

South



Australia.



REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1927.



*In*clude:

HARRISON WEIR, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1928.

- 7 JAN 1963

REPORT. 441

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide, September 29th, 1927.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Sir—I have the honor to submit this, my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the year ended June 30th, 1927.

Rations, clothing, and blankets have been supplied during the year to depots throughout the State, and have been distributed by the issuers of rations to the old, sick, and infirm aboriginals, also to others found in poor circumstances.

Their medical needs have been attended to. The medical officers and hospital officers and attendants have all given to aboriginal patients all necessary attention. Supplies of medicines for coughs, colds, and eye troubles have been sent to the depots, and given out by issuers of rations. There are fully-equipped dispensaries at Point Pearce, Point McLeay, and Koonibba Aboriginal Stations.

CENSUS.

The census of aboriginals in the Commonwealth on June 30th, 1926, is as follows:—

	Full Bloods.	Half-castes.	Total.
Western Australia	22,222	2,420	24,642
Northern Territory	19,853	689	20,542
Queensland	13,604	4,047	17,651
New South Wales	1,031	6,035	7,066
South Australia	2,531	1,452	3,983
Victoria	55	459	514
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	59,296	15,102	74,398
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

POINT PEARCE STATION.

Births: 12 half-castes. Deaths: 3 half-castes.

Number on station: 14 full bloods; 254 half-castes; total, 268.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

Births: 4 half-castes. Deaths: 1 full blood; 3 half-castes.

Number on station and in district: 43 full bloods; 252 half-castes; total, 295.

KOONIBBA MISSION.

Births: 3 full bloods; 11 half-castes. Deaths: 3 full bloods; 3 half-castes

Number on station: 81 full bloods; 96 half-castes; total, 177.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

The Superintendent reports that the total grain, wheat, and barley produced on the station was 35,265bush. The returns per acre were as follows:—Wheat, 13½bush.; barley, 15½bush.; hay, 278 tons were cut and stacked; hay still on hand on June 30th, 300 tons.

The wool clip totalled 120 bales from 3,218 shecp, 30 rams, and 1,110 lambs shorn.

The total number of lambs tailed was 700, being a percentage of 50 per cent. average. Owing to the dry season this has been the worst average experienced for lambing for many years.

There are 2,470 acres under crop this year, which, despite the late season and light rainfall, is looking well, but good late rains will be needed to ensure favorable results, as there is little reserve moisture in the soil.

The profit and loss account herewith shows a loss of £3,338 3s. 11d. on the year's operations. The loss last year was £3,102 18s. 1d. I am hopeful that a return of good seasons will soon eliminate these losses.

Five new wood and iron cottages have been built, under the superintendence of Mr. G. T. Lane, Chief Inspector of Soldier Settlements. Owing, however, to the steady increase in the population, two or three more new cottages are needed.

There have been several cases of typhoid fever on the station. The hospital has been a great help. Sister Jean Francis is in charge, and has done splendid work.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

The Superintendent reports that 200 tons of hay were harvested, which has been specially helpful in enabling the station to carry livestock through a long, dry season without any noticeable loss. Assistance has been given to aboriginals occupying blocks on the Coorong where the feed was destroyed by the disastrous fire which swept over the district during last December. We were able to help these unfortunate native settlers with supplies of hay and grazing for their cattle.

Forty-five acres of peas were sown with good results and fed to pigs. The returns for pigs sold during the year were £484. Owing to the long, dry season the dairy results were less than usual. The profit and loss account herewith shows a loss of £3,304 17s. 10d., which is satisfactory compared with previous years.

Six three-roomed cottages for natives, a six-roomed house for the bookkeeper, and a hospital of eight rooms have been

erected by contractors, Messrs. Tait & Voaden, from material obtained from cottages at Pompoota, and are very satisfactory. The work was done under the superintendence of Mr. G. T. Lane, Chief Inspector of Soldier Settlements. This building has greatly relieved the housing problem, but more cottages are needed, and I hope to get two more erected from material still on hand. The Parkin Mission have kindly accepted the responsibility of providing a nurse for the hospital.

