

South  Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1910.



Adelaide :

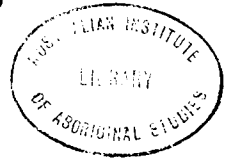
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REPORT.



Aborigines Office, Adelaide, November 30th, 1910.

Sir—I have the honor to submit for the information of the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, &c., the following report on the working of the Aborigines Department for the financial year ended June 30th, 1910, together with reports from the Sub-Protector of Aborigines for the Far North and the superintendents of mission stations.

The want of an Act for the protection and control of the aborigines and half-castes has been much felt, but it is hoped this will be met this session by the passing of the Bill now before Parliament.

During the year several half-caste children have been removed from the blacks' camps and placed under the care and control of the State Children's Department with most encouraging results; the children are thriving and happy and will, I feel confident, grow up self-supporting members of the community, as they will know nothing of the habits of the aborigines and will be given an occupation.

Several letters have appeared in the press in opposition to the removal of these children from their cruel surroundings, but I think the writers have failed to grasp the seriousness of the problem now facing South Australia and some of the other States.

Take the case of New South Wales for example. There, according to the report of the "Board for the Protection of Aborigines," dated May, 1910, the aboriginal population consisted of 2,123 full-bloods and 5,247 half-castes. Between the years 1882 and 1909 the full-bloods decreased from 6,540 to 2,123 and the half-castes increased from 2,379 to 5,247.

In this State a similar state of things is occurring, as in 1901 the census showed there were 502 half-castes, but in August, 1909, from information supplied by the police officers, it was found there were at least 766, and later records have brought the total up to about 800.

At Point Pierce there were on June 30th, 1910, 145 half-castes and 17 full-bloods; at Point McLeay, River Murray, and the Lakes there are about 350 aborigines, 75 per cent. of whom are half-castes.

These figures, I think, prove the necessity of steps being taken to convert these people into useful members of the community, instead of allowing them to grow up in the camps, where they acquire the lazy habits of the aborigines which unfits them for any regular occupation; and I am still firmly of opinion that the very best way is to treat them as neglected children, and have them placed under the care and control of the State Children's Department until they reach the age of 18 years, by which time they should be able to earn their own living and should no longer be considered nor treated as aborigines.

The boys should be taught trades, and the girls trades or domestic duties. On the other hand, if left to wander and grow up with the aborigines they and their offspring will become an ever-increasing burden.

At present, in many parts of the State may be seen practically white males and females squatting in blacks' camps. On the mission stations the same sort of thing exists after the children have passed the school-going age. The very time when they should be taught to become self-supporting.

Too much praise cannot be given to the Medical, Clerical, and Nursing Staff of the Adelaide Hospital for the kindly treatment of the numerous aboriginal and half-caste patients sent there during the year, nor to the Commissioner of Police and his officers for assistance rendered me in numerous ways.

The aborigines camping about the city and the beach have been a source of serious annoyance to residents and the police. At one time during the year I found 32 aborigines camped near Glenelg, many of them able-bodied Point McLeay natives. It is most important that these camps should be broken up, but at present there is no power to do so. This is provided for in the Bill now before Parliament.

According to the census of 1901 the aboriginal population of South Australia, exclusive of the Northern Territory, was—

Blacks	3,386
Half-castes	502
Total	<u>3,888</u>

During the year there have been reported—

Births—Blacks, 17; half-castes, 31; total, 48
Deaths— “ 57 “ “ 8 “ 65

The nine years 1901 to 1910 show a decrease of 576 blacks, and an increase of 171 half-castes; but, as shown by information collected by the police, there are now about 800 half-castes in the State.

MISSION STATIONS.

Name of Station.	Total Number of Aborigines on June 30th, 1910.	Number of Children June 30th, 1910.	Births during Year.	Deaths during Year.
Point McLeay	250	113	15	12
Point Pierce	162	35	7	5
Killalpaninna	130	25	1	15
Koonibba	112	61	6	8
Manunka	45	21	2	4
Total	599	255	31	44

The financial returns from these stations show—

	£	s.	d.
Voluntary subscriptions	1,864	7	0
Proceeds of produce sold	11,449	8	2
Wages paid to aborigines	2,992	18	5

CRIME RECORD FOR THE STATE.

The number of convicted aborigines for the year was—

Assaults, common	4
Drunkenness	28
Disorderly behaviour	2
Escape legal custody	3
Indecent language	3
Wilful damage	1
Obstructing police	1
Breach railway regulations	1
Neglected children	5
Vagrancy	8
Larceny	2
Total	<u>58</u>

And the number of persons convicted for supplying liquor to aborigines was 26.

