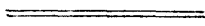


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SOUTH AUSTRALIA



REPORT

OF THE

Chief Protector of Aboriginals

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1938.



ADELAIDE :

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1938.

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide, 5th September, 1938.

To the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

Sir—I have the honour to submit for your information my report on the work of the Aboriginals Department for the year ended 30th June, 1938.

The usual rations, blankets and clothing have been supplied to indigent aboriginals throughout the year and in many cases men have been supplied with rabbit traps so that they might be able to earn some money and thus help to support themselves.

During the 1937 Session of Parliament the necessary resolution was passed to enable all the lands previously reserved for the use and benefit of aboriginals under the Crown Lands Act to be definitely proclaimed as Aboriginal Reserves under the Aborigines Act. The proclamation was published in the *Government Gazette* of the 14th of April, 1938.

Until this was done it was not possible to take action against persons trespassing on Aboriginal Reserves.

The trespass upon the reserve in the north-west corner of the State by white men is reported to be a common practice and the police officer at Oodnadatta has been asked to take action against the trespassers whenever evidence is procurable. It is difficult, however, for an officer stationed so far from the reserve to detect trespass as his movements are always spread abroad by methods peculiar to the bush.

The Mission Station at Ernabella is now definitely established with the Reverend Harry Taylor as Superintendent, and I think the influence of this mission and the interest of its superintendent and staff in the survival of the aboriginal as a pure race will go a long way towards arresting the drift which has set in through the immoral association of white men with the aboriginals.

It is very doubtful whether there are any aboriginals in this area who have not come in contact with white men. The possibility of obtaining from them flour, sugar, tea, and other attractive articles is more than the native can withstand. It is therefore essential for the well-being of these aboriginals that the contact shall be with men of strict moral character and integrity, whose actions and ideas can be copied by the aboriginals without fear of jeopardizing their existence.

The trading of wild dog scalps has been the chief means by which aboriginals have been attracted to white men's camps, and as most of the white doggers have native women living in their camps the immoral effect on the primitive aboriginal may well be imagined.

I look forward to the day when comparatively small holdings between Ernabella and the Aboriginal Reserve may be added to the present reserve and I trust that this matter will be seriously considered should these holdings be surrendered by their present lessees or by some other means fall into the hands of the Government for re-allotment.

The Advisory Council of Aborigines has held regular monthly meetings and made visits to Point McLeay and Swan Reach during the year. Many matters affecting the welfare of the aboriginals have been discussed and where necessary recommendations have been forwarded to you.

In April last the Government made a grant of £500 available to the Board for Anthropological Research to enable Mr. N. B. Tindale, of the Adelaide Museum staff, to join Doctor J. B. Birdsell, of the Harvard University, in an investigation of the racial crossing of the Australian aboriginal and the white and other foreign people in Australia. The funds for this investigation were made available by the Carnegie Corporation.

During the year a nurse from the service of the Australian Church Bush Aid Society was appointed to the Koonibba Mission Station. The Koonibba Mission Board has made a building available for use as a hospital and nurses' quarters and it is now possible to carry out the medical work at that station much more satisfactorily.

The Aboriginals Department contributes £100 per annum towards the nurse's salary and has supplied equipment for the hospital.

The assistance given by the Koonibba Mission Board in making this service possible is very much appreciated.

The United Aborigines' Mission have continued their work at Oodnadatta, Nepabunna, Quorn, Ooldea, and Swan Reach.

The Swan Reach camp has been without the services of a resident missionary for some months, but the school teacher has exercised some supervision during this period. Consequent upon this the erection of new huts has not proceeded as quickly as was anticipated; however, 12 huts have been completed and are now occupied.

A pumping plant has been installed and water reticulated through this camp.

It is hoped when the new missionary takes up work that the natives will be encouraged and assisted to grow vegetables for their own use.

At Nepabunna a windmill, tank, and piping have been supplied by the department, and Mr. F. Eaton, the camp missionary, with the assistance of the natives, now has water laid to the camps. Prior to this, because of the inaccessibility of the well, natives were drinking rockhole water, which was fouled by stock, and there was much sickness in the camp.

During the year Mr. Eaton visited Adelaide and while in the city received instruction from Mr. A. J. Wiley, specialty wood-worker of Prospect, in the manufacture of Mulga ornaments. It is Mr. Eaton's intention to instal lathes at Nepabunna and teach some of the natives this work.

Fencing and other station work has been fairly plentiful in this district this year and many of the men have been able to find remunerative employment.