The metalling of the road between the station and the Nar-rung jetty has been completed, and will be a great advantage to the station. This work was done by a white contractor, who employed aboriginal labor only on the work.

During the year the Government has added another 2,700 acres of land to the station. The land is about five miles away from the station, and is poor in quality. It will, however, help to make the station more self supporting, especially as much of it is well timbered, and supplying firewood for the station has for some years been a difficult matter. The numbers of livestock on the station are as follows:—Horses, 37; cattle, 144; sheep, 833; pigs, 43.

Mr. C. Ramsey resigned as Superintendent on July 31st, 1927, and Mr. W. R. Penhall has been appointed to the position.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The Superintendent's report is included herewith.

Owing to the dryness of the season, last year's harvest results were not good, the average being about 7bush. This season, however, the harvest prospects are exceptionally bright. The Superintendent complains of a number of aboriginals camping around the neighboring townships, resulting in an increase in drinking and immorality. In order to combat this evil, it will probably be necessary to proclaim these townships prohibited areas to aboriginals not in lawful employment.

OOLDEA.

Arrangements have been made for rations to be supplied to aged and infirm aboriginals on neighboring sheep stations, where the young able bodied can obtain employment. This has enabled me to close the ration depot at Ooldea, which is an advantage, as there is no work for aboriginals there.

POLICE OFFICERS.

Reports have been received from the Protector of Aborigines at Port Augusta on the work done by the police officers as

issuers of rations, &c., to aboriginals. Referring to the hospital at Port Augusta, he says the greatest credit is due to Dr. E. L. Symons, the secretary of the hospital, and nursing staff, for their untiring care and treatment of aboriginals whilst under their care.

MISSIONARIES.

Religious and educational work is being done by lady missionaries at Swan Reach, Oodnadatta, and Baroota.

A home for half-caste children has recently been opened near Quorn by the Australian Aborigines Mission. This home will give these children a good environment, and will doubtless show good results.

Mr. G. Aiston, Protector of Aborigines, Newcastle District, continues to take a warm, friendly interest in aboriginals in his district, and expresses in his report thanks to kind helpers.

NORTH-SOUTH RAILWAY.

A proclamation has been made concerning the railway now in process of construction from Oodnadatta to Alice Springs, prohibiting aboriginals not in lawful employment from being within 10 miles east and west of the line. The proclamation will, of course, only apply to South Australian territory, but I believe similar action will be taken by the Commonwealth Government. I recently visited Oodnadatta and its neighborhood, and am convinced that the police officers will find this step helpful in minimising the evils which would result from the camping of aboriginals along the line of work.

Interest in the aborigines generally has greatly increased. The Advisory Council of Aborigines holds monthly meetings for the consideration of all matters of interest. I thank the Aborigines' Friends' Association for their contribution of £100 per annum towards wages of nurse at Point Pearce Station, and the Parkin Mission for payment of nurse's wages at Point McLeay Station. The boarding home in North Adelaide for aboriginal women and children conducted by the Adelaide City Mission is most useful. The matron of the home, Mrs. W. Owen, has been made a Protector of Aborigines, and acts in an honorary capacity as Visitor and Inspector of half-caste girls from Alice Springs in situations in Adelaide and suburbs. An Aborigines' Protection League has also been formed, and an Anthropological Society meets monthly at the University, specially interested in the primitive life of the aborigines, and the recording of same for the benefit of science.

The total receipts show an increase of £2,144 15s. 4d. on last year.

The explanation of the increase in expenditure is that £2,628 15s. 4d. have been spent in the erection of cottages on both Point McLeay and Point Pearce Stations, and £2,186 5s. 8d. on purchase of additional land for Point McLeay.

	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure	31,452	5	10
Less total receipts	15,072	8	0

Cost of aborigines to South Australian Government for 12 months ended June 30th, 1927 .. £16,379 17 10

I have, &c.,

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

LUTHERAN MISSION STATION.

Koonibba, July, 1927.

