

1926

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

---

NORTHERN TERRITORY.

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REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1925.

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To 31st of December the remainder of the calendar year was uneventful, and on 9th January I left Darwin on an official visit to Melbourne, where, acting on medical advice I obtained three months leave of absence from 14th February, being relieved at Darwin by Colonel E. T. Leane, O.B.E., the Administrator of Norfolk Island, who was appointed Deputy Administrator of the Northern Territory during my absence.

During this period Darwin was visited by vessels of the Royal Australian Navy under the command of Admiral Hall-Thompson and an enthusiastic reception was accorded to the officers and men of the fleet by the residents.

Lieutenant-General Sir H. Chauvel, K.C.B., also visited Darwin on 15th March remaining until 5th of April when, with his staff, he left by the s.s. *Montoro*. Another distinguished visitor, on 13th April, was Sir George Buchanan, the well known harbour expert, who, with Mr. Mehaffey, made an examination of Darwin Harbour and of other waters on the North coast.

I returned to Darwin on 14th May and found that the Darwin Meat Works (Vestey's) had started a season's work at boiling down. This continued beyond the end of the financial year covered by this report and lent an at any rate temporary air of prosperity to the town of Darwin, to which it had been long a stranger.

Mr. J. G. McLaren, Secretary to the Department of Home and Territories, arrived with me and remained in the Territory until the 6th June inspecting during his visit all Government institutions and offices.

On Monday, 25th May, Empire Day was celebrated at all centres of population in the Territory by the delivery of addresses to school children and by the organization of picnics and sports for them.

Comments on, and the descriptions of, the reports of the heads of Departments of Public Service under my control, followed by the reports, are subjoined.

#### EDUCATION.

The report of the Head Teacher at Darwin on the work of the Department for the year is satisfactory, both as regards the schools and the work done by the Itinerant Teacher, and his views are supported by the report of Mr. Clement Fox, the Queensland Inspector of Schools, who now regularly inspects the schools of the Northern Territory.

It was found expedient to abolish the High school class and a scholarship was established to a Queensland Secondary school.

The school attendance generally has been satisfactory and has increased at Darwin and Parap schools. Tables of attendance at the various State schools of the Territory are attached to the report.

A copy of the report of Inspector Fox is attached, in paragraph 3, of which it is stated that "the general outlook is decidedly satisfactory," and it gives me pleasure to place this opinion from so competent an authority on record.

#### ABORIGINALS.

The report of the Chief Protector of Aboriginals states that except for outbreaks of influenza the general health of the aboriginals has been good, and the Chief Protector expresses appreciation of the work of Dr. Cecil Cook in relation to venereal diseases and leprosy among them, and also of the zeal shown by the police in collecting aboriginal patients in the bush and in sending them in for treatment.

The Chief Protector urges more frequent medical inspections, and I agree with him on this subject. I think that in the interests of the preservation of the aboriginal race and the elimination of sources of contagion, constant inspection is desirable, and, except during the wet season, I believe that the full time of a medical officer could be profitably occupied in this work for the next two or three years.

The old and infirm aboriginals have had their wants attended to, the provisions of the laws affecting aboriginals have been enforced, and trading with aboriginals in liquor and opium has been dealt with and reduced.

The Compound and the Half-caste Home have been well managed throughout the year, and I can add my personal testimony that, on inspection, both these institutions presented the appearance of perfect cleanliness and every evidence of capable and efficient management, and I consider that the Chief Protector is justified in claiming, as he does, that the year's administration of aboriginal affairs has been successful.

Mr. Hudson, Itinerant Teacher, leaves the service in September on the expiration of his term of engagement, and a vacancy in the staff will be created by his retirement.

Miss Kenny, a Queensland classified teacher recently appointed to take charge of kindergarten work for a term of twelve (12) months, arrived in Darwin at the beginning of June. Her advent should be followed by highly beneficial results, extending far beyond the limits of kindergarten circles.

