

South



Australia.

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REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1923.



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Adelaide:

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

1924.

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## REPORT.

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide,

September 19th, 1923.

Sir—I have the honor to submit this, my report on the work of the Aboriginal Department for the year ended June 30th, 1923, also reports received from the Protector of Aborigines for the Far North, and the Superintendents of the aboriginal stations.

The late Chief Protector of Aborigines, Mr. W. G. South, died on the 27th May last, and I was honored by being appointed as his successor. Mr. South had ably filled the position of Protector of Aborigines since March 1st, 1908. On the 1st September, 1915, the Point Pearce Station, and on the 1st January, 1916, the Point McLeay Mission Station were both taken over by the Aboriginals Department from the Missionary Associations, who, until then, had charge of them. The management of these stations added very considerably to the Chief Protector's work and responsibility.

Before taking up my present work as Chief Protector of Aborigines I was for nearly 14 years Superintendent of the Point Pearce Station, and I give my report, as Superintendent, on the work of this station separately. It will be seen from the profit and loss account that the operations at this station for the past year have resulted in a loss of £601 17s. 6d. This loss is small when it is remembered that the station is now carrying an aboriginal population of 261, many of whom are non-producers, being old, infirm and dependants. Mr. W. R. Penhall has been appointed to succeed me as Superintendent of this station, and I have every confidence that he will carry on the work satisfactorily.

The operations at Point McLeay resulted in a loss of £4,408 16s. 4d., which is less than last year's amount. Previous to occupying the position of Superintendent at Point Pearce, I was for over seven years Superintendent of Point McLeay Station, and since my appointment to my present position I have visited Point McLeay with especial interest. I was pleased

to note the progress made with the dairying industry on the station. On the other hand the problem of firewood has become a serious and costly one, as there is little firewood to be obtained in the district. In conversation with the Superintendent, Mr. J. B. Steer, when visiting there, we discussed the advisability of forming a sub-station at Salt Creek on the Coorong, where the clearing of the scrub would provide firewood and reproductive work for the natives, and where there is a considerable area of land which could be made an aboriginal reserve. The average annual rainfall there is 16in., and the land, when cleared, would carry stock and pay for cultivation.

I consider the most urgent problem to be dealt with in our work for the aborigines is the better control and training of the rising generation, which consists principally of half-castes, quadroons, and octoroons. A Bill dealing with this important matter, transferring aboriginal children at the age of fourteen years to the care of the State Children's Department, will be dealt with by the present session of Parliament. This much-needed legislation, if passed, will mean a big advance in our methods of dealing with the aborigines, and should result in fitting the young to become self-supporting members of the community and an asset to the State. In order to better prepare the children for transition to the State Children's Department, it has been suggested that a training school, with dormitory for the girls, be established at Point McLeay Station. These will be especially useful, as, in addition to proving a training home, it will provide sleeping accommodation and reduce the overcrowding in the cottages.

I purpose, as soon as possible, visiting and inspecting Koonibba Mission Station, also aboriginals in the north and along the East-West railway, when I shall have an opportunity of interviewing police officers and others in charge of ration depots for aboriginals.

Rations, clothing, blankets, and medical comforts have been supplied during the year to a number of depots throughout the State, and have been distributed by the issuers of rations to the old, sick, and infirm natives, and to others found to be in needy circumstances.

The medical needs of the natives have been attended to throughout the year; the medical officers and hospital officers and attendants have all given to native patients every attention. Owing to the outbreak of enteric fever at Point Pearce Station, three fully qualified nurses were sent there by this department. A temporary hospital was established there, and the natives segregated. The disease has been stamped out. Four aboriginals died of this disease. There would have doubtless been many more deaths if effective measures had not been taken for dealing with the epidemic.

It is estimated that the approximate number of aboriginals in this State are—Full-bloods, 3,757; half-castes, 1,001; total, 4,758. Point McLeay has a population of 335, including aboriginals, in that district; of these 40 are full-bloods. The number on Point Pearce is 261, of whom 26 are full-bloods. At Koonibba Station there are 141, of whom 75 are full-bloods.

Point McLeay.—Births, 2 full-blood, 13 half-caste; deaths, 3 full-blood, 1 half-caste.

