

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1919.



Adelaide:

R. E. E. ROGERS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1919.

REPORT.

Aboriginals Department,

Adelaide, September 15th, 1919.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the financial year ended June 30th, 1919.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

This station was brought under the control of the department on September 1st, 1915. The operations for this year show a profit of £1,232 1s., plus profit brought forward from the three previous years, £7,611 9s. 2d.; total profit, £8,843 10s. 2d.

The season was a very dry one, only 10½ in. of rain having fallen during the year; but the falls were at opportune times, and the crops averaged fairly well, 12,588 bush. of wheat, 10,747 bush. of barley, 654 bush. of oats, and 188 tons of hay having been harvested. The wool clip produced 124 bales.

The livestock now on the station are—5,624 sheep and lambs, 80 cattle, 73 horses, and 79 pigs.

The station has been greatly improved during the year, as, amongst other things, a new schoolteacher's house, costing £500, has been built; 80 acres of land has been planted with lucerne, in addition to 20 acres planted last year on sandy soil, which is doing well; all fences have been put in good repair, and many improvements made.

There are now 24 full-bloods and 194 half-castes depending on the station, and the sum of £4,206 19s. 7d. was paid to them in wages during the year. Rations and clothing were provided for those natives who, owing to old age and infirmity, were unable to earn a living.

The births and deaths for the year at Point Pearce were—

Births—Full-bloods, nil; half-castes, 9; total, 9.

Deaths—Full-bloods, 3; half-castes, 3; total, 6.

The Superintendent's report, and the audited balance-sheet and profit and loss account are appended.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

This station was brought under the control of the department on January 1st, 1916. The operations for the year show a loss of £1,038 11s., plus loss brought forward from the previous two and a half years, £5,452 16s. 2d.; total loss, £6,491 7s. 2d. This result is not encouraging, but it

should be remembered that there are over 390 aborigines and half-castes more or less dependent on the station for their living, and the limited area of land is only fit for grazing purposes, and will not even produce the necessary hay required to work the station, some of which has to be purchased. The sum of £2,712 10s. 9d. was paid in wages to the aborigines, and £427 worth of rations was given to the old folk. Work is provided for as many as possible, as it is considered preferable to issuing rations to idle people.

The dairying industry has been fairly prosperous, as milk and cream was sold during the year to the value of £1,187 8s., and pigs realised £341 8s. 1d.

Another 60 acres of land was sown with lucerne, but owing to the dry season it proved a complete failure.

The livestock now on the station are—811 sheep and lambs, 364 cattle, 36 horses, and 44 pigs.

The births and deaths at Point McLeay for the year were—

Births—Full-bloods, nil; half-castes, 11; total, 11.

Deaths—Full-bloods, 4; half-castes, 6; total, 10.

The Superintendent's report, and the audited balance-sheet and the profit and loss account are appended.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION OF THE STATE.

The estimated population on June 30th, 1918, was—

Full-bloods	3,836	half-castes, 942	total, 4,778
Births—Full-bloods	43	half-castes, 30	total, 73
	<u>3,879</u>	<u>972</u>	<u>4,851</u>
Deaths—Full-bloods	92	half-castes, 15	total, 107
	<u>3,787</u>	<u>957</u>	<u>4,744</u>

CRIME REPORT FOR YEAR.

Drunkness	37
Assaults	5
Breaches of Aborigines Act	1
Breaches of Birds Protection Act	2
Breaches of Licensing Act	12
Breaches of Police Act	5
Breaches of Mental Defectives Act	1
	<u>63</u>
Persons convicted for supplying liquor to aborigines	13

The deaths amongst the aborigines for the year have been considerably increased by an outbreak of influenza in the Far North, near Oodnadatta, early in June. An isolation camp was immediately formed there, under the control of Dr. Tackaberry, and about 60 aborigines were treated. Unfortunately 16 of them died there, and about 20 at other places. It is more than likely that others died, whose cases did not come under the doctor's notice. No expense has been spared in combating the disease, and a medical practitioner will shortly be sent through the Far North and North-Western districts to examine, treat, and report on the health of the aborigines, the cost being paid in equal parts by pastoralists and the department. The pastoralists have already generously subscribed £500 for this purpose.

REVENUE FOR YEAR.