(6) Four (4) pupils of the Darwin school sat for the Scholarship Examination held in April. The questions were based on work prescribed in the Queensland Syllabus for pupils of the 5th Class, and the worked papers were forwarded to Brisbane to be valued in the usual way. The results are not yet ready for publication. As the Queensland Syllabus has been barely eight months in use in the Darwin schools, the candidates have been severely handicapped by the short time afforded them for preparation, and there should be no disappointment if their achievements on this occasion prove somewhat inferior to these of Queensland scholars who have

had the advantages of long familiarity with the requirements.

(7) About six (6) families are receiving educational assistance through the medium of Tuition by Correspondence. It is expected that the numbers will show a steady increase as the benefits to be derived become more generally known. In view of the short time during which the system has been in operation, and the unavoidable difficulties experienced through infrequent mail service, the present position may be regarded as satisfactory.

(8) Ample accommodation for the pupils is afforded by the present school buildings, but a number of alterations and repairs are needed in several cases. These matters have been fully reported on in documents sent in with the school reports.

(9) Other memoranda dealing with matters of school concern have also been forwarded to the Government Secretary.

CLEMENT L. FOX,  
Inspector of Schools.

## REPORT ON ABORIGINAL DEPARTMENT.

I have the honour to submit my report on the Aboriginal Department for the year ending 30th June, 1925.

*Health.*—Generally the health of aboriginals has been good with the exception of outbreaks of influenza. The Department has been fortunate in that, during the year under review, Dr. Cecil Cook travelled over a large area of the Northern Territory, which enabled Protectors to send in a number of venereal cases, and also some lepers. I know from my own experience that, unfortunately, there are still a number of venereal and leper cases to be sent in, but Protectors (police) have shown great zeal in collecting these unfortunates and forwarding them to Darwin. In my opinion the work done by Dr. Cook has been most beneficial, but the time at his disposal was far too short. I consider that two or three annual medical examinations of aboriginals are necessary, the doctor to be assisted by the police. This would not completely eradicate these evils but would have a wonderful effect on the health of the aboriginals. The return of certain aboriginals after treatment has had the effect of inspiring confidence in the aboriginals, but it would still be impossible to do anything without the aid of the police.

*Old and Infirm Aboriginals.*—These have received the customary rations and blanket each. There are a large number now on the books, but the number is naturally liable to fluctuation.

*General Remarks.*—I am pleased to be able to report that there has been a vast improvement in connexion with the enforcement of the Aboriginal Ordinance. Three hundred and five agreements were issued during the year under review for aboriginals employed in the Darwin district. At a house-to-house visit by Dr. Cook, accompanied by the police, only two cases were found of persons employing aboriginals without a licence, and this was immediately rectified. The revenue collected in the Darwin area alone for licences and agreements for the twelve months ending 30th June, 1925, amounted to £93, as against £59 received for the corresponding period ending 30th June, 1924. At first certain citizens objected to paying into the Trust Fund, but now everything is working smoothly.

I am pleased to report that the sly grog, hop beer, and opium selling to aboriginals has been reduced considerably. Efforts are being made to completely eliminate these evils. The wandering at large by night of

aboriginals in Darwin has now practically ceased, though I have not stopped their attending the picture shows, and do not consider it necessary to do so.

*Darwin Compound.*—During the year Mr. R. MacDonald resigned, and was replaced temporarily by Mr. Tindall, the latter being subsequently superseded by the present Acting Superintendent, Mounted Constable Giles, whose report is attached. Though at first sight Mr. Giles's report would convey the impression that the Compound was run at a great loss, it must be understood that all wages have been shown against revenue made by garden, fish-trap, wood, &c. The Compound has never been, and, in my opinion, cannot be, absolutely self-supporting, but the report shows work in the right direction.

Generally speaking, I think the year has been successful in all respects.

G. V. DUDLEY,  
Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

## REPORT ON KAHLIN COMPOUND, DARWIN.

The Chief Protector of Aboriginals,  
Darwin.

I have the honour to report the following in connexion with the supervision of the Kahlin Beach Compound and Half-caste Home for the period 1st February to 30th June, 1925:—

Since my appointment as Superintendent of the Compound on 14th February last, efforts have been made to make the institution self-supporting.

The fish-trap shows a profit of £50 16s. 9d.

The garden shows a loss of £41 4s. 9d., due to the difficulty in obtaining good seed. I am, however, hoping now for better returns, as there is a quantity of good vegetables coming on from seeds purchased from Pine Creek.

