

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1926.



Adelaide:

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

1927.

- 7 JAN 1963

440
REPORT

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide,

September 30th, 1926.

Sir-- I have the honor to submit this, my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the year ended June 30th, 1926 ; also reports received from the Superintendents of the Aboriginal Stations and the Protectors of Aborigines in the North.

Rations, clothing, and blankets have been supplied during the year to depots throughout the State, and have been distributed by the issuers of rations to the old, sick, and infirm aboriginals, also to others found in poor circumstances.

Their medical needs have been attended to. The medical officers and hospital officers and attendants have all given to aboriginal patients every attention. Supplies of medicines for coughs, colds, and eye troubles have been sent to the depots, and given out by issuers of rations. At Point Pearce and Point McLeay the Department has fully equipped dispensaries, and Koonibba Mission is also supplied with medicines and drugs for their dispensary.

POLICE OFFICERS.

I wish to express my appreciation of the work done by them as issuers of rations, and generally caring for the welfare of the aborigines in their districts.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Point Pearce.

Births, 16 half-castes ; deaths, 3 half-castes.

Number on station.—11 full bloods, 239 half-castes ; total 250.

Point McLeay.

Births, 14 half-castes ; deaths, 3 full bloods, 6 half-castes.

Number on station.—13 full bloods, 236 half-castes ; total 249.

Koonibba.

Births, 2 full bloods, 7 half-castes ; deaths, 5 full bloods.

Number on station.—110 full bloods, 87 half-castes, total 197.

A census has just been completed of the aborigines in this State by the Statistical Office, results as follows :— Full bloods, 2,531 ; half-castes, 1,452 ; 3,983.

The Commonwealth Statistician gives the aboriginal census for Australia, June 30th, 1925, as follows :—

	Full Bloods.	Half-castes.	Total.
New South Wales . . .	1,081	5,985	7,066
Victoria	66	414	480
Queensland	15,075	2,839	17,914
South Australia	3,941	1,166	5,107
Western Australia . .	22,471	2,323	24,794
Northern Territory . .	19,760	666	20,426
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	62,394	13,393	75,787
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The difference in the figures given above by the State and Commonwealth Statistician for South Australia shows a decrease of 1,124 in 1926. This is owing to differing estimates supplied concerning the number of aborigines untouched by civilisation in the extreme north-west portion of this State. I believe the later figures are the more correct.

A BOARDING HOME.

A boarding home in Adelaide for aboriginal women and children has been established by the Adelaide City Mission, assisted financially by this Department. The home was opened on the 29th June by the Hon. L. L. Hill, then Minister of this Department. The need for such a place has been felt for years, as in the past it has been almost impossible to find suitable board for these women and children, when, owing to sickness and other reasons, it has been necessary for them to come to Adelaide.

On behalf of the aborigines, I thank the Adelaide City Mission for undertaking this noble work.

HALF-CASTE BOYS AND GIRLS FROM THE ALICE SPRINGS BUNGALOW.

There are a number of these young people in situations in South Australia; the girls employed in domestic work, and some boys on sheep and cattle stations.

There has been no proper supervision or local guardianship of these aborigines from the Northern Territory in the past, but negotiations have now been practically completed by this Department with the Commonwealth Government, arranging for the Department to undertake the work. An honorary lady inspector will shortly be appointed.

RAILWAY EXTENSION TO ALICE SPRINGS.

The problem of how best to care for the welfare of aboriginals along the line of railway while the work is in progress is under consideration. This matter must also be considered from the standpoint of the best interests of the white men at work on the line. The greater portion of

the line will be in the Northern Territory. It will, therefore, be largely a question for the Commonwealth Government to deal with.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

When the seasons are favorable, this station has generally been able to show a profit on the year's operations, as may be seen from the profit and loss account. Owing, however, to the insufficient rainfall giving poor harvest results, also the fall in wool prices, the loss this year is £3,102 18s. 1d. The number of aborigines on this station has steadily increased, adding to the expenses.

The Superintendent reports that 2,822 acres are under crop this season, and that the outlook is most promising. It will be necessary to provide more cottages on this station, and an amount has been included for this purpose in the estimates of expenditure this year.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

This station has had a satisfactory year. The loss on the operations for the previous year was £5,123 15s. 11d. This year the loss has been reduced to £3,266 12s. 4d.

It is very desirable that this station should have more land in the immediate neighborhood, in order that more reproductive work shall be found for the aborigines, and the station made more self-supporting.

A contract has been let for the dismantling of several cottages not now needed at Pompoota, and their re-erection at this station, thus providing much needed increase in housing accommodation. A hospital will also be built with this material.