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

Farming.—Whereas we were able to speak of success in farming operations last year, we have to report a setback for the year under review. The winter rains in 1926 were sufficient only for time being, and gave not enough moisture to the sub-soil. When in August and September the rains failed, growth was retarded, and the harvest was poor in consequence. In addition to that we had only very little fallow. 460 acres of new land were sown, about 700 acres of stubble, in all about 1,200 acres. Some 2,500 bags of wheat were harvested; average almost 7bush.

Grass was plentiful, and our sheep had a good fleece, which realised 12½d.-13¾d. per pound. We happened to strike the poor sale in December.

Our greatest trouble was a repetition of the water shortage. For months water was carted, first from Government tanks and later from Charra Well (16 miles distant) and from the railway.

During the months of July and August we fallowed 800 acres for this season. This fallow has been worked well and the crop now growing gives promise of a very good return. The season opened rather late for this district, but otherwise is one of the best on record. Also the 460 acres of last year's new land and 100 acres of new ground are enough to cheer even the most pessimistic. In fact, we could not wish the crops to be better. There is also a superabundance of grass. But on account of the very dry summer and the subsequent water shortage the lambing was poor.

Jubilee.—The outstanding feature for the year under review was the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the existence of this mission. On the 19th September (1926) commemorative services were held morning and afternoon. Over 40 visitors and officials of our church made the pilgrimage from beyond the Gulf (Westward Ho!) and the natives and West Coast residents rallied in goodly numbers from all directions, about 600 people congregating. From its inception the purpose of this Mission has been first and foremost to proclaim the only truth that really counts, hence the religious character of the jubilee celebrations. Tens of thousands of pounds have been spent in supplying the spiritual and temporal needs of the natives, and that without any hope of gaining even one penny. This is a self-imposed task and done cheerfully for the sake of the immortal souls of the aborigines.

Statistics.—The native population fluctuated for some considerable extent, the highest and lowest figures being 234 (in September) and 154 (in March) respectively. The average was around 176. There was not much illness and the deaths were confined, with one exception, to the aged and infants.

Discipline.—The behaviour of the natives at the station was equally as good as during other years. While employed here, away from the blighting influence of degraded white men, the natives are a decent, happy community, and it is a pleasure and a privilege to work among them. But there is a certain section which prefers to camp around some of the neighboring towns, because they can obtain liquor of a very questionable quality and great potency whenever they desire to do so (which means always). If it is the wish of the community or the State to number the natives among the extinct races then we need only close our eyes to that which is going on in one or two coastal towns. Having the welfare of these people at heart we venture to express the opinion that it would be in the best interest of whites and natives alike to prohibit the latter from camping near townships, with the exception perhaps of men only, who are lawfully employed for at least five days a week. Native women are in danger of becoming receivers and distributors of venereal diseases, and should under no circumstances be permitted to camp near towns.

Problems.—Our greatest difficulty is to find profitable employment for the natives. We were able to find good homes for seven girls as domestics, and five lads, in our congregations. They are all giving satisfaction. Our mission board has appointed one of its members, whose duty it is to see that these young people are properly treated. The trouble is that this scheme of finding homes does not materially relieve the situation concerning the men.

Pastimes.—A young people's society was formed at the latter end of last year. The evenings are attended fairly well, and we expect some measure of success although we have not discovered a Demosthenes so far. To counteract the tendency towards gambling we have given the men table games, such as ping pong, draughts, and the like. They appreciate this and gambling is on the decline.

In conclusion, if financially the past year was a partial failure we believe that morally and spiritually the gain appreciable, and we hope that in future we shall find a solution also of the labor question.

I have, &c.,

C. Hoff, Superintendent.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1927.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Horses	—			70	0	0
Salary of superintendent and book-keeper	525	1	4			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	5,214	8	10			
				5,739	10	2
Rations for aboriginals	382	4	5			
School books for aboriginal children ..	10	16	6			
Hospital rations	54	12	5			
				447	13	4
Accident insurance	—			62	16	1
Head office salaries and expenses....	—			112	2	0
Depreciation—						
Furniture	5	4	8			
Hospital furniture	1	16	1			
Harness	24	7	8			
Implements, &c.	166	10	3			
				198	7	8
				£6,630	9	3
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Farm account, wheat, wool, and other produce	—			1,836	10	6
Rent	—			77	15	9
Cattle	210	15	0			
Pigs	38	10	0			
Sheep	941	19	0			
				1,191	4	0
Store revenue account	137	11	4			
Less loss while worked as deposit account	18	7	4			
				119	4	0
Meat	—			67	11	1
Balance net profit 1915-26 brought forward	—			1,703	1	8
Net loss for year	3,338	3	11			
Less net profit brought forward ...	1,703	1	8			
				1,635	2	3
				£6,630	9	3

BALANCE SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS
AT JUNE 30TH, 1927.