	£	s.	d.
From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station	9,905	18	4
From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station	6,590	7	11
Refunds of advances to aborigines for rail fares, etc.	102	14	9
Repayments	0	5	10
Total revenue	£16,599	6	10

EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Head Office—</i>						
Salaries	729	6	0			
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, &c., in connection with depots other than Point Pearce and Point McLeay	3,209	1	2			
Advisory Council of Aborigines, stationery, printing, travelling expenses, and secretary's remun- eration	75	1	9			
				4,013	8	11
<i>Point Pearce Station—</i>						
Salaries	370	0	0			
Wages to aborigines and others ..	4,206	19	7			
Implements, stock, stores, &c. ...	4,929	7	4			
				9,506	6	11
<i>Point McLeay Station—</i>						
Salaries	364	0	0			
Wages to aborigines and others ..	2,713	0	9			
Implements, stock, stores, &c. ...	4,499	10	0			
Rent of sections and roads	43	16	3			
				7,620	7	0
				£21,140	2	10

Comparative Return of Expenditure and Revenue since 1915.

Year.	Expenditure.		Revenue.		Assets.	
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1915.....	8,261	12 7	Nil		Nil	
1916.....	19,139	2 10	6,907	15 8	24,674	1 0
1917.....	23,014	6 11	13,355	17 2	31,658	8 11
1918.....	23,011	5 11	14,490	6 2	35,816	16 4
1919.....	21,140	2 10	16,599	6 10	37,525	18 9

Previous to the year ending June 30th, 1915, the Department had neither revenue nor assets.

I have, &c.,

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. G. Ritchie, Commissioner of Public Works,
Adelaide.

**PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1919.**

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Fowls	—	—	—	0	5	0
Meat	—	—	—	119	18	2
Mats and baskets	—	—	—	2	6	7
School books for aboriginal children Rations for aborigines.....	307	15	8			
	<hr/>			311	15	3
Salaries, superintendent and store- keeper	364	10	0			
Wages of aborigines and white assistants	2,712	10	9			
	<hr/>			3,077	0	9
Depreciation—						
Furniture	4	5	5			
Implements, &c.	53	12	1			
Harness.....	8	13	5			
	<hr/>			66	10	11
Rent	—	—	—	43	16	3
Freight, railage, &c.	—	—	—	179	14	1
Head office salaries and expenses...	—	—	—	85	7	9
Interest	—	—	—	492	5	7
Net loss brought forward.....	—	—	—	5,452	16	2
	<hr/>			£9,831	16	6

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store	—			468	16	4
Farm account, cream and produce, &c.	—			1,187	8	0
Stock accounts—						
Cattle	919	0	2			
Horses	12	0	0			
Sheep	411	16	9			
Pigs	341	8	1			
				1,684	5	0
Balance net loss for year	1,038	11	0			
Add net loss brought forward	5,452	16	2			
				6,491	7	2
				<u>£9,831</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>

BALANCE SHEET OF THE POINT MCLEAY STATION AS
AT JUNE 30TH, 1919.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
H.M. Government		11,708	4	7
Capital account		5,550	6	4
		<u>£17,258</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
Buildings	4,091	1	3	
Improvements	722	15	6	
		4,813	16	9
Furniture	81	2	2	
Implements, vehicles, &c.	482	8	6	
Harness	78	1	1	
Stocks on hand—		641	11	9
Store	860	1	8	
Mats and baskets	5	0	0	
Boot shop, boots and material ...	10	0	0	
Farm account—				
Super.	4	7	6	
Oats	8	2	0	
Barley	12	0	0	
Hay	7	10	0	
Pollard	19	10	0	
Livestock on hand—		926	11	2
Cattle	2,793	0	0	
Sheep	1,055	10	0	
Pigs	142	0	0	
Horses	340	0	0	
Fowls	0	15	0	
		4,331	5	0
Retention money 1918-19 wool clip....	—	34	17	5
Sundry debtors	—	19	1	8
Net loss for year	1,038	11	0	
Add net loss brought forward	5,452	16	2	
		6,491	7	2
		<u>£17,258</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Examined and passed,