Point Pearce.—Births, 13 half-caste; deaths, 11 half-caste.

Koonibba.—Births, 4 full-blood, 3 half-caste; deaths, 6 full-blood.

The following convictions were recorded against aborigines during the year:—

Obscene language . . . . .	2
Drunkenness . . . . .	21
Breach of Licensing Act . . . . .	42
Mental defective . . . . .	2
Unlawful possession . . . . .	4
Indecent and riotous behaviour . .	1
Resisting police . . . . .	2
Cruelty to animals . . . . .	2
Breach of Aborigines Act . . . . .	6
Larceny . . . . .	5
Idle and disorderly . . . . .	7
Assault . . . . .	1
Indecent assault . . . . .	1
	—
Total convictions . . . . .	94

Twelve persons were convicted for supplying intoxicating liquor to aborigines.

The expenditure and receipts of the department for the year are as follows:—

		EXPENDITURE.			
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Head Office</i> —					
Salaries . . . . .		828	16 2		
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, etc . . . . .		3,820	8 7		
Advisory Council of Aborigines, printing, stationery, and allowance to secretary . . . . .		50	18 7		
				4,700	3 4
<i>Point Pearce Station</i> —					
Salaries and wages . . . . .		5,465	1 9		
Implements, stock, stores, &c. . . . .		5,877	19 3		
				11,343	1 0
<i>Point McLeay Station</i> —					
Salaries and wages . . . . .		3,108	15 2		
Implements, stock, stores, &c. . . . .		4,733	6 9		
Rent of sections . . . . .		41	15 9		
Repairs to cottages . . . . .		30	2 8		
				7,914	0 4
Total . . . . .				<u>£23,957</u>	<u>4 8</u>

The total expenditure is £1,600 2s. 2d. less than the previous 12 months.

		RECEIPTS.			
		£	s. d.		
From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station . . . . .		10,703	19 11		
From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station . . . . .		4,824	18 1		
Refund of advances to aborigines for rail fares, &c. . . . .		172	3 4		
Total receipts . . . . .		<u>£15,701</u>	<u>1 4</u>		
This amount shows a decrease of £1,017 7s. 10d. on last year.					
		£	s. d.		
Total expenditure . . . . .		23,957	4 8		
Less total receipts . . . . .		15,701	1 4		
Cost of aborigines to South Australian Go- vernment for 12 months ended June 30th, 1923 . . . . .		<u>£8,256</u>	<u>3 4</u>		

I have, &c.,

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Honorable Commissioner of Public Works,  
Adelaide.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE  
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1923.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Salary of superintendent and storekeeper . . . . .	480	0	0			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers . . . . .	4,362	1	9			
	<hr/>			4,842	1	9
Rations for aboriginals . . . .	707	8	6			
School books for aboriginal children . . . . .	17	17	1			
	<hr/>			725	5	7
Horses . . . . .	—			45	0	0
Interest . . . . .	—			503	17	5
Head office salaries and ex- penses . . . . .	—			91	1	10
Depreciation—						
Furniture . . . . .	5	12	9			
Implements, tools, &c. . . .	151	1	9			
Harness . . . . .	21	12	10			
	<hr/>			178	7	4
Net profit brought forward . .	—			2,753	0	1
				<hr/>		
				£9,138	14	0
				<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store . . . . .	—			493	13	3
Farm account, wheat and other produce . . . . .	—			3,377	8	7
Rent of cottages . . . . .	—			105	16	10
Stock accounts—						
Cattle . . . . .	281	0	0			
Sheep . . . . .	1,153	15	0			
Pigs . . . . .	65	17	0			
	<hr/>			1,500	12	0
Meat . . . . .	—			297	5	9
Sundry debtors—Amount col- lected in excess of anticipation	—			9	0	0
Net profit brought forward . .	—			2,753	0	1
Balance net loss for year . .	—			601	17	6
				<hr/>		
				£9,138	14	0

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION  
AS AT JUNE 30TH, 1923.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government . . . . .	12,002	15	8			
H.M. Government interest account	1,450	19	11			
	<hr/>			13,453	15	7
Capital account . . . . .	—			11,362	9	5
Sundry creditors . . . . .	—			536	10	5
Net profit brought forward . .	—			2,753	0	1
Less net loss for year . . . . .	601	17	6			
	<hr/>			2,151	2	7
				<hr/>		
				£27,503	18	0

BALANCE-SHEET—*continued*.

