

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1917.



Adelaide:

R. E. E. ROGERS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1917.



POINT PEARCE ABORIGINAL STATION.

REPORT.



Aboriginals Department,
Adelaide, September 15th, 1917.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the financial year ended June 30th, 1917.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

The operations for the year show a net profit of £3,688 Os. 6d., plus net profit brought forward from last year, £3,007 16s. 2d. ; total profit, £6,695 16s. 8d.

The balance-sheet, duly audited by the Commissioner of Audit, is appended.

The system of paying wages to the able-bodied aborigines and half-castes, instead of supplying them with rations and clothing, is proving most satisfactory, as it makes them self-reliant and self-supporting, and encourages many of them to seek outside employment, where they receive much higher wages than those paid on the station.

There are now 29 full-bloods and 162 half-castes more or less dependent on this station, and it is gratifying to be able to maintain such a large body of people and make such a handsome profit.

The Superintendent (Mr. Garnett) and his assistants have carried out their duties in an efficient manner, and deserve great credit for the success of the undertaking.

Forty-two thousand four hundred and nine bushels of grain and 450 tons of hay were harvested during the year.

The livestock, by natural increases and purchases, have been considerably added to since the station was taken over on September 1st, 1915, and the numbers now stand as follows :—3,807 sheep, 72 horses, 65 cattle, and 80 pigs.

There are 620 tons of hay in stock and 3,650 acres under crop, which promises an abundant harvest.

The farm plant is now nearly up to date, having been considerably added to by the addition, amongst other things, of a Massey Harris reaper thresher, three ten-furrow disc ploughs, a motor launch, two trollies capable of carrying 7 tons each, and a hooded rosa buggy.

The buildings have been added to and repaired. A 30,000gall. tank has been built on Wardang Island, which will greatly increase the carrying capacity of the island.

The storekeeper's cottage has been improved by the addition of three new rooms. Another great improvement is the lighting of the station by a "Quirk's Lighting Plant," which is working very satisfactorily.

It will be necessary to purchase more breeding ewes for the station, as the property in fair seasons is capable of carrying at least 5,000 sheep; 2,000 additional ewes would make the station pay much better.

The births and deaths at this station for the year were as follows:—Births, 6 half-castes; deaths, 3 half-castes.

POINT MCLEAY STATION.

The operations for the year show a loss of £2,388 7s. 11d., plus net loss brought forward from last year, £700 0s. 8d.; total loss for 18 months, 1/1/16 to 30/6/17, £3,088 8s. 7d.

This is regrettable; but it must be remembered that there are about 380 aborigines more or less dependent on this station, which, previous to its being taken over by the Government, cost the department about £3,000 per annum.

The area of land is limited and very little of it fit for cultivation. There are not sufficient livestock on the place, which is capable of carrying another 100 head of cows. The livestock now consists of 424 sheep, 299 cattle, 32 horses, and 52 pigs.

We have 250 acres under crop this year, and have planted another 12 acres of lucerne.

A bore was put down to a depth of 200ft. and a large supply of water struck, but unfortunately it was too salty for irrigation. Good water is frequently obtainable from Lake Alexandrina in large quantities, and if a pumping plant were erected the lucerne could be irrigated profitably.

The system of paying wages on the station has greatly improved the natives, who are doing fairly good work and mostly supporting themselves and families with their earnings.

On this station, as at Point Pearce, a general store is kept by the department, where all the necessaries of life may be purchased.

The births and deaths for the year are as follows:—

Births—	2	full	bloods	and	7	half-castes.
Deaths—	6	“	“	“	11	“

Mr. J. B. Steer, Superintendent, and his assistants have carried out their duties in an efficient manner.

The audited balance-sheet and the superintendent's report are appended.

MISSION STATIONS.

The only station not under departmental control is the Koonibba Mission, near Denial Bay, on the West Coast, which is in the hands of the Lutheran Synod. The Synod has been approached with a view to handing it over to the Government, but so far they have not done so.

The cost of rations, &c., supplied to this station during the year amounted to £220.

The births for the year were 4 full-bloods and 2 half-castes, and the deaths 8 full-bloods and 1 half-caste.

There are about 158 natives on this station.

KILLALPANINNA.

This station, which was formerly a mission station under the control of the Lutheran Synod, is now only a depot for the issue of rations, &c., for the old and infirm, and the cost of these during the year amounted to only £61, whereas they used to cost the department on an average £135 annually.

