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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS FOR 1904.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS.

Brisbane, 30th April, 1905.

SIR,—I have the honour to hand you my Annual Report on the results of the operations of "*The Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1901*," for the year ending 31st December, 1904.

## LABOUR CONDITIONS.

**Permits.**—A total of 1,863 permits has been issued by the local Protectors. Particulars of their distribution are shown in the accompanying table, with the appointments of all these officials up to date. Mrs. Frew, the Protector of Aborigines (female) is specially entrusted with the supervision and care of the half-caste and full-blooded girls out at service in the Brisbane and Southern areas; her report on the Aboriginal Girls' Home, of which she is the gazetted superintendent, will be found in the section dealing with mission stations, &c. Irritation has been caused amongst certain employers in the Southern and Central districts owing to the cancellation of the so-called "general" permits to employ any native—man, woman, or child: as the issue of such documents was in direct contravention of the principles embodied in the Aborigines Protection Acts, I had no choice in the matter but to refuse them in all cases.

Issued in the Petty Sessions Districts of—	Protector—	Stationed at—	Males.	Females.
Somerset ... ..	O'Brien, Charles David, C.P.S. ...	Thursday Island	382	1
Cairns, Douglas, Herberton, Marceba, Mourilyan, Thornborough	Durham, Hubert Rowland Pasley, Inspector	Cairns ... ..	153	59
Cook, Palmer ... ..	King, James, Sergeant ... ..	Cooktown ... ..	233	26
Coen ... ..	Garraway, Roland Walter, Sub-Inspector	Coen ... ..	17	1
Burke, Camooweal, Cloncurry, Etheridge, Norman, Croydon	Galbraith, Percy Dumas Fead, Inspector	Normantou ... ..	212	66
Mackay ... ..	Martin, Edward, Sub-Inspector ...	Mackay ... ..	16	3
Winton ... ..	Brosnan, Michael, Acting Sergeant	Winton ... ..	13	9
Ayr, Bowen, Ingham, Cardwell, Ravenswood, Townsville	Quilter, John, Sub-Inspector ...	Townsville (Lamond)	40	13
Charters Towers, Cape River, Hughenden, Richmond	Sweetman, Edward John, Sub-Inspector	Charters Towers	26	7
Boulia ... ..	Whelan, Daniel, Acting Sergeant ...	Boulia ... ..	43	14
Adavale, Augathella, Charleville, Cumamulla, Eulo, Hungerford, Thargomindah	Marrett, Charles Beauchamp, Inspector	Charleville ... ..	113	30
Alpha, Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Diamantina, Isisford, Jundah, Longreach, Muttaborra, Tambo, Winderah	Dillon, Michael, Inspector ... ..	Longreach ... ..	81	18
Allora, Clifton, Crow's Nest, Dalby, Goondiwindi, Highfields, Inglewood, Killarney, Southwood, Stanthorpe, Texas, Toowoomba, Warwick	Geraghty, James, Sub-Inspector ...	Toowoomba ... ..	9	1
Biggenden, Bundaberg, Childers, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Gin Gin, Gladstone, Gympie, Kilkivan, Maryborough, Nanango, Tenningering, Tiaro	Driscoll, Andrew, Inspector ... ..	Maryborough ... ..	31	6
Buana, Clermont, Emerald, Mount Morgan, Rockhampton, St. Lawrence, Springsure	Fitzgerald, Hervey, Inspector ... ..	Rockhampton ... ..	29	25
Bellon, Condamine, Mitchell, Roma, St. George, Surat, Taroom, Yeulba	Breene, Martin, Sub-Inspector ... ..	Roma ... ..	13	2
Beaudesert, Brisbane, Caboolture, Cleveland, Dugandan, Esk, Gatton, Goodna, Harrisville, Ipswich, Laidley, Logan, Marburg, Maroochy, Nerang, Redcliffe, Rosewood, South Brisbane, Woodford	White, John Warren, Inspector ... ..	Brisbane ... ..	34	67
Brisbane, &c. ... ..	Frew, Mary Easter ... ..	Brisbane ... ..	...	70
		Total ... ..	1,445	418

C. A. 24—1905.

**Casual Employment.**—According to the strict letter of the law, a permit ought to be obtained for any employment, even the most casual; but I feel confident that no officer of police (unless, of course, he has valid objections to the employer) will take any action in a case of giving a boy a meal in return for doing an odd job or two. The usual practice in the North, where it was first started, and worked admirably, has been to apply for a permit for casual employment—*i.e.*, where the boy or gin comes up daily to do some wood-chopping, washing, &c., and does not live on the premises. The permit costs nothing, yet protects the employer from being prosecuted for harbouring. The permit is not a contract; it only gives permission to employ. Of course, where the employment is permanent, and the aboriginal lives on the premises—any period over a month would reasonably render the employment permanent—an agreement must in addition be entered into. If the agreement is broken, both parties to the contract have their remedy. In all these cases of casual employment a great deal must necessarily depend upon local circumstances, and the tact and judgment of the local police. That this arrangement for casual employment works satisfactorily is evidenced in several districts. Protector Galbraith says:—“Under this heading are classed aboriginals who camp near, and work in, towns; they are not placed under agreement, but work for a daily wage, 6d. a day being the usual rate. In Normanton there are two camps, numbering about 200 aborigines. Originally, these camps were composed of Normanton natives, but their strength is now kept up by station boys who have left their employers, and who want a spell before going outside again; by others who have married Normanton gins, and by various other causes. These blacks come into town about 9 a.m., and leave about 6 p.m.; they have their regular employers, and their payment is certain: if not paid, they never return to that employer, and there is no mendicancy. They are orderly, biddable, and very honest, and opportunities for stealing, owing to their vocation, are great. They are employed as horse-boys, firewood cutters, yard-cleaners, nursegirls, washerwomen, charwomen, &c.” Protector Garraway, in the Coen district, writes that:—“As nearly everyone in this district employs blacks casually, and often a different aboriginal every week or so, they are allowed to do so generally without other than verbal permit. If the blacks were not sufficiently fed or paid for their casual services, they would not come to work, and petty stealing would probably follow. . . . The blacks in the vicinity of the township of Coen have been for years accustomed to doing casual work.” Protector Brosnan, in speaking of the Winton natives, says that by earning their food and a few shillings for such casual work, they not only maintain themselves but their old and infirm relatives in the camp, thereby preventing the latter becoming a burden on the State.

**Permanent employment.—Agreements.**—There is no doubt that on the whole the method of agreements, as it is becoming more and more applied, is at last being appreciated. Naturally, as a reaction from those times when the employers could ride slipshod over the natives in their service, a certain amount of dissatisfaction here and there is given expression to. For instance, in connection with the complaints received through Mr. Forsyth, M.L.A., from certain pastoralists in the Gulf country, the perusal of Inspector Galbraith's reports, together with the replies obtained by circular from a large number of other gentlemen interested in stock, will convince any unbiassed person that the complaints referred to are unjustified, and certainly have no foundation in fact. In the neighbouring Boulia district, Protector O'Connor distinctly states that employers generally recognise the benefits of agreements. Protector Fitzgerald, of Rockhampton, supplies an aspect of the question which is certainly novel to me:—“The signing of agreements implies a threat of gaol should they (natives) break them, and in many cases the station-holders encourage them in this dislike; rather than explain all the details of agreements, or wait the time required by the police to forward the necessary documents after completion of the agreements, they let them go.”

On the recommendation of the police and local Protectors, permission has been specially granted (under the Regulations) to licensed victuallers in various portions of the State to employ natives on their premises.

Not a few people have had their permits revoked; amongst the number a justice of the peace, who was charged with, but not convicted of, cattle-stealing.

**Value of Aboriginal Labour.**—During the course of certain inquiries made by Protector Galbraith, the following expressions of opinion as to the comparison of white with aboriginal labour were obtained from some of the leading pastoralists in the Gulf country:—“As stock-riders, better than ordinary pick-up hands” (W. Ormsby Wiley, Milgarra); “Better than the class walking about in the Gulf” (John Epworth, Delta Downs); “They suit the purpose just as well as white labour” (W. Wright, Wallabadah); “As good and, in a great many instances, better” (G. A. Bristow, Miranda Downs); “Have proved more reliable than the general class of white stockmen in this district” (Thos. A. Simpson, late manager Carpentaria Downs, Forest Home, and Magowra stations); “Better than the general run of pick-up white men. They know the country better, and are more biddable” (A. H. Underwood, Midlothian); “Better than the average white” (Daniel Thorn, drover and station manager since 1872); “As stock-riders and bushmen in many cases superior to the general station hands” (Reginald Hillcoat, Bonmarra); “They are preferable and far more reliable than white labour among cattle, being always sober, and more biddable” (John T. Roberts, Pastoral Inspector for the Bank of New South Wales); “As good” (J. V. Milson, manager, Forest Home); “Compare favourably with the ordinary class of white stockman” (Ross Maclean, manager, Magowra); “Compare better, with the ordinary run of white labour” (Robt. Currie, Marine Plains). “In the Longreach area,” says Protector Dillon, “aboriginal labour is much in demand on the cattle-stations on the Lower Thomson and Cooper districts; on one station alone there are eight employed. . . They are giving every satisfaction.”

**The Payment of Wages.**—Protector O'Connor, of Boulia, has established a uniform rate of wage for *bonâ fide* stockmen—*viz.*, 30s per month and everything found, or 10s. per week and the employee to find the clothes and blankets. He has not issued a permit for that class of labour at a less rate during the year. In the Longreach district, many of the settlers, particularly the pastoralists, give those under agreement much larger wages than the minimum of 5s. provided by the Act; in some cases as high as 15s. per week, and in many cases, at the larger stations, feeding a large number of old and unemployed blacks free of charge. Protector Galbraith expresses the opinion that he is against aborigines receiving money, except in the form of pocket-money, but the Government should see that the native gets the partial, if not the full, benefit of his labours; as it is, he says:—“I am certain that in a very large number

of cases the male aboriginal does not receive his wages. Police reports bear me out in this, also numerous complaints from the boys."

Two trackers, Peter and Charlie Turner, were sent from Durundur for engagement with the Victorian Police Department, the wages of each to be 4s. per day, of which 1s. will be deducted for the settlement, now transferred to Baranbah. With regard to trackers in the Queensland Police Service, the Commissioner will deduct 2s. per month from their wages, to be paid to the respective settlements to which they belong.

Emmerson, an aboriginal, sued his late employer, Dickson, at Burketown, and recovered £9 for wages due.

Regarding the payment of gins' wages through the local Protector, as demanded by the Regulations, there is a feeling of hostility amongst a few station managers and overseers in the Gulf districts. Inspector Galbraith, mentioning that such payment averages about 2s. per week, says:—"I cannot understand why this should be, as the gins give good value for their wages. No demur is made about paying the boys from 5s. to 10s. per week, the employer being the paymaster." The last portion of this sentence is very suggestive when it is borne in mind that one of his subordinate officials, Acting-Sergeant Fitzgerald, Cloncurry, states that: "There have been complaints of boys not being paid their wages on stations"; while another of his officers, Acting-Sergeant McNamara, Camooweal, says: "In many instances male aborigines are almost as useful and reliable as white men, and they hardly ever get a shilling in wages."

**Savings Bank Accounts.**—The amounts received on account of gins' wages by the local Protector are banked in the Government Savings Bank, in the name of each female respectively, with the Protector as trustee. On 31st December, 1904, the total amount of wages so saved for "a rainy day" was £1,381 2s. 3d., made up as follows:—Normanton, £432 13s. 3d.; Cairns, £262 18s. 2d.; Cooktown, £100 5s. 9d.; Winton, £79 14s.; Boulia, £75 5s. 7d.; Rockhampton, £22 7s.; Thursday Island, £15 4s. 6d.; Maryborough, £7 19s. 3d.; Townsville, £6 9s. 6d.; Toowoomba, £6; and Brisbane (Mrs. Frew's account for girls in service), £372 5s. 3d. The absence of any amount from Longreach is explained by the fact that the system was not introduced by any of the predecessors of the present Protector, Inspector Dillon; and, so far, he has not had an opportunity of seeing the employees himself, or of explaining the position to them. It is to be hoped that in future all the Protectors will endeavour to encourage a spirit of thrift amongst the native female servants in their respective districts. Sergeant Brosnan notes that: "Two of the girls in service at Winton married Europeans during the year; the amounts to their credit in the bank were paid over to them on the occasion of their marriage."

#### CHILD LABOUR.

**Child Labour.**—The present condition of affairs regarding aboriginal children is as follows:—

- (a) Every aboriginal child old enough to be in service is employed legally—*i.e.*, under permit and agreement;
- (b) The law demands that it be paid a minimum wage of 5s. per month, in addition to food, clothing, shelter, and maintenance during sickness;
- (c) The regulations provide that the wage of such a child up to twelve years of age shall be at the rate of 1s. 3d. per week, the odd threepence paid to the child as pocket-money, and the 1s. to the local Protector, who banks it in the Government Savings Bank as a trust account, and retained there for a rainy day.

It would be as well to point out here that by the Act of 1897, certain children who happened to be in employment at the time of its passing were exempted from its provisions. The result of such exemption was that so many abuses came to the knowledge of the authorities that the Act of 1901 was so framed as to include all children (half-caste or full-blood) up to sixteen years of age.

Were any remission of wages to be attempted, the following contingencies are very likely—nay, almost certain—to occur:—

- (a) Children would never, according to the employer's statements, reach twelve years of age: at the same time the girls would arrive at puberty and get into trouble long before any pecuniary provision, derived from their own exertions, could possibly be made for them. The Department would then necessarily have to pay all expenses for maintenance during sickness, removal, &c.
- (b) If not paid for, the child's services would not be appreciated. People do not take these black children into the bosoms of their families for the sake of love, affection, or charity, but for what they can get out of them; they are usually worked either as generals, nurse girls, or horse-boys.
- (c) The sale and barter, even kidnapping, of the children from the natives would be carried on to a far greater extent than it already is, notwithstanding all our best endeavours.
- (d) It has been urged that because orphanage children do not go out into service, or receive wages until twelve or thirteen years of age, the same rule might apply to aboriginal children. I maintain that the case of the orphanage is on a perfectly different footing. Here the children are with people whose antecedents, surroundings, and responsibilities are particularly inquired into, and the infants are all regularly inspected. Such inquiries and such inspections would be practically impossible in such sparsely populated districts where most of the aboriginal children are to be met with.

I do not think it wise to encourage child labour any more than can possibly be helped. Girls especially, after living years with Europeans, whose vices they seem particularly prone to imitate, become semi-civilised, naturally refuse to return to camp life, and as common prostitutes constitute a class very difficult to deal with. As a corollary, what with the taking away of so many girls into service, the scarcity of wives for camp blacks is becoming more and more apparent. Indeed, this is so serious a matter as to lead one of the local Protectors (Inspector Galbraith) to report that he expects the number of assaults on white women by aboriginals to be on the increase.

At the present time, certainly in the Northern districts of the State, I do not believe there is a single full-blood aboriginal child in permanent service who is not under permit and agreement, and on whose account wages are not paid to the Protector. In all such cases the Minister has no legal power either to remit the wages or to exempt them from the provisions of the Act. On the other hand, in the case of half-castes, the law gives him power to exempt, though it will easily be understood, after perusal of the above facts, why I almost invariably oppose all such applications.