The total value of produce consumed in the Half-caste Home, Compound, and by old and infirm persons is credited together with sales to the public.

The Half-caste Home for laundry work done and material made up against girls' wages shows a profit of £67 6s. 9d.

Since May last, arrangements have been made to supply the Government Hospital, Government House, and

the Police Department with wood. The amount received for this, added to the sustenance allowance from the Aboriginal Trust account for three stable boys, bring the earnings for the Compound up to £69 1s. 6d.

The total income for all industries at the Compound and Half-caste Home is £259 15s. 6d., and the expenditure is £113 14s. 11d., which shows a profit of £146 0s. 7d.

*Health.*—Two new earth closets have been erected at the Compound, and new floors and rises put in the old ones, making the total pan accommodation up to eight. A new closet has also been erected at the Half-caste Home, bringing the number of pans there up to six. All these buildings, together with the Clinic and dormitory are scrubbed and disinfected by convalescent patients every morning.

The Clinic has a total of 39 occupants, most of whom are from up-country; in fact, from all parts of the Northern Territory, so, taking into consideration that there are over 300 natives in and around Darwin, their health generally is good.

All the buildings in the Compound have been white-washed with lime recently.

The water service within the Compound grounds has recently been repaired.

*The Half-caste Home.*—This place is overcrowded, there being 37 inmates, some of whom are motherless and have to be fed by bottle.

*Milking Cows.*—A cow, which calved in March last, is being milked every morning, and a yard and bail have been erected for her. The other cow is in calf, and I have asked for three more from Oenpelli.

Preparations are being made to plough an area of ground wherein to plant some suitable grass, which, together with bush hay, cut at the right time of the year, will provide fodder for the cows during the dry months of the year.

*Government Stables.*—Soon after taking charge I put into operation the routine framed by Mr. Bishop (Chief Veterinary Officer). Since then the horses have shown considerable improvement. Three horses I found to be suffering from worms. I am treating them under the direction of the Veterinary Officer.

One cream mare had to be shot after being found with a broken leg.

One more cart horse was purchased in April.

The vehicles are being overhauled and painted.

*Poultry.*—On taking over I found there were eleven fowls. A run has been built for these, and a dozen chickens hatched. The eggs are sent to the Half-caste Home and used for sick patients at the Compound Hospital.

*Goats.*—At present there are 70. These are being shepherded, and the milk sent to the Half-caste Home, and, if and when required, to the Compound Hospital also.

The goat-house has been repaired and partitioned off.

*Labour.*—All general labour about the Compound is done by convalescent patients, the scrubbing and cleaning-up by the females, and the cutting of wood by the males.

HAROLD S. GILES,  
Acting Superintendent, Compound.

## REPORTS BY MISSION AUTHORITIES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

### 1. THE CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA.

Groote Eylandt Mission Station,  
via Katherine, Northern Territory.

The Church Missionary Society of Australia and Tasmania, during the year ending 30th June, 1925, has continued and extended the work among the aborigines commenced in 1908.

The outstanding event of the year was the opening of the new station on the reserve at Groote Eylandt, and the transfer thereto of the Euralian children from the Roper Station. This was carried out in September last, and already some of the benefits arising from the segregation of these people are apparent in the improvement in conduct and manner of life of the children under our care.

*Staff.*—The staff at the Roper consists of two men and two women, and that at Groote Eylandt of three men and two women, while a married couple have been on furlough since September.

*People.*—The number of people in the dormitories at Roper is 25 girls and 28 boys, and at Groote Eylandt 21 girls and 13 boys. In addition to these some scores of natives visit the stations constantly, and these receive any medical attention necessary, and are provided with blankets and rations if they care to work on the station.

*Medical Work.*—This has been carried on throughout the year. Some hundreds of cases have been treated, and many thousands of dressings been done. It has become the practice for white people to avail themselves of these medical facilities, and we have been able to attend to some serious cases always with satisfactory results.

The general health of the natives on the whole has been satisfactory.

We ought to have a supply of Government blankets on hand for distribution to the aged and infirm blacks in the cold weather.