At Oodnadatta water from the town supply has been laid on to the mission huts. These huts, erected for old and infirm aborigines, were badly damaged by the wind and rain storms in February last and they are now being re-erected by the missionary, Mr. H. G. Wakerley.

There are 31 children now at the Colebrook Home, Quorn, where Miss R. M. Hyde, with the assistance of other ladies, is caring for them. These half-caste children have been gathered from the uncongenial surroundings of aboriginal camps throughout the far north and are receiving education and being given a chance which would not otherwise have been theirs.

At Ooldea, Mr. H. E. Green is up against a big problem, but he is giving his best in the interests of the aboriginals.

Two visits were made to Port Augusta this year in an endeavour to secure some suitable camp site for the natives in that locality, but to date no satisfactory arrangement has been effected.

The camp has been reduced in numbers by persuading those who had drifted in there to return to their own country, but no one appeared anxious to make suitable land available, as they feared the camp dogs of the natives would be a menace to their livestock.

I hope the unsatisfactory conditions at this camp, which is now quite close to the town, may soon be relieved and better huts provided for these natives.

Mr. A. Wyld, who during the year severed his connection with the United Aborigines' Mission, is now doing missionary work at Port Augusta.

Altogether 360 chains of old fencing was renewed during the year.

The yards around all new cottages have also been fenced.

Rabbits are well under control and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are continuing their trials with myxomatosis on Wardang Island.

The new 20-furrow plough has not been altogether satisfactory but the makers have the matter in hand and it is hoped to remedy the trouble.

Two new headers and a 6ft. binder were purchased and worked well.

The tractor and all other implements, engines, and plant have been periodically overhauled and are giving satisfactory service.

The motor launch, barge, and dinghy have also been maintained in good order and a new anchor chain purchased for the launch.

Native sharefarmers sowed 734 acres of wheat and 66 acres of oats on fallow last season.

The oats being sown on fallow to enable good clean seed to be reaped.

There were good seeding rains and the crops started well and sheep were put on because of the rank growth. This good start was followed by a dry period in the spring and the final results fell short of expectations. There was little variation amongst the varieties of wheat sown, the average yields being 12½ bush. of wheat and 14 bush. of oats per acre. Twenty-two acres of wheat was cut for hay and this yielded 1½ tons per acre.

The total area of fallow sown with wheat by three white sharefarmers was 835 acres, and the average returns were 11½, 18½, and 15½ bushels per acre, respectively.

Both native and white sharefarmers worked their fallow well and seeded in good time, the crops were reaped expeditiously. A little damage and loss of time occurred through heavy rain during harvest time and some wheat reaped after the rain was considerably bleached.

The natives sowed 550 acres of barley and 385 acres of oats on stubble land. The oats were sown early and a satisfactory crop resulted. Two hundred and sixty-six acres cut for hay yielded 350 tons, 80 acres cut green made approximately 320 tons of ensilage and 14 acres reaped yielded 285 bush.

The barley was only fair, affected by the dry spring, the sample was poor and all classed as "C" grade. The average yield was 16½ bushels per acre.

Two hundred acres of the barley crop was pickled with Ceresan dry pickle and the resultant crop was quite free from smut whereas in the balance wet pickled with formalin a considerable amount of smut was present.

The white sharefarmers obtained poor results from their stubble crops which were sown late on ground that had not been very well prepared.

One thousand three hundred and sixty acres were sown for a yield of 14,075 bush., some of which was classed as "C" grade, but much of it reaped after rain was badly stained and only fit for feed purposes. The average yield of these crops was between 11 bush. and 12 bush.

A summary of the farming results is as follows:—

Wheat produced on Station	21,665 bush. 7 lbs.
Station's share	14,372 bush. 48 lbs.
Sharefarmer's share	7,292 bush. 19 lbs.
Total area reaped	1,547 acres.
Average yield per acre	14 bush.
Barley produced on Station	23,256 bush. 37 lbs.
Station's share	14,676 bush. 26 lbs.
Sharefarmer's share	8,580 bush. 11 lbs.
Total area reaped	1,910 acres.
Average yield per acre	12.17 bush.
Oats produced on Station	1,131 bush.
Total area reaped	80 acres.
Average yield per acre	14 bush.
Hay produced on Station	401 tons.
Total area cut	313 acres.
Average yield per acre	1.28 tons per acre.
Ensilage produced on Station	320 tons.
Total area cut	80 acres.
Average yield per acre	4 tons.