#### CERTIFICATES OF EXEMPTION.

**Exemption Certificates** have been issued to:—Sarah Dodd, half-caste, late of Redcliffe Station, *via* Banana; John Hadford, half-caste, Hornet Bank; and Eliza Cameron, half-caste, Moray Downs; Georgina, half-caste, Elgin Downs; George Shillingsworth, half-caste, Eulo.

#### ABORIGINALS ON BOATS.

**Women on Boats.**—Early in the year, Protector King reported that certain Manila men at Night Island, and two Japanese at Forbes Island, had been picking up boys and girls and working them illegally on the boats. Fisheries Inspector Schluter boarded one of the Manila men's boats and found everything all right, but believed that he had been employing blacks illegally before he boarded him; the latter apparently knew of the "Melbidir's" coming. Later on in the season, word came to hand that in the neighbourhood of the Pascoe River certain Japanese were forcing gins on to their boats, and supplying them with liquor. The "Melbidir" again went up, and during the course of her patrol found four women on Forbes Island, where they had been left stranded by a Japanese *bêche-de-mer* fisherman named Koiki; it was subsequently decided by Protector O'Brien not to grant a permit to employ natives on any boat on which this same Japanese might be carried.

**Recruiting.**—The Minister approved of the action of the Presbyterian Heathens' Committee's agent, the Rev. Mr. Hey, as superintendent under the Act, stopping all recruiting from the Mapoon and Weipa Reserves on and after 30th July last. The reasons for the adoption of these measures were detailed in my last Annual Report.

**Permits.**—The number of permits issued at Thursday Island for the employment of mainland natives in the *bêche-de-mer* and pearl-shell fisheries was 383, showing an increase of 54 on last year.

Torres Strait island natives have been permitted to work without the permission of the local Protector, the two main reasons for this being (1) that these natives are of a somewhat superior race to the mainland natives, and better able to look after themselves; and (2) the very large increase of office work which would result if the Act were put into operation with reference to them. With the present staff at Thursday Island, such a course would be impossible, although it has been found necessary to prohibit a certain employer from engaging any further Torres Strait island natives, except under the permit of the Protector.

**Prosecutions** were instituted against the following masters for having aboriginals illegally on their boats:—Marcario, at Cooktown (17-2-4); and A. L. Artigoza (30-4-4), Lucio Jerusalem (6-5-4), Peter Seden (18-5-4), Tomita (13-9-4), Konishima (4-10-4), Neil Anderson (12-12-4), at Thursday Island. Though the case against Marcario was dismissed, he was convicted of working boys three weeks over their time. A native whose deportation was authorised three years ago—Wyamara—appears to have again acted as medium for Artigoza by going down to Seven Rivers and assisting in inducing boys to recruit. Protector O'Brien boarded Tomita's boat, and found one man so seriously ill that he had to be removed to the hospital. The Government Medical Officer stated that had the sufferer remained another two or three days where he was he would most likely have succumbed. The case of Andersen presented some unusual features. He had two boats, the "Tu-tu" and the "Viking," for which he had separate articles. The former is a swimming-diving boat, and the "Viking" a pump-boat. During the year Andersen got permits to employ seven aboriginals on the "Tu-tu," under her captain, it being specially mentioned in the permits that they were to be employed on the "Tu-tu" at swimming-diving. In addition, the Protector informed Andersen that these men must not be employed on any other boat. The evidence in the subsequent prosecution, as admitted by the defendant, showed that as soon as his two boats got outside, he took aboriginals from the "Tu-tu," two at a time, for a week each pair. The result was that as soon as the men came ashore in December they complained of what had occurred. As it was of the greatest importance that the conditions mentioned in the permit should be observed—*viz.*, class of work agreed upon, boat and man under whom the boys agree to work, &c., Andersen was prosecuted.

Permits to employ natives on boats have been refused to John Nicholls and John McConnell, at Cooktown; to Antonio Ebasio and Koiki, at Thursday Island.

**Desertions.**—There is a marked decrease in the number of blacks deserting from service on the boats sailing from Cooktown, where Charlie Rosser and Billy each received one week's imprisonment (25-1-4) for this offence. Jerry and another Billy were arrested on warrant for deserting from the ship "Sea Breeze," but, owing to the non-appearance of the plaintiff, were discharged. Five boys employed by Robert McMaster deserted him on the Barrier Reef, and took with them about £5 worth of fish. On the recommendation of the local Protector, the amount owing by their employer to the shipping master as deserters' wages was reduced by £3. Forty-one cases of desertion were reported at Thursday Island, and deserter's wages amounting to £44 10s. 6d. were received by the local Protector from the shipping office. Now and again deserters have come in here to be signed on with other employees, but when recognised have been prosecuted and imprisoned, it being Protector O'Brien's aim to impress upon the aboriginals that they will be punished, as well as protected, when necessary. I am satisfied that this course has had the result of keeping the number of desertions down. This unsatisfactory feature attending the employment of natives on boats may also, perhaps, be accounted for by the fact that the aboriginals, almost in all cases, receive the same rate of wages—*viz.*, the minimum of 10s. per month. Some of the natives, it is believed, are beginning to think that they can command higher wages. During the year, two boys were signed on at 12s., seven at 15s., and five at 20s., all the remainder being at 10s. per month. Several employers have told Protector O'Brien that they understood that they would not be allowed to pay their employees more than 10s. a month, but he is inclined to believe that the wish was undoubtedly father to the thought in such case.

**Payment of Wages.**—At Cooktown, when the boys are paid off from the boats, Protector King himself goes to the stores and sees that they get full value for their money, they being left with none for drink. At Thursday Island each aboriginal on being paid off receives 5s. in cash, and the balance is spent at his discretion, but under the supervision of the police. Frequently natives go back home with stores and goods to the value of £3, and after spending a week or so ashore for a spell, sign on again with little or nothing to show as the result of their previous six months' work. But, being by nature hopelessly improvident, it is difficult to devise any satisfactory scheme to improve the existing procedure. Apparently they are quite satisfied to work for six months with the prospect of becoming possessed of a few articles of clothing and the wherewithal for a week's feasting with their own people. On the other hand, the natives from the Mapoon Mission signing on at Thursday Island received 5s. cash, spend 10s. locally, the balance going to their credit to Rev. N. Hey's account in the Queensland National Bank. As already mentioned, however, the recruiting of these mission boys has now ceased.

The Torres Strait islanders exhibit a marked mental superiority over the mainland natives in the way of making provision for the future, and the methods they have adopted of purchasing their own fishing-boats are detailed under the section dealing with miscellaneous matters.

Robert McMaster was proceeded against at Cooktown (12-5-4), under section 10, subsection 5, of the 1901 Aboriginals Protection Act, for having refused to pay wages to the shipping master for native deserters. He was fined 10s. and costs in the first case, the remainder being withdrawn conditionally on his paying up. This constituted the first prosecution under this section of the Act.

**Necessity for Patrol.**—To minimise the abuses on the boats, the efficient patrolling of the east coast of the Peninsula is of great importance, and this, under the conditions which have existed at Thursday Island of recent years is, according to Protector O'Brien, "impossible, for the following reasons: (1) Inability of officials to leave their offices with the prospect of being away from one to three weeks, according to wind; and (2), the futility of attempting to discover evidence of abuses—*i.e.*, sufficient for prosecutions—while inspecting in such boats as the 'Melbidir' and 'Mystic,' which are distinguishable as far off as they can be seen. The good effect of the 'Melbidir' patrolling at uncertain intervals is, nevertheless, very manifest, and in the absence of a steamer, she is very necessary; but there can be no doubt that the work of protection and inspection is seriously hampered, owing to the necessity for depending upon the wind as a means of locomotion. During the north-west season, when numbers of chelling luggers go down the west coast of the Peninsula, frequent and rapid patrolling is very necessary, but is quite impossible, and at times dangerous, in a sailing vessel."

#### THE "MELBIDIR."

**The "Melbidir."**—This vessel continues to prove very useful in patrolling the whole coast-line, both east and west of the Peninsula. At Forbes Island she proved the means of rescuing some native women who had been left stranded there by a Japanese *bêche-de-mer* man, who was subsequently punished. Professor Kluatsch was given permission to accompany her during her cruise round the Wellesley Group. During the course of the year she was placed at the disposal of the Government Resident, to visit the Torres Strait island schools and Mapoon; she was also requisitioned by the Police Department for the collection of the Federal electoral rolls; and, during her stay at Cooktown, saved no small expense in taking stores over to the Hope Valley Mission at Cape Bedford. Word has been received from the Treasury that they do not recognise any cause for paying a share of the cost of the up-keep of this vessel. On the other hand, I considered I had very good reasons for asking them, *viz.*:—The *bêche-de-mer*, &c., fishery, is under an Act controlled by the Treasury; aboriginal labour is the very essence of the industry; if aboriginal labour is permitted, it must be protected by inspection and patrol; if the cost of the "Melbidir" carrying on these duties cannot be defrayed out of the Aboriginal Vote, this Department must refuse permission to employ such labour; with the result that the *bêche-de-mer* trade (£12,000 in 1903) would be wiped out; as inspectors under the Pearl-shell and *Bêche-de-mer* Acts, John Schluter (the master of the vessel) and myself, both appointed without salary, not only look after the welfare of the aboriginals but also of the Treasury, *i.e.*, in the way of prosecuting for fishing without licenses.

#### REMOVALS AND RECOGNISANCES.

**Removals and Recognisances.**—The system at present in force is working very satisfactorily, and not only tends to prevent blacks being taken away from their homes, and ultimately stranded there, but also ensures that the cost of their return home is not made a charge upon the Government. It is highly regrettable that the South Australian Government has no means of preventing natives being brought from the Northern Territory into Queensland and New South Wales by pastoralists and others. Our Aboriginal Acts do not, unfortunately, include these people under their protective influence, the definition of an aboriginal being an aboriginal inhabitant of Queensland; the West Australian definition, on the other hand, is an inhabitant of Australia. There is reason to believe that in spite of warnings given from this office, aboriginals are being carried on board the coastal steamers from one district to another, without permits being previously obtained.

During the year forty-two bonds, varying from £10 to £40 (in the case of removal to another State), have been issued. The great importance of insisting on these bonds is exemplified in the following cases, reported by Protector Martin, of Mackay, concerning which it is proposed to take further action:—

"Two of the boys, Wallace and Billy, arrived in Mackay in June last; the former stated he is native of Camooweal, from which place he was taken by a drover named H—B— to Boodoora Station, on the McArthur River, where they lifted a mob of cattle, which were delivered at Singleton, in New South Wales, and he was left stranded there, having received no remuneration whatever, and was making his way back to Camooweal. The latter, who is a native of Cooktown, stated that he left the Deighton River in the employ of a drover named W—O'B—, with a mob of cattle, which were delivered at Nanango. He received no remuneration for his services, and was left to do the best he could. Both boys state that they met at Gayndah, and travelled in company to Nebo, where they received rations from First-class Constable Balaani for some days, and were then sent on

to me. When they arrived in Mackay, they were completely done up, and I was obliged to buy rations for them, and let them camp for some days. I secured employment for them, and Wallace was sent back by steamer to Normanton on the 2nd instant, he having earned sufficient to pay his fare, and to buy a good kit, besides £1 of his wages was sent by me to Inspector Galbraith, to assist him on his arrival in Normanton, from which place he intends to go to Camooweal. The other boy is still in employment; he will also be sent to his home, at the termination of his agreement."

#### HARBOURING, ILLEGALLY EMPLOYING.

**Harbouring, Illegally Employing, &c.**—Provision for male blacks travelling through Brisbane has been made at the Salvation Army Shelter, and for females at the Girls' Home, West End. The Crown Solicitor advises that a conviction against a boarding-house keeper, even an aboriginal, for permitting an aboriginal to reside on his premises can be maintained.

The following prosecutions, with fines inflicted, have been reported:—

F. Carstens, licensee, Exchange Hotel, Port Douglas, £1 and costs (2-2-4); Harry Rayner, Miles, 5s. and 5s. 4d. costs (16-3-4); John Ta Shine, Taroom, £10 and 2s. 6d. costs (27-3-4); C. Barrett, manager, Morestone Downs, Camooweal, £1 and costs (9-4-4); J. Hawkins, Taroom, £1 and costs (15-4-4); Tai Sue, Taroom, £10 (12-5-4); Patrick Callaghan, Maytown, 10s. and 5s. 4d. costs; Ah Woa, Cooktown, £1 and costs (30-6-4); Sam Sow, Normanton, £10 or 3 months (14-6-4); John McLean, Maytown, 10s. and costs (20-6-4); George Greenwood, Abergowie, Ingham, £10 or 3 months; Ah Gow, Byerstown, £2 (26-7-4); Charles Price, Mackay, £5 or 2 months (18-11-4); Charles Perman, Tully River, £10 or 2 months (1-11-4); Neil C. Andersen, Thursday Island, £5 or 7 days (9-12-4); John Williams, Cloncurry, £1 and 3s. 6d. costs; Rosamo (Japanese), Jack and Suraya (two Malays), Johnstone River, each £3 or 1 month (16-11-4). Long Charlie was fined £20 or 3 months, at Mackay (2-12-4), for being in an aboriginals' camp.

#### FOOD AND OTHER RELIEF.

**Food and other Relief.**—Modifications in the relief issued to natives have, of course, varied, according to local requirements, special distress, epidemics, season of the year, &c. Taking month by month, the relief during the past year may be summarised as follows:—

**FEBRUARY.**—On the application of the police, who were removing the blacks from off the Ebagoolah Goldfield, the monthly amount for relief was increased from £2 10s. to £3 10s. At the Moreton, the relief was reduced from £3 to £2. The Federal Customs approved of my application *re* taking 150 lb. condemned tobacco out of the Normanton bond, for the use of aboriginals only. In reply to inquiries, Protector Lamond stated that in his district there was no distress, so far, or need of rations; but tomahawks and fishing-lines would assist the aged very much. Relief was asked for at Birdsville, and cancelled at Cania.

**MARCH.**—The monthly relief at Banana and at Taroom was cancelled. In the Goondiwindi district, acting on the advice of Chief Inspector Douglas, rations to the Tallwood and Welltown blacks were distributed to the extent of £1 each per week until such time as there is a demand for their labour. In the Goondiwindi township itself, the natives are able to secure employment, and so be prevented from starving.

**APRIL.**—The relief hitherto granted at St. George has been reduced to 10s. weekly, while that at Taroom and Eidsvold has been cancelled. At both these places the blacks were given the offer of going to Durundur, where they would be properly cared for and looked after; a paralysed boy from Eidsvold was the only one to avail himself of the opportunity. At Mungindi £1 per week has been authorised for rations. In view of the closure of the Whitula Settlement, the local inspector called for returns from all the stations in his district as to any requirements. He asked for tomahawks, fishing-lines, ferrets, and nets: the tomahawks and lines were forwarded. I told him that ferrets could not be supplied, and that if the blacks were willing to make their own nets, I would find the twine.

**MAY.**—At Cania, 4s. weekly has been authorised for old man Sambo, paralysed in both legs. Birdsville is allowed £4 per month for fourteen old and feeble blacks. Applications for relief have been received from Tiaro and from Winton (Darling Downs district), but they were refused, the option of going to Durundur having been offered.