A metal road is being made with native labor from the station to the Narrung jetty, which will be much appreciated in this sandy country. The streets of the village are also being improved by metalling.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The agricultural operations on this station have been very successful this year, the wheat crop resulting in an average of 14bush. per acre. The Farm Manager, Mr. Braunack, is to be congratulated on the honor of winning the County of Way Crop Competition.

During May last an electric light plant was installed, supplying the officers' homes and principal buildings, also five street lights.

Blankets have been supplied by this Department, also rations for the dormitory children.

The reports from Mr. P. A. Giles, Inspector of Police, Port Augusta, who also acts as Protector of Aborigines,

and Mr. G. Aiston, Protector of Aborigines in the Newcastle District, referring to the aborigines in the north and north-west of the State, show that their general health has been good, and that they have given little trouble to the police. Good rains have fallen in these districts, and the natural food supplies of the aborigines are now more plentiful.

MISSIONARIES.

There are two lady missionaries at work along the East-West railway, two in the Oodnadatta district, also two at Swan Reach, on the River Murray. In addition to religious teaching, these ladies teach the children the elements of education and take a kindly interest in the natives generally.

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF ABORIGINES.

Meetings of the Council, of which the Rev. J. H. Sexton is the Secretary, have been held regularly every month. Since my appointment, on May 6th, 1925, as a member of the Council, I have attended the meetings. A keen interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the aborigines is taken by all the members, and much good work has been done.

The expenditure and receipts of the Department for the year are as follows :—

		EXPENDITURE.			
<i>Head Office—</i>		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Salaries		941	4 4		
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, etc.		4,707	12 3		
Boarding-home for aboriginal women		125	10 3		
Advisory Council of Aborigines, printing, stationery, and allowance to secretary		53	2 6		
				5,827	9 4
<i>Point Pearce Station—</i>					
Salaries and wages		5,849	15 7		
Implements, stock, stores, &c... ..		6,181	8 11		
				12,031	4 6
<i>Point McLeay Station—</i>					
Salaries and wages		2,932	19 1		
Implements, stocks, stores, &c... ..		4,563	9 4		
Rent of sections		41	15 9		
Transfer of cottages		7	14 6		
				7,545	18 ^a 8
				£25,404	12 6

The total expenditure is £1,017 11s. 10d. less than the previous twelve months.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station		9,414	9	6
From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station		3,315	5	2
Refund of advances to aborigines for rail fares, &c.		197	18	0
Total receipts		£12,927	12	8
This amount shows a decrease of £3,476 3s. 9d. on last year.				
Total expenditure		£25,404	12	6
Less Total receipts		12,927	12	8
Cost of aborigines to South Australian Govern- ment for 12 months ended June 30th, 1926 ..		£12,476	19	10

I have, &c.,

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

August 7th, 1926.

Sir—I have the honor to present the following report for the year ended June 30th, 1926 :—

Harvest.—The returns per acre were as follows :—Wheat, 8·92bush. ; barley, 14·47bush. ; oats, 27bush. The system of farming on shares was continued, and after making allowances for share farmers the total station share was—Wheat, 6,529bush. ; barley, 7,542bush. ; oats, 298bush., making a total of station share of grain grown 13,369bush. Hay grown, 388 tons ; hay now in stock, 325 tons.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 13·50in.

Wool.—The wool clip totalled 105 bales from 3,492 sheep, 39 rams, and 927 lambs shorn.

Lambs.—The total number lambs tailed was 970, being a percentage of 60·85 per cent. average. The dry spell just when the ewes were lambing, and a great number being maiden ewes, caused such a low percentage ; there are still ewes to lamb.

Harvest Prospects.—We have about 2,822 acres under crop, and it is looking well, and with a decent rain in August and September we should have good crops.

Water Supply.—The supply continues to be good, the mills on the wells and tanks doing good work. The wells and tanks have been kept in good order, and all dams cleaned. The summer was a very dry one and we were hard pressed to find enough water for our stock, but we managed to get through without any loss.

Buildings.—In addition to maintenance work on cottages we have not erected any new buildings ; all we have been able to do was erect four lean-to rooms on two cottages. Some of the older cottages have needed a great deal of repairing both inside and out. We have had to re-cement four of our underground tanks.

Health.—The general health of the natives has been fair, outbreaks of influenza and children's ailments and colds being most prevalent. We thank all members of the Aborigines Friends Association for the resident nurse, who has been a boon and a blessing to our natives.

