

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

GOVERNMENT RESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY, 1901.*Ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, August 19th, 1902.*

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GOVERNMENT RESIDENT'S REPORT on the NORTHERN TERRITORY
for the YEAR 1901.Northern Territory of South Australia : Office of the Government Resident,
Palmerston, May 1st, 1902.Sir—I have the honor to place before you my report on the condition of affairs in the
Northern Territory for the year ending 1901.

PASTORAL.

The following table sets forth the transactions which have taken place and the revenue received
under this heading during the years 1900 and 1901 :—

	1900.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.
Area held under lease	283,777	168,549½	—	115,227½
Area declared stocked	28,692	28,820	128	—
Area forfeited and surrendered.....	24,145	133,344	109,199	—
Area applied for.....	153,472	14,603½	—	138,868½
Rents received	£7,946 2s. 6d.	£7,999 17s. 4d.	£53 14s. 10d.	—

In my last report I drew attention to the large area held by two syndicates, evidently for speculative purposes. The surrender of leases comprising 121,732 square miles of these lands accounts, in a great measure, for the large increase shown above in the line "Area forfeited and surrendered."

Notwithstanding the better prospects which have opened up to the pastoralists in the Northern Territory in consequence of the demand for fat stock and the increased price which has ruled during the last two or three years, it is disappointing to notice that there has been no substantial improvement as regards stocking the country. When it is considered that 168,549 square miles are held under lease, and that of this large area only 28,820 square miles are declared stocked, one is forced to the conclusion that this important industry is not progressing as it should.

As I have had occasion to frequently point out, want of a profitable market for stock has been hitherto the chief cause of the lack of enterprise on the part of our stockholders, but this is not the case now. There is every probability that remunerative prices for cattle will be maintained for a considerable period, and consequently sufficient inducement for the pastoralist to stock his country. It must be admitted that the difficulty presents itself from whence is he to procure the stock for his purpose.

I am advised by those competent to express an opinion that it will take, at the lowest computation, and under the most favorable circumstances, six or seven years to stock the immense tracts of country which in New South Wales and Queensland have been, owing to the disastrous droughts, practically denuded of stock, and this state of things will not tend, I fear, to facilitate stocking locations in the Northern Territory; indeed, it seems to me that for some time to come we shall to depend principally upon the natural increase from the existing herds. At

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.—MEDICAL OFFICER AND PROTECTOR OF
ABORIGINES' REPORT.

Palmerston, January 3rd, 1902.

Sir—I have the honor to hand you a report on the various departments under my charge.

HOSPITAL.

During 1901 there were fifty-five patients admitted into the Palmerston Hospital. Of these thirty-six were Europeans, eighteen Asiatics, and one half-caste aboriginal. The mortality was seven, the deaths being due to—

Phthisis	1
Dysentery	1
Abscess of liver	1
Pneumonia	1
Bright's disease	1
Stricture	1
Bronchitis	1

The epidemic of dysentery that visited the town in the early months of the year entailed extra work on the staff for a time, and the matron contracting the disease rendered it necessary to obtain temporary assistance in the nursing staff. The difficulty in obtaining black labor for the rough work resulted in the appointment of a white man to act as assistant wardsman. The roofs are still leaky during wet weather, and repairs appear to have little effect. A thorough overhauling and renovation in parts will be necessary to make the building watertight.

GAOL.

Three deaths occurred at the gaol during the year—one each of dysentery, tuberculosis, and decay. Beyond these three cases the health has been on the whole good. Since the amendment of the diet scale of the colored races two or three years ago, beri-beri has been practically non-existent, and I attribute the absence of this disease, which was the cause of several deaths yearly, to the alteration in the diet. The sanitary arrangements are well and carefully carried out.

ABORIGINES.

I regret that my recommendations of the past two years has not resulted in any effort towards the improvement in the condition of the numerous half-caste children now growing up amongst us. I still hold to my opinion that they should be removed from their surroundings and trained so as to become in future years useful members of society, instead of being allowed to run wild. If reports are true the question of leprosy among the blacks will have to be taken up without delay. It is said that it has spread from the Alligator River to the neighboring tribes, and, if so, this will in time be a menace to the white population in this country. Mr. Cahill reports of the Alligator River tribe that of about 190 members who composed it seven or eight years ago, only about sixty survive, a large proportion of the deaths having been due to leprosy. I admit the question is a most difficult one to treat, but it should be taken in hand before the disease has spread to those tribes that live in proximity to our white centres of population.

DESTITUTE.

There has been very little to do in this department during the past year, but one or two have been under treatment as such, and have received rations.

QUARANTINE.

I am pleased to say that there has been no need to make use of the Quarantine Station during the year, but towards the end of the year a leper was discovered, who was removed to the lazarette, where he now is, awaiting transhipment to China.

I have, &c.,

F. GOLDSMITH, Government Medical Officer and Protector of Aborigines.

His Honor the Government Resident.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Harbormaster's Office, Port Darwin, January 9th, 1902.

Sir—I have the honor most respectfully to forward my report for year ended 31st December, 1901 :—
Although there is a decrease in the revenue this year compared with the year before, it does not indicate an all-round depression. The decrease is more than accounted for by the fact that no magazine fees have been received during the last three months, and for months previously the rents were very small, owing to the stock being small. No explosives were imported during the year, and on the importation of fresh stocks the fees will again show considerable increase, so that unless the importation of explosives takes place each year the fees under this heading will fluctuate considerably. Light dues received during 1901 show an increase of £104 18s. 9d. This I attribute to the China Navigation steamers calling at Port Darwin more frequently than they did the year before. The Mercantile Marine office fees show a decrease of £38 18s. 9d. This is owing to the fact that in 1900 the crews in most instances signed on for two years, so that the fees for signing on and off were avoided. The large decrease of £116 16s. 5d. in the magazine fees is explained above, and although no dynamite was imported during the year, and none in the magazine during the last three months, the mining industry does not appear to have suffered, that is judging from the export of gold, of which a very substantial increase is shown in the sub-collector's report.

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