**JUNE.**—At Roma, Protector Breene issued rations to some starving blacks, as well as to an aboriginal (Ivory), who had just been discharged from hospital.

**JULY.**—Tambo and Wocmanoka relief were cancelled. The weekly amounts hitherto allowed at Mungindi, Tallwood, and Welltown were reduced in each case from £1 to 15s. A temporary gratuity of £1 was granted at Arrilalah.

**AUGUST.**—The police were instructed to supply four destitute blacks at Bowen with a little food. In one case (Willie) food was ordered to be supplied by the local Government Medical Officer.

**SEPTEMBER.**—Expenditure of 6d. per diem on rations for an old blind aboriginal (Charlie), Evelyn Scrub, was authorised pending settlement of question of sending him to Yarrabah.

**OCTOBER.**—Relief to the extent of 10s. per month was authorised for two old aboriginals (Charlie and Kipper) at Jimbour.

**NOVEMBER.**—The Government Resident at Thursday Island distributed tobacco and rations (value £3 11s. 4d.), to mainland natives. Relief of 5s. per week was granted for two old gins (one blind, and the other wasted by disease), at Butcher's Hill Station, Cooktown. The Balonne Shire Council reported that blacks were dying daily of starvation and disease at St. George: the police were at once requested to take the necessary steps to afford relief, and report.

**DECEMBER.**—With regard to the alleged distress at St. George, the police reported that they could not say that any aboriginals had died from starvation or disease; the only sickness noticeable was influenza. The relief previously authorised (10s. per week) would be sufficient to feed the old blacks who were unable to work. Repairs to the boat belonging to the Red Island natives (Jimmy Metourie, chief) to the extent of £2 were authorised, as Jimmy has been of great assistance to the Government.

#### BLANKETS.

**Blankets.**—The following are extracts from the report kindly furnished by Mr. McLennan, the Government Storekeeper, on the distribution of blankets and other articles to the aboriginals of Queensland for the year 1904:—

“On the recommendation of Dr. Roth, which subsequently received the Minister’s approval, a change in the distribution this year was made, so far as the Northern division of the State was concerned, in that tomahawks, knives, tobacco, pipes, print dresses, fishing-lines, and fishing-hooks were substituted to some extent for blankets, as it was thought that these articles would be more serviceable than blankets to the recipients. . . . Out of a total of fifty-five centres supplied, only ten preferred the substitutes, the remainder (forty-five) mostly expressing preference for the usual blanket. The innovation, therefore, was not as acceptable to the aboriginals as was anticipated. . . . Next year, profiting by the experience of this year, it is the intention to supply the substitutes only to those blacks who have expressed appreciation of them, and blankets will be issued as before to the others. No change was made as regards the distribution in the Central and Southern divisions of the State, because of the colder climatic conditions generally prevailing. . . . As near as can be ascertained, the cost of the distribution this year, and the attendant expenses, are as follows:—

4,296½ pairs blankets at 8s. 8½d. . . . .	£	s.	d.
Value of substitute articles sent . . . . .	1,866	5	10
Forwarding charges . . . . .	180	19	7
	83	9	0
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>£2,130</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>

Last year the distribution cost £2,243 4s. 7d.; therefore it will be seen that a saving of £112 10s. 2d. has been effected this year. . . . The distributors were mostly police officers, and the work of distribution was carried out by them in the usual commendable manner.”

The total number of natives receiving the above relief was 7,600, made up of 3,855 males, 2,740 females, 966 children, and 39 unspecified. The administration of the Blanket Vote is now transferred from the Treasury to the Lands Department.

John Coffey was fined 10s. or 7 days at Herberton (1-6-4), for having an aboriginal blanket illegally in his possession. For a similar offence, J. F. Baird and S. Baird (Mount Molloy) were fined 1s. and 3s. 6d. costs at Cairns (24-11-4).

#### SUPPLY OF LIQUOR TO ABORIGINALS.

**Supply of Liquor to Aboriginals.**—At Cooktown, only five boys were locked up for drunkenness during the year. Protector King attributes this to the fact that the blacks are not allowed to work at the hotels, and that when they are paid-off from the boats they spend their money under his supervision at the stores, so that there is none left for drink. So much sobriety exists among the local natives that, though there may be as many as thirty or forty blacks at a time in the township from the boats and other places, there is not the slightest trouble with them.

In the Boulia and Camooweal districts, the Protector and police respectively report that no liquor is being supplied.

At Thursday Island, Protector O’Brien admits that the practice of selling liquor to aboriginals goes on almost unchecked, mainly on account of the difficulty of securing evidence sufficient to lead to a conviction. It is not at all an uncommon thing to see aboriginals coming out of any of the hotels with every appearance of having been drinking. Thanks to the system which requires that paid-off aboriginals must be returned to their homes without delay, their stay on the island is never a very long one, and this, combined with the well-advised instruction that no aboriginal shall receive more than 5s. in cash from his wages, has a much better result in reducing drunkenness among them than any legislation or other restrictive measures could achieve. Protector O’Brien draws attention to page 9 of my Annual Report for 1903, where, at the end of the first paragraph, there is a sentence which might lead readers thereof to suppose that, in order to secure a conviction for selling liquor to aboriginals, it is necessary to prove that the liquor so sold contains so much per cent. of alcohol. He points out that in the case of *Soluz v. Brien* (Q.L.J., 1896, p. 6), it was held that such proof was unnecessary.

The general demoralisation of the blacks through liquor and opium is well exemplified at Mackay. Protector Martin writes:—

“A few of the blacks here, both male and female, although offered employment, refuse to accept it. They are able from time to time to get opium and liquor from the Asiatics and low class of whites, hence their reason for refusing to leave town. Recently, some of them were offered work on the Percy Islands, but they asked for considerably more wages than they are worth, knowing their terms would not be accepted.”

Each year brings forth some glaring example of the risks attendant on the supply of liquor to our natives. In October last, the dead body of a Hammond Islander named Charlie was found in front of one of the Thursday Island hotels at daylight one morning. Two Red Island natives, named Bob and Mogg, were committed to take their trial for the murder, but no true bill was filed. The evidence showed that during the day preceding the finding of the body, the deceased with the two accused and other aboriginals had been knocking about the back of the hotel in question, where they appeared to have obtained some liquor, with the inevitable result that several of them were fairly drunk late in the day. The accused were seen assaulting Charlie on several occasions after dark, but there was no evidence to show that any of

these assaults would be likely to occasion death. Protector O'Brien was satisfied that the whole trouble was occasioned through the blacks having been supplied with liquor by some person unknown.

The following convictions for drunkenness were reported to me:—Toby, 7 days, Burketown (7-2-4); Jack, 10s. or 3 days, Croydon (13-3-4); Chuckie, discharged, Cooktown (21-3-4); John Deshong, discharged, Bundaberg (12-4-4); Albert Ferrier, cautioned and discharged, Charleville (13-5-4); Trooper, discharged, Thursday Island (3-5-4); Jack, 23s., Croydon (21-5-4); John Shendon (half-caste), cautioned and discharged, Childers (20-6-4); Toby, cautioned and discharged, Burketown (24-6-4); George, cautioned and discharged, Cooktown (28-6-4); George and Tiger, 1s. each, Cooktown (19-10-4); Jack Dishon, 10s., Childers (31-10-4); Spider, 10s. or 7 days, Townsville (12-11-4); Alick, 20s. or 1 month, Townsville (12-11-4); Jimmy, 10s. or 7 days, Townsville (12-11-4); Tommy and Toby, cautioned, Normanton (4-11-4); Toby, 3 days, Burketown (—12-4). For drunkenness and obscene language, Cabbo was fined £2 5s. at Childers (11-7-4).

With a few exceptions, concerning which explanations were called for from the respective benches, full penalties (at least £20 or 2 months) were obtained in the following prosecutions for supplying liquor to aboriginals:—Michael Madigan, Taroom (13-1-4); George Starling, Ayr (19-2-4); Tie On, Mackay (5-4-4); John Hayes, Mackay (16-6-4); George Christensen, Normanton (13-6-4); Mark Noonan, Normanton (26-7-4); Miskin, Thursday Island (5-8-4); S. G. A. Pink, Winton (1-11-4); Geo. Morris, North Pine (3-11-4); J. J. Hayes, Winton (4-11-4); Sam Appoo, Mackay (2-12-4); Edward Harkins, Ayr (3-12-4); Margaret Noonan, Townsville (21-12-4); J. A. O'Dea, Ipswich (28-11-4); Alfred Spencer, Cloncurry (—12-4).

#### OPIMUM TRAFFIC.

**Opium Traffic.**—The degree to which opium is supplied varies greatly in different districts. In the Thursday Island, Boulia, Camooweal, Charleston, and Toowoomba areas, there appears to be no opium-smoking among the natives. In the Longreach division, the desire for opium is on the decrease, particularly on the Lower Cooper, and further towards the South Australian border, where the natives take to the use of pituri. In the Cook district, there is no doubt but that the Chinese supply opium-charcoal to the blacks. The Cumberland police report that here the drug is soaked in water, and the water supplied. The Ayr district has also an unenviable notoriety. It is in the Rockhampton area, however, that the curse appears to have reached its climax. Protector Fitzgerald expresses the opinion that the opium traffic at the different townships lately visited by him is worse than he expected, and that at Duarunga, Blackwater, Emerald, and Clermont it could not be worse. Indeed, owing to the wholesale traffic going on here, the Protector was authorised to employ a special agent to obtain convictions, with the result that both Europeans and Asiatics were found engaged in the trade. The death of Maria, at Comet Downs, according to police reports, was accelerated apparently by opium obtained at Blackwater. Messrs. Cuiten Brothers, of Clump Point, reported that they would probably be unable to get their coffee picked during the season, owing to the blacks with their gins being enticed away by the Chinese with opium. Complaints from this firm over the same matter come to hand with regular frequency.

Taking the Northern districts of the State alone, as compared with last year's returns, it is a sad comment on affairs that, judging from an increase of approximately 15 per cent. in the number of prosecutions, the evil is not yet under control, in spite of the vigilance exercised by the police.

I still sincerely trust that some definite action may shortly be taken to release the Aboriginal Department from the equivocal position in which it has been placed by the issue and continued existence of the so-called "permits" for the sale of opium. I continue to regret that so long as the restrictive clauses of "*The Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1901*," are neither enforced nor repealed, this Department must be held morally responsible for all the abuses consequent upon the present practically promiscuous sale of the drug.

The following is a list of townships showing the number of permits in force—permits which are not only illegal, but against the issue of which I have annually protested:—

Atherton	...	...	3	Georgetown	...	...	2	Oakwood	...	...	1
Augathella	...	...	2	Gladstone	...	...	2	Pentland	...	...	1
Barcaldine	...	...	1	Gympie	...	...	2	Percyville	...	...	2
Birdsville	...	...	1	Halifax	...	...	5	Port Douglas	...	...	4
Blackall	...	...	1	Hambledon	...	...	1	Ravenswood	...	...	2
Bowen	...	...	1	Herberton	...	...	4	Richmond	...	...	1
Brandon	...	...	1	Hughenden	...	...	1	Rockhampton	...	...	13
Brisbane	...	...	16	Ingham	...	...	4	Stanthorpe	...	...	2
Burketown	...	...	4	Irvinebank	...	...	1	St. George	...	...	2
Bundaberg	...	...	8	Isisford	...	...	1	Surat	...	...	1
Cairns	...	...	14	Longreach	...	...	3	Tambo	...	...	1
Charleville	...	...	1	Lower Burdekin	...	...	1	Taroom	...	...	1
Charters Towers	...	...	7	Lucinda Point	...	...	1	Thornborough	...	...	2
Cloncurry	...	...	4	Mackay	...	...	5	Thursday Island	...	...	15
Cooktown	...	...	20	Marceba	...	...	1	Texas	...	...	2
Croydon	...	...	5	Maryborough	...	...	3	Toowoomba	...	...	1
Cunnamulla	...	...	2	Maytown	...	...	1	Townsville	...	...	9
Dalby	...	...	1	Millchester	...	...	1	Warwick	...	...	3
Dungeness	...	...	3	Montalbion	...	...	1	Winton	...	...	2
Emerald	...	...	1	Mossman	...	...	2				—
Geraldton	...	...	7	Normanton	...	...	2	Total	...	...	212

These so-called permits to sell opium (both wholesale and retail) are not issued for any stated periods, and not a few of the Protectors, the officers administering the very Act for the suppression of the illicit supply of the drug, are aware of the Europeans or Asiatics to whom they have been granted. Cases

have even occurred where an individual has been charged with illegally supplying opium, and has tried to defend his action by showing a permit. Although there is no charge made for the permits, a monthly return of sales is demanded by the State Inland Revenue Department, a payment of 2s 6d. per dozen being made for the forms on which these particulars are supplied.

During the year, the quantity of opium imported into the State was 14,680 lb., valued at £22,427.

As recommended by him and other police inspectors, &c., last year, Protector Galbraith again suggests that the police be empowered to arrest any person found supplying opium to aboriginals. "Procedure by summons means, in many cases, a long ride by a policeman, and on his return he finds his Chinaman decamped." The method of arresting the guilty party as a vagrant, and detaining him until such time as a summons may be served, can not be applied in all cases. Protector Galbraith also offers the suggestion of empowering the magistrates to lower the present minimum fine of £20; he states that £5 or £10 would, in most cases, be paid, but with the larger amounts, Chinamen, at an increased cost to the Government, prefer serving a sentence of imprisonment.

The accompanying list particularises the prosecutions reported for supplying opium to aboriginals. With a few exceptions, due to ignorance on the part of the justices of section 8 of the Amending Act of 1911, the full penalties of £20 or 2 months were inflicted:—Ah Hong, Merinda (2-1-4); Ah Mee, Croydon (6-1-4); Ah Dick, Ingham (8-1-4); Ah Sam, Georgetown (11-1-4); Ah Joy, Ah Mee, Ah Chong, and Allous, Ingham (12-1-4); George Ah Sam, Croydon (13-1-4); Ah Chew, Bowen (26-2-4); Jim Que, Tambo (6-3-4); Tommy (Chinaman), Mungana (12-3-4); Tommy Ah See, Stonehenge (16-3-4); Ah Sam, Ravenswood (22-3-4); Ah Chit, Emerald (26-3-4); George Bombee (Malay), Ingham (6-4-4); Ah Dat, Bowen (11-4-4); Ah Kin, Calliope (16-4-4); — (Chinaman), Charleville (18-4-4); Chew Chit, Cairns (22-4-4); Adam Tee, Barcardine (23-4-4); Foo Fah, Ravenswood (25-4-4); Ah Foo, *alias* Hang Yee, Mackay (28-4-4); Ah Hat, Georgetown (10-5-4); Ah Tie and Ah Yung, Ayr (1-6-4); Wah Chong, St. George (7-6-4); Ah Chong, Cooktown (9-6-4); Sam Sow, Normanton (14-6-4); Charley Cun Lock, Proserpine (20-6-4); Wah Chong, St. George (24-6-4); Tim (Chinaman), Brandon (25-6-4); Joseph Burgess, Normanton (4-7-4); Ah Lin, St. George (9-7-4); Charlie Ah Gin, Mackinlay (13-7-4); Ah You, Tambo (13-7-4); Kee Chong, Muttaborra (16-8-4); Ah Lin, Coen (1-9-4); Jimuy Gun Gea, Longreach (1-9-4); Young Deep (Chinese), Mareeba (16-9-4); Jimmy Ah Sin, Georgetown (1-10-4); Jimmy Sin, Tambo (5-10-4); Sam Long Mont, Mareeba (1-11-4); Ah Sam, Tully River (1-11-4); Len You, Normanton (7-11-4); Ah Sam, Georgetown (25-11-4); On Kee, Winton (17-12-4); Ah Chin, Emerald (27-12-4); Sam Chang, Normanton (— 12-4); Tommy Yang Chong, Emerald. The case against Peter Stammer for supplying the drug to aboriginals, Peter and Maggie, was dismissed, Geraldton (4-2-4).

