

South



Australia.

REPORT.

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1930.



Adelaide:

HARRISON WEBB, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1930.

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REPORT.

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide, September 17th, 1930.

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, 1930.

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.

The drought which has held most of the pastoral areas in its grip for some years, has continued to prevail with great severity during the past year. In consequence the aboriginals living in those districts have been largely dependent on this Department for foods and other necessaries. Recently however good rains have fallen in these drought stricken districts, and the outlook for the coming season is now favourable.

The medical needs of the natives have been attended to by medical officers and at hospitals. Supplies of medicines for common ailments 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.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

The estimated total for Australia is 78,430, including 16,629 half-castes. The figures for South Australia are 4,086, and the Statistical Department supply the following particulars:—

About June, 1929, there were 4,086 aboriginals recorded, classified as follows:—

	Full Bloods.		Half-castes.		Total		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Nomadic	889	770	103	108	992	878	1,870
In regular employment . . .	409	234	306	119	715	353	1,068
In supervised camps . . .	37	50	261	287	298	337	635
Other	116	125	128	144	244	269	513
Grand total	1,451	1,179	798	658	2,249	1,837	4,086
Adults	1,102	850	480	369	1,582	1,219	2,801
Children	349	329	318	289	667	618	1,285
Total	1,451	1,179	798	658	2,249	1,837	4,086

POINT McLEAY STATION.

Births: 1 full blood; 18 half-castes. Deaths: 5 half-castes.
Number on station: 27 full bloods; 291 half-castes; total 318.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

Births : 17 half-castes. Deaths : 2 full bloods ; 11 half-castes.
 Number on station : 4 full bloods ; 294 half-castes ; total, 298.

KOONIBBA MISSION.

Births : 1 full blood ; 12 half-castes. Deaths : nil.
 Number on station : 86 full bloods ; 124 half-castes ; total, 210.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

The Superintendent reports that the droughty conditions resulted in scarcity of feed and the consequent hand feeding of the stock has depleted hay reserves. Of the 160 tons of hay grown from 175 acres there are now 100 tons on hand. The returns for cream sold from the dairy were £578 13s. 6d. Pigs sold realised £202 11s. 4d. The wool returns were disappointing, only £234 3s. 8d. being received during the year. Sheepskins and hides similarly were very low in price. Lambing is incomplete ; it will be below the average.

Two stone cottages of three and four rooms have been built, and rooms have been added to existing houses. There is still some overcrowding, owing to the increase in population, and it will be necessary to continue a strong building policy.

The rain water storage capacity has been increased by placing seven 1,000gall. iron tanks at the various cottages. A new windmill and tank (1,000galls.) have been placed at the well on Block K, which provide ample water for all stock depastured there.

The general health of the natives has been fairly good. Sister Rayney, the Matron in charge of the hospital, has done good work. Sanitation has had vigilant attention.

The Superintendent has appreciated the loyal and willing co-operation of the staff in promoting the welfare of the natives and of the station generally.

The Missioner (Mr. W. F. L. Cook) appointed by the Parkin Mission has regularly conducted church services and Sunday school, and organized various societies and clubs.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

The Superintendent reports a continuance of drought during past year, and resulting in poor harvest returns. The wheat averaged under 5bush. per acre, barley 7bush., and oats 4½bush. The system of farming on shares was continued, and after making allowances for sharefarmers the total station share was wheat, 4,813bush. ; barley, 4,460bush. ; oats, 327bush ; total, 9,600bush. The returns for hay were 230 tons from 280 acres cut.

The wool clip totalled 65 bales from 2,605 sheep, 61 rams, and 700 lambs. Lambing is incomplete. There are now nearly 1,000 lambs marked ; the average will be about 76 per cent.

The Profit and Loss Account herewith shows a loss of £9,489 2s. on the year's operations, which is the worst financial result this station has shown. The explanation is the long continuance of the drought, loss of stock, and fall in prices of wool and sheep; also the number of aboriginals maintained has increased to 298. Notwithstanding this disappointing experience this station, now the drought has broken, will show big returns and good results.

This season there are 3,568 acres under crop, 1,990 acres being fallow and the rest stubble.

The crops to date are looking well. If the weather continue favorable a good harvest should be gathered.

The tractor purchased last year has been successfully and economically worked by aboriginal sharefarmers.

