the people of this island a present of 60 planting cocoanuts, but, owing to the intense heat and lack of moisture in the ground, more than half have died.

"Great activity has been shown in the building of new and improved houses. Head Councillor Maimo has erected a most commodious, well-built house, of cocoanut leaf, for himself and family. Councillor Wilson is building a very neat house of corrugated iron, with kitchen. Councillor Meaka has a leaf house in building. Eight well-built little kitchens have been put up during the year, so that nearly all the families now have sleeping houses and kitchens also, which is a great improvement and much better for the women than cooking in the open as before.

"At mat-making, the women and girls have been most industrious. They have made 29 mats, 21 baskets, 28 fans and 2 hats during the last six months. I hope to find a ready sale for them in Thursday Island.

"There have not been any cases before the court this year. Nine dogs were registered.

"The councillors have carried out their duties faithfully. They have lately been clearing and burning off the weeds and undergrowth on unoccupied land at this end of the settlement, to prevent mosquito breeding. There has been no change in the members of the council this year.

"There are three boats now working from this island—the 'Yama,' 'Annie,' and 'Ife.' The Yama company have been working much better this year; the boat has been thoroughly repaired and painted, and a smoke house has been added for the curing of *bêche-de-mer*. The company sold a large pearl for £255, and some smaller ones were found that were not of commercial value. Their pearlshell and *bêche-de-mer* realised £205: Total, £460. The owner of the 'Annie' has been working her since last May under the control of the Papuan Industries Limited. The 'Ife' has been rented from Mr. J. Mills, of Nagheer, by two men, Daniel and Trau. The proceeds of the sale of their produce amounted to £60. All three boats have kept the people well supplied with turtle and dugong.

"The number of boys on the school roll is 14 and girls 11, total 25. Daily average attendance for the year 24.15. The children are industrious, well-behaved and punctual, and clean in their persons. At the examination, you expressed your satisfaction at the progress made in the several classes. The sewing class numbers seven elder girls and four younger ones; they have completed, during the year, 14 under garments, 16 pillow slips and several frocks.

"The teacher's quarters are very badly in need of enlargement, and I am very glad to hear, from Mr. Lee Bryce, that alterations are to be made."

ABORIGINAL MISSION STATIONS.

TABLE 4.—RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER OF ABORIGINES RATIONED AT EACH STATION DURING EACH MONTH OF THE YEAR 1912.

MONTHS OF THE YEAR.	NAME OF STATION.																										
	YARRAHAM.			MAYPOON.			WEIPA.			CAPE BEDFORD.			DEERING CREEK.			BARAMBAN.			ARCHEE RIVER.			MITCHELL RIVER.			TAROOM.		
	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.	Permanent.	Casual.	Total.
January	246	1	247	130	...	120	52	50	102	115	25	140	55	...	55	437	2	439	22	9	31	98	...	98	154	3	157
February	249	1	250	118	...	118	52	34	86	115	30	145	53	...	53	374	...	374	21	9	30	46	...	46	141	5	146
March	250	1	251	116	...	116	52	38	90	115	25	140	53	...	53	375	...	375	21	9	30	46	...	46	152	...	152
April	251	2	253	115	...	115	54	48	102	115	15	140	54	2	56	321	...	321	37	18	45	95	80	175	153	1	153
May	251	1	252	118	...	118	54	48	102	115	15	140	53	...	58	323	...	323	25	18	43	95	..	95	139	2	141
June	252	5	257	110	...	110	54	63	117	115	22	137	58	...	58	321	...	321	28	19	47	95	...	95	153	...	153
July	254	2	256	109	...	109	56	42	98	125	30	155	54	...	54	331	...	331	38	19	52	96	50	146	151	...	151
August	257	2	259	109	...	109	90	26	116	120	30	150	58	4	62	379	...	379	45	50	95	96	...	96	140	3	143
September	260	6	266	129	...	129	90	22	112	136	25	161	55	...	55	362	...	362	71	30	101	50	70	120	161	4	165
October	262	1	263	110	..	110	55	46	101	125	22	147	55	2	57	372	...	372	75	45	120	100	...	100	165	...	165
November	267	7	274	119	...	119	56	50	106	125	22	147	57	1	58	368	...	368	66	58	124	100	...	100	165	...	165
December	269	4	273	120	...	120	56	170	126	125	24	149	60	2	62	463	...	463	66	80	146	100	80	180	171	6	177

TABLE 5.—RETURN SHOWING THE NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF ABORIGINES ATTENDING SCHOOL DURING THE YEAR 1912 (MISSION STATIONS AND RESERVES.)

Situation.	Quarter of the Year.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.												Number of School Days.	AGGREGATE ATTENDANCE.		AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.	
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.					Boys.	Girls.		Boys.	Girls.		
					Infants.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	Infants.	I.	II.	III.	IV.							
Cape Bedford	1	21	9	30	8	8	5	...	...	5	...	...	4	...	53	1,113	475	21	8.9		
	2	21	9	30	7	9	5	...	...	5	...	...	4	...	54	1,112	486	20.5	19		
	3	21	12	33	8	8	5	...	...	8	...	...	4	...	47	987	564	21	12		
	4	21	12	33	8	8	5	...	...	8	...	...	4	...	52	1,081	621	20.7	11.9		
Yarrabah	1	38	35	73	...	14	12	12	...	...	10	16	9	...	36	1,155	1,120	32	31.11		
	2	38	35	73	...	14	8	16	...	...	10	11	14	...	56	1,830	1,610	32	28		
	3	28	32	60	...	12	3	13	...	...	11	7	14	...	62	1,030	1,646	18	26		
	4	28	32	60	...	12	3	13	...	...	9	6	17	...	50	1,002	1,425	20	28		
Trubanuman	1	12	11	23	1	3	5	3	...	3	4	4	...	39	438	415	11.7	10.25			
	2	12	11	23	1	3	5	3	...	3	4	4	...	39	438	415	11.7	10.25			
	3	13	10	23	...	5	5	3	...	...	5	5	...	20	256	178	12	8			
	4	13	11	24	...	5	5	3	...	...	6	5	...	38	460	387	12	10			
Weipa	1	25	25	50	11	9	5	...	...	7	4	7	7	...	48	963	1,093	20	23		
	2	34	31	65	17	12	5	...	...	13	4	7	7	...	49	1,211	1,180	25	24		
	3	25	25	50	18	12	5	...	...	9	4	7	5	...	53	1,524	1,200	29	23		
	4	40	26	66	35	5	...	...	...	14	7	5	...	47	1,067	1,098	35	23			
Mapoon	1	31	44	75	...	18	9	4	...	...	11	12	21	...	48	1,317	2,043	27	43		
	2	31	47	78	...	18	9	4	...	...	14	12	21	...	50	1,417	2,250	28	45		
	3	33	46	79	...	13	7	9	4	...	5	8	12	21	54	1,511	3,833	28	43		
	4	32	46	78	...	12	7	9	4	...	5	8	12	21	47	1,371	1,921	29	41		
Aurukun	1	14	15	29	10	...	5	...	...	7	7	...	...	...	50	312	603	6	12		
	2	25	19	44	20	...	5	...	...	12	7	...	...	...	50	453	701	9	14		
	3	53	27	80	46	2	...	5	...	16	4	7	...	...	54	701	980	13	18		
	4	46	23	69	39	2	...	5	...	16	3	4	...	...	35	805	560	23	16		
Barambah	1	53	43	96	...	34	15	4	...	...	25	15	3	...	46	1,918	1,738	40	36		
	2	51	42	93	...	35	12	4	...	...	28	11	3	...	56	2,641	2,160	47	38		
	3	52	45	97	...	18	21	11	4	...	10	19	11	3	...	59	2,256	1,993	38	33	
	4	51	44	95	...	36	12	3	...	...	31	10	3	...	51	1,577	1,497	40	29		
Deebing Creek	1	15	9	24	...	3	4	8	...	...	3	3	3	...	48	633	396	14.4	8.9		
	2	15	9	24	...	6	3	6	...	...	3	3	3	...	57	875	564	15.3	9.9		
	3	13	8	21	...	2	9	2	...	...	3	4	1	...	37	476	286	12.8	7.7		
	4	12	7	19	...	1	9	2	...	...	2	4	1	...	43	508	297	11.8	6.9		