For the unlawful possession of the drug, the following prosecutions were reported to me:—Young Sin, a hawker, who used to supply opium to blacks on the stations, £20 or 3 months, Richmond (29-1-4); Ah Chit, Tommy Ah Kin, and Tommy Que, each £1 or 7 days, Tambo (30-3-4); Ah Bow, £10, Arrilalah (8-4-4); Thomas Morris, Emerald, £10 or 2 months (2-5-4); Kee Chong, £10 10s or 3 months, Muttaborra (17-5-4); Otto Christensen and E. Lewis, each £15 or 3 months; Tommy Lerrig and Ah Lee, each £10 or 3 months, Clermont (26-7-4). Seaman, £5 or 3 months, Thursday Island (29-7-4); Jimmy Ling, £5 or 1 month, Isisford (9-8-4); Ah Chong, £10 or 3 months, Mackinlay (12-8-4); Kee Chong, £10 or 3 months, Muttaborra (16-8-4); T. Pan Kee, 10s. and costs, Torrens Creek (29-8-4); Ah Sing, £5 or 1 month, Longreach (12-9-4); Young Kin, cautioned, with 4s. 6d. costs, Queenton (12-11-4); Ah Chin, £2 12s. or 3 months, Emerald (27-12-4).

#### CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN.

**Children and Young Women.**—Owing to the abuses which must necessarily arise in taking young children from the unsettled districts of the State into service, the Minister gave me explicit instructions to put an end to the practice. The following circular was accordingly forwarded to Protectors Galbraith, Garraway, and King: "The Minister directs me to inform you that, while the Department encourages the legal employment of aboriginal children whose parents are already living in the settled districts of the State, he does not wish any more children (unless special circumstances demand it, and with which you will be good enough to acquaint me) to be brought in for service from the unsettled districts. If any employers persist in defying your authority in carrying out these instructions, please take action."

I have directed attention to the extent to which the vote for the Relief of Aboriginals is drawn upon to defray the cost of maintaining in the Mission Station Reformatories children of aboriginal parentage committed under the Industrial Schools Act. In view of the extent to which our vote has been exceeded each year, it is desirable to exempt it from any charges which can fairly be made against any other votes, and there seems to be little to be said against my suggestion that these charges should in future be defrayed by the Home Secretary's Department. The only consideration pointing to a contrary conclusion that presents itself is the fact that in most instances the committal of these children is obtained at the instance of the Aboriginal Protectors, because the protection which it is desired to extend to them cannot be so promptly or adequately secured under the Aboriginals Protection Acts, but on the whole the simplest and most consistent conclusion to come to seems to be that each department should pay the cost of administering its own Acts. Unfortunately, the Home Department has not been able to accept this view of the case.

"A few of the employers, a very few," says Protector Galbraith, "object to the half-caste children being sent to Mission Stations. This, again, one cannot understand, as they disclaim all relationship to the half-caste. The disadvantage of growing up in ignorance, and being acquainted with nothing but the vices of the European, against the advantage of an education, and a trade at a Mission Station, is too obvious for me to comment upon." On the other hand, in the course of inquiries into the condition of half-caste children in the Darling Downs district, Protector Dillon recommends that no changes be made in the present condition of affairs, and speaks highly of the humanity of the squatters and settlers towards these outcasts. Of course, this opinion is all very well so far as it goes; but so far as the State—the whole community—is concerned, it is not advisable that a race of half-castes and quadroons should grow up without religion and education, and continue their present life of more or less vagabondism. At the same time, the gradual removal of these half-caste waifs and strays from throughout the Southern districts to the various Reformatories, Homes, and Mission Stations, will ensure a large amount of time,

tact, and patience. That this is the correct way of dealing with these cases, is shown from the success which has attended our efforts on similar lines in the Northern parts of the State.

Where satisfactory proof of paternity—e.g., registration of birth is offered, the half-caste children have in the majority of cases been left in the charge of their father. Should at any time such half-caste child under sixteen years of age become a burden to the State, the father is liable to contribute to its support by Section 19 of the 1901 Act. Among cases of this nature may be mentioned the following, the initials of the European father alone being given: Maitland, nine years, and Lily, Cook district, with R. M. and H. S. respectively; Maud, Norman district, with J. H.; certain children in the same district with C. B. and A. F. M.; Rosie, in the Coen, with P. J. F.; and Artie and Minnie, in the Burke, with C. S. W. Arrangements were made by D. McC. for placing his own daughter and her mother's other two children in the Tufnell Home, Nundah. In the case of half-caste Nelly Dungali, Surat, her father not only registered her, but contributed 4s. a week towards her support. The conduct of these men in trying to give their half-caste children even such a measure of their rights under the law is exceptional.

The case brought against W. M. at Georgetown for maintenance by Norah Anderson, *alias* Tottie, an aboriginal, was dismissed.

The following are notes concerning the half-caste and other helpless aboriginal children and young women whose cases have been dealt with by the Department, and sent to one or other of the Missions or Reformatories, or otherwise arranged for:—

- Annie Callinan, half-caste, fourteen years, Mackinlay, who had not been educated, and whose employer had declined to send her to school. Yarrabah.
- Christina, half-caste, ten years, from Marlborough Station. Deebing Creek.
- Lizzie's Baker's half-caste child. Arrangements were made, but unfortunately came to nought, for the transmission of the infant, at the expense of the father, from the care of Philip Johnstone, on the Bloomfield, to Yarrabah, where the mother now is. (See last year's Report.)
- Charlie, half-caste, fourteen years, has been allowed to remain with Mr. O'Brien, Cooktown, provided he is given eighteen months' schooling.
- Lucy Bolton, a young half-caste woman lately confined, from Taroom. She was sent to Deebing Creek, but ultimately accepted an offer of marriage from a young half-caste, and returned home.
- Arthur, eleven or twelve years, of Yaamba. "An incorrigible young rascal in his own country; his parents apparently can do nothing with him." Deebing Creek.
- Sarah Dodd, half-caste, and her children, on the Minister's orders, were returned to Redcliffe Station. Her children, Daisy Dodd and Tommy Dodd, under the Home Secretary's orders, were released from restraint as Reformatory children.
- Alice, half-caste, about ten years, for long with Mrs. Patching, of Cooktown, was sent to Yarrabah upon the decease of her employer.
- Ida's child was placed in St. Mary's Home, Taringa. The mother had absconded from her service in Brisbane, and could not be traced.
- Billy Nichols, half-caste, twelve years, was sent from the Coen to Yarrabah. It had originally been intended to forward him to Weipa, but the police reported that he would never stay there.
- Nellie Smith and child, on the Minister's order, were transferred to Yarrabah. She was the wife of a coloured man, and had been found harboured on one of the Cooktown *bêche-de-mer* boats.
- Rosie, half-caste, of Calcifer, for whom application had been made by a European with a view to marriage, was ultimately despatched to Yarrabah, where she was found to be in trouble.
- Louisa, half-caste, Childers, applied for rations for herself and three female children. Instructions were given for their admission to Barambah, but in the meantime the mother obtained work, and withdrew her application for assistance.
- Johnny-Cake, half-caste, six years, was found wandering with the Boggy Creek blacks. The blackfellow living with the mother was reported as ill-treating the child, and to have thrown it into the fire when born. Yarrabah.
- Billy Buttons. The opportunity was offered him of forwarding his three motherless children to Barambah.
- Ida, *alias* Rosie, half-caste, twelve years, wandering about with the Ruby and Battle Camp blacks. Yarrabah.
- Tommy Elliott, ten years, was in employment at Hughenden, but developed mischievous propensities, and could not be controlled. Sentenced to the Yarrabah Reformatory.
- Minnie Wheeler, about five and a-half years, Golden Gate, Croydon. Polly, the mother, who has on several occasions been locked up for drunkenness, sold the child to Mrs. R. for 2s. 6d. Mapoon.
- Billy, half-caste, sentenced at Normanton to Mapoon Reformatory.
- Cissie, half-caste, six years, from Cooktown. Yarrabah.
- Dinah, with her two half-caste children, Charlie and Alick, of Wrotham Park. Yarrabah.
- Maud, four years; Matilda, ten years; and Rose, fourteen years; all half-castes, the children of Harry Williams, half-caste, and Eliza, of Cooyar, were committed to Deebing Creek under the Reformatory Act. Minnie, seventeen years, of the same family, accompanied them at her own request, but subsequently went back; while Maud was afterwards released at the request of the Deebing Creek committee of management.
- George, half-caste, eight years, whose mother is in the blacks' camp at the True Blue, Croydon. Committed to Mapoon.
- Mary Bundi and Mabel, of Taroom, sent on the Minister's orders to Deebing Creek. On the Minister's authority the former was allowed to go to Jimbour with aboriginal Tommy Lake, her husband.
- Harry, half-caste, six years, of Lawn Hills. Committed to Mapoon.

- Jeanie, half-caste, in the Maytown camp, where her mother is. Yarrabah.
- Sandy, half-caste, from Wrotham Park, his mother refusing to accompany him. Yarrabah.
- Dinah, the gin of Toby [see last year's report], an escapee from Mapoon. Being at Thursday Island, on her way to Mapoon, she was sent back to Burketown, as she wished to go to Turn-off Lagoon, whither it was thought her husband had made his way.
- Deborah, half-caste, ten or twelve years, was brought before the Burketown bench and committed to Mapoon for seven years. The employer of this child, is reported to have been drunk, and knocked the child about; so the agreement was cancelled. Deborah had £1 17s. 6d. to her credit in the Savings Bank, of which £2 7s. 6d. was expended on clothes; the balance was authorised to be paid to the Mapoon Settlement.
- Maggie, half-caste, and child, lately employed by Mrs. Blackman, Townsville, were sent to Yarrabah, at the employer's expense.
- Topsy, half-caste, of Camooweal, was committed to Mapoon. A sum of £4 10s. to her credit was forwarded to the settlement.
- Nebo, of Hughenden, was committed to Yarrabah. This was the same boy, for assaulting whom Elizabeth Byers was convicted.
- Clara, half-caste, eight years, whose agreement at Burketown had expired, and which her employer did not care to renew, was sent to Mapoon. She had £4 to her credit.
- Five half-caste children, from three to twelve years, were brought before the Taroom bench as neglected children, and committed to Deebing Creek. Accompanying them were the two women, Mary Bundi and Mabel, already mentioned.
- Twelve half-caste children were similarly committed from Roma to Deebing Creek. They travelled down in charge of two half-caste women, Polly and Alice, and two full-bloods, Katie and Polly.
- Four half-caste children, at Lawn Hills, whose removal has been asked for by the manager, will be sent to Mapoon at first convenient opportunity. Johnnie, eight years; and Annie, six years, are the children of Ida, employed on the station. Joe, ten years, the child of Kitty, employed at Mount Oscar out-station, is deaf, dumb, and deformed in one hip. Inquiries are being made from the reputed father with a view to its support. Dick, eleven years, is an orphan, living at Fiery Downs.
- The case of Mrs. Thorp's children at Ipswich was brought under the notice of the Orphanage Department, by whom action was taken.
- Application for the return of half-caste Walter to his mother at Cardwell was refused, the boy being under lawful detention at Yarrabah, where it was suggested the mother might go.

It will thus be noted that during the year something like sixty children and young women have been rescued from undesirable surroundings.

#### MIXED MARRIAGES.

**Mixed Marriages.**—I have drawn the Minister's attention to the declaration of the Commonwealth authorities that all Pacific Islanders (not specially exempted) found in the State of Queensland after the 31st December, 1906, may be deported to their respective islands, and have asked for directions as to the attitude of the Aborigines Sub-Department with regard to the position of the aboriginal women legally married to them. In many cases I understand that these women are willing to accompany their husbands, but from a humanitarian point of view I am assured, on competent authority, that in many cases their arrival at their future homes will be fraught with grave danger—in other words, they run serious risks of being murdered. On the other hand, I have reason to believe that some of these islanders do not wish to take their legal aboriginal wives with them, and the question will arise as to whether we are to take action against the husbands for child desertion and maintenance. The keep of these families so left behind will, of course, become a charge upon the State.

Acting on the authority conferred on me, the necessary permission, in writing, for the celebration of marriage between the following individuals and aboriginal females has been given, on the recommendation of the various Protectors, police, or clergy concerned:—

- Pirmines Monmarible, Filipino, ten years resident at Thursday Island; of good character.
- Margarita Maria, of Yam Island.
- Charles Kowat, native of Rotumah, seventeen years resident at Thursday Island; good character. Wasi (widow), of Darnley Island.
- W. Buchanan, European, scalper. Half-caste Ada, of Nive Downs.
- J. Glannan, European. A half-caste minor on Dubbo Downs; conditional on permit from guardian or magistrate being obtained.
- Fidele, native of Rotumah, eighteen years resident in Queensland. Catalina Hoy, widow, Yam Island.
- Rainbow, South Sea Islander. Lizzie Ke-oola, a Geraldton aboriginal.
- James Stanley, European, scalper. Half-caste Rosey Gordon, of East Woodlands, Maranoa River.
- Willie Thorpe, half-caste. Pippa, of Carandotta.
- William Pitt, son of a Jamaica man and Lifu woman. Mary, of Murray Island.
- Matthew Spies, carrier. Maggie, of Charleville.
- John Serovoy Mota (S.S.I.). Lucy, twenty-two years, Mulgrave camp.
- Harry Warsal Mortalap (S.S.I.). Lucy, nineteen years, Mulgrave camp.
- Jack Searva Tanna (S.S.I.), Mulgrave. Becca, twenty-two years, Nelson.
- Charles Carrington, European, carrier. Half-caste Ada, of Winton.
- Willie Pentecost (S.S.I.). Mina White, seventeen years, Bundaberg. A child had already been born to this couple.
- W. W. Mahoney, European. Topsy, of Bouliá.
- Yellow George, half-caste. Rosey, of Burketown.

The respective local Protectors were informed that there were no objections to the proposed marriages between Johnny Lena (S.S.I.) and half-caste Dolly McFarlane, Pialba; half-caste John McLennan and quadroon Mary Fuller, Gayndah; Albert Howard, European, and half-caste Dina Cameron, Moray Downs; George Carlisle, European, and half-caste Mary Tie, Diamantina; F. G. Carseldine, ex-constable, and half-caste Cissie Tie, Winton.

Permission for celebration of marriage was refused in the cases of Sam Nabo, kanaka, with half-caste Gertie Bulong, of Gayndah; and W. E. White, European, with half-caste Alice.