All dams and tanks are full. The galvanized-iron catchments to tanks on Wardang Island have filled the tanks there, and it is estimated the island will now carry 2,000 sheep.

A four-roomed stone cottage has been completed by native builders, and repairs and improvements have been made to cottages.

Sanitation has received careful attention. The health of the natives has been better than last year.

The work of the Anglican and Methodist Churches in regularly conducting religious services is much appreciated.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The Superintendent's report is included herewith, and is of special interest as it is the last report of the Rev. C. Hoff who, for 10 years, has ably filled the position of Superintendent of the Mission.

The station has again suffered severely from the drought, and it has been necessary for this department to give more than usual assistance in rations.

The United Aborigines' Mission has Missionaries at Swan Reach and Oodnadatta, and have recently begun work amongst aboriginals at Mount Serle. Their home for half-caste children at Quorn has been enlarged and now accommodates 25 children.

The Aborigines' Friends' Association continues to give financial help in maintenance of nurses at Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations.

Miss Elizabeth Hunter has continued the work of honorary inspector of half-caste girls from Alice Springs, who are in situations in Adelaide and suburbs.

The Parkin Mission provides a Missioner, Mr. W. F. L. Cook, for Point McLeay Station.

The home in North Adelaide, conducted by the Adelaide City Mission, for aboriginal women and children, continues its useful work, providing the necessary accommodation and oversight for these aboriginals when sickness and other reasons detain them in the city.

The Advisory Council of Aborigines meets monthly, the Hon. W. H. Harvey being chairman.

The Anthropological Society also meets monthly at the University, and is particularly interested in our aboriginal race.

I sincerely appreciate the work of these friends of the aboriginal in their several departments.

POLICE OFFICERS.

Inspector P. A. Giles, Protector of Aborigines, Port Augusta, reports :—

Permit me to tender my annual report on the aboriginals in the Far North and Eyre's Peninsula.

In that portion of the State there are approximately 1,100 full-blooded aboriginals and 300 half-castes.

The general health has been fairly satisfactory ; 58 deaths have been reported.

During the year there has been 44 births.

Outside of settlements and station properties there are many aboriginals about whom little information is obtainable and to whom this report does not apply.

I am deeply impressed with the honesty of the civilised aborigines living about the towns and settlements, and their general good behaviour. Not one case of stealing by such natives has been reported during the year ; and during the past six years I cannot recollect one case of impertinence or annoyance to white people by an aboriginal.

In the far back country north and west of Oodnadatta there were 10 complaints of petty larceny from white men's camps, and two cases where sheep were killed by natives for food.

During the year 14 natives were prosecuted for drinking liquor, and four white men were convicted for supplying aboriginals with wine.

Owing to the drought much hardship is suffered by the natives. Practically all the game is gone and there is no work for those who usually work on the stations.

From what I have seen of the aboriginals about Port Augusta I am convinced that working for wages is the best means for up-lifting the aboriginal ; it appears to instil into them a self dependence we do not find in those who are in receipt of charity rations.

Mr. G. Aiston, Protector of Aborigines for the Newcastle District, reports from Mulka Well that good rains have flooded many parts of the neighbouring country, and that there is now a certain amount of employment for blacks on the stations.

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

Head office—	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries		1,050	6	8			
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, &c.		6,049	19	2			
Boarding home for aboriginal women		190	8	11			
Advisory Council of Aborigines—							
Printing, stationery, and allowance to secretary		76	19	4			
Superannuation fund pensions		208	0	0			
					7,575	14	1
Point Pearce Station—							
Salaries and wages, &c.		6,201	2	2			
Implements, stock, fertilisers, &c.		3,508	13	3			
New cottages		541	14	2			
Material for catchments, Wardang Island		47	14	11			
Purchases for store, &c.		3,962	18	5			
Loan expenditure for improvements on Wardang Island and purchase of stock and implements		2,023	13	10			
Loan account, interest and depreciation		234	0	5			
					16,519	17	2
Point McLeay Station—							
Salaries and wages		2,949	2	4			
Implements, stock, supplies, &c. . .		2,541	9	0			
Interest and rent of sections		174	6	5			
Purchase of cottage		250	15	0			
Purchases for store, &c.		2,645	15	9			
					8,561	8	6
					£32,656	19	9
	RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.		
From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station ..		3,026	4	2			
From store sales, Point Pearce Station		3,466	15	9			
From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station		2,074	9	11			
From store sales, Point McLeay Station		2,655	1	1			
Refund of advances for fares, &c.		216	12	10			
					£11,439	3	9

The total expenditure is £5,217 16s. 3d. more than the previous 12 months.