Religious.—Services are held twice on Sunday, together with Sunday School and Kindergarten Classes. The attendance has been good and the conduct of the people on the station is splendid, and we hope to see greater improvement in the coming year. Miss Roper continues to act as organist for the church services and also as organist and teacher in the Sunday School, and her help is invaluable. Mr. Roper is still doing splendid work with the week-night meetings and his classes for young men.

The very best of feeling exists between the staff here ; every officer doing their best to carry out their duties with credit to themselves and the station.

I have, &c.,

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

July 23rd, 1926.

The Chief Protector, Adelaide.

Sir—I respectfully beg to submit my annual report for the year ended June 30th, 1926.

The year just closed has been generally a progressive one, though considerably marred by one of the driest summers on record. This has considerably affected our revenue, as we could make very little use of the lucerne paddocks.

During the year a total of 70 cows were milked, or an average of 50.

With the assistance of Mr. Papps (District Herd-tester) we are gradually improving our herd by culling, and we now have a pedigreed Shorthorn bull purchased through the Agricultural Department on the subsidy system. This bull's progeny must eventually further improve our herd.

During the year we sold £200 worth of pigs.

We harvested 150 tons of hay and 45 acres of peas ; these we are feeding to the pigs, so it is difficult to estimate the bushels per acre.

We are going in more extensively for sheep, and we have this season 150 Lincoln-Merino cross lambs running with the ewes born on the Station.

We were able, by carting most of our own wood, to reduce our wood bill by about half. The supplies, however, are limited, and we are hopeful of eventually being able to buy a block of land with a considerable quantity of wood on it. Such a block can be procured at a reasonable figure.

With the assistance of the local police we have been able to practically exterminate idleness on this Station.

The position of store and book keeper that was vacant when I furnished my last annual report has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller is proving a capable and conscientious officer, and with his wife takes a keen interest in things pertaining to the welfare of the Station generally.

We are indebted to the present Government, especially the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, for the placing of a sum of money with the Meningie District Council sufficient to do 45 chains of our badly needed road.

Generally speaking, the conduct of the natives has been from fair to good, and we appreciate the efforts of M.C. Glead, of Meningie, in this direction.

We have not had any serious outbreaks of diseases during the year. Sister Flower has charge of this branch of our work, and it would be hard to estimate the value of her services. Our thanks are due to the A.F.A., who have made this possible and other acts of interest in this station.

The religious work vacated by Mr. E. H. Read is now being done by Mr. and Mrs. Grewar, who have shown kindly interest in the natives. Marked progress can be noticed since Mr. Grewar's appointment here. This branch of our work is under the Parkin Mission, who have the welfare of the natives at heart.

Mr. and Mrs. Laurie are still doing good work in the school, and the same can be said of Mr. Wyatt, who is in charge of the dairy.

During the year we have built 20 chains of metal in and around the Station ; this has considerably improved the appearance of our streets.

I have, &c.,

C. RAMSEY.

LUTHERAN MISSION STATION.

Koonibba, August, 1926.

Sir—I have the honor to respectfully submit the following report :—

From the financial point of view, the year ended June 30th, 1926, was one of the most successful ever experienced at Koonibba. We had an abundant rainfall during the growing season, our harvest being in consequence very satisfactory. The dry months of October and November were rather in our favor, as this is an early district. In fact, the wheat was ripening when the rain ceased. Our average over 1,250 acres stripped was 14bush., the highest yield being 21bush. on fallow. Our farm manager, Mr. Braunack, had the satisfaction and honor of winning the county of Way crop competition and thus receiving a very handsome ten guinea cup. One hundred and fifty acres were cut for hay, averaging $1\frac{1}{2}$ tons per acre.

The bulk of the farm work was done by native labor. Whenever feasible, work is done on the contract system as an incentive to the natives.

Our wool clip also was very satisfactory. We had 58 bales from 1,800 sheep. The price realised was not up to expectations, the wool being sold while the market was on the decline. Nevertheless, we were up to the average of the district. Some valuable stud rams were purchased from the leading breeders of the State. In the course of a year or two our flock should be of a very fair standard.

Statistics.—During the 12 months under review the number of natives at the station was higher than the previous year. The peak was reached about Christmas, when there were 110 full-bloods and 106 half-castes here, a total of 216. At the end of June the figures stood at 110 full-bloods and 89 half-castes, total 199.

There were 9 births—2 full-bloods and 7 half-castes, and 5 deaths, all full-bloods, namely, 1 male infant, 2 women, and 2 old men. Not many of the old natives are left. As regards the full-bloods, there are more deaths than births. Since it happens more often than not that full-bloods marry half-castes, it will be readily seen that the native preponderates, even in the so-called half-castes.