TABLE 6.—RETURN SHOWING NUMBER AND CLASSIFICATION OF ABORIGINES ATTENDING SCHOOLS DURING YEAR 1912 (TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS).

Situation.	Quarter of Year.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION.										No. of School Days.	AGGREGATE ATTENDANCE.		AVERAGE ATTENDANCE.	
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Boys.					Girls.						Boys.	Girls.	Boy.	Girls.
					I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.					
Badu Island	1	39	29	68	12	9	7	6	6	13	3	5	4	4	14	499	359	35.6	25.6
	2	38	32	70	12	8	7	6	5	16	3	5	4	4	62	2,226	1,540	35.9	25
	3	39	31	70	10	6	8	10	5	13	4	3	7	4	61	1,993	1,753	32.7	23.7
	4	39	29	68	9	7	8	10	5	13	2	3	7	4	38	1,427	1,006	37.6	26.4
Darnley Island	1	54	36	90	19	13	11	6	5	7	12	5	7	5	48	2,030	1,348	42	28
	2	49	32	81	24	10	6	6	3	16	3	3	6	4	26	1,125	718	43	27
	3	49	34	83	19	11	10	6	3	14	5	5	7	5	56	2,506	1,550	44	27
	4	48	31	79	21	12	7	5	3	14	5	6	4	2	33	1,397	923	42	23
Mabuiag Island	1	31	32	63	...	26	5	...	...	...	22	10	...	...	53	1,333	1,471	26	28
	2	31	32	63	...	26	5	...	...	...	22	10	...	...	53	1,333	1,471	26	28
	3	31	32	63	...	28	3	...	...	...	22	10	...	...	57	1,673	1,740	28	30
	4	29	32	61	...	27	2	...	...	...	22	10	...	...	50	1,307	1,578	28	31
Murray Island	1	56	52	108	...	31	19	6	...	...	25	17	10	...	35	1,686	1,613	48	46
	2	56	52	108	...	31	19	6	...	...	25	17	10	...	54	2,553	2,440	47	45
	3	56	52	108	...	31	19	6	...	...	25	17	10	...	45	2,300	2,194	51	48
	4	56	50	106	...	31	19	6	...	...	25	16	9	...	57	2,618	2,414	46	42
Saibai Island	1	51	42	93	...	9	13	13	11	...	7	8	16	11	38	1,821	1,596	48	42
	2	52	44	96	...	14	18	13	7	...	14	16	7	7	61	3,041	2,609	50	42
	3	45	44	89	...	14	18	11	2	...	14	16	7	7	66	2,068	2,904	50	44
	4	45	43	88	...	14	18	11	2	...	14	16	7	6	11	495	473	45	43
Yam Island	1	14	11	25	...	6	4	3	1	...	4	2	3	2	34	464	342	13	10
	2	15	11	26	...	7	4	3	1	...	4	2	3	2	63	891	656	14	10
	3	15	11	26	...	7	4	3	1	...	4	2	3	2	58	817	624	15	10
	4	14	11	25	...	6	4	3	1	...	4	2	3	2	43	572	417	13	9

ABORIGINAL RESERVES—SETTLEMENTS AND MISSION STATIONS.

**Barambah Settlement, Murgon—**

The Superintendent, Mr. B. J. T. Lipscombe, in his report, says:—

“ The largest number of natives on the settlement at any one time during the year was 460, although the number attached to the settlement far exceeds this, the remainder being out at employment, visiting friends, &c. December and January showed the highest number and May the lowest. In all, 100,671 rations were distributed.

“ As in former years, epidemics of measles, dengue, &c., have visited the Settlement, claiming many victims from among the very old and very young or those weakened by long-standing complaints. Fresh arrivals often introduced these epidemics, developing the complaints some time after their arrival and then communicating them to the residents.

“ Early in the year the native hospital was furnished with serviceable beds and furniture, and has proved of inestimable benefit, being taxed frequently to its fullest capacity. Contrary to expectation, the inmates have quickly realised the value of this institution, and practically no difficulty is experienced in inducing them to remain under treatment. Practically all the confinement cases enter for attention, an arrangement which ensures their being more completely under the supervision of the Nurse. Although several deaths have occurred, the much dreaded difficulty, native superstition, has apparently not been able to withstand the very evident benefits, even in the native mind, of the more comfortable conditions and treatment.

“ The Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. Junk, and the nurse in charge, Nurse O’Loughlin, have had a very trying and, in some respects, disappointing time, for the death rate—viz., 51 (18 pneumonia, 7 senile decay, 7 infantile troubles, 4 syphilis, 8 malignant growth, 12 general)—would appear high to one not aware of the conditions.

“ The regular influx of natives from other districts, often in the last stages of weakness and nervous debility, and with complaints with which they quickly infect the other inmates, is a great factor against successful treatment; and children, born of parents already weakened by inherent disease and excesses, quickly fall victims to the severe epidemics experienced. These officers, however, deserve every commendation for the gratifying results gained, even under such difficult conditions.

“ There were 11 marriages, a noticeable feature being the preference displayed by the full-blood men for half-caste women, and half-caste men for full-blood women. There were 19 children born.