LIABILITIES.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account	19,247	13	5			
H.M. Government deposit account..	835	1	2			
				20,082	14	7
Capital account		—		11,362	9	5
Sundry creditors		—		1,023	10	4
				£32,468	14	4
ASSETS.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	9,600	0	0			
New cottages erected during year (uncompleted)	1,106	18	4			
				10,706	18	4
Improvements		—		6,197	12	11
Implements, vehicles, &c.	1,502	13	6			
Harness	219	9	7			
Furniture	99	7	10			
Hospital furniture	34	6	2			
				1,855	17	1
Sundry debtors		—		23	19	3
Stocks on hand—						
Horses	994	0	0			
Cattle	878	10	0			
Sheep	6,904	0	0			
Pigs	135	7	0			
Farm account—Hay, seed, ferti- zers, fencing, and building material, &c.	1,934	5	5			
Store	1,203	2	1			
				12,049	4	6
Net loss for year	3,338	3	11			
<i>Less</i> net profit brought forward	1,703	1	8			
				1,635	2	3
				£32,468	14	4

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1927.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Farm account, dairy, and other produce	—	—	—	520	13	3
Rations for aboriginals.....	465	12	0			
School books for aboriginal children	3	0	0			
Hospital rations, &c.	2	15	10			
	<hr/>			471	7	10
Salary of superintendent and bookkeeper	444	9	3			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	2,497	1	0			
	<hr/>			2,941	10	3
Cattle.....	—	—	—	52	18	9
Accident insurance	—	—	—	31	10	10
Depreciation—						
Implements, &c.	82	1	1			
Harness	15	3	9			
Furniture	6	15	7			
Hospital furniture	2	11	3			
	<hr/>			106	11	8
Rent	41	0	9			
Interest on lands under purchase	63	10	8			
	<hr/>			104	11	5
Head office salaries and expenses				112	2	0
Net loss from 1915-1926, brought forward	—	—	—	34,651	6	3
				<hr/>		
				£38,992	12	3
				<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Horses	57	10	0			
Sheep.....	124	4	0			
Pigs	271	4	10			
	<hr/>			452	18	10
Store, while worked as deposit account.....	501	4	8			
Less loss while worked as revenue account	6	8	5			
	<hr/>			494	16	3
Meat	—	—	—	88	13	1
Net loss for year.....	3,304	17	10			
Add net loss brought forward	34,651	6	3			
	<hr/>			37,956	4	1
				<hr/>		
				£38,992	12	3
				<hr/>		

**BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS
AT JUNE 30TH, 1927.**

LIABILITIES.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account	47,868	2	1			
H.M. Government deposit account ...	91	7	5			
				47,959	9	6
Sundry creditors	—			322	5	7
Capital account	—			5,550	6	4
				£53,832	1	5
ASSETS.						
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	4,809	1	3			
New cottages transferred from Pom- poota (uncompleted).....	1,654	7	10			
				6,463	9	1
Land purchased	—			2,122	15	0
Improvements	—			2,503	4	0
Implements, vehicles, &c.	738	9	8			
Harness	136	14	0			
Furniture	128	17	0			
Hospital furniture.....	48	14	0			
				1,052	14	8
Stocks on hand—						
Store	725	19	10			
Horses	555	0	0			
Cattle	720	0	0			
Sheep	1,099	10	0			
Pigs	129	0	0			
Farm	450	15	10			
				3,680	5	8
Sundry debtors	—			53	8	11
Net loss for year	3,304	17	10			
Add net loss brought forward.....	34,651	6	3			
				37,956	4	1
				£53,832	1	5

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.