

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED BY EMPLOYERS FOR CASUAL ABORIGINAL EMPLOYEES

Early this year, an inspection was made by the Superintendent, accompanied by the Welfare Officer and the Health Inspector of the Eurobodalla Shire Council, of accommodation provided on a property at Eurobodalla for aboriginal workers. As a result, the Council took proceedings against the person concerned, and a conviction was recorded as follows:—

- (1) For allowing waste matter to remain upon premises so as to tend to cause danger to health. (Ordinance No. 39 (6))—fined £10 with Court costs 12s. and professional costs £3 3s.
- (2) For failing to keep sanitary conveniences belonging to premises in a cleanly condition. (Ordinance No. 39 (4))—fined £5 with Court costs £1 and professional costs £3 3s.

Following this successful prosecution, it has been reported to the Board that a very pleasing improvement in the general accommodation position for aboriginal pickers at Bodalla and Eurobodalla is now evident. One farmer is constructing three new dwellings with fire places, water and sanitation facilities, and all the others are improving their accommodation and are providing at least the necessities, such as water and sanitation facilities.

When the report of this case came before the Board, satisfaction was expressed that farmers in that particular district now appear to have become aware of what it expected of them so far as accommodation for their employees is concerned. It is a pity though, that it was necessary that one of their number should have had to be prosecuted before they realised how seriously is viewed the omission to make available facilities to allow aboriginal employees to live under decent conditions.

PENSION PAYMENTS TO ABORIGINES

The Board was very pleased to receive particulars of a resolution passed at the General Synod in the Dioceses of Australia and Tasmania which was recently held in Sydney under the presidency of the Primate of Australia, the Most Rev. Dr. H. K. Mowll. The resolution was submitted to the General Synod by the Ven. Archdeacon H. A. D. Graham, who represented the Diocese of Bathurst, and was as follows:—

- (a) That the Maternity Allowance be paid to women of predominantly aboriginal blood.
- (b) That Social Service Benefits be paid to aboriginal people living on Reserves or Stations.
- (c) That increased grants be made to State Governments to assist the Aborigines Welfare Board in N.S.W. to finance work on Reserves, and to make for proper supervision of living conditions for aborigines.

The Board has expressed its thanks for this information, to Archdeacon Graham, and also to Mr. A. G. Kingsmill, the Assistant Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department who, himself, was a lay member of General Synod, representing the Diocese of Carpentaria, Queensland.

NATIONAL SERVICE TRAINING

To All Young Men of 18

Have you registered yet for National Training?
Do you know what you are missing?

Last March the cover of *Dawn* showed Cecil Donovan, of Stuart's Point, in his C.M.F. uniform. The picture was published at Cecil's request, and to give all the young men of New South Wales an opportunity to see what a fine chap training had made of him.

Naturally, when the picture was published there were enquiries, and one particularly was of interest. The enquirer was anxious to know what the Board felt about it.

Now the Board has formed the opinion that young men of aboriginal blood should be registered for National Service, similarly to other young men, and that their colour—in some instances only to a very slight extent—should not be regarded by them, OR ANYBODY ELSE, as an excuse for exemption.

Quite apart from the obligation which rests on all young men to register for National Service, it is a wonderful life. Ask any young chap who has done his three months as a trainee and he will tell you that he wouldn't have missed it for worlds.

The National Service Act exempts some (but not all) youths of aboriginal blood from registering. Your duty, therefore, is to do so and let it be said by the military authorities whether you are to be excused because you are of aboriginal descent. Unfortunately, there have been cases where young men have been anxious to serve but Area Officers have rejected them. Any such case should be brought under the notice of *Dawn* or the Board, and the Board will take up the matter with the military authorities.

“Go to it, boys, there's nothing like service.”