“ The retail store, in charge of the storekeeper, Mr. C. A. Maxwell, has fully justified its existence. £593 7s. 11d. was spent, in cash over the counter, by the natives, for clothing, extra provisions, luxuries, &c., being more than double the cash receipts for the previous year. Goods to the value of £582 3s. 9d. were also sold on

credit to those with banking accounts, the money being afterwards withdrawn and paid to revenue.

“ None but serviceable goods are stocked, and a small profit only made, but the returns more than pay the cost of management. Besides being a great convenience to the natives and officials, it induces the former to utilise their hard-earned money in ways beneficial to themselves and families, and greatly minimises the drink traffic among them.

“ Forty-six natives—viz., 21 males and 25 females—were removed to the reserve from other parts of the State by order of the Hon. the Home Secretary, for leading an immoral or idle life, being old, afflicted and infirm, or for tribal quarreling, with incurable disease, &c.

“ There is practically no crime—at least, of any serious kind—among the inmates. They are all more or less addicted to gambling, and to drink when procurable. It seems impossible to stop the gambling, for, if interfered with in camp, they retire to the bush, and this makes matters worse, as they lose their money to unscrupulous white sharpers. The vigilance of the police in Murgon, and the useful outlet for their money provided by the retail store, have greatly assisted in keeping them clear of liquor.

“ The work performed on the Settlement, by the natives, is as follows:—Assisting in building storekeeper’s and nurse’s quarters, new butcher’s shop and dairy, hauling log timber for the portable sawmill, repairing fences, cutting and carting firewood, cultivating barley, gardening, &c., though very little of the last can successfully be undertaken, the boys continually leaving for work outside. A number with bullock team and dray are almost continually employed carting stores; and some of the girls are employed milking 21 cows and attending calves and springing heifers.

“ A portable sawmill, owned by Mr. Beinke, of Murgon, has been employed for some months cutting about 80,000 ft. of building timber for use on the Settlement. This experiment has satisfied me it would pay us to have such a plant of our own, not only for our own improvements, but for supplying other Government institutions. The natives have already shown some aptitude in learning the working of such a machine.

“ Eight acres of malting barley were planted as an experiment, and yielded about 60 bushels. This would have been even more profitable but for delay in procuring the use of a stripper, for the barley commenced to fall and grew discoloured. The return for the sales was £10 16s. Two acres of oats were grown for cattle feed, and half an acre of cabbages for vegetables. A ton of pumpkins and a ton of sweet potatoes were also grown and distributed among the inmates.

“ The introduction of well-bred bulls into our herd has made a marked improvement in the increase, and some promising-looking young animals have been the result.

“ We were not so fortunate with our attempt to breed from the mares, although a good local stallion was chosen. I am afraid

careless riding by the blackboys caused most of the mares to miscarry. In future, it would be better to turn the mares out to paddock when in foal.

“ The herd of goats has largely increased, and some are killed every week as an addition to the meat supply.

“ The cattle dip is not in good condition, but suffices for dipping our own stock and those of our nearer neighbours who do not wish to travel to the nearest public dip. Altogether, £1 18s. was collected in fees for such services last year.

“ The bullock drivers and settlers make good use of the paddock reserved for agistment, and £66 17s. 6d. was collected from those using it, an increase of £2 12s. 6d. on last year's receipts.

“ Engagements were obtained for 529 natives, being 480 males and 49 females. Of these, 279 were placed under agreement, the service being periods exceeding one month. The remaining 250 were engaged for casual employment of shorter periods. Many of the natives prefer the shorter terms; they do not care to be long away from the Settlement, and many of those working close at hand visit the institution at week-ends, where they have left their families and relatives. As the natives often tire of monotonous employment, some difficulty is occasionally experienced in inducing them to return, which might to a great extent be obviated if employers would make more use of the legal redress available to them.

“ The demand for the labour is still steady, but this will be sure to diminish when the country is all cleared and ringbarked. The rates of wages for adults have increased about 33 per cent., but this is bound to fall again when the natives have to go further afield for work.

“ There is a great run on the young boys and single girls, the former evidently being regarded as a cheaper labour for light work, and the girls because of the dearth of white servants. I do not think the girls should be kept in service after reaching marriageable age, but should be encouraged to meet and marry men of their own race, and thus provide themselves with natural protection from the attentions of unscrupulous white men.

“ Every inquiry is made through the Police as to suitability of employers, and every effort made to ensure comfortable conditions for the employees. The inspector from the Chief Protector's office visits the situations of the females, and we are thus able to keep a strict supervision of them and their welfare.

“ The school has made good progress under the teacher, Miss Lipscombe, and an inspector from the Public Instruction Department, while commending the progress shown, made many valuable suggestions for improvement in methods and subjects taught. Visits have been made by the medical officer, and numbers of the children have had carious teeth extracted.

“ We had several visitors, and all seemed pleased with the appearance of the inmates and

the arrangements for their welfare. Religious instruction was regularly given by the Seventh Day Adventists, the Methodists, and the Salvation Army.

“ The usual Christmas festivities were held, and a week's holiday and sports granted to all. A large supply of cakes, fruit, sweets, toys, &c., was provided from their accumulated savings bank interest, and great enjoyment was extracted from the rivalry displayed, by the different groups, in the decoration of their tables and laying out of the luxuries provided.

“ At the beginning of the year, an additional officer was appointed to take over full charge of the retail store and assist with the clerical work, leaving to the hospital and nursing work the undivided attention of the nurse. The store has, through its increase of trade, demanded the attention of the storekeeper for the greater part of the time, but he has relieved me of a fair amount of the clerical work, and allowed me more time for attention to outdoor affairs and supervision of camp conditions. The assistant superintendent has been continually employed in the erection of some very necessary quarters for officials and many other improvement works, and cultivation generally had to be neglected.

“ The collections from all sources amounted to over £2,742, an increase of £206 on last year's receipts, of which £1,155 was placed to the credit of natives' accounts in the Government Savings Bank.

#### Taroom Settlement (*viâ Miles*)—

The Superintendent, Mr. G. R. Addison, reports:—

“ The population of the Settlement on the 31st December was 180 natives, not including, of course, 21 out at employment—viz., adults—70 males, 60 females, and 50 children, of which 43 of the latter are of school age. There have been 38 removed, under Minister's order, to the Settlement within the year, and 5 arrived of their own free will.

“ There are now, at employment, 5 at casual work and 16 on agreement, the wages ranging from 5s. to 25s. per week, the collections for wages during the year being £224 7s. 2d.

“ The behaviour of natives at employment has been exceptionally good. I have only received one complaint from an employer, and that was against two females in service together. The behaviour of the natives on the reserve has been very good also, and I cannot find any fault with them, with the exception of one boy who caused me some trouble, to deal with which I had to get the assistance of the Taroom Police.

