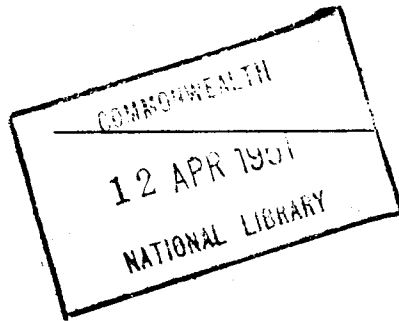


1950.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.



REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

FOR

YEAR 1948-49.

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The Mines Section diamond drill completed two holes on the Cosmopolitan Howley Mine at Brocks Creek, values being discovered in the second hole.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF GOLD AND MINERALS PRODUCTION IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—YEARS 1947-1948 AND 1948-1949.

Minerals.	1947-1948.		1948-1949.	
	Weight.	Value.	Weight.	Value.
	Fine oz.	£	Fine oz.	£
Gold .. .. .	14,748.03	158,725.67	22,289.98	239,895.90
	Tons.		Tons.	
Copper (ore) .. .. .	119.08	4,175.29	2,885.30	91,933.71
Mica (cut) .. .. .	35.23	49,990.02	41.56	79,321.72
Mica (crude) .. .. .	15.48	4,713.60	1.16	219.89
Wolfram (concentrates) .. .. .	108.18	48,223.03	60.62	25,100.26
Tin (concentrates) .. .. .	26.07	9,330.61	28.49	10,092.98
Silver Lead (ore) .. .. .	17.85	1,006.68	30.59	1,373.00
Ochre (crude) .. .. .	841.82	4,147.13	235.92	1,092.14
Tantalite (concentrates) .. .. .	0.709	714.28	0.35	175.00
Totals .. .. .	..	281,026.31	..	449,204.60

## 10. NATIVE AFFAIRS.

### STAFF.

The clerical staff has been called upon to work constantly at a very high pitch. The break-down in health of the Chief Clerk, Mr. V. J. White, considerably increased the amount of clerical work. This officer had devoted considerable energy towards promoting the welfare of the aboriginal, and his breakdown is sincerely regretted.

Although there is an establishment for eight Patrol Officers, the nominal strength has been five. The three Patrol Officers who were undergoing training at the Sydney University at the time of writing my previous Report conducted themselves well, and passed in all subjects. As a result of their studies, they have developed a better understanding of the problems affecting the aboriginal. Two cadets were appointed during the year, and commenced duties with the Patrol Officers.

A most important contribution to the work of the Branch is being made by the Settlement staffs. These Superintendents and their families live in remote localities under difficult conditions, and are called upon to perform a multitude of tasks.

As far as wage employees are concerned, the policy of the Branch has been to engage part-aboriginals and aboriginals as far as possible.

### RESERVES.

The area of land dedicated for the use of aboriginals remains unchanged.

*Phillips Creek.*—Inability to obtain a suitable water supply for this settlement has been most disappointing. An excellent flow of water obtained from a bore sunk at Gibson Creek in this area has proved unfit for human consumption in its present state.

*Yuendumu.*—Proclamation of this reserve cannot be proceeded with until the final location of the stock route has been decided. An additional water supply has been obtained to the south of the settlement, making it possible to undertake the stocking of the country. Two bores have been sunk, and one is equipped.

*Catfish.*—Two bores were sunk on this reserve, and tests show that adequate, good quality water will be available as soon as they are fitted with pumping equipment.

*Jay Creek.*—Three bores sunk on this reserve did not justify the installation of equipment. Exploratory work to construct a "Mexican dam" was halted by early floods. The capacity of a dam at Fenn's Gap was increased to secure additional water for stock.

*Areyonga.*—The wells in this area were equipped with pumps, and the growth of vegetables is now assured.

*Haasts Bluff.*—This area has four bores, all of which are equipped and working successfully.

*Beswick.*—Approximately 1,300 square miles surrounding Beswick have been reserved, but the final proclamation will be delayed until the boundaries can be surveyed. Provision has been made for additional bores to be sunk in this area.

#### HEALTH.

During the past year the aboriginal has been receiving increased medical attention. The population suffered from the ravages of measles, which reached serious epidemic proportions in the southern parts of the Territory. Extra nursing assistance was obtained, and all available staff members were allocated to the area. Over 700 cases were treated, and during the period of infection deaths from all causes amounted to 28. Efforts on the part of the staff, and the co-operation of the medical services, are considered to be responsible for keeping the death rate down to this figure.

There was a milder epidemic in the northern area, and treatment was administered by staff members and missionaries, under medical guidance. There were no deaths in this area.

Endeavours have been made to recruit nurses for settlement staffs, but only three positions have been filled to date. Part-time duties have been carried out by superintendents' wives, who are usually trained nurses.

The aboriginals are accepting hospital facilities in greater numbers, and the treatment at Darwin and Alice Springs has been good.

Regular medical inspections of missions and settlements have been instituted by the Health Authorities in the northern end of the Territory, and this will be extended throughout the Territory.

Extensive dental work has been carried out by a dentist visiting outlying areas.

It is pleasing to record that there have been a number of discharges from the Channel Island Leprosarium.

