

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

GOVERNMENT RESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE NORTHERN
TERRITORY, 1903.

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GOVERNMENT RESIDENT'S REPORT on the NORTHERN TERRITORY
for the YEAR 1903.

Northern Territory of South Australia: Office of the Government Resident,
Palmerston, May 6th 1904.

Sir—I have the honor to forward my report on the condition of affairs in the Northern Territory for the year ending December 31st, 1903.

PASTORAL.

The following table sets forth the transactions which have taken place and the revenue received under this heading during the years 1902 and 1903:—

	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.
Area held under lease	172,579	147,473	—	25,106
Area held under permit	4,337	11,277	6,940	—
Area declared stocked	91,144	111,997	20,853	—
Area forfeited and surrendered	584	22,010	21,426	—
Area applied for	7,902	7,808	—	94
Rents received	£7,474 4s. 4d.	£7,944 16s. 11d.	£470 12s. 7d.	—

The above figures, with the exception of the amount of rent, may be considered fairly satisfactory.

It is pleasing to note that most of the country lately acquired by pastoralists has been acquired *bonâ fide* for the purpose of stocking and settlement, and not for speculative purposes, with which object large areas were taken up a few years ago.

The Eastern and African Cold Storage Supply Company have purchased the Elsey, Hodgson Downs, and Woollogorang herds, with the view of stocking the country they hold on the Goyder and Glyde rivers. About 11 years ago Mr. Macartney held some of this country, and formed the Florida Station there, which later he surrendered, removing the stock to the Auvergne Station, which he considered better adapted for cattle. The company has established the station in the same locality. Portion of the stock purchased have been removed there, and the company's manager, Mr. J. Bradshaw, informs me they are doing remarkably well.

In a previous report I drew attention to the fact that our coast lands and those adjoining thereto, some of which had been taken up for stock-raising and subsequently abandoned because for various reasons they were not considered suitable for the purpose, were again being leased for pastoral purposes, and it would appear that the results of late show that these lands can be profitably utilised for breeding and fattening cattle, and there seems every probability that in future large areas at present available and hitherto deemed valueless for this purpose will be taken up.

**CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS, MEDICAL OFFICER, AND PROTECTOR
OF ABORIGINES.**

Medical Officer's Report, 1903.

Sir—I have the honor to submit this to you as my report for the year ending December 31st, 1903.

HOSPITAL.

At the opening of the year there were nine patients under treatment in the Palmerston Hospital, and 50 were admitted during the year. Of the 59 patients, 34 were discharged, cured; 5 relieved; 3 unrelieved; 6 died; and there were 11 under treatment at the close of the year. Of the 6 who died, the causes of death were—pleuro-pneumonia, 1; peritonitis, 1; tuberculosis, 1; fracture, vertebra, 1; burns and tetanus, 1; hæmoptysis, 1—Total, 6.

During my absence for part of the year Dr. Seabrook carried on my duties as Government Medical Officer. There were several changes in the staff in 1903. Nurse Richardson resigned, and Miss Pickford acted as assistant nurse till the arrival of Nurse Crosby, in November. In December the matron (Miss Davoren) proceeded south on leave of absence, and in her absence Miss Crosby was appointed acting matron and Miss Pickford acted once more as assistant.

The roof of the building is in an unsatisfactory condition. During the wet season several leakages are apparent, which persist, despite various attempts to remedy the evil. A complete overhauling is required, and, if needed, extensive alterations made.

GAOL.

There has been very little sickness of a serious character at the gaol. During 1903 one death occurred from beri-beri. As in previous years, the sanitary measures have been thoroughly carried out and complete cleanliness observed, which probably account for their comparative freedom from sickness.

ABORIGINES.

In this department matters are very much as hitherto. The usual distribution of blankets took place at the commencement of the dry season, and from time to time natives appear for treatment. During the year nine were admitted into the Palmerston Hospital for various ailments, of whom three died. The increasing number of half-castes will render it necessary in the near future for some provision to be made for their welfare. As matters stand at present, they are allowed in most cases to run wild in the various native camps, and may in time become a danger to society. They should be removed from their surroundings to an institution where they could be taught trades and household work.

QUARANTINE.

No cases of quarantine occurred during the year, so the quarantine station was not put to use.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES.

During the year 1903 the following registrations took place at this office:—Births—Europeans, 8 males, 12 females; Asiatics, 57 males, 10 females—total, 87. Deaths—Europeans, 26 males, 5 females; Asiatics, 46 males, 2 females—total 79.

At a first glance this appears satisfactory, the slight excess of births over deaths being apparently the normal increase; but a further investigation shows that such advantage was taken of the amended Act of 1900, by which registration could be performed after six months, that no less than 54 registrations over that age took place. This number being deducted from the total would give only 33 births taking place during 1903, with 79 deaths; this preponderance of deaths over births being the normal condition of affairs in the Northern Territory.

I have, &c.,

F. GOLDSMITH, M.B., Ch.B., Government Medical Officer, Port Darwin.

To His Honor the Government Resident, Port Darwin.

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Harbormaster's Office, Port Darwin, January 11th, 1904.

Sir—I have the honor respectfully to forward my report for the year ended December 31st, 1903.

In presenting my annual report I would draw your attention to the fact that, notwithstanding the general depression in business matters, the Marine Board revenue shows an increase of £60 4s. 8d. on the gross receipts over those of last year.

The following comparative statement will show how this increase is made up:—

Heads of Receipts.	1902	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		
Light dues	964 2 2	1,076 12 1	112 9 11	—
Magazine fees	142 1 10	112 1 10	—	20 18 9
Mercantile Marine Office fees	63 10 9	42 12 0	—	31 0 6
Watermen's licences	0 12 0	0 6 0	—	0 6 0
	£1,170 6 9	£1,230 11 5	£112 9 11	£52 5 3

It will be seen from the foregoing that the increase is due entirely to light dues, and is accounted for by the introduction into this trade of a larger class of steamer; also to the arrival from England of two large steamers for the N.T.M. & S. Company with machinery, coke, and other requisites for carrying on smelting on a large scale.

C—No. 46.