“ At present the Settlement is clear of any epidemic, and has been for some time past. There have only been fifteen deaths within the year. Most of these arrived from other parts, already affected with disease, and, in some cases, brought infection on to the Settlement with them and spread it to other natives on the reserve, these cases being principally of consumption and venereal. The Visiting Medical Officer, Dr. Neilsen, had to treat 10 cases of the latter disease in males, and Mrs. Addison, the matron, assisted in

5 female cases. On every occasion Dr. Neilsen showed great kindness and sympathy on his visits to the Settlement.

"The work done on the Settlement has been mostly fencing, building, ringbarking, clearing and cutting prickly pear, of which a fair amount has been done. Most of the work has been carried out under my own supervision. Since my last report, I have completed the cultivation paddock, an area of ten acres, this being securely fenced with 5 in. poles sunk 2 ft. in the ground, with three wires run through the centre of the posts, and also netted with rabbit netting wire.

"The stores have to be brought by carrier from Miles to Taroom, a distance of 100 miles, causing long and tiresome delays in the arrival of goods ordered from Brisbane, as they are frequently sent in small lots instead of in one consignment. As a result, the present carrier, who has contracted for the carriage of all our stores, sometimes has to wait a week, and even a fortnight at a stretch, before he can make his load up, thus causing great inconvenience to the Settlement and increased expense when supplies have to be replenished at the local stores.

"Drink sometimes finds its way on to the Settlement, but on very rare occasions. Gambling is a little troublesome of late, but I have put it down, to a great extent, by punishing any offenders I happen to catch by giving them twenty-four hours in the cell erected on the reserve.

"I now have most of the natives persuaded to build small huts for themselves, with plots of ground fenced and proper streets marked out, and with their sleeping bunks raised about 3ft. off the ground.

"Since destroying the dogs, also, I find that sickness is much less prevalent, whereas, before, dogs were allowed to sleep on the floor with the natives and the children; so, in future, I intend to keep the number of dogs down.

"A simple sanitary system is carried out in the way of a large pit about 6 ft. deep by 4 ft. wide, and which is always well disinfected.

"I have now a serviceably appointed soup kitchen established, and the sick and old appreciate it very much. There are 18 old men receiving food from the soup kitchen, the usual menu being porridge and milk for breakfast, soup and vegetables for dinner, and curry and rice for tea, with damper, treacle, and tea also at each meal. The cooking is entirely done by a good married couple, William Tobane and his wife—of course, under the supervision of the matron.

"The present Assistant Superintendent, Frederick William Grambower, was appointed in May last year, in the place of William Alexander, whose services were dispensed with, and he has so far proved himself a capable officer.

"The new residence for the superintendent was commenced in November, and, when completed, will consist of five rooms and kitchen, four rooms measuring 13 ft. 6 in. by 13 ft., two 12 ft. by 12 ft., veranda back and front, each 10 ft. in width, and hall 27 ft. by 5 ft.

"A temporary school building is under way and, as there are about 40 children now ready for schooling, it is expected a teacher, for whom provision has been made on the Estimates, will be shortly appointed."

#### Yarrabah Mission (*via Cairns*)—

The Superintendent, Rev. J. S. Needham, reports:—

"The Mission at Yarrabah is carried on under the direction of a Brisbane Committee of the Australian Board of Missions, of which the Archbishop of Brisbane is chairman, J. H. Stanley, Esq., hon. secretary, and R. O. Bourne, Esq., hon. treasurer. The Committee has paid us two visits of inspection during the year. There is also a sub-committee of advice in Cairns, consisting of Messrs. Draper, McDonnell, and Carpenter.

"The Reverend W. G. Ivens, M.A., resigned on the 30th April, 1912, and the Reverend J. S. Needham was appointed Superintendent in his stead.

"The number of inmates has increased from 246 to 269. The area of the reserve is about 50 square miles. An average of 258 natives were regularly in receipt of rations.

"There have been five deaths, one resulting from sting of jellyfish, two infants, one old woman from senile decay, one man, who was sent to us in a dying state from paralysis; also seven weddings and fourteen births.

"The health of the mission has greatly improved during the year. There have been 8 cases of ankylostomiasis, about 50 cases of the common mild sub-tertiary type of malarial fever, a few cases of rheumatism, and several children have been stung by jellyfish, causing one death. Most of the sickness occurs on the outstations. Dr. Baxter-Tyrie visited us in September, accompanied by Dr. Bourne.

"We had the benefit of an unofficial visit to the school by Inspector Stretton, of the Educational Department, whose advice was of great value to us. The number attending school was 59, and the average attendance 50. The scholars are taught up to the third standard, but are very weak in arithmetic.

"Work on the plantation has gone on steadily throughout the year. Bananas have been exported, and sweet potatoes and fish sold in Cairns. Quite an industry in native weapons and curios has been developed.

"An effort is being made to make the adult natives materially independent. Plots of land have been taken by some, others are working on boats. Full market price is given to them for all produce and fish. Only a few natives on Yarrabah Station itself are now paid wages and given rations. The remainder buy their rations and other necessaries from the profits obtained by their exertions. It is too early to speak of the success of this effort, but, up to date, everything points to its ultimate success.

"The behaviour of the natives has been good. Discipline has been well maintained. The spiritual work is most encouraging."

**Cape Bedford Mission (via Cooktown)—**

The Superintendent, Reverend G. H. Schwarz, reports:—

“ During the twelve months just passed, I am pleased to say, the development of our station went on steadily, if slowly. I am afraid my reports on this station must appear rather monotonous, but I think life on the station also would seem to be so to many people. There has been no change in the staff of the station; the people are the same always, and so is, practically, our work.

“ Amongst the permanent inmates of the station (115 in number—62 males and 53 females) no serious sickness has been noticed, except one case of consumption, which proved to be fatal. Against this one death, there have been five births to record on the station for the year.

“ The number of aborigines who only occasionally come to Cape Bedford and for part of the year only live on the Reserve, is dwindling down very rapidly. Only a few years back there were often 150 to 200 of them camped in the vicinity, whereas, at present, not half that number is ever seen together. Hanging about town and the Chinese gardens near town, where they are employed and where they seem to have no difficulty in procuring drink and opium, no doubt accounts in a great measure for the above fact.

“ On our outstation, on the McIvor River, there are between 20 and 30 aboriginals. As stated before, there are only remnants of the different tribes left, and it will take some time before they will consent to settle down together. At present one lot of them will leave when another tribe arrives, but I have no doubt ere long a lot of them will settle at the place for good, especially if there is plenty of food grown there for them. Mr. Kenny has built a cottage at this new station, and is at present there planting sweet potatoes, peanuts, corn, &c. We have about 12 acres under cultivation already, and everything planted looks promising.