The crops sown in 1938 are as follows:—

	Acres.
Native sharefarmers' wheat on fallow	735
White sharefarmers' wheat on fallow	720
Native sharefarmers' oats on fallow	65
Total crops on fallow	1,520
	Acres.
Native sharefarmers' barley on stubble	500
White sharefarmers' barley on stubble	835
Native sharefarmers' oats on stubble	300
Total crops on stubble land	1,635

The native sharefarmers commenced fallowing on 6th July and finished on 3rd August. The fallow was harrowed and cultivated in the spring, harrowed again in December and cultivated in May. Seeding commenced on 18th May and was completed on 31st May.

The white sharefarmers' fallow was reasonably well worked and seeded in good time.

Oats were sown by the natives on 300 acres of stubble land towards the end of April and with the rain which fell during Easter this area gives promise of a good hay crop.

The remainder of the native sharefarmers' stubble land was sown to barley, the seeding being completed by 6th June.

The natives' stubble land was harrowed and ploughed in February and March and harrowed again and cultivated before seeding. Sufficient rain fell to bring the barley through nicely.

The white sharefarmers' stubble land was well worked.

Two of them sowed early and had a good germination, but the third sowing later met a dry spell and his crop did not have such a good germination; salt patches are rather prominent.

The lucerne sown on the station has done well, and as there is a large area considered suitable for lucerne, the Superintendent advocates extending the area under this crop each year.

A number of old ewes, which otherwise would most probably have died, were fattened on the lucerne plot and butchered for the meat shop.

A well sunk in the lucerne paddock has produced a splendid supply of water.

Three old underground tanks were filled with ensilage this year, the total quantity stored being approximately 320 tons. This fodder has been fed regularly to the dairy cows since March and in addition to improving the milk supply has kept the cows in good health and condition.

Present indications are that there will be good green crops available again this year for ensilage.

Sheep have maintained excellent condition throughout the year. Heavy rains during harvest started a lot of green feed which kept going until the Easter rains, consequently there was plenty of green feed available when lambing commenced.

The sheep on Wardang Island were blade shorn and those on the Mainland machine shorn. Blade shearers are now becoming scarce and the Superintendent recommends the purchase of a two stand machine shearing plant for the island as he considers it would be better for both shearing and crutching.

The total number of sheep and lambs shorn was 4,371 and they produced 137 bales of wool containing 40,228 lb.

The best prices obtained for the wool was 15½d. for seven bales of AA hoggets and 15d. for eight bales of BB hoggets.

The average cut per sheep was 9.2 lb. of wool which is .6 lb. better than the previous year.

The average price was 9.7d. per pound, equalling 7s. 5.24d. per head inclusive of lambs, which is a little under 1s. per head lower than the previous year.

There is every prospect of a good clip at the coming shearing but prices are doubtful.

The maiden ewes were mated a little earlier this year and all the rams were put with them, a proportion of the rams being taken out later and turned in with the older ewes.

Dipping was attended to as usual and no tick have been discovered in the sheep.

Twenty two-tooth Koonoona rams were purchased. They were selected at Koonoona by the Superintendent and Stock Overseer.

To combat the blowfly pest all sheep were crutched twice during the year, and as 'an experiment the Mules' operation was performed on 350 ewe lambs.

In comparison with a similar number of the same type untreated and running together the results were remarkable. Only three cases of strike were found in the treated lambs and 42 in those not treated. The success of this experiment justifies the treatment of lambs this year.

One thousand seven hundred and sixty-seven ewes were mated and 1,283 lambs were tailed, giving a percentage of 72.6, which is considerably better than the previous year when the percentage was only 55. A number of lambs were lost, both on the island and the mainland. On the mainland foxes were responsible for many losses. The natural losses have, however, been lighter this year, and undiscovered losses so few that they may be accounted for by undiscovered deaths.

The drop in the number of natural losses is most probably due to the early green feed available and to the fact that the sheep were inoculated against entero-toxaemia.

This treatment will no doubt have to be continued annually as entero-toxaemia has been responsible for many deaths in the past.

Sheep stealing, which has been considered responsible for many losses in the past, is apparently not so prevalent since the appointment of a detective in the district.

The regular patrol of the beach during the summer months is still carried out.

Topdressing of pasture on Wardang Island was continued this year, 10 tons of super being used for this purpose.