EDGAR WM. GILES, Commissioner of Audit.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1919.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Salaries of superintendent and storekeeper	370	0	0			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	4,206	19	7			
	<hr/>			4,576	19	7
Horses	—			4	10	0
Rations for aboriginals	611	14	8			
School books for aboriginal children	6	15	10			
	<hr/>			618	10	6
Interest	—			274	6	1
Head office salaries and expenses	—			85	7	9
Depreciation—						
Furniture	6	18	5			
Implements	168	0	1			
Harness	15	19	6			
	<hr/>			190	18	0
Balance net profit for year	1,232	1	0			
Add net profit brought forward ..	7,611	9	2			
	<hr/>			8,843	10	2
				£14,594	2	1
				<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store	—			534	5	10
Rent of cottages, &c.	—			136	17	6
Farm account—Wheat and other produce	—			4,689	12	9
Meat	—			18	12	4
Stock accounts—						
Cattle	432	16	0			
Sheep	1,056	14	6			
Pigs	99	7	0			
	<hr/>			1,588	17	6
Sundry debtors, amount collected in excess of anticipation	—			14	7	0
Net profit brought forward	—			7,611	9	2
				£14,594	2	1
				<hr/>		

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS
AT JUNE 30TH, 1919.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
LIABILITIES.						
H.M. Government	—			6,552	15	5
Capital account	—			11,362	9	5
Net profit for year	1,232	1	0			
Add net profit brought forward	7,611	9	2			
	<hr/>			8,843	10	2
				£26,758	15	0
				<hr/>		

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	7,730	0	0			
Improvements, fencing, &c.	3,415	0	0			
				11,145	0	0
Implements, vehicles, boats, &c.....	1,512	1	0			
Furniture	131	10	2			
Harness	143	15	9			
				1,787	6	11
Stocks on hand—						
Store	711	0	6			
Wheat	12	0	0			
Pig feed, wheat and barley	10	0	0			
Share farmers' seed and super.	253	4	9			
Super.	5	10	0			
Hay	1,375	0	0			
Cornsacks	40	12	6			
Woolpack	0	3	6			
Binder twine.....	18	16	0			
Stone raised and carted	25	0	0			
Lime	1	13	0			
Livestock—						
Horses	1,150	0	0			
Cattle	986	0	0			
Sheep	7,626	0	0			
Pigs	118	10	0			
				12,333	10	3
Wheat certificates—						
1915-16, expected to realise	10	0	0			
1916-17, expected to realise	740	19	3			
1917-18, expected to realise	495	17	4			
1918-19, expected to realise	85	16	0			
				1,332	12	7
Retention money 1918-19 wool clip....				160	5	3
				£26,758	15	0

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Examined and passed,

EDGAR WM. GILES, Commissioner of Audit.

POINT PEARCE ABORIGINAL STATION.

Port Victoria, July 1st, 1919.

Sir—I have the honor to forward you the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1919 :—

During the past year the rainfall has been very light. Our record for 1918 being a little under 10in., which is only 1in. more rain than in the drought year, 1914. Under these

circumstances our harvest results have been very satisfactory. Although the rain was light, it fell at the right time. Our returns are :—Wheat, 12,588bush. ; barley, 10,747bush. ; oats, 654bush. ; total grain grown, 23,989 bushels ; hay, 188 tons—making total hay now on hand 550 tons. The wheat averaged $10\frac{1}{2}$ bush. to the acre. Barley averaged 21bush. per acre.

The wool clip totalled 124 bales and 2 bags, from 3,440 sheep and 1,160 lambs shorn.

The season has been too dry for a good lambing. So far we have 900 lambs, giving an average of 60 per cent. Lambing, however, is not completed. The total number of sheep and lambs now is, 5,624 ; horses, 73 ; cattle, 80 ; pigs, 79.

This year we have in crop 2,088 acres. This is considerably less than usual, owing to our having, for past two years, gone deeply in for cultivation, consequently some of our land needs a rest, also owing to steady increase in number of sheep kept.

The 20 acres of land sown last year with lucerne have done well. This season we have sown another 80 acres of similar land with lucerne.

We are excavating a dam in our Port paddock, provided with a good catchment, which will supply water needed in this part of our run.

A residence for the schoolteacher has been built by our native workmen. We have employed a white carpenter to complete the roofing, &c. The school building has become too small for our increasing number of children, and we purpose building a new school. Cottage accommodation is much needed, so the old school will be converted into a cottage. The site for the new school will be just outside the village, and enable us to give the children a good playground.

Men have been employed rabbiting, fencing, post-cutting, clearing irregular patches of useless scrub, road-making, and in general agricultural and pastoral work.

Since harvest there has been less employment than usual for our men away from the station. Most of the wheat-lumping at Balgowan is done by our men, but very little wheat has been shipped from there this season.

The health of the people has been fairly good. So far we have had no case of influenza or other serious epidemic disease.