The amount voted by Parliament during the year was £4,240, and the amount expended was—

	£	s.	d.
Rations, blankets, and clothing, &c.	2,178	0	0
Grant-in-aid to Point McLeay Mission	1,000	0	0
Salary	240	0	0
Medical attendance, medicines, and medical com- forts	110	0	0
Burial charges	28	10	0
Transport and agency charges	600	10	0
Telephone charges	7	10	0
Postage and telegrams	13	0	0
Printing and stationery	7	13	5
Donation to Adelaide Hospital	10	10	0
Clerical services, Far North	12	0	0
Boats, guns, and repairs	10	0	0
Firewood for old, sick, and infirm	7	15	4
Sundries and travelling expenses	11	16	3
Balance to general revenue	2	15	0
	<u>£4,240</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

The quantity of stores, &c., issued during the year was as follows:—
87½ tons flour, 10 tons 3cwts. sugar, 5,326lbs. tea, 3,170lbs. rice, 746lbs. tobacco, 1,946lbs. soap, 336lbs. sago, 1,785 blankets, 393 shirts, 1,086yds. Galatea, 219 tomahawks, 154lbs. netting-twine, 1,684 fishhooks, 156 fishing lines, 1,200 needles, 6lbs. thread, 20 American axes, 120 spoons, 168 quart pots, 60 billycans, 220 quart and pint pannicans, 7 tents, 50yds. duck, 15galls. tar, 300 sacks, drugs and medicine.

The health of the natives throughout the State has been fairly good and their conduct creditable.

I have, &c.,

W. G. SOUTH, Protector of Aborigines.

To the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, &c., Adelaide.

FAR NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Sub-Protector's Office, Port Augusta,

South Australia, July 23rd, 1910.

Sir—In submitting my annual report upon the condition and general conduct of the aborigines in the Far Northern Division for the year ending June 30th, 1910, I have the honor to state that the general health of the natives has not been so good as in past years, and the death roll in consequence is heavier than usual. A dozen natives were treated successfully in the local hospital, including four from Killalpaninna Mission Station, and all the natives have received every care and attention from Dr. Riddell and the nurses. Two cases of cancer were, however, pronounced incurable, and the patients were sent back to their country. The general conduct has been good, and no serious offences have been committed. Through the vigilance of the police a number of offenders have been convicted for supplying the aborigines with liquor, and heavy fines imposed, which no doubt will have a deterring effect in the future.

The various issuers of rations at the depots have all carried out their work in a satisfactory manner, and there have been no complaints from the natives whatever.

For supplying aborigines with liquor eight persons were convicted and fined from £5 to £10 each and costs. The number of deaths are: blacks—males, 10; females, 9; total, 19. Brths: blacks—male, 4; half-castes—males, 3; females, 1; total, 8. The chief cause of death being given as senile decay, consumption, tumorous growth, and two perished from thirst at near Charlotte Waters.

A tribal fight amongst the natives hostile to one another in the Arltunga district, Northern Territory, took place, in which one of the combatants was killed. It was considered, however, unwise for the authorities to take any action in the matter, it being purely a tribal dispute.

I have, &c.,

THOS. CLODE, Sub-Protector.

W. G. South, Esq., Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

POINT McLEAY MISSION STATION.

Dear Sir—I have the honor to present to you the annual report of our mission.

The usual routine of work pertaining to work of this character has been faithfully attended to, and, while we have had many discouragements, on the whole a successful year.

The majority of the natives of this mission are a law-abiding, temperate people. A few have a love for strong drink, which unscrupulous white men endeavor to supply when opportunity presents itself; and, for the sake of those who cannot resist the temptation, I am hoping that the law will be altered to more severity where proof is found of intoxicants being supplied to natives. It is when the natives are away from the mission when the drink is supplied; we have had no trouble here.

The average number of aborigines at this station has been 251. Births, 15 (11 half-castes, 4 black); deaths, 12 (6 half-castes, 6 black); marriages, 12. About 50 additional natives come for help at times. The general health has been good, but whooping-cough is now among the children in a light form. Of the 12 deaths five were from consumption.

The difficulty of obtaining work for our able-bodied men is keenly felt during the winter, but as shearing time comes all can find employment. We hope to utilise some of our spare men next winter upon the block of land about to be handed over to us from the Government.

The stock are all in good condition, and number about the same as last year: 1,600 sheep, 140 horned cattle, 15 horses.

Sixty-five acres of crop (barley, oats, and wheat) are looking excellent, and we expect a good return in hay.

The school, under Mr. Francis, still secures good reports from the inspectors and others.

We thank the department for the stores, blankets, &c., supplied. They have been of good quality, and have proved of much help in the work.

The mission property generally is in good repair, but some cottages need re-roofing, which will shortly be done. The question of a new jetty is also now under consideration.

Nearly 2,000 excursionists visited our mission during the year, and we believe were surprised at the advance made in the uplifting of the native people. We are hoping to see the new Bill for the better protection of the native inhabitants brought before Parliament this session.

I have, &c.,

AMBROSE REDMAN, Superintendent of Mission,
Point McLeay.

To the Protector of Aborigines.

POINT PIERCE MISSION STATION, YORKE PENINSULA.

Point Pierce, August 9th (as June 30th), 1910.

Sir—I have been here only about 10 months, after an absence of about 11 years, the greater part of which time was spent at Point McLeay Mission. Am most pleased to find that the station has made good progress, and would take this opportunity of expressing my

appreciation of the good work done here by my predecessor—Mr. B. Lathern—who for so many years has filled the position of superintendent.