#### DISEASE, ACCIDENT, DEATH.

**Disease, Accident, Death.**—Various correspondence has passed relative to the rights of aboriginal pauper patients to be admitted into hospitals, and the fees to be paid to medical men for attending such people privately. With regard to the former, Rev. E. R. Gribble was informed that the matter of admission, so far as the Cairns Hospital was concerned, rested entirely in the hands of the committee. I refused to certify to the voucher tendered by the medical officer on account of a pauper native, with a fractured arm, admitted into the Government subsidised hospital at Boulia. Jacky, having refused to remain in the Mount Morgan Hospital, returned to camp. Barney, owing to the Warwick Hospital regulations not admitting of venereal cases, was sent to Brisbane for treatment. Minnie, from Durundur, died in the Brisbane, and Jack in the Charters Towers Hospital, the latter from lung affection. Judy ran away from the Brisbane Hospital. A small sum was expended at Taroom for medical attendance and operation on Sissie Queenslander. Tommy was sent to Goodna Asylum from Georgetown.

Banjo, of Roma, whom the medical officer could not certify as insane, was sent to Deebing Creek. Arthur, an aboriginal cripple at Morenish, and Jack, a Jundah paralytic, were forwarded to Durundur. An Indian herbalist wrote offering his services to cure aboriginal venereal patients around Hampden.

Rations were allowed for sick Hector and his gin in the Roma camp. Protector O'Brien sent medicines over to the invalid blacks at Red Island. Although no expenditure for medical or other relief can be authorised without my authority, it is, of course, understood that in any case of urgency I shall be quite satisfied with any expenses incurred on the instructions of a Protector, until such time as I may be communicated with. I have been repeatedly blamed for alleged neglect of natives suffering with venereal disease. Such fault-finders are apparently unaware of the many factors—ignorance, prejudice, witchcraft, cost of isolation, &c.—that have to be taken into consideration when dealing with cases of this nature. The whole matter first occupied my attention some six years ago, when I started an isolation hospital about eight miles out of Cooktown. At the request of the Minister of the day, I drew up a detailed report (19-12-00), with which he expressed his satisfaction, on "Venereal Disease amongst Aborigines, and a scheme for aggregating those so afflicted for proper treatment, &c.": extracts from this were inserted in my Annual Report for 1900, pp. 6-7.

The epidemic of plague at Cairns was responsible for the death of Syra, a female native, in private employment. George, while assisting on a police patrol, was drowned in the Bloomfield River. A magisterial inquiry was held into the cause of death of Joe Brown, aged fifteen, who hanged himself at Gordon Park, near Roma.

Owing to the death of Dolly, during her confinement, at Oakey Creek, Constable Kenny, of the Eight-mile Native Police Camp, Cooktown, had to bring up the twins by bottle: the Under Secretary's appreciation of his humanity was forwarded to him.

The Home Secretary was informed that the Protector had no power to deal with the legal aboriginal wife of a suspected leper, Sam Weegeegan (S.S.I.) of Buderim Mountain.

#### ABORIGINAL CRIME.

**Aboriginal Crime.**—I am pleased to be able to report a marked diminution in crimes of a serious character. With regard to cattle-stealing and firing country in the Croydon, Norman, Cloncurry, and Camooweal districts, no complaints have been made to Protector Galbraith, except from Devoncourt Station, where an area was burned by blacks for hunting purposes. Complaints were received as to the alleged killing of sheep in the Goondiwindi area, but the Chief Inspector of Police did not consider the charge warranted, so again two aboriginals were committed for trial at Hebel for sheep-stealing, but were discharged. At Boulia, there has not been any crime, and consequently no arrests; in fact, Protector O'Connor states that the aborigines of this district are most law-abiding and inoffensive. In the Longreach area, Protector Dillon received no complaints as to any misconduct on the part of the natives. Protector Garraway, reporting on the Coen district, states that with the exception of one or two cases of petty thieving from the miners' camps, during the miners' absence, the aboriginals have been fairly well behaved, and but little trouble given. Occasionally, also, a few vegetables have been taken from the Chinese gardens, but usually the Chinamen are to blame for allowing the blacks to come round when the police are away.

In terms of section 3 of the Act of 1901, instructions for the removal of the following incorrigibles to districts far removed from their native haunts have been given by the Minister:—

Freddie, of Tambo, who was serving a six months' sentence at Rockhampton Gaol for stealing.

On the recommendation of Inspector Lamond.

Rosie, with her half-caste child Lily, was sent to Yarrabah. This woman has been a continual source of trouble amongst the *bêche-de-mer* fishermen along the coast-line north of Cooktown.

Toby [*see last year's Report*], who was sent from Lawn Hills to Mapoon as an incorrigible, was detained at the Coen, where he was found attempting to make his way back.

Alice, legally married to Jack Sandwich, a South Sea Islander, was removed from Mount Buderim to Deebing Creek, and the child left in the father's custody on the application of the Inspector of Pacific Islanders.

Spider, Albert, Jimmy Reid, Pahee, and Norman Ray, *alias* Tommy, all of them discharged prisoners, were at their own request sent to Durundur.

Papa, an incorrigible [*see last year's Report*], escaped from Fraser Island, and is believed to have been drowned while making his way across to the mainland.

**Hero** [*see last year's Report*], who was deported from the North to Durundur, and escaped in December, 1903, was arrested by the Palmer police. The Minister did not consider it worth while bringing him South again, and he was allowed to go to Natal Downs.

**Friday** [*see last year's Report*], another escapee from the same settlement, was found at Gorge Creek, a tributary of the Cape River. On the Minister's instructions, the police were informed that if the accused was not misbehaving himself, his rearrest was not advisable.

Seven other incorrigible escapees from Durundur were found by the police at Jordan Creek, Cairns, and instructions were given to have them brought back.

**Harry Coates**, Tommy Policeman, and Johnnie. A petition was received for the removal of all three, the first-mentioned of whom was serving a two months' sentence at Townsville. The Minister authorised the local Protector to allow Harry to return to the McIvor River, where he had a wife and two children, as it was considered that his late sentence would have a salutary effect on him. A strict surveillance was ordered to be kept over the other two.

For alleged murder at the Seven Rivers, Johnny, at Thursday Island (13-6-4), was committed to take his trial at the Circuit Court, Cooktown. Peter, a Cooktown aboriginal, died from the results of spear-wounds inflicted by two Rossville blacks, Blucher and Lubow.

For unlawfully wounding, Willie McLennon received 3 months at Cooktown (24-3-4), the victim assumed being another native, the trouble arising over a gin. Five other cases of assault were those of:—Tommy, 2 months, Burketown (21-4-4); Fred, 6 months, Croydon (9-7-4); Bob and Mogg, 2 months each, Thursday Island (14-12-4); Jimmy, 4 months, Townsville (— 12-4).

There have been no cases of attempted rape brought before the courts. Frank Johnston, a young half-caste from Durundur, who had attempted overtures to a young European female, was publicly dismissed the settlement.

Reports have been received *re* the following convictions for stealing:—Billy, Jack, Tommy, 6 months each, Maytown (23-2-4); Major and Barrow, 6 and 3 months respectively, Cooktown (3-3-4); Parry and Dick, 6 months, Thursday Island (29-3-4); Daisy, 7 days, Burketown (11-2-4); Jack, 6 months, Coen (21-3-4); Pahee, 6 months, Tiaro (23-4-4); Billy, £1 or 48 hours, Normanton (27-3-4); George, 6 months, Maytown (17-4-4); Joe Echumpa, 3 months, Thursday Island (3-5-4); Willie, sentence suspended section 656 C.C., Townsville (14-6-4); Billy and Charlie, 1 month each, Cooktown (26-5-4); Tommy, 2 months, Townsville (2-7-4); Charlie, 14 days, Croydon (4-7-4); Billy Smith, 3 months, Mackay (27-9-4); Jimmy Haynes, 14 days, St. George (4-9-4); Harry, half-caste, 7 days, Roma (15-10-4); Christmas, 6 months, Thursday Island (25-12-4). In the case of Pahee, Mr. Ranking, P.M., Brisbane, reported that in his opinion "the prisoner should not be dealt with by a bench of magistrates otherwise than through the medium of a competent interpreter." On his remand to Tiaro, however, "an interpreter in this case could not be obtained, but as Pahee understood what was said to him in English, the bench decided to hear the case without, and Pahee was convicted."

For breaking and entering, Spider received 3 months at Maryborough (26-4-4), and Tommy Williams 6 months at Tambo (13-7-4). On charges of being illegally on enclosed premises, &c., the following convictions were reported:—Jimmy Reid, 2 months, Taroom (21-6-4); Harry Coates, 2 months, Cooktown (17-10-4); Tommy, 6 months, Burketown.

Obscene and profane language was the cause of the following convictions:—John Shendon, half-caste, £2 or 14 days, Childers (20-6-4); David Simpson, half-caste, £2 or 14 days, Charleville (18-8-4); Echo, £2 or 3 months, Croydon (28-8-4); Jimmy, £1 or 48 hours, Cloncurry (18-8-4); John Palmer, £1 or 7 days, Cloncurry (7-8-4).

Disorderly conduct, creating a disturbance, &c., were responsible for eight prosecutions:—Pablo, £2 or 14 days, and Don Macdonald, £1 or 14 days, Thursday Island (18-4-4); Mack, 5s., Cooktown (28-6-4); Tommy, discharged, Georgetown (30-6-4); Jack, cautioned and discharged, Charleville (6-6-4); Jack, £2 or 2 months, Thursday Island (15-7-4); Pickwick, £2 or 7 days, and Gilbert, £1 or 3 days, Cloncurry (9-8-4).

#### OFFENCES ON ABORIGINALS.

**Offences on Aborigines.**—The past year has been remarkable for the paucity of offences committed on aborigines. Protector Garraway, in speaking of the Coen district, says that the abuse of the blacks by Europeans is rare now, and that only on one or two occasions has he had to caution employers as to their doubtful treatment of the natives. There have been no charges of murder, and the only convictions reported to me of crimes against the person were those of Ah Quay at Atherton (5-11-4), and Elizabeth A. Byers at Hughenden (17-11-4), for assaulting aborigines.

#### MISSION STATIONS, REFORMATORIES, HOMES.

**Mission Stations, Reformatories, Homes.**—The schedule below shows the daily average number of natives connected with the various Mission Stations, according as they are permanently resident (P.), or temporarily visitant, *i.e.*, casual (C.) Permanents are those who have continuously resided at the Mission, and have been continuously and entirely supported with rations for a period of at least six months.

Deebing Creek, Barambah, Yarrabah, and Mupoon are all proclaimed reformatories under the Industrial and Reformatory Schools Act of 1865, so that aboriginal and half-caste children under fifteen years of age can be brought before a bench of magistrates and ordered for detention at either of the mission stations named. As already pointed out, the cost of maintaining such children should be a charge on the Home Secretary's vote rather than on the Aboriginal's.

The Mission Stations are year by year becoming of greater assistance to the State in dealing with the pauper aboriginal waifs and strays, adults and children, on the most economic lines. Two new Missions have been opened along the Gulf coast, on the Archer and Mitchell Rivers, under control of the Presbyterian and Anglican Churches respectively. The Durundur settlement has been transferred to Barambah, and the Fraser Island one has been closed, the large majority of the inmates from the latter having been removed to Yarrabah.

The second table gives an idea of the attendance, &c., at the schools established in connection with the mainland Missions, the salary of the teacher, with the exception of Deebing Creek, which is met by the Education Department, being paid out of the aboriginal vote, in addition to the annual Mission subsidy. The emoluments of the Barambah schoolmistress are most certainly deserving of an increase.

The third schedule illustrates the attendance at the schools connected with certain of the Torres Strait Islands, which are visited, as opportunity occurs, by the Government Resident, Thursday Island. The school at York Island has been closed, and a new one opened at Naghir. The latter, the "John Douglas School," has been erected at the expense of Mr. James Mills, a Samoan pearlsheller, whose headquarters are on this island. Of the original inhabitants of Naghir, there are only two remaining: the people who now live there are mostly the descendants of South Sea Islanders and Torres Strait Island parents, are engaged in the pearl-shell industry, and are very comfortably off.

Thus over £1,000 is spent out of the Aboriginal vote in extending the benefits of a provisional school education to at least 770 children. I again respectfully protest against this expenditure not being made a charge on the Education Department.

AVERAGE DAILY NUMBER OF ABORIGINALS AT MISSION STATIONS.

1904.	DEEBING CREEK.			DURUNDUR.			BARAMBAH.			YARRABAH.			CAPE BEDFORD.			MAPON.			WEIPA.		
	£200.			...			£250.			† £300.			£250.			£250.			£120.		
	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.	P.	C.	Total.
January	*	...	...	269	10	279	*	...	...	220	10	230	96	...	96	93	11	104	26	35	61
February	*	...	...	264	10	274	*	...	...	219	10	129	98	...	98	94	11	105	26	30	56
March	*	...	...	240	10	250	*	...	...	226	15	241	98	...	98	94	14	108	26	30	56
April	*	...	...	220	10	230	*	...	...	237	14	251	98	...	98	94	25	119	26	30	56
May	135	10	145	300	...	200	122	...	122	270	13	283	98	...	98	94	16	110	26	25	51
June	135	12	147	190	1	191	112	...	112	230	10	240	98	...	98	94	14	108	26	25	51
July	135	29	164	187	2	189	101	27	128	286	12	298	98	...	98	81	14	95	27	40	67
August	135	27	162	225	2	227	101	19	119	286	13	299	98	...	98	81	13	94	27	50	77
September	135	17	152	227	3	230	112	16	128	314	6	320	98	...	98	92	12	104	27	35	62
October	135	25	160	220	4	224	153	5	158	314	5	320	97	...	97	92	11	103	27	40	67
November	135	17	152	204	3	207	160	9	169	313	6	319	97	...	97	91	15	106	27	45	72
December	135	19	154	208	3	211	160	22	182	304	...	304	97	...	97	91	21	112	27	48	75

\* No returns available.

† To be reduced by £50 annually during the next two years.

ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (MAINLAND) - 1904.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT.			CLASSIFICATION - BOYS.			CLASSIFICATION - GIRLS.			No. of Days School Open.	ATTENDANCE.			
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	I.	II.	III.	I.	II.	III.		Total Attendance.		Average Attendance.	
												Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Deebing Creek,	31 March	19	25	44	9	4	6	12	4	9	48	837	1,005	17	21
	30 June	19	23	42	6	4	9	9	4	10	60	1,031	1,336	18	22
	30 September	18	23	41	7	4	7	10	2	11	63	1,067	1,285	17	20
	31 December	17	25	42	6	4	7	10	2	13	54	834	1,172	15	22
Barambah, £26	31 March *	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30 June	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30 September	19	23	42	19	...	...	23	...	...	59	895	1,177	15	20
	31 December	18	22	40	18	...	...	22	...	...	53	886	1,069	16	20
Yarrabah, £70	31 March	60	52	112	60	...	...	52	...	...	36	1,967	1,589	54	44
	30 June	65	51	116	65	...	...	51	...	...	46	2,492	1,773	54	38
	30 September	74	74	148	74	...	...	74	...	...	45	2,283	2,657	50	59
	31 December	71	75	146	71	...	...	75	...	...	32	1,913	1,887	50	58
Cape Bedford, £100	31 March	21	16	37	21	...	...	16	...	...	49	1,003	768	21	16
	30 June	21	16	37	21	...	...	16	...	...	60	1,240	960	21	16
	30 September	22	16	38	22	...	...	16	...	...	65	1,357	1,037	21	16
	31 December	21	16	37	18	3	...	12	4	...	44	918	694	21	16
Mapon, £100	31 March	32	52	84	25	3	4	27	9	16	47	1,029	2,255	21	48
	30 June	30	50	80	22	5	3	28	7	15	52	989	2,301	19	44
	30 September	28	48	76	25	2	1	27	7	14	53	959	2,218	18	41
	31 December	27	48	75	24	2	1	27	7	14	48	1,080	2,093	22	43
Weipa, £50	31 March	25	25	50	25	...	...	25	...	...	47	781	1,162	17	25
	30 June	33	28	61	33	...	...	28	...	...	48	785	1,225	16	26
	30 September	35	29	64	35	...	...	29	...	...	53	1,049	1,483	20	28
	31 December	35	29	64	35	...	...	29	...	...	47	1,091	1,199	23	26

\* School was only instituted here in June.