The total receipts show an increase of £1,207 9s. on last year.

	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure	32,656	19	9
Less total receipts	11,439	3	9
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Cost of aborigines to South Australian Govern- ment for 12 months ended June 30th, 1930	£21,217	16	0
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I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

Koonibba, July, 1930.

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

In many ways the past 12 months were most disappointing. After two consecutive partial failures we had hoped for a return to normal seasons. The rather light winter rains were only just sufficient to give the wheat a moderate start, but the strong and continuous winds not only dried out the land, but caused the fields to drift and to cut the wheat. The only good rain for the year fell in early spring. This revived our hopes somewhat, but no useful rains followed. In consequence almost 40 per cent. of the crops failed. The figures are as follows :—We sowed 930 acres fallow, 500 stubble of the previous year's fallow, 120 acres second crop, and 250 of new land; all this with the station teams, a total of 1,800 acres. We harvested 700 bags of wheat from 750 acres fallow, and 300 of stubble. The balance, 750 acres, failed totally. Besides the above, sharefarmers cropped 775 acres of stubble and 125 of new land. This was all fed off in order to have at least a little benefit from it. About 25 acres were cut for hay, and realised 10 tons. Farming with such results is rather discouraging. It led quite naturally to still more men being put off. Only a very few of the native men could be employed. Through lack of feed and rain we were unable to do any fallowing. In fact, the wind-swept paddocks were as bare as fallow.

Sheep.—Also here we must record retrogression. We lost heavily in July and August of last year, so that only 500 were left at shearing time. Practically all the lambing ewes died while lambing, and we reared less than a dozen lambs. The clip was light and realised only £80 15s. net.

Seeding, 1930.—The wheat germinated well, and is looking promising. Provided the winds are less severe than heretofore we again hope for a better season. We have cropped 1,330 acres with station teams, and a sharefarmer put in 800, total 2,130 acres

Unemployment.—The unemployment of men caused us much worry. We could not employ more, and there was no work to be found in the district. We here gratefully acknowledge, sir, the help extended to our natives through your department, but even the rations were barely sufficient to keep body and soul together. Kangaroo was almost exclusively the meat diet and still is. Rabbits did not survive the drought, and lizards at any time no more than a toothsome sweetmeat. A number of the more shiftless natives congregated at Murat Bay and there lived, to a great extent, on fish and the scraps from the bakers, butchers, and eating houses. Nothing is indestructable to their destructive teeth and digestive organs. Receiving rations proves very demoralizing. Nevertheless we must admit that the discipline was quite good. We had really no trouble worth mentioning.

Church.—From the purely missionary standpoint the drought proved to be most fertile. Lack of employment brought some uneducated natives under our influence, and we were privileged to receive eight adults as new church members, and at the present time six more are receiving religious instruction.

The new Superintendent and Missionary is Rev. A. Mueller, late of Morgan.

This, therefore, being my last report, I take the opportunity to thank you, sir, for the help and advice with which you were ever ready to oblige. It is gratefully acknowledged.

In conclusion, I must say that my 10 years' stay made it clear to me that the Australian aboriginal, being helpless in a white community, is ever in need of a friend with sympathetic understanding, and is in spite of his short-comings and peculiarities well worth saving. It is not without some sadness that I take my departure, as I have found some true and tried friends among them. Once more thanking you, sir, and wishing your department and the natives every success, I take my final leave from Koonibba.