		ASSETS.			
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Station buildings . . . . .		8,920	0 0		
Improvements . . . . .		5,640	0 0		
				14,560	0 0
Implements, vehicles, &c. . . . .		1,359	15 9		
Furniture . . . . .		106	14 4		
Harness . . . . .		194	15 2		
				1,661	5 3
Stocks on hand—					
Store . . . . .		915	11 3		
Wheat . . . . .		12	0 0		
Oats . . . . .		38	15 0		
Hay . . . . .		1,440	0 0		
Corn sacks . . . . .		116	17 6		
Woolpacks . . . . .		0	3 0		
Pigs feed, barley . . . . .		1	0 0		
Binder twine . . . . .		6	16 0		
Super . . . . .		4	0 0		
Bricks . . . . .		3	0 0		
Lime . . . . .		3	0 0		
Bluestone . . . . .		1	0 0		
Rabbit poison . . . . .		2	2 0		
Sheep dip . . . . .		1	10 0		
Posts and standards . . . . .		26	0 0		
Share farmers' seed and super		460	8 7		
Livestock—					
Horses . . . . .		1,185	0 0		
Cattle . . . . .		1,193	0 0		
Sheep . . . . .		5,469	0 0		
Pigs . . . . .		96	0 0		
				10,975	3 4
Wheat certificates—					
1915-16 expected to realise . . . . .		2	7 5		
1916-17 expected to realise . . . . .		67	7 2		
1917-18 expected to realise . . . . .		52	3 11		
1918-19 expected to realise . . . . .		16	1 9		
1919-20 expected to realise . . . . .		31	15 6		
1920-21 expected to realise . . . . .		65	15 5		
S.A. Farmers' Union pool . . . . .		71	18 3		
				307	9 5
				£25,503	18 0

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.  
August 24th, 1923.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY  
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1923.

		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
To Farm . . . . .		—		777	1 10
Sheep . . . . .		—		62	7 10
Fowls . . . . .		—		2	0 0
Rations for aboriginals . . . . .		549	10 3		
School books for aboriginal children . . . . .		4	7 9		
				553	18 0

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, ETC.—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Salaries of superintendent and storekeeper . . . . .	376	0	0			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers . . . . .	2,763	17	8			
	<hr/>			3,139	17	8
Depreciation—						
Furniture . . . . .	6	16	2			
Implements, &c. . . . .	63	3	10			
Harness . . . . .	7	11	7			
Rent . . . . .	—			41	15	9
	<hr/>			77	11	7
Head office salaries and expenses . . . . .	—			91	1	10
Interest . . . . .	—			1,204	1	7
Net loss brought forward . . . . .	—			21,910	9	1
	<hr/>			£27,860	4	4
By Store . . . . .	—			847	7	6
Meat . . . . .	—			127	13	5
Cattle . . . . .	342	10	10			
Horses . . . . .	21	0	0			
Pigs . . . . .	200	19	6			
	<hr/>			564	10	4
Mats and baskets . . . . .	—			1	7	8
Net loss for year . . . . .	4,408	16	4			
Add net loss brought forward . . . . .	21,910	9	1			
	<hr/>			26,319	5	5
	<hr/>			£27,860	4	4

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT MCLEAY STATION  
AS AT JUNE 30TH, 1923.

## LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account . . . . .	28,193	13	11			
H.M. Government interest account . . . . .	3,063	18	5			
	<hr/>			31,257	12	4
Sundry creditors . . . . .	—			329	11	6
Capital account . . . . .	—			5,550	6	4
	<hr/>			£37,137	10	2

## ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Buildings . . . . .	4,429	1	3			
Improvements . . . . .	2,034	1	11			
	<hr/>			6,463	3	2
Furniture . . . . .	129	6	11			
Implements, vehicles, &c. . . . .	568	14	6			
Harness . . . . .	68	4	7			
	<hr/>			766	6	0
Stocks on hand—						
Store . . . . .	725	8	11			
Mats and baskets . . . . .	1	9	6			
Boot shop, boots, materials, &c. . . . .	6	0	0			
Farm account—						
Skins . . . . .	25	10	0			



BALANCE-SHEET, ETC.—*continued.*

		ASSETS— <i>continued.</i>					
Farm account—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Pollard	.....	3	15	0			
Barley	.....	0	9	0			
Super	.....	0	10	6			
Chaff	.....	10	0	0			
Hay	.....	490	0	0			
Motor spirit	.....	2	6	0			
Lime	.....	1	5	0			
Bricks	.....	2	10	0			
Cement	.....	1	6	0			
Fencing posts	.....	11	10	0			
Livestock—							
Cattle	.....	1,585	0	0			
Horses	.....	289	0	0			
Sheep	.....	194	4	0			
Pigs	.....	219	10	0			
		<hr/>			3,569	13	11
Sundry debtors	.....	—			19	1	8
Net loss for year	.....	4,408	16	4			
Add net loss brought forward	.....	21,910	9	1			
		<hr/>			26,319	5	5
		<hr/>			<u>£37,137</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

August 24th, 1923.

POINT PEARCE ABORIGINAL STATION.  
ANNUAL REPORT.

Port Victoria, June 30th, 1923.

Sir—I have the honor to forward you the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1923:—

*Harvest Returns.*—The average per acre of wheat was 10½bush.; barley, 15bush.; and oats, 16bush. All farming was done on shares. After making allowances for share farmers, the total station share was—Wheat, 13,036bush.; barley, 5,283bush.; oats, 1,713bush.; making total of station share of grain grown 20,032bush.; hay, 320 tons; hay now on hand 480 tons.

The rainfall record for the year was under 13in.

The wool clip totalled 114 bales, from 3,447 sheep and 1,139 lambs shorn. The number of lambs tailed was 687, being an average of 48 per cent. The rains came too late this season for a good lambing. Bountiful rains, however, have fallen in May and June, and the outlook for the season is very good. This year we have in crop 2,100 acres. Seeding is finished, and most of the crop is up and looking well.

We continue to steadily improve our water supply. An artificial catchment has been made on Wardang Island.

We have built two commodious huts for single men, also walls for implement shed. In addition to the general farm and station work, a number of our men have, as usual, been at work away from station as shearers, wheat lumpers, &c. Many of our unmarried girls continue to act as domestics on farms and in the townships in our neighborhood.

I regret to report that many natives have suffered from an epidemic of enteric fever. We have had 45 cases—four have died. A hospital has been established on the station, and the sick have been well attended to by the local doctor (Dr. Browning) and three trained nurses from Adelaide. Neither the doctor nor ourselves have been able to explain the cause of this sickness. The quality of the water supply is good. I am glad, however, to report that for some time we have had no fresh cases, and all patients are now convalescent.

Religious services have been conducted on the station weekly, as usual, by visiting ministers and laymen from the churches in our neighborhood, whose unselfish work we again gratefully acknowledge. Sunday evening services were also regularly conducted by Mr. D. Roper and myself. Mr. Roper also continues to act as Superintendent of the Sunday school, in which work he is assisted by the officers' daughters and some native teachers.

All the officers of the station continue to prove efficient workers in their several departments. We have had a change of teachers in the State school this year. The Education Department have sent Mr. Franklin, who is proving an enthusiastic and capable officer. He commenced duties here after Easter holidays.

I have, &c..

FRANCIS GARNETT, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

## POINT McLEAY ABORIGINAL STATION.

August, 1923.

Sir—I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1923:—

We have had a very successful year on the station, the men, women, boys, and girls doing their work very well. Our dairy has been quite a success as far as the working conditions of the machinery are concerned. The milking machines have done wonderfully well, and I am quite sure the cows prefer the machine milker to the hand. The only trouble we have had is the engine, and I am more than convinced that a petrol engine is not the engine to have on an aboriginal station; they are too tricky for our native men to work. The oil engine is quite the best kind of engine for our stations, and we hope to impress this on the Minister so that he will allow us to instal an oil engine.