## ABORIGINAL SCHOOL RETURNS (TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS)—1904.

Situation and Teacher's Salary.	Quarter Ending.	ENROLMENT			CLASSIFICATION—BOYS.			CLASSIFICATION—GIRLS.			ATTENDANCE.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Total.	I.	II.	III.	I.	II.	III.	No of Days School Open.	Total Attendance.		Average Attendance.	
												Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.
Murray Island, £200	31 March ...	44	63	107	44	...	...	63	...	...	40	1,258	1,795	31	45
	30 June ...	44	63	107	44	...	...	63	...	...	62	2,114	3,000	31	48
	30 September ...	49	63	112	49	...	...	63	...	...	64	2,502	3,106	39	48
	31 December ...	50	60	110	50	...	...	60	...	...	59	2,480	2,923	42	47
Darnley Island, £100	31 March ...	32	32	64	32	...	...	32	...	...	20	513	568	25	28
	30 June ...	33	33	66	33	...	...	33	...	...	61	1,968	1,809	32	23
	30 September ...	34	31	62	34	...	...	31	...	...	63	1,992	1,678	31	26
	31 December ...	31	31	62	31	...	...	31	...	...	49	1,384	1,429	28	29
Mabuag Island, £186	31 March ...	37	40	77	37	...	...	40	...	...	37	1,216	1,412	33	39
	30 June ...	37	48	85	37	...	...	48	...	...	63	2,282	2,912	36	46
	30 September ...	45	53	98	45	...	...	53	...	...	65	2,660	3,107	41	48
	31 December ...	47	60	107	47	...	...	60	...	...	42	1,900	2,186	45	52
Badu Island,* £84	31 March ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30 June ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30 September ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	31 December ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Saibai Island, £126	31 March ...	34	35	69	34	...	...	35	...	...	46	1,482	1,505	33	32
	30 June ...	34	35	69	34	...	...	35	...	...	51	1,587	1,595	32	31
	30 September ...	31	28	54	31	...	...	28	...	...	65	1,643	1,491	25	23
	31 December ...	26	21	50	26	...	...	24	...	...	55	1,430	1,280	26	23

\* No returns available.

**Durundur.**—At the end of December there were 217 natives, full-blood and half-caste, on the settlement, this number including sixty-two children, of whom thirty-five are half-caste. Their health has been fairly good, though the rate of infantile mortality is still high, no less than ten young children having succumbed during the year. The births numbered fourteen—namely, eleven full-blood and three half-caste. The behaviour of the inmates has been excellent, and, except in a few instances, no trouble has been experienced in managing them, although they include several ex-prisoners and incorrigible girls. The superintendent, Mr. Tronson, mentions that gambling is now and then indulged in, but that he has succeeded in suppressing it to some extent. Certain of the aboriginals who were recently transferred from Bogimba (Fraser Island) seemed to be under the impression that they were not to be called upon to do any work on the settlement, but could idle their time away as fancy dictated; it was found necessary to expel some of these malcontents. The system introduced on my instructions of sending as many men as possible out to work under agreement, provided that not sufficient labour could be found for them on the settlement itself, has given good results, the employers in almost all instances speaking very highly of their conduct and manner of work. Moreover, by this means the settlement has benefited financially to the extent of over £216, as against nothing for 1903. No doubt, as employers become aware of the natives' value for employment of a comparatively light nature—*e.g.*, ring-barking, brushing, stripping bark, their services will be more largely availed of. At present the boys earn various sums, ranging from 3s. to 5s. per week, with, of course, food, tobacco, clothes, &c., each contributing 1s. per week from his wages to the settlement to assist in providing for his wife and family (if married), or for his own keep when out of employment (if single). The wife and family are generally left at the settlement when the husband goes out to work. The superintendent reports that the boys, as a rule, spend their money in buying clothes. With regard to improvements on the settlement itself, about 6 acres were put under cultivation, and a fair crop of English potatoes was secured. A saving of some £16 resulted in allowing Mr. Tronson to purchase cattle and kill them for food, instead of having meat supplied by contract. A light vehicle was purchased in May last for the conveyance of goods, &c., from the railway station; even after deducting the cost of the horse, feed, and repairs, £28 was thus saved during the last seven months of the year. Both for financial and other considerations, the whole settlement has now (1-3-5) been transferred to

**Barambah, via Murgon Siding,** a satisfactory arrangement having been come to with the committee of the Deebing Creek Mission, under whose auspices this settlement had originally been founded and successfully carried on. Situated conveniently to two stations, Murgon and Wondai, on the Kilkivan extension railway line, this area of about 7,000 acres, containing some excellent grazing and farming country, offers several advantages. The benefits of the school, which has been doing excellent work (under its teacher, Miss Marion Kennett) will be now availed of by the Durundur children, whose education has necessarily been hitherto sadly neglected. Mr. Tronson has been gazetted superintendent, and is assisted by Mr. Morrison, hitherto in the employ of the Deebing Creek committee. There is thus every reason to believe that this settlement will prove as useful as it has proved to be in the past.

**Deebing Creek, Ipswich.**—The committee report that the work here, both amongst the old and the young, has been of a very satisfactory character. There is always good order at the Home. The inmates attend the religious meetings well, and there is every reason to believe that many of them are endeavouring to lead good moral and religious lives. Unfortunately, there are still a few who are now and again brought under the influence of drink when they get into Ipswich. There is a greater temptation for them to come into the neighbouring township now, and that at later hours, than in former years,

because of the foot-race meetings—"Sheffield handicaps"—which are held at night. It has been found impossible for the committee to prevent the blacks taking part in these races, which not only bring into town those who are competing, but also their friends. It may be mentioned that the racing mania also militates against the farming, which is cultivated a long way off, and temporarily necessitates the men engaged therein leaving their homes at the mission. These, however, do not care to go when they find that those blacks who are being maintained and harboured in Ipswich and its neighbourhood by members of the racing fraternity are apt to visit their women folk during their absence. I have appealed to the Minister for authority to take drastic action against certain Europeans for thus illegally employing and harbouring. [See also Miscellaneous: Professional Pedestrianism.] The children are regular in their attendance at school during the week, and also on the Sabbath, when they are joined by some who are older. The progress is of a marked and satisfactory character, and is well reported on by the school inspector. The farm work, in spite of the evil influences above referred to, has been fairly successful, and the stock is increasing a little again since the drought, although it has not been possible to get much beef from the herd as yet. By means of work undertaken by the inmates outside the settlement in the way of burr-cutting, scrub-felling, and fencing, the mission has benefited to the extent of £8 worth of cattle, £25 worth of land, and £16 in cash, respectively. At the same time, improvements, &c., on the mission property itself have been made to a value of over £250. The number of people during the year receiving rations for longer or shorter periods was 167, the average daily population being about 130. The chairman of the mission is Rev. P. Robertson: the secretary, Mr. W. H. Foote; and the superintendent of the reserve, Mr. Ivins."

**Yarrabah.**—The superintendent, Rev. E. R. Gribble, has been away for considerable periods during the year; on two occasions to Fraser Island, in connection with the transfer of the buildings and people from there to Yarrabah, and on another to the Mitchell River Aboriginal Reserve, in the Gulf district. The Rev. E. S. Chase, who is now permanently attached to the staff, acted as superintendent during the former's absence. Another addition to the mission staff is Mr. B. S. Cole, of Ipswich. I sincerely regret having to report that the superintendent's wife has been temporarily obliged to leave the settlement owing to continued ill-health, and has lately undergone a severe operation in the Cairns Hospital. Mrs. J. B. Gribble, for some years at Fraser Island, has now returned to Yarrabah, to undertake the duties of mission matron. The total resident population on the settlement is now 321, of whom 117 were admitted from Fraser Island. During the year, a printing-press, kindly donated by some Melbourne friends, has done good work in turning out all the printing needed on the station. A leaflet, *The Yarrabah Times*, is being published monthly. The compositors are two half-caste boys, aged thirteen and fourteen, Wilfred Brown and Edgar; the same two lads are also organists at the mission church. A company, thirty strong, of the Church Lads' Brigade, has been started, the equipment for officers and men having been sent out from London. The lads look well indeed in their caps, haversacks, and belts. On the old plantation, some 70 acres have been divided into paddocks for the milking cows, and paspalum grass has been planted. A small area has also been put under cultivation with cotton, which does very well here. Owing to the unusually dry weather in November and December, no planting could be done, and, as a consequence, the potato crop this coming year will be but a poor one. At the outside settlements on Karpa and Reeve's Creeks much good has been done in the way of buildings and cultivation: at the former a telephone has been established, and is found to be a great convenience. At Karpa, a bridge was built across the creek, many hundred cocoa-nut palms were planted, and several acres of scrub felled and burnt. At the head station, Yarrabah, although many buildings have been erected, increased accommodation is still needed; this, however, will be gradually met by putting up the buildings removed from Fraser Island. The health of the Yarrabah people is generally good, but one cannot speak so satisfactorily of the 117 inmates lately received from the South, many of the latter being addicted to eating earth, ashes, charcoal, &c. This fact, coupled with the change to another climate, has produced amongst them no inconsiderable amount of sickness, but they are, fortunately, now over the worst of their troubles. The Aboriginals Sub-Department is prepared to supply all medicine within reason whenever requisitioned for, but cannot accede to the superintendent's request that arrangements be made for the Government Medical Officer at Cairns to visit the station regularly. With such a large permanent population, it is well worth while considering whether the mission police court should not be put on a proper legal footing; indeed, it seems to me that the time has already arrived for framing some regulations as provided in the Acts for the infliction of certain punishments for offences committed, not only on Yarrabah, but on mission stations, &c., generally. The people transferred from Fraser Island seem to have settled down at Yarrabah very well at first, but latterly they have been giving a good deal of trouble by absconding to Cairns; this matter appears to be a very serious one, as affecting the whole working of the mission, and is being dealt with.

**Hope Valley, Cape Bedford.**—The number of aboriginals permanently residing at the station is 98, and seldom varies, not because other blacks in the vicinity could not be induced to make Hope Valley their home, but owing to the financial inability of the missionaries to support more. Indeed, the maintenance of even the present number necessitates considerable pecuniary assistance on the part of the mission society in Germany, independently of the subsidy granted by the Government. Unfortunately, the soil here is not adapted for agriculture, and, accordingly, the cost of food is greater, as the supply of purchased rations can only be supplemented to a very small extent by home-grown articles. The cocoa-nut plantation brought in a first return of £30, which amount will, no doubt, increase as a larger number of trees reach the bearing age. There are about 2,000 sisal-hemp plants growing on the station, 600 of which are ready to cut, but the cost of the necessary machinery to treat them is beyond the missionaries' means. With the help, however, of a home-made hand machine, about 20 lb. of fibre was cleared, and appeared to be of very good quality. So far, it seems that these two vegetable products are the only ones that will thrive well here. The chief work of the aboriginals during the year has been the thorough draining of some 25 acres of swamp land, together with its fencing, and clearing in part. It is hoped that by improving the land in this manner, better crops may be produced in the future. At present there is about 1 acre of maize and 1 acre of millet planted. After the wet season it is intended to have 7 or 8 acres ready for sweet potatoes. A small out-station, about 7 miles distant, has been started, where 3 acres are now cleared, fenced, and planted with maize, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and cotton.

Since my last visit to Hope Valley, three new buildings have been erected. The garden near the mission station has been enlarged by half an acre, and a large goat yard and shed fixed up. There can be no doubt that the work has been most satisfactory, especially when it is remembered that almost half of the residents are children still attending school. The health of the people has been remarkably good, serious illness being almost unknown. Amongst the permanents, some of whom have been at the mission for a continuous period of sixteen years, only one death has taken place. I am indeed thankful for the Minister's authority to incur an expenditure up to £75 on a small boat, say, of 5 or 6 tons. Although only 11 miles distant by sea from Cooktown as the crow flies, Hope Valley during the wet season is practically cut off from communication; in case of sickness or running short of provisions, this may mean a very serious matter. Moreover, since some £40 a year is expended on freight alone, the vessel will soon pay for herself. Too much praise cannot be given to those responsible for the welfare and progress of the mission. The Revs. G. H. Schwarz and W. Poland, together with their wives, are deserving of every reasonable encouragement and assistance.

**Mapoon.**—The following is a transcript of the report kindly furnished by the superintendent, Rev. N. Hey:—The total number of aboriginals under the supervision of the mission is about 400, all of whom have, from time to time, received rations and medical help when required. The number who have settled down at or near the station, including the children, are over 200. The remainder still come and go, visiting other tribes, or spending their time in hunting and fishing. No pressure is brought to bear upon any of the natives to compel them to a settled life; it is rather held out to them as a favour and privilege. Although the roaming instinct is very strong with some, yet they all, without exception, look upon the Mapoon settlement as their home. The general behaviour of the natives has been all that could be desired. Their health, however, has not been very satisfactory, in spite of the great attention paid to all matters of general sanitation. Seventeen deaths have taken place on the reserve during the year, mostly the victims of consumption and syphilis. The majority of these deaths took place outside the settlement. The health of the inmates of the dormitories—forty-two girls and twenty-two boys (twenty-one of whom are Reformatory children)—has been excellent. In spite of the severe epidemics of dengue fever and whooping cough, only one death occurred, and this was a girl who was not strong when sent to Mapoon, and whooping cough carried her off. It is only fair to state that the recruiting of natives has been the cause of a large proportion of deaths. Several young men died shortly after their return to the station, two in the Thursday Island Hospital, and one on the fishing grounds. Eighty-four male aboriginals were recruited up to the end of July, sixty-five by Europeans and nineteen by aliens; as several have deserted their boats, the income toward the Mapoon native account, or native store, has been considerably smaller than other years, and the store will now have to be closed altogether, but I do not think that this loss will prove detrimental to the natives. The employment of natives on boats did not only affect those who were actually engaged, but the presence of the recruiters on the station had very often a demoralising effect on the whole settlement. About half of the aboriginals recruited were married men, and in many cases their wives thus left behind were appropriated by others, which, on the return of the rightful husbands, was the cause of fighting, bloodshed, and even murder. It is, therefore, very timely that the recruiting has been entirely discontinued since 31st of July last. It is too soon to report the effect produced by this measure upon the natives. They are and will remain children, and must therefore be protected, even sometimes against their will. The mission has already purchased a cutter of 5 tons for the use of our young men who have acquired a taste for seafaring life, and there is a prospect that by fishing and carrying stores for the inland telegraph and cattle stations a fair income will be derived. Large improvements have been effected during the year. Many of the buildings, outhouses, and native cottages have been overhauled, and a two-mile fence erected. The live stock, comprising eighty head of cattle, seven horses, and some goats, all doing well. Twelve cows have been milked all the year round, and all the available bullocks were killed by and for the natives. The gardens brought in a fair amount of vegetables and fruit, but cultivation will never be a great success here owing to the poor sandy soil. Our large cocoa-nut plantation, however, bids fair to become a source of income in the near future. In fact, a good many nuts are already being consumed weekly by our young people, who are very fond of them. Towards the education of our young people a considerable portion of our time has been devoted. The secular branches of the day school are held by Mrs. Ward, who has spared no trouble to make her work a success. It is not so much what the children actually learn, but the discipline and methods observed, and the attention and obedience to the rules that is of greatest value, because it makes them agents of civilisation among their own people. Out of school hours both boys and girls receive further suitable and practical instruction in the many departments of station life. The problem now before us is what shall become of those educated girls when arrived at a marriageable age! As far as the full-blooded girls are concerned, they, as a rule, can be married to intelligent young men of their own race, and perhaps some may be induced to settle down on the reserve upon separate little homesteads; at any rate I am going to try the experiment. But I do not think it is fair to marry the half-caste girls to blacks, which might mean in many cases a return to the camp life, with its abuses, privations, and depravities. If suitable islanders or half castes could be found for them, which I doubt not, these girls would have an opportunity of making their influence for good felt, which would be a gain to the State.