Mr. Bogner has evidently been maintaining some of the natives at his own expense, and has compelled the able-bodied ones to seek employment on the station and elsewhere, which is much better than allowing them to become dependents on the State. He has thus saved the department a considerable sum.

If the department were to form a station in this district it would prove a very costly undertaking, and would never become a payable proposition. There is, I consider, no necessity for more than a depot there, as plenty of employment can be found by the natives in the surrounding district.

POPULATION.

On the 30th June, 1912, the estimated population of the State was—

Blacks	4,000
Half-castes	836
Total	<u>4,836</u>

The births and deaths reported during the year were—

Births . . .	Full-bloods, 31 ; half-castes, 26 ; total, 57
Deaths ..	Full-bloods, 51 ; half-castes, 27 ; total, 78

The five years, 1912-1917, show a decrease of 148 full-bloods, and an increase of 84 half-castes. From this it appears there are now 3,852 full-bloods and 920 half-castes

in the State—total 4,772. Of these 571 are on the two departmental stations and 158 are at the Koonibba Mission.

CRIME REPORT.

The following shows the number of aboriginals convicted during the year :—

Drunkenness	18
Assaults	2
Begging alms	1
Mental defectives	1
Breach of Licensing Act (in possession of liquor)..	13
Unlawful possession	1
	<hr/>
Total convictions	36
	<hr/>

Eight persons were convicted for supplying liquor to aboriginals.

GENERAL.

Rations, clothing, blankets, and medical comforts were sent to 50 localities throughout the State for distribution to the old, sick, and infirm aboriginals.

The thanks of the department are due to the Adelaide and other hospital authorities for the many kindnesses shown to the sick aboriginals sent there for treatment; the Commissioner of Police and his officers for the ready assistance rendered in ways too numerous to mention; to the depot keepers all over the State for distributing rations to the aboriginals, free of cost to the department; and the station owners and other settlers for the kindly treatment shown to the natives.

The head office staff has worked harmoniously and well.

My visits of inspection during the year have been confined to Point Pearce, Point McLeay, and a few districts near Adelaide. Owing to the pressure of other duties have been unable to get away for any lengthy journeys, but this year I hope to visit the district west of Port Augusta. This country has never yet been inspected owing to the difficulty of covering the journey without incurring great expense. This can now be overcome, as the East-West railway line is nearly completed.

<i>Revenue for the Year—</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station	9,501	14	5
From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station	3,710	16	4
Repayments of loans, &c.	135	6	5
Rent, Baroota Reserve	8	0	0
	<hr/>		
Total revenue	£13,355	17	2
	<hr/>		

<i>Expenditure for the Year—</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries at head office	619	7	1			
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, &c., for depots other than Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations	3,879	14	6			
				4,499	1	7
 <i>Point Pearce Station—</i>						
Salaries	240	0	0			
Wages to aboriginals and white employees	3,563	7	0			
Implements, stock, and stores	7,021	15	4			
				10,825	2	4
 <i>Point McLeay Station—</i>						
Salaries	360	6	5			
Wages to aboriginals and white employees	2,250	16	1			
Implements, stock, stores, &c. ...	4,993	12	9			
Rent to Crown Lands Department	85	7	9			
				7,690	3	0
 Total expenditure				<u>£23,014</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>

A DIFFICULT PROBLEM.

The most difficult problem in connection with the care and control of the aboriginals is the increasing number of half-castes, quadroons, and octoroons on the stations. For years the half-castes have been living and increasing on the Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations, and year by year a whiter race is springing up.

If these people are to be prevented from becoming dependents on the State, strong measures will need to be resorted to. Like the poor aboriginals they grow up expecting to be maintained by the Government. They will not obtain employment off the stations unless they are compelled to do so, and when they are found work by their parents or the department, they are never happy until they get back to their home station.

After leaving school they should be compelled to find employment away from the departmental stations, and in the event of their not doing so they should be placed under the care of the State Children's Department until they reach the age of 21 years.

That department is equipped with the necessary machinery and powers to deal with children such as these. They could then be drafted out to reputable employers

under proper supervision, part of their earnings being placed in the Savings Bank, and on their attaining the age of 21 years they would have a goodly sum to start life with. They should then be prevented from living on the stations, as they would be well equipped to earn a decent living.