The conduct of the natives has been good.

Religious services have been conducted on the station as usual by visiting ministers and laymen from the churches

The 64 acres of lucerne put in last year is not doing as well as we would like. The absence of late spring and summer rains being the cause of this ; it came up and was looking well, but thinned out for want of moisture. We have resown another 64 acres again this year ; this is all up and looking well.

Our sheep have been doing well. We are having a good lambing, but some of the ewes are late. We did well with our last year's spring lambs, which were sold in the Adelaide market. We have mastered the dog trouble by keeping plenty of poison laid in the paddocks.

The livestock figures are as follows :—Sheep, 587 ; lambs, 220 ; total, 807. Horses, 36 ; cattle, 364 ; pigs, 44.

We have been able to find employment on the station for a large number of natives, and those who have not been employed on the station have all been able to find work outside. We have erected three new windmills and tanks and have provided them with 48ft. of galvanized-iron troughing to each one. We have also put down two more new wells and have splendid supplies of good water in each. We have built three new rooms for returned soldiers, and also finished the rooms for our old natives ; these are lovely rooms, and the old people are quite proud of them.

The supply of firewood is a very serious item but we hope to overcome this when our new jetty is built.

The conduct of the natives has been good. The drink trouble is very much less than in former years.

The health of the natives, on the whole, has been good. There have been several deaths, and most of them have been old people and children. We have to thank the Protector for the splendid supply of medicines on the station, and his untiring efforts in getting our people admitted to the Adelaide Hospital. The absence of a medical man is felt very much here.

The religious needs of the natives have been well attended to by the A.F.A., who send a minister from Adelaide once a month. They have had the services of the Rev. E. Lawson until his removal to the West Coast, where, we hope, his services to the natives will be a help as they were here. We most heartily thank the A.F.A. and the Rev. E. Lawson for their good work with our natives.

Mr. J. A. S. Miller, as storekeeper and bookkeeper, has proved himself a very capable officer, and we still feel that he is the right man in the right place.

Mr. Wyatt, who has been placed in charge of the dairy, is a splendid man, taking great interest in his work, he

being a very great help in many other matters concerning the station.

We regret very much the loss of the assistant storekeeper, Miss Hunter, she having removed to Murray Bridge through family troubles. We all wish her every success in her future sphere.

The new assistant storekeeper, Mr. Thurgarland, is doing very good work, and we hope that he will prove as energetic as Miss Hunter, whose services we have just lost.

I have, &c.,

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

To W. G. South, Esq., Chief Protector of Aborigines,
Adelaide.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

Koonibba, August 25th, 1919.

Sir—I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1919 :—

The period under review may be classed as fairly successful. In spite of many difficulties arising from the war and other causes, fair progress was made in the various departments. The attendance at the divine services was better than in previous years, while a fair number of native men and women availed themselves of the opportunity to receive religious instruction. The school children, too, have made good headway under the supervision of the head teacher, Mr. Bode. The attendance at school was, as usual, very good. The new members of the mission staff proved themselves very capable and conscientious. That the inmates of the Children's Home are so contented and happy, in spite of the necessarily strict discipline, speaks volumes for the tact and efficiency of the matron and her assistants. One of the assistant matrons unfortunately had to leave the mission on account of ill-health, and so far all efforts to secure a suitable successor have proved unsuccessful.

The last harvest was only moderately good, the total yield being 4,213 bags of wheat (average $6\frac{1}{2}$ bush), 160 bags of oats, and 140 tons of hay. This year we have 2,650 acres under crop, but the prospects are not encouraging, although the season opened exceptionally well. Water is very scarce in the whole district, even the Government tanks being practically empty. Last February we were obliged to send all our cattle with the exception of the milch cows to our property at Davenport Creek, where there is an abundance of good well water, but not much feed. The

rainfall for the first six months of this year amounted to only 5in., and was usually too light to cause the water to flow into the underground tanks. Two new tanks were constructed last winter, but so far only a small amount of water has been caught in them. Last September, 37 additional head of cattle were purchased for the mission, so that at present we have about 120 head to provide feed and water for, besides 53 horses. We were able to erect two two-roomed cottages for natives, and are about to begin the erection of a third ; but further building operations will have to be postponed owing to the scarcity of water.

During the seeding operations especially the men gave a good account of themselves, working almost with enthusiasm. In general the behaviour of the natives working on the station was satisfactory, but most of those working outside were more disorderly, being addicted to gambling and drunkenness.