We have broken in this year about 30 to 35 young heifers, and up to date they are milking well; they are the Milking Shorthorn type, and do well in this district.

Our hay crops turned out well, although the season turned in early. Our lucerne did well, considering the season was such a waterless summer. The present crops are doing well and promise good returns.

Our pigs on Point McLeay still continue to do well, and our bacon pigs have been sold at top prices, both on the station and in the Adelaide market, and are very much admired as bacon pigs.

We only keep enough sheep for rations, but the sheep we have purchased have shown a profit in both meat and wool and skins.

The wood question is still an ever-growing one, and each year it seems to grow larger. We are still fortunate in having the same contractor to supply us with wood; this man employs all our men to cut the wood for him, and when not cutting wood he finds them employment at grubbing and other work. I am still of the opinion that a substation could be worked at Salt Creek on the Coorong in with the Point McLeay Station, and I hope the present Protector will give this his serious consideration.

The boys and girls are still the same when working for the settlers, and that is, if spoken to make straight

back to the station, where the fathers and mothers love to keep them in idleness, and this will continue until we have some law to compel them to stay. One young girl was made to stay at her employment by the acting Chief Protector during the illness of our late Chief Protector, and this girl, I am sure, is the better for it; she has a good mistress, who takes a great interest in her, and will, I am sure, make a very useful maid.

The conduct on the whole has been fair. The natives are still able to secure drink, and this year it was more noticeable than the year previous. I do hope we shall soon be able to abolish this curse to our natives.

The health of the natives was only fair. We have had quite a number of cases of influenza and other severe forms of colds.

Dr. Linn has been a tower of strength in all cases of sickness, and with Mr. H. E. Read, the Missioner, has given every case careful attention, with great success, for which we wish to thank them, and also the Chief Protector for his assistance in getting our sick natives admitted to the Adelaide Hospital, and for this we also wish to thank him.

The religious work is now under a missioner, who is the servant of the Aborigines Friends Association, and is a resident on the station. Mr. H. E. Read, who was our store and book keeper, being appointed as Missioner, and he and Mrs. Read are working hard and doing good work among the natives here, and we wish to offer to the Aborigines Friends Association and Mr. and Mrs. Read our deepest thanks for the splendid work they are carrying on; and also to members of the Aborigines Friends Association, who have from time to time visited the station, and we can assure them it has helped us to carry on the work.

We regret very much the death of the late Chief Protector (Mr. W. G. South), who was an able man and a friend of the natives. He was very fond of the old natives, and would talk and joke with them when visiting the station, and they looked for his visit to the station with pleasure. All the officers of the station continue to prove efficient workers in their several departments.

I have, &c.,

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta,

July 26th, 1923.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my annual report on the condition and general conduct of the natives in the Far Northern Division for the year ended June 30th, 1923.

In an interesting and comprehensive report furnished by M.C. Aiston that the general condition of the natives at Mungeranie is satisfactory, although there are a number of old and infirm natives in the surrounding districts who require regular attention. Among the deaths reported for the year were two very old aborigines named Mundowdna Jack and Elias, who claimed that they were young men when McKinlay the explorer camped at Perigundi Lake in 1866, and that they accompanied the explorer to Cuttapirrie Corner of the Cooper. These two old men were the last of the Lake Gregory tribe. The constable suggests that it would be advisable to have the yearly supply of blankets, &c., forwarded to Mungeranie before the end of March if possible, for distribution amongst the old and needy before the cold and changeable weather sets in. M.C. Aiston reiterates his statement contained in last year's report, that some suitable portion of the back country should be set apart for the exclusive use of the natives, where they could be allowed to live their primitive manner of life, and pursue their tribal habits and customs, and be protected from the vices of others. The race is fast disappearing, and this appears the only practical way of preventing, to some extent, their complete and inevitable extinction.

A satisfactory report has been received from the constable at Innamincka, and there are no circumstances associated with them requiring special report or attention.