I have, &c.,

C. HOFF, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.



Balance-sheet of the Point McLeay Station as at June 30th, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account.....	59,168	18	6			
H.M. Government deposit account	94	12	10			
				59,263	11	4
Sundry creditors	—			920	11	1
Capital account	—			5,550	6	4
				£65,734	8	9
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ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	6,506	1	9			
Cottages and Hospital transferred from Pompoota	2,080	10	7			
				8,586	12	4
Land purchased	—			2,122	15	0
Improvements	—			3,124	15	9
Implements, vehicles, &c.	674	12	5			
Harness	135	7	3			
Furniture	108	6	5			
Hospital furniture	61	15	5			
				980	1	6
Stock on hand						
Store	437	9	3			
Horses	315	0	0			
Cattle	821	0	0			
Sheep	1,004	12	0			
Pigs	166	0	0			
Farm tools, fodder, building and fencing material, &c.	557	6	6			
Skins and hides	11	10	0			
				3,312	17	9
Cash on hand	—			49	13	0
Sundry debtors	—			381	3	4
Net loss for year	3,338	9	1			
Add net loss brought forward 1915-29 ..	43,838	1	0	47,176	10	1
				£65,734	8	9
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F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

*Profit and Loss Account of the Point McLeay Station for the
year ended June 30th, 1930.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Farm account, dairy and other						
produce	—			196	6	1
Rations for aboriginals	871	11	3			
School books for aboriginal children	15	9	5			
Hospital rations and expenses	13	4	5			
				900	5	1
Salary of Superintendent and farm overseer	503	0	8			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	2,185	6	4			
				2,688	7	0
Cattle	14	6	0			
Horses	5	0	0			
				19	6	0
Accident insurance	—			23	4	1
Depreciation—						
Implements	74	19	2			
Harness	15	0	9			
Furniture	5	14	0			
Hospital furniture	3	5	0			
				98	18	11
Rent	—			41	5	9
Interest, &c., on land under pur- chase	—			132	10	8
Head office salaries and expenses	—			115	1	8
Net loss from 1915/29	—			43,838	1	0
				<u>£43,053</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>
By Sheep	162	15	5			
Pigs	215	15	2			
				378	10	7
Meat	—			45	7	3
Store	—			452	18	4
Net loss for year	3,338	9	1			
Add net loss brought forward, 1915-29	43,838	1	0			
				47,176	10	1
				<u>£48,053</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Balance-sheet of the Point Pearce Station as at June 30th, 1930.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account	40,420	6	1			
H.M. Government deposit account...	962	15	4			
H.M. Government loan account.....	1,820	13	10			
				43,203	15	3
Capital account	—			11,362	9	5
Sundry creditors	—			1,029	2	10
				£55,595	7	6
				£55,595	7	6
ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	10,548	15	10			
New cottages	2,149	19	0			
				12,698	14	10
Improvements	—			7,634	19	2
Implements, vehicles, &c.	1,638	9	7			
Harness	165	11	4			
Furniture	101	3	5			
Hospital furniture	38	1	8			
				1,943	6	0
Cash on hand	—			52	1	11
Sundry debtors	—			767	7	6
Stock on hand—						
Horses	457	0	0			
Cattle	418	0	0			
Sheep	3,845	2	6			
Pigs	93	11	0			
Farm stores, seed, super, building and fencing material, &c.	737	0	1			
Sheepskins	8	7	11			
Wool	8	11	8			
Store	921	2	5			
				6,488	15	7
Net loss for year	9,489	2	0			
Add net loss, 1915-29, brought forward	16,521	0	6			
				26,010	2	6
				£55,595	7	6

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

*Profit and Loss Account of the Point Pearce Station for the year ended
June 30th, 1930.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Farm and general expenses, wheat, barley, &c.	—			1,762	17	0
Horses	73	0	0			
Sheep	334	4	11			
	<hr/>			407	4	11
Salaries of officers	803	1	8			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	5,371	11	7			
	<hr/>			6,174	13	3
Rations for aboriginals	668	19	7			
School books for aboriginal children .	21	10	3			
Hospital rations and expenses	73	13	5			
	<hr/>			764	3	3
Store	—			23	3	7
Meat	—			92	19	8
Accident insurance	—			48	17	2
Head office salaries and expenses ...	—			115	1	8
Depreciation—						
Implements, vehicles, &c.	182	1	1			
Harness	18	7	11			
Furniture	5	6	6			
Hospital furniture	2	0	1			
	<hr/>			207	15	7
Interest on loan account	—			31	0	5
Balance net loss brought forward ...	—			16,521	0	6
				<hr/>		
				£26,148	17	0
				<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Rent	—			19	12	6
Cattle	110	7	0			
Pigs	8	15	0			
	<hr/>			119	2	0
Balance net loss for year	9,489	2	0			
Add net loss brought forward 1915-29	16,521	0	6			
	<hr/>			26,010	2	6
				<hr/>		
				£26,148	17	0
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F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.