Sheep figures for the year are as follows:—

Sheep on station, 30th June, 1938	4,960
Births for year	1,310
Rams purchased	20
Old rams sold	4
Deaths for year	210
Butchered	725

Sheepskins sold throughout the year realized satisfactory prices, 773 were sold, realizing £259 19s. 3d., which gave an average of 6s. 8.7d. per skin. The best price received was 22s. 2d. for the skin of a wether from Wardang Island.

The shearing plant continues to give satisfaction and, as usual, a team of learners was engaged for shearing the station sheep.

Three thousand and nine sheep were shorn on the station for private farmers and some farmers brought their sheep to the station for crutching and dipping. All appeared to be well satisfied with the work done for them.

Cattle have done exceptionally well, feed being plentiful throughout the year and ensilage being fed to the dairy herd during the worst period.

The usual numbers have been milked daily, but as milk has been distributed more freely to the natives there has been a drop in the cream and butter returns. Wherever additional supplies of milk have been recommended by the Sister they have been supplied.

Proceeds from cream and butter sales amounted to approximately £50.

The cattle figures for the year are as follows:—

Cattle on the Station, 30th June, 1938	106
Births for the year	49
Sold	72
Deaths	9

The pigs have also done well again this year.

There has been an exceptional demand for suckers, and many more could have been sold had they been available.

One of the pure bred Canadian Berkshire boars is getting too old for effective service and will soon have to be replaced. It is intended to adhere to the policy of using pure Canadian Berkshire boars.

There were 72 pigs on the station on 30th June, 1938, 200 were born during the year, 23 died and 229 were sold, mostly as suckers, realizing £206 17s. 7d.

Horses, with the exception of several old ones, have maintained good condition.

Several young draught horses have been broken in and have assisted considerably in making up teams.

Three foals were born to mares served by a travelling entire. This season nine mares were served by the young station entire, but only two appear to be in foal. Even allowing for the stallion being very young and the mares aged, a better result was expected.

In the coming season it is intended to breed from the younger mares and better results are hoped for.

The horses on the station on 30th June, 1938, numbered	57
Births for the year	3
Deaths for the year	5

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The following is a copy of the Superintendent's report for the year 1937-38:—

My second year at Koonibba finds me happy in my work. Problems, troubles, and difficulties have not decreased, but knowledge of how to deal with them has certainly increased.

Behaviour and discipline has been excellent. The drink evil has hardly shown itself. Gambling has been checked by court proceedings in January. No cases have come under my notice since then. It is, however, difficult to stop the natives from going into betting shops. I hold it highly desirable that these places should be closed to the natives. As in the previous year the police officers at all places where Koonibba natives are working gave every assistance in attending to the aborigines' welfare.

Divine services and other religious meetings, conducted at Koonibba, Bookabie, Coorabie, Colona, Wirrulla, and Penong have been well attended.

The Koonibba Children's Home has 49 inmates. Our school roll shows 80 pupils and the school building has become too small. Our teachers have received good reports from the inspector. The desks provided by the department have been very welcome. So also has been the woodwork equipment.

The season on the West Coast was only fair, yet we had a profit in our farm account. Over 5,000 bags of wheat were harvested. For the third time in succession our sharefarmers (Messrs. Gaden and Linke) have won the county of Way Crop Competition. Our 1,300 sheep returned 37 bales of wool. The splendid summer rains, followed by good winter rains have put feed and crops in good heart. This fact should give increased employment to the natives in our district.

Four new cottages have been built and additional rooms have been added to two cottages.

We rejoice in the fact that Koonibba Hospital is now an accomplished fact and we are very thankful for the annual subsidy of £100 from the Government. The Bush Church Aid Society has provided us with a most capable and conscientious nurse, Sister Grace Hitchcock. The hospital has not been without patients since opened and we have had up to six patients at one time. Besides this the sister visits cottages and attends out-patients at dispensary, which amounts to about 30 visits daily. Natives have been brought for treatment from as far as Ooldea. The Bush Church Aid Society has also transported natives to Koonibba in its medical plane which lands here if required when passing over. Doctors R. and F. Gibson have given the natives the very best medical attention.

My thanks are due also to the Chief Protector of Aborigines and his staff for the prompt, efficient and helpful attention to the requirements of Koonibba Mission Station.

R. H. TRAEGER,
Superintendent, Koonibba Mission.

A statement of the expenditure and receipts of the department and income and expenditure statements of the Point McLeay and Point Pearce Aboriginal Stations are appended.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. R. PENHALL,

Acting Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works,
Adelaide.