Those half-castes and quadroons who have been taken over by the State Children's Department are, in most cases, doing remarkably well, and promise to develop into good citizens, as they do not come into contact with the aboriginals. Being nearly white they will have a good chance in life.

During the year several girls have been removed from the camps in the interior, chiefly at the request of their aboriginal and half-caste parents. I do not advocate taking boys from the interior, as they are always able to take care of themselves, but the girls should be removed for their own protection.

I regret to have to record the following casualties among those natives who enlisted for active service with the Imperial Forces:—

Killed.—Cyril Rigney, of Point McLeay; Albon Varcoe, of Point McLeay; Arthur Walker, of Goolwa.

Wounded.—Rufus Gordon Rigney, of Point McLeay; Proctor Wilson, of Point McLeay; Lush Wilson, of Point McLeay; George Karpany, of Wellington.

Prisoner of War.—Roland Carter (also wounded), of Point McLeay.

I have &c.

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1917.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Salaries of superintendent and store-keeper	240	0	0			
Wages of aboriginals and white assistants	3,563	7	0			
				3,803	7	0
Meat	—			25	7	10
Rations for aboriginals	518	16	10			
School books for aboriginal children	6	19	0			
				525	15	10
Interest on overdraft with H.M. Government	—			206	4	4
Head office salaries and expenses...	—			71	18	2

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Depreciation—						
Furniture		7	3	8		
Implements	163	0	4			
Harness	13	19	6			
					184	3
Balance net profit for year	3,688	0	6			
Add net profit brought forward ...	3,007	16	2			
					6,695	16
						8
					<u>£11,512</u>	<u>13</u>
						<u>4</u>
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store	—			409	13	1
Rent of cottages	—			167	2	4
Farm account, wheat and other produce	—			6,376	17	4
Stock accounts—						
Pigs	74	15	10			
Horses	44	0	0			
Cattle	329	13	10			
Sheep	1,102	14	9			
					1,551	4
						5
Net profit brought forward	—			3,007	16	2
					<u>£11,512</u>	<u>13</u>
						<u>4</u>

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS AT
JUNE 30TH, 1917.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government	—			4,547	15	11
Capital account	—			11,362	9	5
Net profit for year	3,688	0	6			
Add net profit brought forward	3,007	16	2			
					6,695	16
						8
					<u>£22,606</u>	<u>2</u>
						<u>0</u>
ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	7,130	0	0			
Improvements, fencing, &c.....	2,920	0	0			
					10,050	0
Implements, vehicles, boats, &c.	1,467	3	3			
Furniture.....	136	10	1			
Harness	125	15	11			
					1,729	9
						3
Stocks on hand—						
Store	384	19	9			
Farm account—						
Wheat	1	4	0			
Hay	930	0	0			
Corn­sacks	22	10	0			
Pig feed, wheat and barley...	20	0	0			
Share farmers' seed and super.	500	0	0			

Stocks on hand— <i>continued.</i>	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Livestock—						
Horses	1,147	0	0			
Cattle	732	0	0			
Sheep	4,710	10	0			
Pigs	107	18	0	8,556	1	9
Retention money, 1916-17 wool clip..	24	18	3			
Wheat certificates—						
1915-16 expected to realise	607	9	1			
1916-17 expected to realise	1,616	13	0	2,249	0	4
Sundry debtors	27	10	8			
Less advances repaid.....	6	0	0	21	10	8
				<u>£22,606</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Audited and passed,

EDGAR WM. GILES, Commissioner of Audit.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1917.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Boot shop, materials, &c.	—			1	15	6
Fowls	—			0	10	0
Freight and carriage	190	14	4			
Mats and baskets	—			2	5	11
Meat	—			159	15	10
Rations for aborigines	736	19	4			
School books for aboriginal children	4	7	10	741	7	2
Salaries of superintendent and store- keeper	360	6	5			
Wages of aborigines and white assistants	2,250	16	1	2,611	2	6
Head office salaries and expenses..	—			71	18	2
Interest on overdraft with H.M. Government	—			192	16	9
Depreciation—						
Furniture	3	18	5			
Implements, vehicles, &c.	46	5	10			
Harness.....	7	7	10	57	12	1
Net loss brought forward	—			700	0	8
				<u>£4,729</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>11</u>
By Cattle	494	14	5	£	s.	d.
Horses	33	10	0			
Sheep	17	11	6			
Pigs	153	19	5	699	15	4

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store	—			648	9	1
Farm account, wool, dairy, &c. . .	—			293	5	11
Balance net loss	2,388	7	11			
Add net loss brought forward	700	0	8			
	<hr/>			3,088	8	7
				<hr/>		
				£4,729	18	11
				<hr/>		

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS
AT JUNE 30TH, 1917.