The moral tone is unchanged. Drink and gambling are ineradicable "diseases." Otherwise we have little to complain of. Taking the general indifference of the native into consideration, we have reason to be thankful to God for the progress made in spiritual and intellectual training. You simply cannot make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

During May last electric light was installed. The private residences, the church, school, children's home, store, sheds, and stable are all lit up, and in addition there are five street

lights, giving the place quite a modern appearance. Another evidence of modern times is furnished by the number of cars owned by natives. But it seems that some unscrupulous persons get their land cleared in exchange for a conglomeration of scrapped tin and boards.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chief Protector for his visit to our institution. His thorough knowledge of the natives is an inspiration to us.

I have, &c.,

C. HOFF, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

Sub-Protector's Office, Port Augusta,

August 5th, 1926.

Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my report on the condition and general conduct of the aboriginal natives in the Far Northern Division (excepting that portion of the House of Assembly District of Newcastle which is situated north of latitude 30) for the year ended June 30th, 1926.

The health of the natives generally continues to be good with the exception of colds, for which they have been treated by the nearest police officer or other representatives of the Aborigines Department.

At Beltana there are, approximately, 30 full-blooded aborigines and four half-bloods. With the exception of six they are able to do for themselves, the remainder being aged and infirm, requiring rations and assistance.

No births or deaths have occurred in this district, and no convictions have been recorded against any of the natives during the year.

The police officer at Blinman reports that the health of the natives in that district has been good for the year. He has six aged and infirm natives to supply with rations.

No births or deaths have come under the notice of the police officer at Blinman for the year, and no convictions have been recorded against any of them during the year.

At Farina the health of the natives has been fair during the year, and only one death has occurred, viz., a full-blooded infant. There have been no births among either full-bloods or half-bloods, neither has there been any convictions recorded against them.

Three old and infirm natives have been receiving rations during the year, and occasionally some of the younger ones when out of work.

In the Farina police district the natives are a floating population to a great extent, and their number varies from six or seven of the regular ones to about 30 when there is any attraction in the town to bring them in. At the present time there are three old females, three young ones, one half-caste girl, four children, six full-blooded males, one half-caste male, and one half-caste female (adults) in the town.

Mr. J. G. Davidson, of Ooldea, reports that there are, approximately, 70 natives in and around Ooldea. There have been no births or deaths there for the past year. There is no sickness with the exception of colds amongst them, and no venereal disease as far as he knows, and he considers he would be the first to know of any, as the natives look to him for treatment of all their ailments.

There are over 200 aboriginals in and around Tarcoola, mostly full-bloods. Mounted Constable Ridge estimates there are only 2 per cent. of half-bloods amongst them.

A very small percentage of the natives find regular employment on the surrounding stations, catching dingoes etc. The remainder wander about from place to place along the East-West railway, ranging from Ooldea on the west and Coondambo on the east.

They are, generally speaking, well behaved and law abiding, not one of them having been taken before a Court during the year.

There are a number of old and infirm natives at Wilgena, and Government rations are issued to them from Wilgena Homestead, and under instructions from the Chief Protector of Aboriginals Constable Ridge handed over six new blankets to be issued there.

I have, &c.,

P. A. GILES, Sub-Protector.

Mulka, *via* Marree, June 30th, 1926.

Sir--I have the honor to report that, generally speaking, the condition of the blacks in this country is at present very good. There has been a fair amount of sickness during the year, but the sick have been kept in food and have been well looked after. Three old men and two women died during the year at this place. They had come to me for attention and medicine, but as they were chiefly suffering from old age, the only thing I could do was to see that they were kept comfortable.

At times during the year I have fed up to 33 blacks of both sexes at this station. At present there are 10 females, three males and two able-bodied males, and two able-bodied females, with one full-blooded male child and one half-caste male child.

Most of the blacks are at present out on the floodwaters of the Diamantina, and should be well provided with their natural food for some months to come ; but at every ration depot there are sure to be many that are too infirm to do any hunting or fishing.

The allowance received by me from the Government has, I think, been sufficient to cover the cost of drugs and medicines supplied by me, but looking after them takes a lot of my time. It would help me a little if some of the philanthropic societies of Adelaide would send me up a bundle of women's clothes at the beginning of winter.