There are from 700 to 800 blacks in the Oodnadatta district, and there has been no epidemics of any kind amongst them. Unfortunately there are several cases of "venereal disease" in some of the camps, and owing to the victims being unable to realise the serious nature of the disease, there is a greater tendency of it spreading, for wherever they go they leave behind a trail of infection. The constable at Oodnadatta has

treated some of the cases himself, and requests that a supply of medicine and syringes be forwarded to enable him to give them better attention. About 50 aboriginals are at present receiving rations, &c., at the Oodnadatta depot, and about 15 at Lambinna and Indulkinna stations. Requests for further supplies have recently been received from the owners of these stations.

The health of the natives in the Marree district has been good, and the requirements of the old and infirm met by the issue of rations, &c., by the constable in charge of Marree.

In regard to the employment of aboriginals the constable considers that there should be a standard wage and all natives be engaged through the police, as is now done in the Northern Territory and Queensland. Pressure could then be brought to bear on the able-bodied native who travels from one camp to another and loafes on those incapable of earning their own living, and in receipt of Government supplies.

Another matter requiring prompt attention is the educating and welfare of half-caste and three-quarter-caste children. Whilst on patrol duty recently at Finnis Springs the constable noticed two children in a camp, both of whom are perfectly white, although undoubtedly three-quarter-caste. I would suggest that the constable be given permission to arrest these children, and bring them before the court with a view to having them placed under the control of the State Children's Department.

The usual yearly supplies will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the aboriginals in the Beltana, Blinman, Tarcoola, and Port Augusta districts. Two blankets were recently forwarded to the manager of Thurgla Station for the use of two old natives; a few were also issued to aboriginals when being discharged from the local hospital.

The offences recorded against aboriginals during the year were:—Drunkenness, 2; vagrancy, 5; unlawful possession, 3; and breaches of the Licensing Act, 17.

During the year 24 aboriginals have been treated at the Port Augusta Hospital, 17 of them were discharged as cured, five died, and two are still receiving treatment in the institution. I might mention that

every credit is due to Dr. Gorrie and the nursing staff for their untiring care and attention to the natives while under their charge.

*Births.*—Full-bloods—Males, 5; females, 2. Half-bloods—Males, 2; females, 1.

*Deaths.*—Full-bloods—Males, 13; females, 6. Half-bloods—Males, 0; females, 0.

I have, &c.,

T. B. McCARTHY, Inspector.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

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#### KOONIBBA LUTHERAN MISSION.

Sir—I have the honor to respectfully submit the following report:—

Owing to an extremely dry period during the most critical time, last season's wheat crops suffered severely; nevertheless, we were able to average about 7bush. per acre and cut 400 tons of hay off 450 acres. The well-worked fallowed land averaged about 10bush. per acre. During the year 500 sheep were bought, and the acreage under crop for this season considerably diminished. As the winter rains of 1922 were only moderately heavy our tanks were not nearly filled; in consequence, water had to be carted 15 miles for nearly two months, and most of our stock removed for a still longer period.

Within the last six months a new industry has been introduced. We engaged a master saddler, who is training three native lads. The progress made is very satisfactory, and justifies the new venture.

The average native population was about 150; at times, however, there were considerably more. The older natives continue to lead a nomadic life, and have a tendency to drift to the townships, where they are a nuisance. The births show a preponderance of full-bloods, there being four against three half-caste children. Five full-blood natives died, two being under 20 years old, and one half-caste infant. A severe form of influenza, which developed into pneumonia, was in most instances the cause of death. It was at times difficult to obtain medical advice,

especially since the telephone connection is not as yet taken in hand, although mentioned.

The work in school was severely handicapped on account of the water shortage. The 73 children of the home, together with the staff and one teacher (Mr Bode), had, during the drought a stay of two months at Davenport Creek, where there is an abundance of good water. The teacher bravely attempted to instruct the 60 children under his care on the beach in sight and sound of the roaring and raging of the billows and breakers of the surging Southern Ocean.

Proceeding from the promise that a real change of living can follow a change of heart only, the spiritual care of the natives was our main consideration. There also, as in other matters, we saw life's lights and shades, had our delights and disappointments. However, we try to battle on and endeavor to instil by word and example a truly Christian spirit in the hearts of our dark people.

I have, &c.,

C. HOFF, Superintendent.

Koonibba, September, 1923.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.