“ Although some of the people from here have occasionally had to help for a time at the McIvor Station, the work at Cape Bedford has not been neglected.

“ The hemp plantation covers an area of over 90 acres now. Only a few acres of the oldest hemp we have started to reap. A few months ago we sent over 1½ tons away, and got best market price for it—viz., £27 per ton.

“ Our cocoanut plantations are steadily increasing, too. During last year nearly 1,000 plants have been added. As the land on which we were planting was rather heavily timbered, a great deal of preparatory work had to be done, to enable us to plant so many cocoanuts. At the plantation on the north side of the Cape, a house had to be erected for a caretaker to live there.

“ On the head station, we erected a building to be used as a hospital if required. So far, I am glad to say, we have had no occasion to make use of it, but I thought a building of this kind necessary, in case of contagious sickness.

“ Our herd of cattle has been doing well. Although we have had no direct income by sale of bullocks, we had all the meat required for the aborigines on station.

“ The gift to the station of a fine fishing net, by the Hon. J. G. Appel, proved to be of great value. Great supplies of fish were obtained by it fairly regularly, and was very much appreciated by the aborigines, much more so than beef.

“ School work, under the care of Mrs. Schwarz, has been carried on regularly. The number of children attending school was 33, and an average attendance of 32·6. The school is not under the Industrial Schools Act, and there are no children in school or on the station specially paid for by the Government.

**Mapoon Mission, Batavia River (via Thursday Island)—**

The Superintendent, Rev. N. Hey, reports:—

“ The average number of aborigines who have benefited by the rations issued was 240. Besides these, there were many others who occasionally visited the Settlement, some for a few days' work, others, again, desiring medicine, advice, or seeking protection. The total number who have come under the influence of the mission, either as permanent inmates or casuals, was 350.

“ The school has been maintained without interruption all the year round, and the teacher has spared no pains to make the lessons interesting. All who have visited the school have declared it ‘ a remarkably good school.’

“ Most of the children are either permanent or weekly boarders, hence a regular attendance has been assured. The number of children on the roll at the end of the year was 73.

“ The teaching was always of a practical nature. Besides the ordinary school curriculum, after school hours the girls were instructed in all kinds of housework, sewing, mat-making and fancy work. The boys received special training in carpentering, gardening and cattle work.

“ Through the additional Government grant, we were enabled to erect the long desired school building. Most of the timber was obtained on the reserve, and prepared by the natives under our supervision. Thus we consider the station buildings completed, and, with the exception of the necessary repairs, we hope to throw all our efforts into the extension of industrial enterprises.

“ The cocoanut plantations have been enlarged, and the live stock number about 140 head of mixed cattle, 7 horses, and a number of mules.

“ A number of cows have been milked all the year round, giving a fair supply of milk, even during the very prolonged dry weather. No doubt the healthy condition of the boarders, some under three years of age, is partly due to the constant milk supply and the large amount of vegetables produced at the outstation settlements.

“ These settlements, 4 miles from the head station, comprise about 100 acres, and are divided into separate independent little homesteads, under the immediate supervision of two councillors.



" The half-castes are under a Samoan, who is married to a half-caste woman, and the full-blooded aborigines are under a full-blooded native, Mamoos; thus peace, safety and independence has been assured for all.

" Most of the able-bodied men were engaged, during the dry weather, when gardening was at a standstill, in procuring chalkfish, a kind of bêche-de-mer, on the banks of the creeks and rivers inside the reserve. They realised £457 14s. 1d. from this industry alone. When the tides were unsuitable for collecting bêche-de-mer, they spent the time in ordinary fishing, and the turtle and the dugong caught have formed part of the food supply. Most of the money thus earned by the natives was expended at the Co-operative Native Store at Mapoon.

" No account could be kept of the amount of produce raised in the native gardens, but, at the head station alone, 20 bags of local maize was ground into meal for the consumption of the children.

" £534 5s. 6d. has been expended during the year for rations, clothing, medicine, &c., for the sole benefit of the inmates. Towards this amount, a Government grant of £347 10s. has been received. This does not include grant for 5 reformatory children and salary for the teacher paid by the Government and salaries for the staff paid by the Mission Board. (£500 per annum, to include subsidy and teacher's salary, is paid by the Government.—C.P.A.)

" On the whole, the health of the mission inmates under our care has been uniformly good. Towards the end of the year, however, feverish colds and influenza made their appearance, gripping, more or less, everyone. In the case of some, it developed into pneumonia, which required careful treatment and prolonged nursing, but, eventually, all recovered. Twelve deaths have taken place during the year, mostly old people, but, against this, 13 births have been recorded. This improvement in the birthrate is entirely due to the fertility of the half-castes.

" The full-blooded blacks in the Gulf are a doomed race. Through years of outside intercourse and influence, the law of the 'survival of the fittest' has had free course.

" There is, however, a new race springing up at Mapoon, who, if protected—with idleness and luxury made impossible, thereby compelling them to cultivate the soil and produce for their own wants, thus enabling them to overcome the inertia of nature—may yet become a blessing to the State.

" The Christmas festival was again, like other years, celebrated at Mapoon. About 300 sat down to a well-prepared Christmas dinner, and the usual sports were greatly enjoyed by old and young.

" In conclusion, I beg to tender our best thanks for the Government grant and the blankets received during the year.

#### **Weipa Mission, Embley River (via Mein)—**

The Superintendent, Rev. Edwin Brown, reports:—

" In the vital statistics, births and deaths have been equal, nine of each for the year. To

take these for the last five years shows a nett gain of three, which, it must be admitted, gives but slender grounds of hope for the future of the race.

" The total population under our influence is about three hundred (300), and, amongst these, the sexes are as nearly equally divided as could be. They all are more or less resident on the reserve, though some of them, at least, do not recognise the boundaries of the reserve, and go beyond as fancy takes them. They all have periods on the station, recognising it as their home, in the work of which they share, and so draw rations in return therefor; or as member of the 'old-age pensioners' or 'sick' lists.

" Towards the settlement of the people and the development of self-reliance, an advance was made in the formation of a hamlet a short distance from the village. A patch of land was cleared and fenced, and houses built thereon for three of the young married couples, who thus have their own gardens, and have the opportunity to show what they can do for themselves.

" In spiritual things, the year shows a decided breaking of the day. In the early months there came a gleam of sunshine, which warmed and cheered our hearts, in the form of unmistakable evidence of the working of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Without noise or excitement, no less than twenty-six of our young people came to tell us of their desire to live the Christian life. This movement was extended over a period of four months, and, as an evidence of the solidarity of our varied operations, they came from various occupations, at all times of the day, there being no appearance of incongruity in the blending of the spiritual with the material.