I have, &c.,

G. AISTON,

Protector of Aborigines, Newcastle District.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1926.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Horses	—			65	10	0
Salary of superintendent and book-keeper	426	0	0			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	4,993	5	1			
	<hr/>			5,419	5	1
Rations for aboriginals	724	2	0			
School books for aboriginal children ..	4	4	11			
Hospital rations	84	1	1			
	<hr/>			812	8	0
Accident insurance	—			62	5	9
Head office sundries and expenses	—			104	17	0
Depreciation—						
Furniture	5	10	2			
Hospital furniture	1	17	5			
Harness	23	8	8			
Implements, &c.	185	10	4			
	<hr/>			216	6	7
Advertising <i>re</i> transfer of Pompoota cottages	—			6	2	5
Net profit brought forward	4,805	19	9			
Loss net loss for year	3,102	18	1			
	<hr/>			1,703	1	8
				<u>£8,389</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store	—			329	7	6
Farm account, wheat, wool, and other produce	—			1,748	13	4
Rent	—			73	18	0
Cattle	158	18	11			
Pigs	106	15	0			
Sheep	1,087	4	4			
	<hr/>			1,352	18	3
Meat	—			78	19	8
Net profit from 1915-1925, brought forward	—			4,805	19	9
				<u>£8,389</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>6</u>

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS AT
JUNE 30TH, 1926.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account	—			15,407	8	7
Capital account	—			11,362	9	5
Sundry creditors	—			560	15	7
Net profit brought forward	4,805	19	9			
Less net loss for year	3,102	18	1			
				1,703	1	8
				<u>£29,033</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	9,450	0	0			
Improvements	6,122	12	11			
				15,572	12	11
Implements, vehicles, &c.	1,675	18	3			
Harness	210	18	2			
Furniture	104	12	6			
Hospital furniture	35	11	5			
				2,027	0	4
Sundry debtors	—			62	15	9
Stocks on hand—						
Horses	1,064	0	0			
Cattle	904	0	0			
Sheep	6,472	2	0			
Pigs	189	10	0			
Hay	1,137	10	0			
Barley	85	0	0			
Super	52	10	0			
Cornsacks	192	10	0			
Twine	16	5	0			
Bricks and lime	3	0	0			
Fencing posts	40	0	0			
Rope	7	0	0			
Oil and paint	6	8	0			
Tools	4	19	3			
Timber and iron	5	0	0			
Sheep skins	10	10	0			
Share-farmers' seed and super	202	11	9			
Store	978	10	3			
				11,371	6	3
				<u>£29,033</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS
AT JUNE 30th, 1926.

	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account	40,073	3	11
Sundry creditors	363	5	3
Capital account	5,550	6	4
	<hr/>		
	£45,986	15	6

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	4,709	1	3			
Account Pompoota cottages	7	14	6			
	<hr/>			4,716	15	9
Improvements	—			2,309	1	11
Implements	595	12	0			
Furniture	132	12	9			
Hospital furniture	51	5	3			
Harness	135	10	5			
	<hr/>			915	0	5
Stocks on hand—						
Store	445	5	6			
Sheep skins	5	19	0			
Super	21	0	0			
Hay	150	0	0			
Cement	2	10	0			
Fencing wire	20	0	0			
Galvanised wire	6	10	0			
Farm tools	20	0	0			
Sheep	824	5	0			
Cattle	978	0	0			
Horses	490	0	0			
Pigs	276	0	0			
	<hr/>			3,239	0	6
Sundry debtors	—			65	1	8
Net loss for year	3,266	12	4			
Add net loss brought forward.	31,384	13	11			
	<hr/>			34,651	6	3
	<hr/>			£45,986	15	6

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1926.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Farm account, dairy, and other produce	—			214	14	3
Store	—			374	17	10
Rations for aboriginals	419	16	1			
School books for aboriginal children	2	2	9			
	<hr/>			421	18	10
Salary of superintendent and bookkeeper	375	3	5			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	2,411	12	4			
	<hr/>			2,786	15	9
Accident insurance	—			37	6	9
Depreciation—						
Implements	66	3	7			
Harness	15	1	2			
Furniture	6	19	8			
Hospital furniture	2	14	0			
	<hr/>			90	18	5
Head office salaries and expenses	—			104	17	0
Rent	—			41	5	9
Net loss from 1915–25 brought forward	—			31,384	13	11
				<hr/>		
				£35,457	3	6
				<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Horses	14	12	0			
Cattle	508	0	1			
Sheep	184	15	0			
Pigs	291	11	3			
	<hr/>			698	18	4
Meat	—			102	12	5
Mats and baskets	—			4	11	6
Net loss for year	3,266	12	4			
Add Net loss brought forward	31,384	13	11			
	<hr/>			34,651	6	3
				<hr/>		
				£35,457	8	6
				<hr/>		