*Stock.*—The year has been a hard one for stock. Before the rains many cattle died in the waterholes through weakness, and horses perished in the river, being taken by alligators. In goats also we lost heavily, and there have been several cases of "walkabout" disease, whilst cancer is very prevalent among the horses. When the rainfall did come, much later than usual, it doubled the average.

*Agriculture.*—The vegetable garden did very well—a greater promise of growth and more variety of plants than at any time in the past ten years. The cotton was a failure, as the seed sown at different times, and in various kinds of soil, failed to germinate. This was the case both at Roper and Groote Eylandt. Peanuts have done excellently, and we intend to plant more in the future.

*Shipping Stores.*—The shipping service was a dismal failure, and only the running of the Mission Society's own boat prevented a serious famine on the Roper, not only on the reserve, but also at other stations. Fortunately we were able to supply them all with food.

The work done on the station at the Roper has been the usual station and stock work, garden, and agricultural work for the boys, and housekeeping, &c., for the girls. At Groote Eylandt our aim has been directed to getting up the necessary buildings, and during the year we have built sufficient houses to accommodate double the present number of children.

The school has been regularly carried on at each station under the direction of the clergyman in charge, and as many of the people as wish to learn there may do so.

We are still without a mail service at Groote Eylandt, although the Darwin-Borrooloola boat passes close to the station, and, as there are over 40 people settled there now, we hope that the new steamer service will give us a mail at least once a year.

Owing to rumours and reports reaching us of the supposed presence of white women among the blacks to the north of Groote Eylandt, two expeditions were made into the locality indicated, and the tales and rumours investigated, and clues followed up, but we could not obtain any definite proof that any women except our own missionary ladies had ever been there, and all the evidence we were able to obtain led us to the conclusion that the stories originated from the visits of Mrs. Warren, and other lady missionaries, to Groote Eylandt and the mainland coast being talked of among the natives, and, finally, in a very distorted form, reaching Darwin.

Captain G. H. Wilkins spent three months on the island collecting flora and fauna for the British Museum, and studying and investigating the native people, their customs and habits, and incidentally visiting Caledon Bay in an endeavour to solve the mystery of the supposed captive women. He also visited the Roper River Reserve, and some of the other islands in the Gulf. Many of his experiences have been already published in the southern papers.

At the end of June all the staff and people were well, and the stations in good order.

H. E. WARREN,  
Superintendent.

## 2. THE METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALASIA.

Mission House, Darwin,  
Northern Territory,  
17th August, 1925.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt, on arrival this month, of your letter dated 6th July, having reference to Report of Mission Stations.

The official reports of the stations are made up to 30th September, which closes our official year. However, I am presenting an interim report, which we shall follow up with a copy of the Official Annual Report from the Stations, showing income and expenditure, as soon as possible after production, and for the years following shall make up the report as desired to 30th June, following that later with the balance-sheets, showing income and expenditure, which I note you do not ask for in the letter forwarded to me by you.

*Aboriginals.*—Average, 275. We have had as many as 400 and over during certain seasons of the year, and 275 is a conservative average estimate.

*Half-castes.*—Not any, due largely to our isolation and segregation.

*Staff.*—1 superintendent (white).  
1 agricultural expert (white).  
2 Baduans, Torres Straits Islanders.  
1 wife of Baduan, training in nursing and first aid.  
2 trained Christian aboriginals, in charge of companies of blacks engaged in industrial work.

*Note.*—This staff will be augmented in April, 1926, by Rev. W. Brown and his wife, with long experience in New Britain and Fiji; also Miss Brown, who will have charge of the education department, and who has had hospital training.

*Education.*—As Milingimbi has only been in existence since June of 1923, and has been in the pioneer stages,

the education of the blacks has been confined to matters of hygiene, morals, and agriculture. Miss Brown's advent will begin the school training of the children.

*Health.*—This has been remarkably good, no epidemic having afflicted us. We are not rushing the application of civilized methods in the matter of clothing, &c., and are content to hasten slowly. During the wet season we provide large buildings, into which the aboriginals flee for shelter from the rain, preference being given to the women and children. So far we have had the accommodation and are continually building these shelters, which the blacks appreciate highly. Wounds from spears and accidents have exercised us somewhat, as our blacks represent the big river tribes, and old tribal quarrels are revived occasionally. The relation of food to health has led us to introduce whole maize, cooked by our staff, as an article of diet, with very good results; the blacks prefer the maize to the white flour. The lubras provide for their husbands (who work during the day) marine products, shell-fish, oysters, fish, native roots and fruits, when the latter are in season. Visitors have remarked on the healthy appearance of the blacks on the station.