" The number on the books of the day school for the last quarter, which was the highest of the year, was sixty-six (66), whilst the average attendance for the year was fifty (50). The classification is I., a b c. II., III. We are not under any Industrial Schools Act, nor are any of the children specially paid for by the Government.

" This department, necessarily, suffered somewhat from the absence of Mr. and Mrs. Hall for the greater part of the year. During their absence Mrs. Brown and I conducted the school, each being responsible for half a day. We were ably assisted by two of the young married women (ex-boarders), one of whom, particularly, shows great aptitude for the work. We were sorry that, when yourself and Mr. Lee Bryce paid us a visit, your time was so limited that you were not able to do more than glance at the lessons going on in the ordinary school routine.

" Other educational efforts are the Sunday school and young men's Bible classes, The Boys' Brigade, an evening class for young women to help them keep up their education, and the weekly sewing class, followed by a Scripture lesson, for all women.

" In the matter of health, we have again had great cause for thankfulness. There has been, as usual, a fairly regular run of minor ailments, of which we keep no record, and a few rather serious cases. In two, at least, we suspected appendicitis, but, with the use of pallia-

tives and careful nursing, these all recovered. As no doctor ever visits us, we are specially thankful for the little medical and hospital training that we received as part of our equipment for the work, though, when we have a case that baffles us, we heartily wish our knowledge was greater.

“ On the whole, ours is becoming a healthy community. Time was, when we had a large number of bad cases of disease (venereal), but most of these have succumbed, and a marked case is now rare. We are very free from the many ailments which trouble more civilised people.

“ The establishing of a hamlet has already been referred to. The clearing of the land, the fencing and the building of the houses, was general work of the station, but, after that, the cultivation of the garden plots became the affair of the parties concerned. In the village, some of the houses were altered, and a new one was built. All we build now are more substantial than those built formerly. They were made of bark, which, at its best, is good only for about two years; now we make the walls of slabs and the roofs of corrugated iron. Preparation has been made for a second hamlet, also near the village. The village has been fenced off from the bush, so that those who live there may have gardens secure from the cattle and horses.

“ Our former tool-house, smithy, and cartshed were separate buildings, erected, at different times, as occasion demanded. These all had their day, so we demolished them and built one large shed to serve all the purposes. This same shed served as a school for a few weeks, whilst the church was undergoing renovation. New horse and cattle yards, four in all, were erected.

“ As our cutter, the ‘ Weipatoi,’ needed repairing, we dug a ‘ dry dock ’ in the bank of the creek, and gave her a thorough overhauling.

“ Fences, buildings, and roads were repaired as required.

“ For about eight months of the year water, to the extent of from 800 to 1,400 gallons per week, was brought from the lagoons, per medium of horse and trolley.

“ A number of young cocoanut plants were planted out, and also a fair quantity of sisal hemp plants.

“ For the Brisbane Exhibition, the men and boys hand-cleaned some of the hemp, specimens of which were sent in its fibre state, and made up into large ropes by the men and boys, and into twines of various sizes by the women. We also sent several other specimens of native industry, original and acquired.

“ Two new features were, first, the inclusion of Weipa in the local mail contract, so that now we have the mail brought to us instead of having to send 15 miles for, and with it, as formerly; and, second, the making of Weipa a polling-place for the State elections, so that, for the first time, we were able to record our votes. For both these privileges our thanks are due to the Government.

“ But our special thanks are due, and are hereby sincerely tendered, to the Government, and in particular to your department, sir, for kindly increasing our grant. On account thereof, we have been able to extend our operations somewhat extensively.”

#### Aurukun Mission, Archer River (*via Coen*)—

The Superintendent, Reverend A. Richter, reports:—

“ The past year did not differ much from others preceding it; encouragements and discouragements appeared in turn, but, on the whole, the year under revision shows some progress.

“ The number of children attending school has been higher than ever before, and, though a great many were ‘ bushies ’ who come and go as they please, the permanent scholars have greatly increased in number. The boys’ dormitory gained six boarders, while the girls’ house got almost filled, showing 24 inmates at the close of 1912, against 12 at the close of the previous year.

“ This increase, to a great extent, is due to the efforts of an aborigine, Billy, who was years ago a most troublesome fellow, but he has become a different man, and settled down here at the station, where he built his house. He takes a great interest in all the improvements here, and since he has become an influential man among his tribe he has been a great help to me. The encouraging words of the Chief Protector and Mr. Lee Bryce, when visiting Aurukun, have done him good.

“ One of the inmates of our girls’ house, who had spent all her life in the bush until she came to us two years ago, was married, on Christmas Day, to a young aboriginal carpenter on the station, after the custom of whites. Though the people of her tribe had given their full consent to this, these bushmen were not too pleased with the fact. They seemed to realise that this marriage was a blow against their low heathen marriage customs.

“ The girls have greatly benefited during the past year, and have almost reached now the knowledge point of the big boys, whose energy began to slacken a little. Unfortunately, the teacher, Mrs. Owen, was not in the best of health; she had to seek medical help at Thursday Island. However, the school was not one day omitted, and the health of the teacher is improving.

“ The manual labour flourished as usual. In vain we hope to see the station in a perfect state. Climate, termites, and even natives, destroy so much that we have to be constantly repairing.

“ Gates, fences, huts, &c., greatly needed our attention. In addition to that, several new huts were built—some for the natives in the camp; others for our boarders and for the coloured assistant. A high road was built, entirely by the bush blacks, under the supervision of the before-mentioned Billy. The road starts from a point above high-water mark, and goes level right into the big swamp, being, on the extreme end, about 8 ft. high. This road is to serve us in our future plan of water-carrying by horse power, and to enable us whites better to control.

" We have been able to feed our children often with the following native meat:—Fish, dugong, geese and other birds, wallabies and bandicoots. The dugong, being more plentiful here just about Christmas time, served as Christmas beef.

" The most important work on the station was the building of the new assistant's house, to which Mr. Owen devoted all his time, the handiest young men helping him. Various difficulties, however, made his progress slow. As, for instance, good timber has now become very scarce near the station, the carrying of beams, &c., from a distance was not at all enjoyed by the bushmen, neither were the young carpenters too fond of the constant adzing, while sickness in his family also kept Mr. Owen for some time away from his favourite work. We have now bought a large horse-gear, and hope, in future, to trim beams, studs, joists, &c., by saw. A draught horse was bought in addition to the one we got before, but, unfortunately, he seems unfit for his work, appearing to be an overworked horse. Owing to the increase in Government grant, we were able again to keep more people working on the station, which partly accounts for the large number of children attending school.

" Religious services have been held and religious instructions given regularly; neither has the personal dealing with the individuals been neglected, and, though much is wanting in their behaviour, a marked improvement in character is seen among many.