**Archer River.**—Work commenced here last August, under the superintendence of Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Richter. Judging from what I saw of this couple two years ago at Mapoon, I feel confident that they will make a success of this mission.

The Rev. Mr. Richter writes:

"It was 3rd August when three boats faced the mouth of the Archer River. There was the 'Melbidir,' having Professor Klaatsch from Germany on board, who came here for the purpose of making some scientific observations; the schooner 'Tom Fisher,' bringing the timber for the mission building; and the mission boat, carrying the stores, and some native workers from Mapoon. Peter Bee, a Samoan, and carpenter by trade, who came as my assistant, was among them. The next morning we landed 4 miles up the river, at the landing-place fixed by Rev. Mr. Hey. On passing the river mouth, our boat took a young Archer River native on board, who had formerly been with me at Mapoon for four months. He was of the best help to me at the commencement as interpreter, and for telling his countrymen the object of

my visit. The consequence was a friendly relationship between our people (so I call the people living around the station) and myself. Also the Mapoon natives were received as friends. The next day plenty of blacks came to see us, and to help us working. A bush track was soon made and cleared for the four-wheeled car; but it took nearly a month to get the timber from the river bank to the building place. Peter Bee quickly made a small house of the roof iron for me to live in, and a bark house was made for the Mapoon natives. At the end of August the small building (kitchen and store) was almost finished. A large bark house was made for Peter Bee, which is now (he having left) used as church and school, and a new house on high piles has been made for the new assistant. A beginning has been made in cultivating some ground: some fruit trees and vegetables have been planted. The station is more than a mile away from the Archer River towards the north, and about 800 feet away from a big fresh-water lagoon. From this towards the north-west, there is a long chain of small lagoons, all of which I have not yet seen. The country seems to be healthy, though the mosquitoes are very bad here. The people I distinguish as station people and the wild ones. The station people number about thirty to forty, speaking two different dialects. Among these are some families from the Ina Creek, and some others from a more northern part, each camp again speaking a different language. So I have to deal daily with four dialects, and some of the people even mix two or three together. Fortunately, they understand a bit of English, at least the men, as they more or less came into contact with the Weipa Mission Station, and are to a certain extent civilised. These people are, in my opinion, the remnant of three or four tribes, which have almost died out, probably killed by the wild tribes from the east and south, who are very numerous. Three or four of these powerful tribes have been visiting here, each tribe speaking again a different dialect. Sometimes they come to 'look at' the place, but mostly their real intention is fighting. They stay here three or four days, in which time I give them occupation, and, as a rule, they behave very well, except that they are always ready for fighting. One of these tribes, however, seemed to be more dangerous. Our people told me that they were proper cannibals. Sometimes only a few of those wild ones come here to work for a week or more. The first Christmas festival has yet to be mentioned. It was very much enjoyed by our natives, both the games as well as the presents. We are just starting school here. There are a lot of children here, who, we hope, will come willingly."

**Weipa, Embley River.**—From the annual report kindly forwarded by the Rev. E. Brown, the following notes are taken:—Owing to the supplies of native food in the immediate neighbourhood of the station being quickly devoured, the aborigines necessarily cannot remain there unless they are fed, with the result that, what with the reduction in the Government grant, the authorities regret that they have been able to do less than ever, the average attendance during the year being only 64, and of these 45 were children. Whether they like it or not, the natives have consequently to remain nomadic, the chief drawback to this being that they are not much under the influence of the missionary who, being single-handed, is prevented travelling amongst them, owing to more important matters requiring his presence at the mission station. In April there was an epidemic of dengue fever, from which Miss Schick, the school mistress, and one man alone escaped. October brought another unwelcome visitor in the shape of whooping cough, to which three little children, unfortunately, succumbed. The health of the staff has, on the whole, been good. The day school, Sunday school, and evening classes have all been maintained. The children are making good progress, the more advanced of the pupils having taken to letter-writing, in which, both for expression and penmanship, it would appear that they compare very favourably with white children under similar circumstances. The decrease in the daily average in the school attendance has been caused by a number of the bigger boys and girls having left school. When the corner-stones of the new school-church were laid, the children gave a capital little entertainment, consisting of recitations, songs, a "round," and pole-drill. Its unqualified success reflected great credit on their teacher, Miss Schick. Besides the erection of the school-church, a pisé building (not yet completed), and general repairs, the present buildings have not been neglected, and the gardens have given good returns. Making arrowroot, and cutting up and drying sweet potatoes have been small side-industries. The "J. G. Ward" of the Mapoon Mission paid Weipa ten visits during the year.

**Mitchell River.**—Report from the Bishop of Carpentaria:—"Rev. E. B. Gribble and Rev. F. M. T. Pulgrave, accompanied by Mr. Wirede and natives, left Yarrabah for the Mitchell River on 22nd September, and reached the reserve on 21st September. At first the natives were very suspicious, but the two Mitchell River boys accompanying the expedition, and Grady, a native of the Nassau, who had been trained for a year at Thursday Island, were very useful in opening up communications, and after a few days they understood that the mission intended them no harm. During the whole stay of the party an average of about 200 natives camped close by, going out every morning to hunt and returning well laden with game about 5 p.m. The evening was spent in corroboreeing, and the natives seemed to be glad of the protection afforded by the presence of the mission to indulge in their favourite pastime to their hearts' content. Addresses were given from time to time through Grady and Bendigo, who, between them, understood the language of most of the tribes, and the nature of the mission was clearly explained, and apparently welcomed. Mr. Gribble was at first inclined to recommend Yeremundo Waterhole as the headquarters of the mission, but he was afterwards inclined to Tobannaman Lagoon, a fine sheet of water further south and nearer the coast. A log house, 14 feet by 14 feet, was built at Yeremundo, and thatched with grass. As it was expected that the heavy rains would begin about Christmas, the party returned in December, as they were unprovided with sufficient stores or buildings for the wet season. As a matter of fact, however, there has been little or no rain, and they might have safely stayed on. About thirty horses and corresponding saddlery were purchased for the mission at a cost of £200, and the horses are now in good order. The permanent start with the mission will be made from Yarrabah at the end of April, and I hope to join the expedition at the railway terminus, and take charge of it on its way down, as it is doubtful whether Mr. Gribble will be able to come until later in the year. I hope to leave the railway on 11th May, and to arrive on the reserve before the end of the month. We shall get up stores by boat from Normanton to the mouth of Tobannaman Creek in June, and transport them from there to Tobannaman Lagoon or Yeremundo as may seem most desirable. The staff will consist of three white men and some of the natives from Yarrabah. Mr. Gribble is entirely satisfied with the reserve, which seems to be well stocked with native food. As the season threatens to be an exceptionally dry one, we shall have an opportunity of testing it under adverse circumstances. The chief difficulty will be to find permanent water near the

coast. Sub-inspector Galbraith, local Protector of Aborigines, who takes much interest in the work of the mission, is strongly of the opinion that the reserve should be stocked with cattle at the earliest possible opportunity, and he believes that it might in a few years thus be made self-supporting. Sub-inspector Galbraith has promised to visit the reserve at the end of May, and to do all he can to assist in informing the natives of the objects of the mission."

**Aboriginal Girls' Home, West End, Brisbane.**—The Acting Chief Protector visited here on the 14th February, 1905, and reported as follows:—

"I found the assistant superintendent, Mrs. Whipham, at the home attending to her daily duties, and learnt from her that at the present time there are nine inmates—viz., six adults and three children—one of whom is four years of age, and the other two are infants of only a few months. The interior of the home was very clean and tidy, but the ground surrounding the place, especially at the rear, is very uneven, and of such a nature that it would be difficult to give it an attractive appearance. The day of my visit was a wet one, and perhaps this may have tended to an unfavourable impression, but the space in the yard is very cramped, and it is quite an acrobatic feat to arrange clothes to dry on the lines erected for the purpose. This could be remedied by the expenditure of a small sum in terracing, but it must be borne in mind that as the yard is on the bank of the river, and goes down to the water edge, any rise in the river would be likely to wash away the terraces and thus destroy the work. The out-buildings require some attention, especially the bathroom, and the roof of the main building, together with the guttering, should be at once seen to; although not very bad at present, it would be economical to at once have repairs effected. The cost of running the establishment for the year ended 31st December last was £158 16s. 6d. This amount includes the assistant superintendent's salary. One of the inmates (Mary Combo) receives 5s. a week as cook and general servant to the institution, and although the assistant superintendent is of opinion this should be continued—because she says the waste in allowing the casual inmates to cook would result in a loss to the home—she also points out that most of the girls remain at the place for a few days only, and are continually coming and going. Nevertheless, I cannot help being of the opinion that the girls in service, and who remain at the home when out of employment, should be able to do the little cooking necessary. A regular routine of work, day by day, is observed, and each day carries its own duties—*i.e.*, Monday, washing; Tuesday, ironing; Wednesday, cleaning and scrubbing; and so on during the week. No water service is laid on, although the main passes a few chains from the premises. During the period of dry weather lately experienced, it was found necessary to have the tank filled by the Fire Brigade, costing, I understand, £2 10s. Besides, Mrs. Whipham points out, she is supposed to grow a few vegetables, and without a supply of water this would be a difficult matter. With regard to growing vegetables, I am of opinion this could be carried on only in a very small way, owing to want of space and the unevenness of the ground. From what I could gather, I estimate the cost of laying on the water at about £15. Many of the girls are fairly expert with their needle, some of them doing various kinds of fancy work in addition to sewing their own dresses, although few, if any, of them can do the cutting out of the material, which is done for them by Mrs. Whipham. On the other hand, a number of the girls have no idea of sewing. A good deal of trouble is taken to teach them; they, however, make very little advancement. The assistant superintendent has a good word to say for Dr. Dods, the medical officer who visits the home, and who gives every assistance when necessary. Generally, I am of opinion that the home is a very necessary institution, so long as the practice continues of employing these girls as domestic servants. It affords a place of refuge for them when out of employment, when sick, or in trouble, and a lively interest is taken in making them comfortable, and teaching them how to perform ordinary household duties. Without such an asylum, the girls would undoubtedly drift into prostitution, and ultimately become a burden on the community. The girls themselves recognise the advantages of the home, as is evidenced by their at once returning to the place when out of work. It must be remembered that several of the girls who take advantage of the home as a refuge are really outside the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act, but the doors are always open to them, and rightly so. . . . The general working and conduct of the home is all that could be desired."

With regard to the girls in service, Mrs. Frew, the Protector of Aborigines (Female) reports:—

"In January, 1904, the total number of girls in situations was eighty-seven—twenty-one full-blood aboriginals and sixty-six half-castes. During the year I have sent seven away to the aboriginal settlements at Durundur and Deebing Creek; four returned to their own people of their own accord, and six have left my control. The present number in service is seventy, at a wage ranging from 10s. to 1s. per week, inclusive of clothing, with a total of £372 5s. 3d. to their credit in the savings bank. The general health of the girls has been on the whole very good, and compares very favourably with that of the previous four years, when the home has been at different times over-crowded with sick and convalescent inmates. Of the girls at present in service, I am pleased to say I can record satisfactory results, both as to work and general conduct."

#### RESERVES.

**Reserves.**—I recommended that the Reserve for Aborigines, Auburn River, be retained. My line of argument ran chiefly on the fact that the results of the Marsupial Destruction Acts have proved most detrimental to the natives in the way of cutting off food supplies, which this Department has accordingly to make good in the way of distributing relief. The Mission Reserves at Yarrabah, Mapoon, and Wepia were reproclaimed (14-7-4) as "Reserves for the use of the aboriginal inhabitants of the State," to bring them into line with the other reserves, and the respective superintendents were also regazetted. The Aboriginal Girls' Home, Brisbane, was also proclaimed a reserve under the Act, and the Whitula Reserve, on the initiation of its superintendent, was closed. The Wellesley group of Islands (with the exception of Sweers) has been constituted a reserve.

Protector Breene is "of opinion that the aboriginals in the bush or on stations are better off than those in towns: in addition, the gins are less liable to disease." He further suggests reserves in the vicinity of Condamine and Taroom, and is satisfied that after three or six months the localities so selected could be made self-supporting.

Protector Galbraith [*see* his remarks on the working of the Act, p. 22] makes some very pertinent observations to show that, in the faithful execution of the Aboriginal Acts, the safety of stock and human life has improved to such an extent that lands which up to a few years ago were left idle are now being taken up—to the advantage of the Europeans but to the disadvantage of the aboriginal, so far as the latter's native food and supply of water are concerned. As a further plea for the necessity of reserves, this view of the question is well worth being borne in mind.