*Cultivation.*—As Milingimbi was only started in June, 1923, work has been largely expended on clearing and fencing. The timber has been fairly heavy, and out of this posts have been split, and we now have some 20 acres cleared and enclosed with stout post and wire fencing, to which we are adding wire netting on account of the bandicoots and wallabies. This year we had 8 acres of maize and sorghum. The maize did remarkably well, an unusual feature being that some of the stalks yielded no less than six cobs, and quite a number four. We have some 200 coconuts growing. Sorghum did well. Experiments with cotton and peanuts have determined us to put down some 5 or 6 acres of these. Para grass has been planted with fine success, but the stock take to it with such avidity that we have had to enclose with fencing certain plots until it spreads. The stock keep it shorn quite close to the ground, which, while it strengthens the roots, prevents it spreading.

*Stock.*—We overlanded 11 horses from the Katherine 350 miles to the mainland opposite our island, and swam and punted them all safely over from the mainland (4 miles). Most of them are mares, and we have had two foals born on the station; provision has been made for increasing our draught stock during August and September. The horses have enabled us to get on with the ploughing, &c., and have made possible many things that were difficulties, if not impossibilities, without their aid. We have about 60 goats, which do well almost anywhere, and on the native grasses are doing excellently.

*Buildings.*—1 bungalow quarters—superintendent.  
1 bungalow quarters — agricultural manager.  
Verandahs all round, corrugated iron roof and walls, concrete floors, detached bath-room, iron walls and concrete floor.  
2 cottages for Torres Straits Islanders—iron walls and concrete floor.  
1 store—iron walls and roof, concrete floor.  
1 iron building, on piles, with wooden floor—aboriginal manager of sub-station.  
2 smoke houses, corrugated iron, with boilers, &c.  
1 slip and shed for boat.

*General Remarks.*

Milingimbi in its initial stages has been run by bachelor white men, which precludes the employment of a single lady teacher; this difficulty has been, or will be, removed with the coming of Rev. W. Brown, wife, and daughter in April of 1926. We have found that the certainty of medical help is greatly appreciated by the blacks, and is one of the inducements to stay on the station. The lubras appreciate the fact that murderous assaults are no longer tolerated, and in some very serious cases, after tending the lubras, we attended to the lords of creation with the double of a stockwhip.

We shall welcome the inspection of our stations by a Government official, and are very pleased to know that we are likely to have that pleasure next month.

The report of Goulburn Island will come later.

J. WATSON,  
Chairman.

Methodist Aborigines Mission,  
South Goulburn Island.

*Introductory.*—As known in the Protector's office, missionary operations were commenced on South Goulburn Island during 1914.

*Mission Workers.*—(a) An ordained European missionary; (b) a European missionary sister; (c) a Baduan native teacher. N.B.—The missionary sister and the Baduan teacher are away on furlough at present.

*Operations.*—(a) Educational—(i) religious, (ii) secular; (b) Industrial—(i) mechanics, (ii) agriculture, (iii) trepang.

*Aborigines.*—(a) *Dormitory Children*—The missionary sister spends the whole of her time training these children in religious, domestic, and other subjects useful in later as well as present days. Aboriginal children—girls, 14; boys, 22. Half-castes—girls, 4; boys, 3.

*Half-castes.*

Child's Name.	Mother's Name.
Betty Vickham.	Narna.
Willie Vickham.	Narna.
Majoumbi.	Marmalite.
Malwagog.	Marmalite.
Morang-Morang.	Minega.
Cuningumbor.	Goragoraba.
Minega.	Magagulla.

Total dormitory children, 43.

(b) *Ex-Dormitory Students*—Females, 4; males, 14.  
(c) *Adults*—Females, 30; males, 36.

Grand total, 127.

N.B.—These figures indicate the natives on the station at this particular date. At certain times there are as many as 200 natives on the mission reserve.