" We have had two occasions in 1912 to form a native court for executing judgment upon transgressors. The first case brought before this court was a young man who had speared his sister to death. He was so much favoured among his countrymen, that at once a great number asked for his pardon—*i.e.*, that he should be punished on the spot, not handed over to the police. As it could be proved he did not intend to kill the woman, and as he had not misbehaved otherwise, the pardon was granted. As punishment, he was to receive a spear wound from each party concerned (four spear wounds), and for nine months he was forbidden to come for work on the station. The latter part of the punishment he felt most.

" The state of health was good, and malaria fever hardly appeared. There was very little of real medical work to be done. However, we were not in want of patients, for, in the past year, we had much to do with malingers, and the testing of them often took us as much, or even more, time than the medical treatment.

" So far as my knowledge goes, there are five births to be reported, against four deaths. These four cases of death are all rather peculiar. The first was a young man with apparent heart failure, who had been overworked on a diving-boat. He died in the hospital at Thursday Island. He was followed by his wife, who was speared to death by her own brother, as mentioned before. Next died a young bushman here on the station quite suddenly. He had only been sick for two days, and not until the night before his death was I told of him. From the information received from the natives, I judge his heart was not strong either, and, when mixed up in a quarrel, he became excited and went straight into the water for cooling. Soon afterwards he took

sick. The last one was a bright school boy of six, who died from snakebite. I am glad to say that all infants born in 1912 are well and healthy, contrary to experience in former years.

" We thank the Government again for all the favours the station has received in the past."

**Trubanaman Mission, Mitchell River** (*via Normanston or Thursday Island*)—

The Superintendent, Mr. H. Matthews, reports:—

" In reviewing the past twelve months, I note, with satisfaction, that a considerable amount of progress has been made in all departments.

" There is abundant evidence that the aborigine is amenable, and readily adopts a simple civilisation. Of course, they need supervision, but I am encouraged to think that these whom we have on the settlement are really anxious to live a settled life. At any rate, they appreciate the comfort of a roomy hut, and gladly do the necessary labour of cutting and carrying in material. The building of a hut occupies two weeks, whereas they can build a native 'humpy' in a few hours.

" There is undoubted evidence of a desire for improvement, and they are proud of being able to build their houses themselves.

" The wet season is approaching, and preparations are being made to clean gardens, in readiness for planting when rain comes.

" There are now three out-stations—Angeram, Daphne, and Koongalara. At Daphne, there is a plantation of cassava, with three married couples to keep weeds down and prevent destruction by bandicoots. These animals are quite as destructive as rabbits, and are very fond of potatoes and other root crops.

" The Angeram settlers are working steadily, and have about 6 acres of land cleared, ready for the plough. Fifteen acres of land is under cultivation, and about 6½ tons of produce was grown and consumed on the mission.

" We have reason to be thankful for good health during the year. We had one epidemic of influenza in July, severe while it lasted, but no fatal cases resulted. Our acting chaplain, Reverend J. Tweedie, bravely battled with the epidemic, and, owing to his watchful care, the inmates were kept from serious harm.

" Reverend F. H. T. Lane arrived on 4th August, and is now in residence as permanent chaplain to the mission. Mr. Lane does all the medical work, and has charge of the day school.

" Miss Matthews is teaching mat-making to the women, who are showing some interest in the work, now that they understand how to work the plait.

" There are twenty-two buildings completed and two being erected. They are as follow:—8 huts for married people, 1 single boys' dormitory, 1 South Sea Islanders' quarters, 1 school-room, 1 dairy and meat house, 1 kitchen, 1 ladies' quarters, 2 girls' dormitories, superintendent's house, 1 store, 1 workshop, 1 common room, 1 church, and 1 workhouse. Quarters for the chaplain and 1 native house are being built.

"The live stock consists of 200 head of cattle, 19 horses, 30 head of goats, and 12 fowls.

"The inmates number 100—males 70, females 30. The death list was nil, and the number of births 3.

"The following is the amount of food consumed on the mission, including rations purchased and produce grown:—Flour 12 tons, rice 4 tons, sugar 1,260 lb., tea 240 lb., soap 528 bars, tobacco 144 lb., potatoes 3 tons, and cassava 3½ tons. A small number of water-melons, pine-apples, pawpaws and mangoes was also served out.

"Each year more fruit trees are bearing, and soon there will be a regular supply of citrus fruits. This has been a very dry year, and much water had to be carried in buckets to keep things alive. I hope to have an irrigation plant some day, which will solve the problem of growing foodstuff, but there is much to be done before we reach the solution.

"There are 24 children attending school—14 boys and 10 girls. They show average intelligence, and seem to grasp things better than formerly. I have put a boy of twelve years of age in charge of the store to weigh out rations, and, so far, he has performed his duties without mistake.

"To sum up, the past year has been one of steady work, bringing its difficulties and its doubts, but also much joy and happiness. Work amongst the aborigines has many compensations, for they are at least affectionate people, and very happy and light-hearted. Joy and laughter is infectious, and the staff catch the infection, and so weariness and disappointment are banished.

#### St. Paul's Mission, Moa Island, Torres Strait—

The Superintendent, Mr. B. S. Cole, reports:—

"The school opened the second week in January with 36 pupils, attaining the maximum of 46 during the first six months. The increase was owing to boys coming from other islands to live with relatives. No difficulty is experienced, the children are anxious to attend, and the parents insist that they do so regularly. The discipline is well maintained. The pupils are divided into four classes, none exceeding upper third class. The subjects taught are: Arithmetic—addition, subtraction, division, multiplication, and reduction in money, and weights and measures; Grammar—simple rules and composition; Geography—Australian, New Zealand, and the British Isles; reading and writing. They cannot be said to be really smart, except in one or two cases, but, given their own time, tasks are accomplished. Grammar will never be an accomplishment.

"The girls have their sewing classes, mat-making, and domestic work tuition, but here, again, they lag behind, so constant pressure and close attention is necessary. The boys have their outdoor industrial work classes twice a week. The examination at the closing of the school showed that progress had been made, and the best results came from unexpected quarters. The Bishop inspected the school in December, and went through the examination papers, both secular and religious. He also kindly donated the prizes.

"No sickness of any serious nature has visited us; a couple of mild dysentery cases opened the year, but immediate isolation prevented it from spreading. Outdoor patients, for slight ailments, there have been in galore. We hope the building of a hospital ward and dispensary will be accomplished next year.

"The cutters 'Yaddai' and 'Dot,' run by our own men, have done fairly well. The 'Dot' is rented from the Papuan Industries, Limited, but their turnover for the year has not exceeded £70; while the 'Yaddai,' the property of two Islanders, has netted £211. Lack of application on the part of the 'Dot' crew can only account for the difference in the earnings. The Diocese has now granted permission for the use of the cutter 'Banzai,' for shelling, free of charge, in return for which the 'company' agrees to run the mail during dirty weather, and lodge, with the Government Resident at Thursday Island, 25 per cent. of their earnings to go to the upkeep of the boat. All business is to go through the Government office.