LIABILITIES.			£	s.	d.
H.M. Government			6,590	9	2
Capital account			5,550	6	4
			<hr/>		
			£12,140	15	6
			<hr/>		
ASSETS.			£	s.	d.
Buildings	3,673	3			
Improvements, fencing, &c.	792	15	6		
	<hr/>		4,465	16	9
Furniture	74	9	6		
Implements, vehicles, &c.	416	12	7		
Harness	66	11	0		
	<hr/>		557	13	
Stocks on hand—					
Store	897	8	11		
Boot shop, materials, &c.	11	0	0		
Mats and baskets	3	9	9		
Farm account—					
Super.	3	17	6		
Oats	1	10	0		
Wheats	3	15	0		
Barley	1	7	0		
Hay	75	0	0		
Wool retention money	8	12	3		
Livestock—					
Cattle	2,036	3	0		
Sheep	570	2	0		
Pigs	91	0	0		
Horses	305	10	0		
Fowls	1	0	0		
	<hr/>		4,009	15	5
Sundry debtors	—			19	1
Balance net loss as above	2,388	7	11		
Add net loss brought forward	700	0	8		
	<hr/>		3,088	8	7
			<hr/>		
			£12,140	15	6
			<hr/>		

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Audited and passed,

EDGAR WM. GILES, Commissioner of Audit.

POINT PEARCE ABORIGINAL STATION.

Port Victoria, July 10th, 1917.

Sir—I have the honor to forward you the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1917 :—

The past year has been an exceptionally good one, from both an agricultural and pastoral standpoint.

We reaped a record harvest—Wheat, 36,999bush. ; barley, 5,390bush. ; oats, 320bush. ; total grain grown, 42,409bush. ; hay, 450 tons, making total of hay now on hand 620 tons. The wheat averaged about 20bush. to the acre.

Our wool clip totalled 69 bales and 7 bags from 2,539 sheep shorn.

The lambing this year promises very good results. We now have about 1,000 lambs ; lambing is not completed. We could easily carry another 2,000 sheep, as we have not yet, in this respect, recovered from having to sell most of our sheep during drought in 1914 and 1915. As many of our ewes are aged it will be necessary to cull these out and fatten them for butcher. This will make it unnecessary to buy sheep for butchering for some time, but we shall need to buy 600 young ewes for breeding purposes. They will quickly pay handsomely for the investment.

Our livestock figures are as follows :—Sheep, 2,807 ; lambs, 1,000 (total 3,807) ; horses, 72 ; cattle, 65 ; pigs, 80.

This year we have in crop 3,650 acres. We have had good rains, and the crops have made a splendid start. The mice plague has been a great nuisance to us all through the seeding. They were not only in our seed store, hay, etc., but in large numbers all over our paddocks. We feared for the seed in the ground, but apart from some small patches the crop is coming up thick enough. Of course we sowed a little more heavily per acre.

Owing to the general scarcity of labor and bountiful harvest all our men have been fully employed, either on the station or in the neighborhood. Our native builders have built a supplementary tank near stables, three additional rooms to storekeeper's house, which, with these additions, has now five rooms ; also on the island an underground tank, with a capacity of 30,000 galls., has been built in a favorable position for filling same by pumping from a soakage well near it.

We have had some trouble with natives drinking this year : chiefly among those working away from the station and earning high wages, wheat lumping, &c. We have laid informations against several. The new rules and regulations now issued by the Chief Protector of Aborigines will be helpful in dealing with drink and matters of discipline.

Mr. D. Roper, as storekeeper, &c., is proving a very capable officer; and Mr. C. Pethick, the farm overseer, continues to carry out his duties very satisfactorily.

Religious services have been conducted on the station as usual by visiting ministers and laymen from the churches in our neighborhood, whose unselfish work we gratefully acknowledge.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS GARNETT, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector Aboriginals.