*Health of the Natives.*—Like the former years, last year was one of serious outbreaks of sickness immediately prior to the wet season. The establishment of an incinerator, as well as the prescribed medicine, has checked much sickness.

*Conduct of Natives.*—A distinct change has come over our natives. There is much to encourage in the fact that there have been no cases of spearing or lubra-stealing on the island during the past year.

LOUIS D. KEIPERT,  
Superintendent.

## 3. LUTHERAN MISSION AT FINKE RIVER, NORTHERN TERRITORY.

Lutheran Manse,  
Light's-Pass, S.A.,  
29th September, 1925.

I beg to submit the annual report on the Hermannsburg Mission Station, Finke River, Northern Territory, for the year 1924-1925.

1. *The Personnel of the Staff.*—Mr. G. A. Johannsen, manager; Mr. A. Heinrich, teacher (acting also as substitute for a missionary); Mr. M. A. Kleinig, book-keeper and supervisor of natives, when at work, up to beginning of March; Mr. A. Harvey, stockman from January to June a.c.; Mr. Olsen, as voluntary helper for some months; Mrs. Heinrich, instructor to the native women and girls; Mrs. Johannsen and Miss Elsa Johannsen, for the first quarter of the year under review.

2. *Statistics.*—The native population on the station varied, for reasons given below, from 225 at the beginning of the year to 140 in September, and again to 196 on 30th June. Of these are able-bodied adults: 36 males, 29 females, total 65; old and infirm: 15 males, 21 females, total 36; school children: 28 males, 26 females, total 54; infants: males 21, females 20, total 41; births, 9; deaths, 9.

3. *Religious Work.*—This has been carried on in the same way as last year, and all said in the report on the previous year holds good for this. Pastor J. Riedel visited the station and stayed at Hermannsburg during June. He was able to confirm eleven and baptize thirteen adults who had been prepared by Mr. Heinrich, and reported very satisfactorily on the standard of religious life on the station. The Gospel according to St. Luke has been printed by the British and Foreign Bible Society in London. The first copies will reach the station at Christmas. We are thankful that we were successful in obtaining an ordained missionary, who will be ready to take his place at the beginning of 1926.

4. *Education.*—School was held as usual. Pastor J. Riedel found the results in English not very satisfactory. The main reason for this is that Mr. Heinrich at present is not able to devote his whole energy to the school. When the missionary is there, things will certainly improve. We are pleased to state that good results were obtained in the needle-work classes amongst the women and girls, and in leather plaiting and broom making amongst the men and boys. The articles produced found a ready sale amongst the friends of the mission.

5. *Health.*—Our staff again rendered valuable aid to those suffering from various ailments, and devoted much time to the dressing of wounds, distribution of medicines, &c. The list of cases treated in one month will show this. In March, for instance, fourteen cases of a serious nature were treated. Besides this, there are daily minor ailments attended to. Seven of the cases extended over several months. During September and October the station was visited by an epidemic of pneumonic influenza. Altogether 120 cases developed, of which seven proved fatal. It was the worst epidemic ever experienced on the station. The strain this meant to our staff may well be imagined, especially as they were also stricken. Mr. Heinrich had to keep going, although at times his temperature was as high as 104 deg. There was no possibility of obtaining outside help; no one was able to travel, and telephonic communication has not been granted so far. For the first time death and birth rate are equal, and there was thus no increase from within.

6. <i>Stock</i> .—Cattle .. .. .	3,000
Horses .. .. .	750
Sheep .. .. .	134
Camels .. .. .	6

There is no great increase in cattle, as over one hundred are killed on the station, and a market herd was sent down. Brandings reported numbered 443. The cattle sale was not a success. The herd had to travel through drought-stricken country from Horseshoe Bend to Oodnadatta, so that when reaching the market their condition was poor. Only £300 profit was made on them.

7. *Cultivation*.—Another large garden has been made, measuring 300 by 100 yards. It is supplied with three wells. We ought to have a pumping plant for this, but lack of funds at present prevents us from buying one. It would cost about £300. The water is there, and we could grow a good part of food for the natives on the station. In the other garden, good results were obtained.