#### SCIENTIFIC.

**Scientific.**—In pursuance of the instructions given me on my original appointment, I am still devoting a small portion of my time to scientific investigation. The seventh bulletin on North Queensland Ethnography, "Domestic Implements, Arts, and Manufactures," has now been issued. The publication of these bulletins has evoked no inconsiderable amount of interest, and numerous applications for them continue to be received from various parts of the world. The assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.A., has written as follows, under date 21st December, 1904:—"It is desired to incorporate portions of your interesting contributions in bulletins 1 to 7 of the "North Queensland Ethnography," together with some of the illustrations, into an article bearing the title of "Arts of the North Queensland Aborigines," to be published in the Appendix to the forthcoming Smithsonian Report for 1904, and I am authorised by the secretary to inquire whether you would have any objection to such a use being made of the paper." The Anthropological Society of Florence, and the Anthropological Institute, London, have elected me an honorary and corresponding member, respectively. Professor Klaatsch came out here with a letter of introduction from the Queensland Agent-General; he has been rendered every assistance, and the Minister has very kindly given permission for some of this scientist's observations on North Queensland osteology to be incorporated in one of the scientific bulletins issued by the Department.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**Professional Pedestrianism.**—Applications from individuals wishing to employ aboriginals for professional running purposes continue to be received, and invariably refused. My objection to allowing blacks to compete as professional pedestrians is based upon a sincere regard for their preservation and welfare. A similar difficulty arose at the Cape Bedford Mission two years ago, when attempts were made to force the Rev. Mr. Schwarz to arrange for some cricket matches to be played against the whites. While giving them every opportunity of playing amongst themselves, this gentleman remained firm in his resolve to put down any attempt at competition with Europeans, or in any way to make a "show" of their performances. After seventeen years' continuous residence amongst these blacks, the Rev. Mr. Schwarz recognises that the two main factors in preserving the aboriginal—if he is to be preserved at all—lie in giving him every legal protection when living in contact with the European, but making the isolation complete when once removed from it. I may take this opportunity of stating that the general principle here enunciated—the isolation of, and restricted intercourse between, the weaker race and the stronger, so long as the preservation of the former continues to be the goal to which, as humanitarians, we are striving—is one that was accepted by the late Herbert Spencer after long study of ethnical and historical problems. "It seems to me," says the philosopher, "that the only forms of intercourse which you may with advantage permit, are those which are indispensable for the exchange of commodities—importation and exportation of physical and mental products. No further privileges should be allowed to people of other races, and especially to people of the more powerful races, than is absolutely needful for the achievement of these ends."

With regard to professional pedestrianism in particular, I cannot do better than quote some very pertinent remarks recently expressed by an old friend of mine who has for the past ten or twelve years given abundant practical proof of his interest in the betterment of the blacks in connection with more than one of the Southern aboriginal settlements. On behalf of the inmates of a certain mission station he writes as follows:—"We find that this kind of thing disorganises the work, demoralises the people, and destroys our influence over those whom we are seeking to uplift and make a self-supporting people. Our aim has been to reach them and uplift them through moral and religious influences and regular employment, with a view to their becoming a self-supporting community, and I am confident that this can be done. . . . They are being gradually turned into good farm workers, but the racing men will not work. They will not be subject to authority, but go away to their supporters for a time, and then come back and loaf on the station. If we deny them rations, they become a kind of martyrs, live on the others, and spread discontent. Their friends have to be maintained, and they themselves, making plenty money for a few years on behalf of the betting fraternity who run them, come back to us wrecks, as a rule, and a nuisance and a burden upon the rest. Through them these men set us at defiance, and go their own way. The workers say: "Why should we be tied down, and get nothing such as what they do?"

I entirely concur with the above opinion, in which I was confirmed by facts which came under my direct notice in Brisbane during the last Third Queensland Hundred. Blacks flocked into town, brought women with them; they obtained grog, and some attempted—fruitlessly, however—to get me to provide railway passes for their return journey home. One of these applicants came to my office, and told me that he could always get work on a station at 5s. a week and found, but that being as good as a white man he wouldn't take it: that he had already won several money prizes as a pedestrian, but had never given, nor intended to give, any portion of the moneys won to the settlement which was his home, and where his wife was being supported; that as the Government had taken the land from him, they were bound to give him a railway pass, &c.

I made attempts to prevent aboriginal pedestrians entering into competition with Europeans at all such race meetings, but without success, and the evil still continues. Of course, the instructions given to the various local Protectors throughout the State are not intended to apply to aboriginals in legal employment—*i.e.*, under proper permit and agreement (as required by the Act), as the *bonâ fide* servants and employees of pastoralists, selectors and others; there is no objection to these boys taking part in the local annual sports meetings, &c.

**Spelling of Native Words.**—As time goes on, I am more and more impressed with the necessity and importance of spelling native place-names in a rational manner—*i.e.*, according to the rules laid down by the Royal Geographical Society of London, a system followed on the British Admiralty charts, by the leading continental European countries, and the United States of America.

**Torres Strait Island "Police."**—Among the Torres Strait Islands an excellent system was instituted years ago by the Hon. John Douglas of appointing native "police" to assist the head-man or mamoose on each island in asserting authority and maintaining discipline. The blankets, clothes, and nominal wages of these so-called police are defrayed by the Aborigines Department. Such appointments are made by the Government Resident, Thursday Island, and the advantage of the system cannot be too highly spoken of, the result being that troubles and breaches of law and discipline are reduced to a minimum. The efficiency of such a system of course depends almost wholly upon the Government Resident making his regular visits of inspection, in the absence of which unruly characters have attempted at times to take charge, and, defying the mamoose and others, have given much trouble for a time.

**Purchase of Boats by Torres Strait Islanders.**—The late Protector at Thursday Island, Mr. Bennett, assisted certain natives, those of Murray Island in particular, to acquire boats for themselves under agreements to purchase, and it is gratifying to find that, during the year, they succeeded in clearing off the final payments due on the three boats, all of which are now the exclusive property of the Murray and Dauar Islanders. These people have now three sound, well-appointed boats, with an earning capacity of anything up to £300 a year, exclusive of expenses. The boats have all been completely overhauled and repaired, and the natives take great pride in their possession. The total proceeds of the sale of the produce of these three luggers, the "William," "Barb," and "Galam," amounted in under two years to over £1,000. When it is realised that this is the outcome of the work of about sixty islanders, it will be understood how much more it is to the advantage of these men to work for themselves than to work for employers. No one would for one moment seriously contend that had they been so working for employers they would now be possessed of boats and fishing plant worth nearly £400, and would have received in the meantime about £700 in food, clothing, and cash. For much of this success they have to thank their school teacher, Mr. John Bruce, whose advice and supervision has been largely responsible for paying off their boats so quickly. The Mabuig natives have recently bought two boats, which they use in shelling (swimming diving), and so far they have achieved success. The Boigo men have also made arrangements during the year for the purchase of a boat, but have not been working her long enough to enable Protector O'Brien to judge the results. It might be mentioned that both in the case of the Murray and Mabuig Islands, a certain sum towards initial expenses was loaned them out of the Aborigines' Protection Property account. Naturally, the work of the Thursday Island Protector is greatly increased in the pursuance of non-compulsory duties of this nature. For instance, on the vessel's arrival at port, the captain reports himself, and Protector O'Brien instructs him where to store the fish or shell. Then it is necessary to get likely purchasers to inspect the produce and tender a price, the tender system having been found by experience to be more satisfactory than public auction. After this the produce has to be weighed, and the proceeds thereof collected. Then the purchases of food, gear, &c., are made, always under the Protector's supervision, the accounts are paid and the remaining balances handed in cash to the head-man. This cash is made up into a sealed package and is taken to the island, where the seal is broken at a public meeting of the tribe, and the cash distributed among its members, male and female, the actual swimmers receiving more than the others. A copy of the balance-sheet is always sent out with the natives for production at their public meeting; the younger individuals are quite competent to make the same intelligible, and there is always the school teacher on the island to refer to.

**Definition of "Half-caste."**—Protector White has drawn attention to what he considers is "probably a defect in the existing Aborigines Protection, &c., Act. On the 11th January, 1905, Mrs. Pendock, licensee of the Regatta Hotel, Toowong, was proceeded against for supplying liquor to a half-caste aboriginal of Australia. The defendant pleaded 'not guilty,' and the evidence showed that the half-caste was the offspring of a half-caste aboriginal mother by a full-blooded aboriginal father. It was contended for the defence that the boy in question was not a half-caste within the meaning of section 3 of the Act, and with this contention the bench concurred, and dismissed the case." [Section 3, 61 Vic. No. 17, defines a half-caste as "Any person being the offspring of an aboriginal mother and other than an aboriginal father, &c."]

**Scarcity of Native Women.**—Protector Galbraith says: "My remarks of last year, *re* the scarcity of gins for male aborigines, apply with the same force to this [see Annual Report for 1903, p. 17]. Numerous applications from employers and employees have been made to me for gins. Most of these boys are unable to return to their own country, owing to the fact of having left it in their youth. Many of the boys come to town for the express purpose of cohabiting with the gins, most of these females being in a diseased condition."

**State Expenditure on Aborigines.**—The following table shows the comparative expenditure by the various States on the welfare and protection of the aborigines, according to the latest returns available:—

State.	Year.	Estimated Native Population.	Expenditure.
Queensland	1904	20,000	£ s. d. 8,545 0 6
South Australia	1904	3,763	4,260 10 11
Victoria	1904	365	4,406 15 9
Western Australia	1904	30,000*	12,995 13 1
New South Wales	1903	6,934	19,755 13 0

\* Latest estimate received.

## EXECUTIVE.

The offices of Northern and Southern Protectors have been abolished, and the working of the Aborigines Acts and Regulations placed under a Chief Protector for the whole State, subject, of course, to the control of the Minister. I had the honour of being appointed the first Chief Protector of Aborigines (*Government Gazette*, 2-4-4). During my absence in Western Australia, where my services were requisitioned by the Government to report on the condition of the natives, Mr. R. B. Howard was gazetted Acting Chief Protector, the duties of which he filled with tact, judgment, and every satisfaction.

New Regulations were framed under "*The Aborigines Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Acts, 1897 to 1901*," and gazetted (*Government Gazette*, 25-3-4).

Owing to the doubt and perplexity with regard to the legal status of half-castes and quadroons, a circular was issued (6-2-4), entitled "Synopsis of the Law relating to Half-castes."

I again take this opportunity of thanking the various Protectors, police clerks, and other sub-officers of the Police Department for their earnest co-operation in making the administration of the Aborigines Protection Acts a continued success. The amount of extra work entailed by these duties is progressively and annually increasing; the supervision and banking of several hundreds of pounds received as payment for gins' wages is only one of the many additional responsibilities incurred. Inspector Lamond applied to be relieved of his protectorship, as he could not attend to the work as satisfactorily as he could wish, owing to his time being already fully occupied with police duties. Protector Durham also notes the increase of work: "235 incoming and 209 outgoing correspondence was dealt with." Other Protectors—*e.g.*, Inspectors Dillon and Marrett, like Inspector Galbraith last year, draw attention to the heavy extra clerical work thrown upon their clerks, and suggest some remuneration on their behalf. I have applied for honoraria for such officers, and trust that they may be annually granted the few pounds extra, which they richly deserve.

## ABORIGINES PROTECTION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

**Unclaimed Moneys.**—The amount to the credit of this fund on the 31st December, 1904, was £212 12s. 4d. This trust account is made up of moneys for aboriginal deserters and deceased natives, and moneys otherwise unclaimed, and is used for the benefit of the blacks generally. On the recommendation of the local Protector of Aborigines, Thursday Island, £20 was loaned out of it to the Mabuiag natives, who were purchasing two fishing boats. The islanders required it for insurance and incidental expenses connected with the deal. Seeing the way in which the Mabuiag people had previously been treated by the local European traders in dealing on the truck system, this pecuniary assistance proved very useful. This loan was on the same lines as that to the Murray Islanders last year, which was duly repaid.

## ITINERARY.

**Itinerary.**—Owing to the Executive changes already mentioned, and the whole of my time being occupied in reorganising the work in the Southern and Central divisions of the State, I was prevented making my annual visit of inspection to the Northern districts. On the other hand, I took the opportunity of examining the Deebing Creek, Durundur, and Fraser Island Settlements. I left for Perth, Western Australia, on the 12th August, and returned to Brisbane on the 24th January.

## EXPENDITURE OF DEPARTMENT.

**Expenditure.**—The expenditure for the year 1904 is a large saving on the previous year: the following analysis gives the main particulars:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Rations—Monthly relief at different centres ... ..	...	...	...	957	19	1
Mission Stations—Grants in aid. Reformatory children, Teachers salaries	...	...	...	2,352	18	7
Protectors—Salaries and incidental expenses ... ..	...	...	...	715	5	6
Reserves—Durundur, Whitula. Salaries and provisions ... ..	...	...	...	1,881	11	7
Schools—Torres Strait Islands. Teachers' salaries and expenses	...	...	...	833	19	11
Miscellaneous—						
“Melbidir”—Salaries, ships' stores, &c. ... ..	...	...	...	567	5	2
West End Home—Salaries, provisions ... ..	...	...	...	184	9	9
St. Vincent's Orphanage—Maintenance of children ... ..	...	...	...	151	18	4
Cost Removing Aborigines*... ..	...	...	...	408	15	3
Bellenden-Ker Expedition—Mr. Meston's ... ..	...	...	...	190	0	9
Sundries—Clothing, &c., general ... ..	...	...	...	250	16	7
				1,753	5	10
				£8,545	0	6

## OPINIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE ACT.

**Working of the Act.**—The following opinions on the working of the Aborigines Acts for the year just closed are worth recording:—

“One of the primary features for the initiation of the Acts was the doing-away of the old-time dispersals and meeting the blacks in a hostile manner. Instructions were given to get in touch with the aborigines, and make them look upon the white man as their friend. This has been faithfully carried out; cases of murder, cattle-stealing, &c., are of rare occurrence now. The European settlers have benefited in

\* The transfer of the Fraser Island Settlement to Yarrabah cost about £306.

security of human life and stock, but there has not been the same corresponding advantages to the aborigines. Country that a few years ago settlers would not take up, is now occupied with impunity. The blacks' hunting grounds are very much restricted, especially country with water on it" (Protector Galbraith, Normanton). "The Act works well in this district" (Acting Sergeant Old, Normanton). "There have been no complaints from surrounding stations against the aborigines" (Constable Smith, Turn-off Lagoon).

"The Act is working very well in this district, although I have no doubt that certain employers would not approve of this statement, which is made from the point of view of one who sees what goes on even under protection, and can therefore readily imagine what might, and certainly would, happen in the absence of protection. Whatever may be said for or against the Aborigines Protection Act, there can be no doubt that the conditions under which aborigines work in the shelling and bêche-de-mer industry have vastly improved during the past few years" (Protector O'Brien, Thursday Island).

"The Act is working admirably in this district on the whole" (Protector King, Cooktown).

"The Act works entirely without friction" (Protector O'Connor, Boulia).

"The Act has worked smoothly during the past year, the hostile feeling and reluctant compliance to the payment of the wages to the Protector having almost entirely disappeared" (Protector Brosnan, Winton).

"The working of the Act has been fairly satisfactory. I may state that some little differences and confusion have arisen, owing to the enforcement of the Regulations, particularly in its initial stages—viz., compelling employers to enter into agreements, &c. In many cases they objected, but, after explanation, they agreed to do so, and since then everything has run smoothly" (Protector Driscoll, Maryborough).

"During the year no persons were prosecuted for any infringement of the Act, nor was a single complaint received, and things have worked smoothly" (Protector Geraghty, Toowoomba).

"Previous to my coming here in May last, the Act does not appear to have been enforced, but a circular was sent round in May last, and the Act is now working smoothly" (Protector Marrett, Charleville).

#### OFFICE WORK.

**Office Work.**—The past year continues to show an increase in my correspondence, which amounted to 3,924 communications—1,991 inward, and 1,933 outward. Had it not been for the assistance allowed me in procuring the services of a clerk—Mr. Chas. Holland—the work could not have been got through.

I have, &c.,

WALTER E. ROTH,

Chief Protector of Aborigines.

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