POINT McLEAY ABORIGINAL STATION.

August 22nd, 1917.

Sir—I have the honor of forwarding you the following report for year ending June 30th, 1917 :—

We have had a very successful year with our dairy; the cows milking well, both at "Glenora" and the head station. The milk from the cows at the latter has been taken to the former, where it is separated, the milk being used in the feeding of calves and pigs. I am sorry to say that we have found Glenora dairy far too small for our requirements, and we cannot enlarge to the extent we wish, as the site is too near the end of the farm. We hope that at some future date to remove the dairy to the centre of the station, probably in Terringie paddock, then we shall have the benefit of the fine grass lands. Cows, like sheep, must have their pasture changed frequently. We have been able to rear a good number of heifer calves, which will help to replace our old cows. A large number of cows too old for milking have reared two calves each, therefore they are paying well for their keep.

The hay crops were very good, and we have several large stacks which are of great assistance. From 40 acres of wheat we reaped 80 bags. Most of this has been used as pig feed. We find that the pigs do splendidly on crushed wheat and milk. We did not reap any barley or oats. The barley has been fed to the milking cows, and the oats cut for hay.

The results from our pigs have been very satisfactory. We have been able to send a supply of fats to the market almost every month. We believe this industry will make rapid growth, as we have lately purchased six very fine Berkshire sows, for which we use a splendid Poland China boar; he is leaving some first-class pigs. Four new styes have been added to the pig sheds. These styes are used for the breeding sows.

I am very pleased with the condition of the sheep this year. We purchased from Mr. T. W. Smith, of Narrung, 142 Merino breeding ewes. We were unfortunate in that some dogs got amongst them, and the result was—four killed and two wounded. The percentage of lambs from 130 ewes is 103 lambs, which I consider very good, taking into consideration the mishap with the dogs. After poisoning the carcasses there was a great number of dogs killed, so we hope that next year our sheep will be unmolested.

The livestock figures are as follows :— Sheep, 322 ; lambs, 103 ; total, 425 ; horses, 32 ; cattle, 299 ; pigs, 52.

Employment has been found for a large percentage of the natives. They have cleared another 150 acres of scrub land at “ Wirrilda,” which will prove very useful land once it can be broken up and the black grass killed. I find that this class of land is very hard to break up, it taking eight horses to a five-furrow plough. Of the Wirrilda land we have 165 acres under wheat and 35 acres oats, which is looking well and promises a good return.

We have again repaired a large number of old fences and erected another half mile of new post and wire fence.

We have also enlarged our store considerably ; the walls of the new room are complete, but through the high price of galvanized iron we have not been able to put the roof on. This work will have to stand over till after the war now. We have erected the walls of an implement shed, but this, like the addition to the store, must wait for its roof. We still find it extremely difficult to supply the station with wood, this being a costly item in the district.

On the whole the conduct of the natives is good, the new Licensing Act making it very much easier to effectively deal with the drink trouble. The health of the natives has been fair, and they have been well looked after by Mr. Pengelly, of Meningie. There have been a large number of deaths, but these have been mostly old people and infants.

The religious needs of the natives have been well attended to by the A.F.A., who send a minister from Adelaide once a month, and secure the splendid services of the Rev. E. Lawson, who visits the station once a week, and is doing a great work amongst the natives, for which we most heartily thank the A.F.A. and the Rev. E. Lawson.

Our store and book keeper (Mr. H. E. Read) having enlisted, we have lost the services of a good officer. In his place we have Mr. J. A. S. Miller, who has proved himself a capable and painstaking officer. He is well adapted for the important position he holds.

Mr. E. A. Read, dairyman, has shown himself to be a thoroughly reliable man.

Miss Hunter, as assistant storekeeper, is well suited to the work, being both capable and energetic.

I have, &c.,

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

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

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

July 6th, 1917.