8. *Progress*.—Under this heading we mention the new method in the employment of the natives, adopted since last September. No able-bodied adult is taken and kept on the station unless there is work for him. All others have to leave, and have to try and make a living by rabbiting, dingo scalping, or working on other stations. Thus the number of station inhabitants was greatly reduced. When working they receive the rations customary in the Territory, 10, 2, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. of flour, sugar, and tea; 2 sticks of tobacco; 1 box matches per week; and 10s. in wages, with which they buy their clothing. We are now able to control our natives better in the way of work, feeding, and clothing. Besides, this method helps us greatly in making them more efficient and self-reliant. According as work offers on the station, they are employed. Therefore, their number varies. Of course, old and infirm, and children are cared for as hitherto.

9. *General Remarks*.—We are labouring under two difficulties. With so little return from our run, we have sunk deeper into debt, and our financial position has been very critical indeed. If it were not for the generous support of the church, we would have been on the rocks. Our herds have been in good condition for the whole year, but the travelling track is in such a state that no good results would come from sending to market. Then the tenure of lease is rather insecure, as the lease gives the Government the option of giving us only three months' notice to quit. We hope that this state will soon be remedied.

In concluding, I must express my regret that my report is rather belated. Part of the material required for it was somewhat delayed in reaching me, and the previous mail to Darwin I overlooked under pressure of work. Please be kind enough and excuse.

JOHN J. STOLZ,

Chairman of the Finke River Mission of  
the United Ev. Luth. Church  
in Australia.

#### 4. ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION AT BATHURST ISLAND, NORTHERN TERRITORY.

Staff of Mission Station—

One priest.

One lay brother.

Two Sisters.

Two Filipinos with their wives.

Number of natives visiting the Station—about 500.

Maximum number present—about 200.

Minimum number present—about 50.

Average number present—about 80.

School children—

4 half-caste boys.

8 half-caste girls.

Native children, average—

25 boys.

10 girls.

Parents leave the boys free to attend school as they like, but they keep the little girls away from school, as they find by experience that educated girls refuse to become the fifth or sixth wife of an old man, and wish to marry a boy of their choice. The only way to get the girls is to buy them from their intended husbands, but they do not part with them willingly. The Mission bought twenty-five (25) girls so far.

About twenty young Christian families are almost permanently settled on the Station.

An attempt has been made to give every family an allotment to cultivate for themselves, but their bush friends deprived them regularly of all their produce, so they all stopped working on their own account.

Many natives, both from Bathurst and Melville Islands, come to the Station, and apply for work; but we accept only as many as we can actually feed. They work in the field, at the sawmill, and on the boat, and many give real satisfaction in the way of performing their task.

Health is good.

The general behaviour is improving, and very little trouble is experienced.

The benefit of the Mission could be extended to many more natives if the means allowed it. These means could be easily procured both by the sawmill and by agriculture, as there is plenty of good timber to be sawn, and plenty of good country to be cultivated. The one thing required is a small tractor to haul the logs and the plough; horses would be both expensive and unsuitable. Unfortunately the financial state of the Mission does not allow us to purchase a tractor; all our income is required to maintain the Mission, and the help we are getting from Europe is reduced to almost nothing by the heavy exchange.

F. X. GSELL, M.S.C.,  
Superior of Mission.

#### ANNUAL REPORT ON THE BOTANIC GARDENS, DARWIN.

*Clearing Up*.—With the labour available, this work was proceeded with as opportunity permitted. The hillsides were cleared of grass, weeds, and rubbish, and the loose stones raked off. The undergrowth was cut out in some of the most overgrown places, and while the work done still leaves much to be desired, from the ultimate appearance aimed at, it has resulted in a slightly improved general appearance.

*Noxious Weeds*.—These are one of the chief sources of trouble with all large gardens, and only by exercis-

ing constant care can they be held in check, or eradicated. The worst weeds growing in the gardens are:—

Nutgrass (*Cyperus rotundus*), cosmopolitan.

Mimosa, *sensitiva*, Brazil.

Mimosa, *Acanthocarpa*, Mexico.

Horehound (*Marrubium* Sp.), Europe.

*Sida retusa*, India and Australia.

*Biddens* Sp., South America.

*Leucaena glauca*, Tropics.