#### EDUCATION.

The services of an experienced teacher have been obtained, and a school for aboriginals opened in the Darwin area. Facilities exist for the establishment of additional schools at Delissaville and Alice Springs in 1950, and it is hoped that this will be possible.

To encourage missionary societies to place trained teachers in their schools, a special subsidy was made available this year. Five mission schools are staffed by fully trained teachers, and more trainees are being prepared.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

Constant keen demand exists for aboriginal workers, and it is estimated that approximately 3,300 are engaged in regular and seasonal employment.

A survey of all properties between Alice Springs and the Barkly Tablelands showed that wages were paid on all except two stations.

Regulations to improve conditions of employment for aboriginals in the pastoral industry came into force on the last day of the year.

Increased wages for aboriginals employed at Alice Springs are evident, whilst no permits have been granted to work aboriginals underground in the mining industry.

During the year approval was obtained to the granting of paid leave to aboriginals employed by Commonwealth Government Departments.

#### LEGISLATION.

The Aboriginals (Pastoral Industry) Regulations, which were gazetted to commence at the end of June, 1949, provided for long-wanted improvement of all aspects of employment of aboriginals in the pastoral industry.

An amendment to the Licensing Ordinance to increase the penalty for the supply of intoxicating liquor to aboriginals received assent on 11th May, 1949.

#### BEHAVIOUR.

An aboriginal was acquitted on a charge of manslaughter which arose as a result of the death of a European. Several natives were arraigned on charges of murder or manslaughter. These charges had their origin in some tribal difference.

Strong Police action, backed by the penal provisions of the Licensing Ordinance, has proved a deterrent to the suppliers of liquor to aboriginals, and there has been a pleasing diminution in the number of natives convicted.

#### CONSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMME.

Selected aboriginals are being trained as efficient assistants for the building programme of the Branch, but difficulty is experienced in obtaining suitable foremen. The Department of Works and Housing has allocated a Works Supervisor to superintend the two gangs now in operation, and to arrange the supply of materials.

#### CYCLONE DAMAGE.

In November a severe cyclonic storm swept portions of Bathurst and Melville Islands, doing damage to the extent of £1,150 to buildings and crops. At Snake Bay the sawmilling project received a severe set-back.

#### TRADING STORES.

The experiment first tried at Hermannsburg has been extended to Areyonga, Haasts Bluff, Jay Creek and Yuendumu. The amenity is obviously appreciated, and the fact that the aboriginal is able to sell his scalps and hides to purchase those things for which he formerly went to the towns has had the effect of keeping the native on the settlements.

A project is being investigated in the Liverpool River area to organize crocodile hunting, to investigate marine industries, and to establish a trading post. If successful, and if approval is obtained, the idea will be extended to other coastal areas, to encourage aboriginals to reside in their own country and utilize its resources.

Economic wants are causing aboriginals to drift from reserves to the towns. There were two notable migrations during the year; a small party crossed Arnhem land from Milingimbi to Beswick, and late in 1949 a party of 60 proceeded from the Liverpool River headwaters towards Darwin. They were intercepted at Cape Hotham, and given rations until it was possible to return them to their own country.

Coastal mission stations are encouraging an increase in native handicrafts. There is a big demand for pandanus mats and baskets, and for pearl-shell and tortoise-shell articles.

#### RATIONS AND DIET.

Regular rail services to Alice Springs make it possible to keep supplies in the southern portion of the Territory moving steadily. In the north it is necessary to carry large reserves, and there is a consequent inevitable deterioration in quality. A nutritionist from the Institute of Anatomy carried out a survey of the food supplied at all settlements. It showed that, although sufficient food was distributed, the diet required a better balance. The first step has been taken to provide this balance by obtaining adequate dried milk for issue. The ultimate aim is to build up herds of milking goats. A great increase in vegetable production is required to the extent of 300 tons. A member of the staff, who holds the Queensland Diploma of Agriculture, is instituting a planting programme to produce crops which will provide the requirements of each settlement.

#### BORROLOOLA.

The closing of the Borroloola Police Station has caused the Branch to consider the advisability of opening a Native Affairs Branch post there. It is not intended to commence a settlement, but rather to encourage the people to hunt for dingo scalps and crocodile hides. Care will be taken of the aged and sick.

#### PART-ABORIGINALS.

The behaviour of the part-aboriginals throughout the year was very good. Several former "problem cases" have obtained country employment, and are settling down well as normal citizens.

As opportunity offered, coloured children from full-blood camps were removed to institutions for care and attention.

The war-time evacuees from Mulgoa, New South Wales, have settled down well, and are maintained at a high standard in Alice Springs.

#### MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES.

Missionary societies have continued their work in conducting twenty missions throughout the Territory. In August, 1948, representatives of all societies attended a conference in Darwin to discuss their problems. Funds were requested for the erection and equipping of schools, school teacher's residences, and hospital units, and for the payment of subsidies to trained teachers and trained nurses. Approval has been granted to give effect to this, and Treasury is being approached for the allocation of funds.

The provision of the above facilities, plus the continued co-operation of the missionary societies, will materially assist the progress of the aboriginal.

### 11. EDUCATION.

It can now be confidently affirmed that the appointment of an Assistant Supervisor of Education as a full-time administrative officer has increased considerably the efficiency of educational administration in the Northern Territory.