

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

## GOVERNMENT RESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORY, 1904.

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## GOVERNMENT RESIDENT'S REPORT on the NORTHERN TERRITORY for the YEAR 1904.

Northern Territory of South Australia : Office of the Government Resident,  
Palmerston, March 28th, 1905.

Sir—I have the honor to forward my report on the condition of affairs in the Northern Territory for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

## PASTORAL.

The following comparative table sets forth the transactions which have taken place, and the revenue received under this heading during the years 1903-1904 :—

	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.	Square Miles.
Area held under lease .....	147,473	147,347	—	126
Area held under permit .....	11,277	15,414	4,137	—
Area declared stocked .....	111,997	112,729	732	—
Area surrendered and expired .....	22,010	—	—	22,010
Area applied for .....	7,808	4,137	—	3,671
Rents received .....	£7,944 16s. 11d.	£8,273 10s. 11d.	£328 14s.	—

I am glad, indeed, to chronicle that the state of the industry is most satisfactory. I ventured to say in my report of last year that, owing to highly remunerative prices for fat stock which prevailed in all the States. I saw nothing to prevent the industry forging ahead. From every part of the Territory the accounts furnished to me of the health, increase, and condition of the stock during the past year—consequent upon the abundant rains which have fallen—are, indeed, most gratifying.

It has been proved beyond doubt that immense areas of the Territory are capable of producing horses and cattle of as fine a description as in any part of Australia, and much of the country—especially the tablelands—will, I am convinced, be found well adapted to the growth of a first-class wool. The closer settlement which must inevitably proceed in the States of New South Wales and Queensland will, in my opinion, bring about further pastoral development in the Northern Territory, the pastoral laws of which are more liberal than those in force in any of the other States.

According to the information I have received from various sources, the exports of horned cattle from the Northern Territory during the past year totalled 35,160 head, valued at £158,864 ; as against 10,962 head, valued at £63,097, exported during 1903. Horses exported for the year 1904 numbered 1,300, valued at £13,000.

I understand large quantities of frozen meat are now being periodically shipped from Queensland to Singapore and Manila. Were meat works established in the Territory, its closer proximity to the ports referred to and its other advantages would enable it to command what must, I believe, become a large and increasing

*Value of Work done by the Prisoners for the Government Departments and Public for the Year ended the 31st December, 1904.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash earnings .....	—			20	7	4
Items for which no credit has been allowed—						
Prisoners working in the Botanical Gardens, reckoning their earnings at 1s. 6d. per day per prisoner .....	44	7	6			
Guard in charge, at 9s. 6d. per day .....	40	7	6			
				84	15	0
Prisoners working at rifle ranges, reckoning their earnings at 1s. 6d. per day per prisoner .....	28	11	0			
Guard in charge, at 9s. 6d. per day .....	22	6	6			
				50	17	6
Supplying bamboos to other Government departments .....	—			2	2	9
Supplying firewood to other Government departments .....	—			69	15	0
				£227	17	7

The above earnings are irrespective of cutting and carting timber for firewood and the usual work done in improving and keeping in order the gaol premises, &c.

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

Palmerston, January 23rd, 1905.

Sir—I have the honor to submit to you the annual report for year ending December 31st, 1904.

## HOSPITAL.

During the latter half of the year an unusual number of patients were admitted—probably due to the epidemic of influenza which visited Australia, and from which we were not exempted. Malaria, surgical cases, gastro-enteritis, influenza, and other conditions account for the remainder of admissions. Unfortunately the staff did not escape the epidemic, and relief was obtained when possible during their illness. Nurse Crosby resigned, and was replaced by nurse Burkett; two wardsmen left, the vacancies being duly filled.

The hospital roof is in a very leaky condition, causing distress to patients and unnecessary work for the staff. Ninety-one patients were admitted, of which 53 were Europeans, 25 Asiatics, 13 aboriginals, 3 Europeans, 2 Asiatics, and 2 aboriginals; the causes being—1 heart disease, 1 cerebral hæmorrhage, 1 broncho-pneumonia, 1 cancer of liver, 1 collapse under anæsthesia, and 1 phthisis.

## GAOL.

No deaths have to be recorded here. The number of cases treated are as under:—Nervous diseases, 15; diseases of eye, 3; hernia, 1; dyspepsia, 8; genito-urinary, 2; dental, 8; surgical, 5.

The health of all within the gaol precincts has been good, as a whole. The wells are now in good order, and contain a good and ample supply of water for general purposes. The rainwater in the tanks is used for drinking and cooking. The prisoners' cells and all the buildings are scrupulously clean and sanitary, reflecting great credit on the gaoler and staff.

## DESTITUTE.

A number of these cases exist, but have not sought relief: this condition is no doubt due in all probability to the existing depression.

## ABORIGINALS.

I regret to report that the curse of smoking and eating opium is spreading among these innocent people, causing them to lose what little *morale* still remains in them. The condition it reduces them to, morally and physically, is deplorable in the extreme: and I respectfully request that measures be taken to prevent the introduction and sale of this drug into the Northern Territory. It is impossible to estimate the amount of harm that is being done by the indiscriminate sale and consumption of this drug. The police have made strenuous efforts to suppress this illicit trade among the aboriginals and Chinese, and offenders when caught have been severely punished. Medical men and qualified chemists alone should dispense all drugs, and take responsibility. Many cases of drunkenness have been reported and the vendors severely punished. The police here again have been very vigilant, yet the evil still exists.

## QUARANTINE.

I am happy to state that this station has not been availed of during the year.

I have, &c.,

KENSINGTON FULTON, G.M.O. and Protector of Aborigines.

His Honor Mr. Justice Dashwood, Government Resident, Northern Territory.

MARINE