Estimated Present Population.—Torres Strait Islanders, 3,695; aboriginals, 9,277; half-bloods, 6,451.

Although an effort was made to obtain a census population of Torres Strait Islanders, aboriginals and half-bloods, the climate and as an experiment, it is intended to plant 8 acres with tomatoes in an endeavour to obtain the maximum production, additional farming plant and a small irrigation plant have been provided, particularly with the intention of increasing the production of tropical fruits. The programme set for this year is 6 acres of pineapples, 6 acres of bananas and 6 acres of papaws.

Palm Island Settlement.—This settlement is not favourably situated for extensive development, in that the available agricultural land is limited to approximately 50 acres and the cattle carrying capacity for a dairy herd is 60 head. However, the area has an excellent rainfall, and the maximum production, additional farming plant and a small irrigation plant have been provided, particularly with the intention of increasing the production of tropical fruits. The programme set for this year is 6 acres of pineapples, 6 acres of bananas and 6 acres of papaws.

Woorabinda.—In an effort to demonstrate that aboriginals can ultimately be made self-supporting, a 703 acres farm of 703 acres, of which 130 acres are irrigable, was established at Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement near Mirimbah, Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement, west of Rockhampton, Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement, north of Townsville.

The industrial development of these settlements was considerably retarded during the war, particularly by reason of the determined policy of sending every available worker from the settlements and an extensive demand for farm workers during the war. Apart from the employment of the men as ordinary stockmen and station hands, there are numerous cases of aboriginals and half-bloods being employed as Head Stockmen and in other responsible positions vacated by whites whose services were required in the Armed Forces.

Government Settlements.—Government settlements are established at Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement near Morgan, Woorabinda Aboriginal Settlement, west of Rockhampton, Palm Island Aboriginal Settlement, north of Townsville.

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Woorabinda.—Production of Vegetables: For the first time in the history of this settlement, vegetables have been produced in such quantities as to meet the local demand of a large population and to have surplus for sale to the public. The settlement were sold, the return being £2,487. Additional to the 100 men harvesting peanuts at Kingaroy and vicinity of 400 and their earnings for the year totalled £60,000. Hitherto the production of these crops has been limited, but season after season these crops have been successfully cultivated.

Contribution by Aboriginals to the War Effort.—As in previous war years, mobile gangs of aboriginals were organised to assist in the harvesting of essential food crops. Yarrabah Mission, in North Queensland, sent approximately 60 men to the maize harvesting at Atherton and cane fields in the Cairns district of the Queensland Government Settlements for extensive development, in that the available agricultural land is limited to approximately 50 acres and the cattle carrying capacity for a dairy herd is 60 head. However, the area has an excellent rainfall, and the maximum production, additional farming plant and a small irrigation plant have been provided, particularly with the intention of increasing the production of tropical fruits. The programme set for this year is 6 acres of pineapples, 6 acres of bananas and 6 acres of papaws.

Palm Island Settlement.—This settlement is not favourably situated for extensive development, in that the available agricultural land is limited to approximately 50 acres and the cattle carrying capacity for a dairy herd is 60 head. However, the area has an excellent rainfall, and the maximum production, additional farming plant and a small irrigation plant have been provided, particularly with the intention of increasing the production of tropical fruits. The programme set for this year is 6 acres of pineapples, 6 acres of bananas and 6 acres of papaws.

Aboriginals gangs of ringbarkers are now employed and it is expected that a further 15,000 acres will be under cultivation during the coming year. Negotiations are proceeding for acquiring a further area of 20,000 acres of good fattening country to enable the cattle industry on Woorabinda to provide power for 4 pumping points and electrification of the farm.”
Girls established on Cherbourg Settlement have recorded a pigs, £500; sale of farm produce, £500.

'but it is hoped in the new year to make an early start on becoming a skilled worker on the settlement or outside, but every boy who enters the manual training classes ultimately the Aboriginal Training Farm. It is not possible to visualise in All Souls' Secondary School, Charters Towers, one girl in education with a view to ultimately utilising them in semi-results from the existent primary education system, selected

Housekeeping, consistent with their status. Visiting Ministers erection of the proposed modern workshop has been retarded, carpenters, plumbers, leather workers or farmers, and during the year under review, several of them have joined the native lads having received initial tuition, settle down as student

Men, women and children continue with their dinghies, canoes and cutters to gather marine produce to such extent that shell, for their post-war employment and the aim is to rehabilitate them in that industry when they are discharged from the armed forces.

During the absence of the men in the army, the older men, women and children continue with their dinghies, canoes and assistance which they have rendered to aboriginals.

Shows displaying aboriginal handicraft, needlework, garden organisation of all branches of sport, and particularly arranges

Annual Report, every able-bodied Torres Strait Islander is for the people to provide for themselves social amenities and it is anticipated that the aboriginals of that settlement will indicate to the white public their ability to organise a function on lines comparable with any country show. Generally, the aim is to stimulate through these Annual Shows the interest by the aboriginal people in their settlement and to give them an opportunity to display, in competition, the result of their labours.

Torres Strait Islanders.—As was recorded in last year's Annual Report, every able-bodied Torres Strait Islander in the number of men involved being approximately 700.

During the year, by direction of the Director of Native Affairs proceeded to Thursday Island and there, in conference with the island councillors, a plan for post-war rehabilitation was formulated. Naturally, these island councils cease to look to the marine industry, principally pearl shell and trochus shell, for their post-war employment and the aim is to rehabilitate them in that industry where they are discharged from the armed forces.

Church Missions.—The undermentioned church missions are located in Queensland:

Church of England Missions.—Lockhart River Mission, via Coen; Mr. E. H. Johansen, Superintendent; Yarrabah Mission, via Mackay; Mr. C. G. Brown, Superintendent; Mitchell River Mission, via Normanby; Mr. W. F. Carrington, Superintendent.

Presbyterian Missions.—Mapoon Mission, via Thursday Island; Mr. F. A. Cane, Superintendent; Weipa Mission, via Thursday Island; Mr. J. H. Winn, Superintendent; Aarakun Mission, via Thursday Island; Mr. W. F. McKenzie, Superintendent; Mount Bryan Mission, via Burketown; Mr. J. J. B. McCarthy, Superintendent; Edward River Mission, via Thursday Island; Mr. J. W. Chapman, Superintendent.

Seventh Day Adventists.—Mona Mona Mission, Oak Forest, via Cairns; Mr. L. A. Borgas, Superintendent.

Plymouth Brethren.—Doogadam Mission, via Burketown; Mr. M. G. H. Read, Superintendent.

Salvation Army.—Purga Mission, via Ipswich; Mr. O. Smith, Superintendent.

Superintendents and other staffs during the trying years of the war have consistently rendered excellent service in the care and protection of their wards. At times, particularly in the far north, the absence of supplies, even for the Mission staffs, made it most difficult to carry on, but never at any time was there any hesitation by these philanthropic workers in giving of their best in the interests of their coloured communities. Wherever possible, developmental work has been carried on and labour made available for the assistance of the rural industries of the State.

Scouting.—Boy Scout troops are established at Palm Island under Scout Master F. A. Krause, and at Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement under Scout Master H. Pascoe. Both of these troops have been inspected by officers of the Boy Scouts Association and most favourable reports on the organisation of these troops have been given. Amongst aboriginal boys, the Scout movement provides an effective means of uplift, training and discipline and generally the value of the Scout camp and conduct and bearing of the boys who receive their training.

Appreciation.—It is desired to express gratitude to the staff of Head Office, Government settlements, Police Protectors and Australian Medical officers and hospitals for the care and assistance which they have rendered to aboriginals.