

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT

While quite a number of aborigines are regularly employed in skilled and semi-skilled occupations, the majority are dependent upon seasonal work of a casual and unskilled nature.

The unemployment position, therefore, fluctuates. Unemployed aborigines are entitled to apply for the usual Unemployment Benefits and are encouraged to do so. To those not eligible and others who are indigent, the usual issues of rations, clothing and blankets are made.

Generally speaking, the employment position throughout the year was not as good as last year. This resulted in an increase in the amount of clothing and blankets issued, but the amount expended on rations showed a decrease due, no doubt, to the payment of Commonwealth Benefits in lieu of ration issues.

Aboriginal workers enjoy the same labour conditions as other men, having the benefit of all appropriate awards, and, generally speaking, they suffer no disadvantage in their employment by reason of their colour.

Where income is regular, aborigines have been encouraged to improve their living conditions, especially where new dwellings have been erected by the Board. There is, however, much to be done in the education of the aboriginal worker in the proper and intelligent application of his income.

Relief and Benefits Provided by the Board.

The Board has continued to provide relief to the aged, infirm, indigent and incapable aborigines. This relief, of course, has not been confined to those residing on Aboriginal Stations or Reserves and, at the same time, has not been extended without due consideration of the capability of the aborigine to provide for himself and, where necessary, his family.

When an aboriginal is in employment he is expected to make provision for his family and is encouraged to avoid having to turn to the Government for assistance in times of unemployment by saving when he has an income against the day when he might be less fortunate. It is regrettable, however, that this does not meet with a very great measure of success.

Housing :

It is the Board's aim to provide, as far as possible and as funds allow, good housing for all aboriginal people. This aspect of the Board's activity is dealt with more fully in an earlier part of this report, being regarded as an important step in the Board's work towards the implementation of the Government's assimilation policy.

BOGGABILLA BOXERS

Following the success of the first Boxing Tournament held on Boggabilla Station to raise funds for the local Ambulance, another grand Boxing Tournament was recently held to augment the efforts of the Board toward the Children's Christmas Tree. Boxers from all over the nearby country (Warialda, Yetman, Moree Goondiwindi, etc.) participated.

It was very gratifying, also, to see boys from the Moree Aboriginal Station take part. There were no less than 40 nominations, but unfortunately, only 36 could be matched. Boggabilla has certainly put its name on the "Boxing Map."

Over 600 witnessed a grand show, and the public is clamouring for another.

A sum of £98 was realised from this tournament. The results of the boxing were as follows:—

Ray Binge, 2st. 8 lb. (Boggabilla) v. Brian Troutman, 2 st. 8 lb. (Boggabilla). This bout ended in a draw but certainly stole the show. Both boxers were congratulated and were showered with coins from the jubilant crowd.

John Binge, 10 st. 6lb. T.K.O. Cambell Johnson, 10 st. 4 lb. (Moree).

W. Jerrett, 9 st. 6 lb. beat C. Bird, 9 st. 7 lb. (Mungindi).

M. Jerrett, 9 st. beat Lyall Clarke, 9 st. 4 lb. (Moree).

Noel Graeme, 9 st. 2 lb. (Goondiwindi) beat S. Waters, 9 st. (Boggabilla).

Bill Waites, 8 st. 4 lb. (Boggabilla) beat Alfie Spearin, 8 st. 6 lb. (Moree).

Ronald Waters, 9 st. 7 lb. (Boggabilla) beat Les Hemstead, 9 st. 8 lb. (Goondiwindi) T.K.O. in last round. Best fight.

Kev Binge (Boggabilla) beat Pevlowitch (Goondiwindi).

Barlowe, 8 st. (Moree) beat N. Davis (Warialda).

A. Armstrong (Boggabilla) beat Bruce Munro (Moree).

Bluey Lang (Moree) beat Hilton Wightman (Boggabilla). A very good fight.

Des Clarence (Goondiwindi) beat Pop Eye Bartman (Boggabilla).

C. Harrison (son of the manager of Boggabilla) beat Jeff Prince (Boggabilla).

N. Binge (Boggabilla) beat C. Phillips (Warialda).

L. Sunderland (Goondiwindi) beat T. Hemstead (Goondiwindi).

Stan McIntosh (Boggabilla) beat R. Johnson (Warialda).

Don McIntosh (Boggabilla) beat T. Pasterfield (Warialda).

Pop Eye Bartman (Boggabilla) beat C. Lock (Warialda).