

1929.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

R E P O R T

ON

THE ADMINISTRATION OF NORTH
AUSTRALIA

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED THE 30TH JUNE, 1928.

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During the year 105 trips were made to the Leper Lazaret, where there are fourteen aboriginal and two half-caste patients.

Accompanying the Chief Medical Officer's Report are tables giving the vital statistics for the year.

EDUCATION.

The Head Teacher's report shows that the number of children being educated during the year was 290, and that the average attendance was 203.7.

Mr. Inspector Clement Fox, of the Queensland Education Department, examined the schools during August, 1927, and was satisfied that a good standard of education was being maintained. Excellent reports respecting the two scholarship holders at the Southport School, Queensland, have been received.

STOCK BRANCH.

Included in the report of the Chief Inspector of Stock and Veterinary Officer is the annual return of stock in North Australia.

In an attempt to improve the herds, several stud bulls were imported during the year.

Drought conditions on the Barkly Tablelands and the Western stations are causing anxiety to the pastoralists.

DINGO FUND.

Rewards paid for dingo scalps amounted to £432 15s., other expenditure amounted to £5 2s. 9d., whilst the collections credited to the Fund totalled £1,260 4s. 11d.

AGRICULTURE.

The Inspector in his reports shows the rainfall at Darwin as 50 per cent. below the average.

The production of copra is being encouraged, also the growing of peanuts, some of the settlers meeting with remarkable success.

Samples of broom millet forwarded to the Southern States, were valued at £50 per ton.

BOTANIC GARDENS.

The Curator continued his experiments in the growing of grasses, cassava, sweet potatoes and tropical fruits.

MINES BRANCH.

Although interest is being taken in mining for tantalite, production is confined almost to tin concentrates, which this year show a decrease in both quantity and value.

Of the 110 engaged in mining, 69 were Europeans, 34 Chinese, 3 half-castes and the remainder aboriginals.

The revenue collected was £8,796 4s. 7d.

Annexed to the Director's report are the reports of the Government Assayer and the Manager of the Government Battery at Maranboy.

FISHERIES.

The Marine industry is prosperous, but there are not enough men engaged therein.

During the year 119 tons of pearl-shell were obtained, last year's take being 63½ tons. North Australian pearl-shell again topped the world's markets.

Shark-fishing was commenced but owing to a poor market was discontinued.

The value of trepang shipped to the East during the year was £695.

ABORIGINALS.

The conduct of aboriginals generally has been good. The increase in the number of convictions for certain offences was due, principally, to increased police activity.

It has been the policy to see that the aboriginals are profitably employed and not exploited.

Censorship of films has been insisted upon by the Chief Protector before permitting aboriginals to attend the Darwin Cinema.