The past season has been very favorable. Our wool clip totalled 171 bales. Cultivation yielded 5,500 bags of wheat, 340 bags of oats, and 210 bags of barley, also about 140 tons of hay. Live stock statistics are as follows :—Sheep, 7,100 ; horses, 37 ; cattle, 45 ; pigs, 10.

The number of natives on the station is steadily increasing. The population now is 162, of whom 17 are full blacks. Births, 7 ; deaths, 5 ; marriages, 1. The number of children in day school is 35. The results of last examination were most encouraging, all the children having passed successfully.

Religious services, including Sunday school, have been regularly held and well attended. Temperance meetings have aided discipline in minimising the temptation of intoxicants.

Three more cottages have been built during past 12 months, and it will be necessary to build several others in the immediate future. The main street of mission village has been metalled ; trees have been successfully planted ; several miles of fences erected ; Marram grass planted on sand drifts ; and the plant for supplying water from wells, by means of windmills and pipes, to outlying paddocks extended. A sheep dip has also been constructed. It will be seen from above that the mission, as in previous years, has continued steadily improving its properties. The natives have all been kept fully employed, and have in most cases given satisfaction.

I have, &c.,

F. GARNETT, Superintendent.

KOONIBBA MISSION, DENIAL BAY, WEST COAST.

Sir—I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ended June 30th, 1910.

Regarding religious work, the year was one of encouragement. The church roll shows 55 members. Candidates receiving instruction for baptism number 19, of which seven are school children.

Our Sunday services, morning and evening, were well attended ; in fact frequently it was found difficult to seat all who attended. Our newly-erected church, therefore, has supplied a much-felt need. It is a splendid edifice, with a seating capacity of over 250 people. The church was dedicated to the service of God on June 5th. It is built of stones, with red brick coigns ; has cathedral glass windows and jarrah floor. Ventilation has received every attention. Acetylene gas has been installed in church, school, and parsonage.

The average number of school children was 40, including four white children and one adult half-caste ; an increase of 14 over last year. Some of the children never missed a day schooling. The children are

in good health, happy, and contented. Seeing the benefit of education for their children the parents now aid the missionary and teacher in keeping them at the mission. The evening school was attended by 14 adults. As the work is increasing, our synod has called a second missionary.

The total number of natives that come under the influence of this mission is about 200. The number on the station averaged 86. At present we have 89 able-bodied adults, 5 old and infirm, 1 sick, 59 children and infants, making a total of 154. Of these 105 are full-blooded natives, 31 are half-castes, and 18 are three-quarter blacks. There were six births, eight deaths, and no marriages.

Our men have been well employed at general farm work, land clearing, boring, building, &c. Last winter 315 acres of scrub were made ready for the plough; this winter 600 more acres are let to the natives on contract.

The season was a prosperous one. About 700 acres were under crop, and gave the following returns:—100 tons of hay and 2,142 bags of wheat, being about 12bush. to the acre.

Our stock consists of 60 horned cattle, 28 horses (six of which have been bought recently), and 19 pigs.

We again made great efforts to increase our insufficient water supply by boring, but without success. We are, however, of the firm opinion that good stock water is to be found in the district, and we hope that the day is not far distant when our labors and our somewhat heavy expenditure will be crowned with success. The Government has promised to assist us with a diamond drill and, if boring should prove fruitless, to give us financial aid in making large tanks.

We are very much indebted to the Aborigines Department for the supply of blankets and rations sent us.

I have, &c.,

C. A. WIEBUSCH, Superintendent.

The Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

KILLALPANINNA MISSION STATION (KOPPERAMANNA),
COOPER'S CREEK.

Killalpaninna, August 24th, 1910.

Sir—The natives this report is relating to live within two circles—one comprising those who dwell on the station itself and bind themselves to keep the rules of the station; the other are those who prefer to have their liberty—and misery—without in the bush. The latter ones come to the station to get their Government rations, and now and then to attend a divine service.

The average number of natives—full-bloods and half-castes—on the station, and of those having connection with it, has been about 130. Seventy of them are baptised. There have been 15 deaths, one birth, four marriages. A good number went away into other districts. The number of half-castes is 11.

Services were held in the Dieri language every Sunday, and well attended by the congregation members and others. Lessons preparing for the reception of holy baptism were started with 17 natives. Most of them are rather old, and really unable to learn to read and to write. But nevertheless they learn fairly well, and endeavor to lead a better life.

The school was attended by 12 black children. Two half-caste children were taken away by their parents, who left the station.

By the voluntary donations of many friends of our mission it was made possible to erect a new church of timber and galvanized-iron, with a seating capacity of about 150. It was solemnly opened on December 5th, 1909.

The able-bodied men were constantly employed by mustering, shearing, shepherding, &c., the older ones by making bricks, cleaning the station from the heaps of the ever-blown sand, and carrying wood for their cooking and baking.

A great number of wild dogs were killed by the blacks, the mission paying them 1s. for each scalp. We again put up two windmills in different parts of our run, thus trying to improve it. As to the country, we had a fairly good season.

Our committee started another improvement by buying seven camels, which are a very great help, especially for carrying goods from Hergott Springs to the station.

I have, &c.,

W. RIEDEL, Missionary.

The Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