Sir—I have honor to submit the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1917 :—

In many respects this has been an abnormal year for the Koonibba Mission, the changes in the mission staff and the exceptional harvest having naturally influenced the work and the conditions here. From a financial standpoint the year has been a very successful one, the harvest having been the biggest in the history of the mission ; 2,400 acres were under crop and yielded 11,500 bags of wheat besides about 1,000 bags of oats and 300 tons of hay. This heavy harvest necessitated the purchase of additional horses and machinery. Several thousand bags of wheat were carted to Denial Bay for us by neighboring farmers, and 2,500 have still to be carted. The lateness of the harvest and the heaviness of the yield interfered considerably with this year's seeding operations, so that very little more than 1,000 acres will be under crop for the coming season. The mice caused us appreciable losses. Of the seed sown on 130 acres hardly a grain was left by this pest. Last winter about 250,000galls., representing half of the station water supply, were lost through the bursting of a number of our largest tanks. One new tank was built and several were repaired, and as great care was taken that the channels leading to the tanks were kept clear whenever rain fell during the day or night there was *no shortage of water to contend with.*

As labor was exceptionally scarce in the district this season many of the married natives and a few of the young men were allowed to help the neighboring farmers take off their crops. They would return to the mission on Sundays for the church services. Even the oldest men occasionally went out working on the farm, and thus earned a little towards their maintenance. One old greybeard worked right through from the beginning of the hay harvest till now, and earned enough to keep himself, his lubra, and his children without any assistance whatever from the Government.

The behaviour of the natives was very good. Though they had had to go without their customary holiday (either before or after harvest) they worked cheerfully and obediently without murmur or complaint right through the long harvest and seeding operations.

At the beginning of March, 1917, the Rev. G. Blaess resigned from his office of assistant missionary and teacher, and as there is such uncertainty *re* the future of this mission no other man has been found to take his place, so that Mr. Bode, the head teacher, is left in sole charge of the school. Still, the 47 school children are progressing very well. Since Easter Mr. Bode has been taking advantage of the longer evenings to instruct the men in the elementary subjects. Some of these men are very eager, and are making very satisfactory headway.

The health of the natives has been surprisingly good. Four blacks died at the station and four blacks and one half-caste died at Penong, Murat Bay, or Denial Bay. Births on the station totalled four blacks and two half-castes. On an average 158 aboriginals resided at the mission, 104 of them being blacks.

One widowed and four other half-castes (comprising all the eligible unmarried ones) recently enlisted and will go into camp towards the end of August.

Thanking you heartily, not only for stores and comforts supplied for the natives, but also for valuable advice on various questions that my lack of experience prevented me from readily solving myself,

I have, &c.,

E. APPELT, Superintendent Koonibba Mission.

To the Chief Protector of Aboriginals, Adelaide.

Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta, S.A.,

July 19th, 1917.

Sir—I have the honor respectfully to submit my annual report on the condition and general conduct of the aboriginal natives in the Far Northern Division for the year ended June 30th, 1917.

From reports received from the police in this division I find that the general health of the natives is good, and that the provisions supplied by the Government are sufficient for their requirements. The police at Mungeranie reports that the recent floods in the Diamantina have assured the natives in that locality of a plentiful supply of their native food, therefore they will not require provisions from the Government for some time.

There are about 50 natives at Innamincka Station, 30 of whom are receiving Government rations, and 20 younger boys and gins employed on the station. At Cordillo and Haddon Downs there are about 50, mostly employed at station work, &c. At Coongee Lakes there are eight old natives who get rations from the Innamincka depot. The natives on the Cooper during the last 12 months have been able to get plenty of fish and game, and with the good seasons have been able to obtain an abundance of their native food.

The able-bodied natives can obtain (if they wish) abundance of employment at a good rate of wage, and the more energetic of them earn good money at times, particularly on the stations in the Far North.

I would respectfully suggest that a supply of clothes be forwarded yearly to the police at Hergott Springs for use of the old and sick aboriginals in that district, as I understand the supply of blankets forwarded yearly are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the natives there.

The offences recorded against the aboriginals during the year are as follows :—Unlawful possession, 1 ; found in possession of liquor, 1 ; drunkenness, 6. Five persons were convicted for supplying liquor to aboriginals.

During the year eight aboriginals have been treated at the Port Augusta Hospital, seven have been discharged as cured, and one is still an inmate.

I might mention that every credit is due to Dr. Pellew and the nursing staff for their untiring care and attention to the natives while under their care.

Births.—Full-bloods, 4 ; half-castes, 3 ; total, 7.

Deaths.—Full-bloods, 14 ; half-castes, 4 ; total, 18.

I have, &c.,

P. THORNTON, Inspector, Protector.

The Chief Protector of Aboriginals, Adelaide.