"The gardens have yielded fairly well, considering the unfavourable weather. We have no trouble about idlers. All the men, with the exception of the aged, earn their living outside of their homes. A number of houses have been erected during the year, but building operations are only done when 'dirty water' is on, and the men are unable to work the boats.

"Avieu and Mookaby were elected as policemen during the year. Their good sense of law and order, and their co-operation to improve the village and its moral tone, is commendable. They have been always prompt to aid, and their initiative is splendid.

"The inauguration of a definite constitution was a want felt for some time. The native mind is particularly diligent and cute in circumventing, and it took some time for them to grasp the situation, but things have run quite smoothly since.

"Not many cases of any serious nature have been dealt with. Fines have just exceeded £5. The community, as a whole, is law-abiding and self-respecting. All registration fees are duly paid.

"The Chief Protector, Mr. Howard, and the Government Resident, Mr. Lee Bryce, paid us official visits during the year. A public meeting, to welcome and discuss matters in general, was the event of the visit. Our Bishop visited us three times during the year. Dr. Wassell visited in December, and vaccinated 78 of the natives.

"The population is 121. Adults—males 35, females 29. Children—males 25, females 32. There were 8 births during the year and 2 deaths.

#### Deebing Creek Mission (via Ipswich)—

The Rev. S. F. Hunter, Chairman of the Mission Committee, reports:—

"During the year the committee met regularly every month, and, at each meeting, received written reports from the superintendent. The personnel of the committee has been changed. The Rev. P. Robertson, Chairman for many years, resigned owing to his leaving Ipswich, and the Rev. S. F. Hunter, B.D., became a member, and was appointed Chairman.

"The home farm and stock were regularly inspected by the members. The conduct of the inmates has been good, on the whole, though there is, at times, trouble with drink, gambling, and foot-racing. The religious services conducted by the superintendent are well attended. The inmates are industrious, and good reports are received regarding those on agreement. An effort was made to improve the homes, two new houses being built.

"The area of the reserve under our influence is 2,072 acres, consisting of 200 acres at Deebing Creek, 112 acres at the Nine-mile Reserve, 1,600 acres at the Flinders, and 160 acres at Hampstead.

"The population at the beginning of the year was 68—viz., 55 inmates and 13 on agreement. At the end of the year the population was 76—viz., 56 inmates, 4 casuals, and 16 on agreement. Two male and two female children were born.

"Owing to frequent changes the school was somewhat unsatisfactory; two female teachers each stayed but a short time. After the school had been closed for five weeks, a male teacher was appointed, who is still carrying on the work. The number of pupils attending school is 19—viz., 12 boys and 7 girls. The average daily attendance for the year was, boys 13.9 and girls 8.6; total 22.5. The school is under "*The Industrial Schools Act of 1885*," and, at present, one child is being paid for by the Government.

"The health of the natives has been good. There was one death, a woman dying from pneumonia. One boy had typhoid, and there were colds and minor accidents. No visits were paid by the medical officer, the two serious cases being sent to the hospital.

"Owing to the continued dry weather in the early part of the year, little agricultural work was done, but the second half was better. The crops were a comparative failure. A new farm at the 'Nine-mile' was cleared and planted. Work done by the inmates and the school children was shown at the Brisbane Exhibition in August.

"The stock at the end of the year was as follows:—Horses 13, pigs 17, cows 23, heifers 19, steers 10, bulls 2, and calves 13."

#### ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

I give herewith a statement of transactions in this account for the past year. This fund, which is made up of the unclaimed wages and estates of missing and deceased aborigines, can only be used for the relief of aborigines, as shown in following statement, such as clothing to destitute natives going out to the first situation, medicine, burial of paupers, &c.

It is as well to point out that, before any estates are transferred to this fund, the claims of near relatives, dependent on deceased at the time of his death, are considered.

As in the previous year, the accumulated interest of the joint savings bank account of

the Barambah Aboriginal Settlement was deposited in the fund and expended, at the request of those natives interested, in the purchase of Christmas delicacies, presents and toys for children, sporting material, &c., for all inmates. This was a kindly and commendable action on their part, as all the old and destitute were able to participate in the treat provided, and no one felt the loss of the few shillings and pence which would have otherwise been added to their credit.

At the end of 1911, £17 ls. 7d. was in hand, portion of that season's purchases, amounting to £14 7s. 3d., not being paid for till the following January. During last year, a further sum of £34 6s. 1d., interest for 1912, was added. The following Christmas £20 5s. 3d. was spent, and a balance of £16 5s. 2d. is still on hand.

The collections from all sources amounted to £511 4s. 5d., and the amount expended was £119 14s. 10d.

#### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF ABORIGINAL PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

		<i>Receipts.</i>	
		£	s. d.
1st January, Balance from 1911	.. ..	399	8 10
From Deceased natives' estates	.. ..	284	14 11
" Deserters' wages	.. ..	64	15 3
" Unclaimed wages and estates	.. ..	111	19 2
" Refund overcharge	.. ..	0	5 0
" Interest on closed accounts	.. ..	11	1 9
" Accumulated interest, Barambah account	.. ..	34	6 1
" Subscriptions towards cricket set (by Barambah cricket team)	.. ..	4	2 6
		£910	13 6
		<i>Expenditure.</i>	
		£	s. d.
By Clothing to destitute natives	.. ..	38	4 1
" Burial fees	.. ..	22	3 6
" Medicine and relief to natives	.. ..	0	17 0
" Refunds to pay accounts in estates	.. ..	19	12 5
" Disbursement, portion Barambah interest for Christmas cheer	.. ..	34	12 6
" Balance on 31st December	.. ..	790	18 8
		£910	13 6

#### EXPENDITURE ON ABORIGINES BY DIFFERENT STATES.

State.	Estimated Native Population.	Amount. £
Queensland .. ..	20,000	17,78
South Australia .. ..	4,836	5,756
Victoria .. ..	269	4,020
Western Australia .. ..	26,000	30,490
New South Wales .. ..	4,761	28,500
Northern Territory .. ..	25,000	6,500

In bringing my report for last year to a conclusion, I would like again to record my appreciation of the work of the officers under my control. It is gratifying to note the interest taken by all of them in their work, which, at times, is not only arduous, but also complicated, often compelling their attendance at the office long after the prescribed hours.

To the Commissioner of Police and his officers, my best thanks are due for their kind assistance, and to the Government Printer, for the excellent manner in which the printing of my report is carried out.

RICHARD B. HOWARD,  
Chief Protector of Aborigines.

# **Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the year 1912**

Corporate Author: Queensland, Chief Protector of Aborigines

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