About 100 aboriginal and half-castes live permanently on the station, while the average number of natives at the mission, including the floating population, was 145 for the year.

I have, &c.,

E. APPELT.

To the Chief Protector of Aboriginals, Adelaide.
August 25th, 1919.

Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta, S.A.,
July 28th, 1919.

Sir—I have the honor respectfully to submit my annual report on the condition and general conduct of the aboriginal natives in the Far Northern Division for the year ended June 30th, 1919.

The health of the natives generally has been good, although influenza and lung complaints have been responsible for some of the deaths recorded. There are about 50 natives in the Fowler's Bay district, the majority of whom are able to obtain employment, while the old and infirm natives are supplied with rations, &c., regularly from the depot. There are about eight old adult aboriginals in the Streaky Bay district, and there are no circumstances associated with them which requires special report or attention. There are 10 males and 8 female aboriginals and half-castes in the Port Lincoln district three of the males have acquired land in the hundred of Louth, and are reported to be doing well. The wants of the natives

in the Murat Bay district are being supplied from the depot which was recently established at that place, and from reports received it appears that they have everything they require.

From reports received from the police at Indulkinna I find that the general health of the natives is good, and that very little trouble has been experienced among stock-owners through the killing of stock by the natives. The supply of rations, &c., received from the Government has been sufficient to meet all demands, but a further supply will probably be necessary in the near future if the dry weather continues in the district.

At the Innamincka depot there is an average of 40 natives, comprising 16 old natives receiving Government rations, and 24 able-bodied natives, males and females, employed at station and general work. At Coongee lakes there are 10 old aboriginals who receive rations from the Innamincka depot occasionally and live on game and fish, which are very plentiful.

At Cordillo and Haddon Downs there are about 36 natives receiving rations, and 20 young natives employed on stations.

There are about 150 aboriginals in the Mungeranie district (including 70 females) who are being supplied with Government rations; some of these natives are suffering from severe colds, and I would respectfully suggest that a supply of eucalyptus be forwarded to the police at Mungeranie for the use of the natives.

The condition of the aboriginals in the Marree district is exceedingly good, there being plenty of employment for the able-bodied men who earn good wages at droving and camel driving, the wages being from four to seven pounds per month and keep. The old and infirm natives who are unable to work receive rations. At present there are very few aboriginals in the district, most of them having gone to Cooper's Creek, where there is abundance of fish and game owing to the recent floods in the river.

There are about 100 natives in the Tarcoola district, the majority of these natives pay periodical visits to the surrounding stations, and a number of them are at present engaged by the station owners trapping wild dogs. At present there are several old and infirm aboriginals at Tarcoola requiring assistance, and I would suggest that a supply of rations and blankets be forwarded to the police there for distribution among these natives.

From reports received from the police stationed at Ooldea, on the East-West railway, it appears that there are about

100 natives in the district, including 60 from Fowler's Bay, and Western Australia, a number of them being uncivilised. In March last a supply of rations and blankets was received from the Government and issued to the natives, and every endeavor is being made to induce them to return to their respective districts, and the police have been fairly successful in their efforts in that direction.

Syphilis appears to be prevalent among the natives on, and in the vicinity of, the East-West railway, and an aboriginal suffering from this complaint in an advanced stage was brought to the local hospital in May last, and was recently discharged from that institution as cured.

During the year eight male and three female aboriginals have been treated at the Port Augusta Hospital. Four of them were discharged as cured, three died, and one is still under the care of Dr. Gorrie; and may I be permitted to add that every credit is due to the doctor, secretary, and nursing staff for their untiring care and treatment of the natives while under their care.

Offences recorded against aboriginals during the year have been as follows:—Drunkenness, 23; common assault, 1; vagrancy, 1; rogue and vagabond, 1; unlawful possession of liquor, 2; and habitual drunkard, 1—an increase of 12 on last year's figures.

Nine persons were convicted for supplying liquor to aboriginals.

In conclusion, I am pleased to state that your department has always favorably considered applications for rations, etc., received from the police in this division.

Births.—Full-bloods—Males, 8; females, 4. Half-bloods—Males, 6; females, 3.

Deaths.—Full-bloods—Males, 11; females, 8. Half-bloods—Males, 1; females, 1.

I have, &c.,

W. SHEGOG, Protector.

The Chief Protector of Aboriginals, Adelaide.