

to come into the community despite the difficulties and take their place amongst the white people. She pointed out that once they got to know each other, most of their problems were solved. Mr. Saunders, who was the first aborigine to be commissioned in the Australian Army and who rose to the rank of captain, listed the many aborigines who have been successful citizens in many walks of life and who have made valuable contributions to Australia. He accepted the challenge on behalf of the aboriginal people to raise themselves up in every sphere and asked other Australians to realise that the colour of a person's skin is of no real importance.

After the demonstration the committee provided a light lunch for guests. It was arranged by Mrs. Allen, and provided an opportunity for all visitors to get to know one another.

Civic Reception to Aborigines.—The Lord Mayor arranged a Civic Reception in the Sydney Town Hall on National Aborigines Day at 3.00 p.m. The Deputy Lord Mayor, Alderman Dixon, met talent quest finalists and other special guests brought to Sydney for the day. The Aborigines Welfare Board was invited and all members of the N.S.W. State Committee. We appreciated this gesture on the part of the civic authorities and feel sure that it meant a great deal to the aborigines. Mr. Leon, the aborigines' representative on the Aborigines Welfare Board, expressed thanks to Alderman Dixon on behalf of his people.

Other Functions.—In the evening of National Aborigines Day there was a small concert in the auditorium of the Pitt Street Congregational Church, which gave the talent quest finalists a chance to perform again. It had been earlier decided, on Mr. Antill's advice, not to try to organise a large concert this year. It was realised that a great deal more experience would be necessary before this could be done successfully.

On the Saturday night, some of the younger finalists played and sang at the teen-age cabaret run by the Central Methodist Mission at Fellowship House, and on the Sunday afternoon took part in the programme at the Central Methodist Mission's Pleasant Sunday Afternoon in the Lyceum.

In the Churches.—Aborigines Sunday was observed in churches in N.S.W. Posters and booklets were sent to each minister in every denomination. The National Missionary Council issued the "Ministers' Bulletin" in conjunction with Federal N.A.D.O.C. to all ministers of Protestant churches. The A.B.C. arranged to record a service conducted entirely by aborigines and this was broadcast at 9.30 a.m. on 2FC through Radio Australia. This service must have impressed all listeners with its quiet sincerity. It is to be hoped that a service similar to this will have a permanent place in future programmes on Aborigines Sunday. At 11.00 a.m. from 2BL the broadcast church service was from Grafton, the preacher being the Rev. Wesley Pidgeon, Secretary of Federal N.A.D.O.C. Other services were broadcast over other stations and mention was made of the importance of National Aborigines Day.

Publicity.—Posters and booklets were distributed as widely as possible. It must have made a greater impression this year because of the early arrival of the

booklets. All T.V. and radio stations were contacted and city and country press notified. It is felt that more could have been done in the case of the press. It is only through personal contact that anything of any consequence is printed in the press. The television stations were most co-operative, as were radio stations. The A.B.C. could not have been more helpful and sympathetic to our cause. Large departmental stores were again asked to help by giving window displays. In some instances this was agreed to. Anthony Hordern & Sons Ltd. dressed a window publicising National Aborigines Day, and Farmer & Co. arranged a beautiful display emphasising the aims of N.A.D.O.C. Booksellers and libraries also had displays. This is another instance where personal contact is necessary for success.

In the Schools.—The N.S.W. Department of Education, Church schools and Roman Catholic school authorities were approached early in 1961. It is felt that the most important place for the celebration of the day is in the schools. This is the only way in which a special day such as this can come to have any real meaning. Last year we had been notified that it would be put on the Education Department's School Calendar. It was now requested that a notice be put in the "Education Gazette" urging teachers to make some special effort to observe the day so that a real impact could be made. No replies were received from the Protestant schools, but it is to be hoped that this does not indicate disinterest. A letter was received from the Roman Catholic authorities saying that they would see that the day was observed in all their schools, as requested. The Education Department put this notice in the June "Education Gazette" (a publication issued free to all teachers and student teachers in N.S.W.)—

National Aborigines Day

"National Aborigines Day will be celebrated this year on Friday, 14th July.

"This day has been set aside to remind the Australian community of its responsibility to assist the descendants of the original inhabitants of this land to become useful citizens. Both Federal and State Governments have adopted 'assimilation' as their policy towards the aborigines, and it is felt that, through educational bodies, these aims can be advanced.

"It is the Department's wish that teachers arrange an appropriate observance of National Aborigines Day. Literature prepared by the Department of Territories will be available for distribution to schools prior to 14th July."

A few reports have reached the committee of efforts made in different parts of the State, and it is felt that these give an indication of how National Aborigines Day was observed in the schools. If the overall picture could have been seen, it is felt that it would have been inspiring. Talks were given, collections arranged to swell funds of local welfare associations and in one South Coast school, aboriginal children from a nearby settlement were brought to the district for a holiday during Aborigines Week, living with the white school children and attending school with them. If these things continue

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