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REPORT OF THE ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1943.

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Aborigines Protection Board, Adelaide,

16th August, 1943.

To His Excellency, SIR CHARLES MALCOLM BARCLAY-HARVEY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor in and over the State of South Australia, and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency :

We do ourselves the honour to submit the annual report of the Aborigines Protection Board for the year ended 30th June, 1943.

During the year under review the Board met regularly and dealt with a great variety of matters affecting the welfare of the aborigines.

It is pleasing to report that practically every able-bodied aborigine in the settled areas has been provided with suitable employment, a large number of men and women being engaged in the production of munitions and other articles required for the prosecution of the war. Others were employed on farms and orchards, in flax mills, and as domestic help in hospitals and other institutions.

The full-blooded aborigines in the northern and western parts of the State also made their contribution to the national effort by providing the necessary labour to carry on the pastoral undertakings that are so vital in relation to the production of food for the nation. On many pastoral holdings the whole of the working staff are aborigines. In addition the Board has assisted in securing suitable work for many of the aborigines evacuated from the north on account of war conditions.

Two young men, Alec Taylor and George Tongaree, joined the Royal Australian Air Force during the year.

On the application of the United Aborigines Mission the Board authorized the transfer of Nellie Lester to the Salvation Army Bethesda Hospital, Melbourne, for training as a nurse. When fully qualified Nellie intends to devote herself to the work of nursing amongst her own people. Linda Lester, a sister of Nellie Lester, who has been an officer of the Salvation Army for two years, entered the Bible Institute at Perth during the year to prepare for missionary work amongst the aborigines. These young men and women were received into the Colebrook Home for Children at Quorn at an early age, and were educated at the Quorn Primary and High Schools. These cases may be regarded as indicating the satisfactory results which may ensue if aboriginal children are brought up in conditions comparable to the standard of the average home in the general community.

Another matter of great interest during the year was the awarding of the Military Medal to Corporal Tim Hughes, of the Point Pearce Mission Station, for conspicuous bravery on the field in New Guinea, while serving in the Australian Imperial Forces.

It has been apparent for a considerable time that the services of a suitable woman to engage in welfare work amongst the women and girls were urgently needed. Dr. E. J. Davies, a fully qualified medical practitioner, who has had considerable experience amongst native people as a medical missionary, was appointed welfare officer in the Aborigines Department, and is now engaged in visiting the various mission stations and native camping places. It is hoped that, as a result of this appointment, there will be a great improvement in the standard of home life amongst the aborigines, thus providing the children with an environment conducive to health of body and mind.

Ten native girls were placed in the Salvation Army Home at Fullarton for training in domestic arts. The report of the matron regarding the conduct and progress of these young people is highly satisfactory.

An unconditional declaration of exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Act was made in respect of eight persons, and 40 others were granted exemption on probation.

Medical attention and medicine were provided in all parts of the State, and, by arrangement with the Dental Hospital, a number of aborigines were supplied with artificial dentures. One young man seriously handicapped for several years as a result of infantile paralysis, was provided with a walking caliper, trained at his request in light farm and dairy work, and eventually placed in remunerative employment.

The special schools for aborigines in various parts of the State continued in operation throughout the year. Supplies of school books, and materials for use in the domestic arts and woodworking classes, including the manufacture of simple articles of household furniture, and also for other handicrafts, were provided by the Board.

The medical survey of aborigines was continued during the year, and all persons suspected of tuberculous infection were referred to the chest clinic at the Royal Adelaide Hospital for investigation, and also a number who had been recommended for re-examination. It is pleasing to report that no positive cases of tuberculosis were revealed, and, in cases where re-examination was advised, the patients concerned will be referred to the clinic periodically.

The Board has provided rations and blankets for old and infirm aborigines in various parts of the State, and, in cases of sickness, special issues of meat, vegetables, milk and other foods have been provided for the patients.

By arrangement and with the assistance of the Central Board of Health a considerable number of children were immunized against diphtheria.

The introduction of the system of rationing essential goods entailed a great amount of work in ensuring that all aborigines, including those employed on pastoral stations and their dependants, were provided with food and clothing. Following a conference with the Rationing Commission, ration coupon books are now issued to aborigines in approved cases. Natives entirely dependent on the department, and others engaged in casual work only, are provided for by special permits on the recommendation of the Board.

Three native families, with the assistance of the Board, purchased homes during the year, and are endeavouring to maintain themselves in the general community.

The Board administers endowment funds for a number of aboriginal families. Direct payment of endowment moneys in several of these cases was recommended, as it was considered that the endowee in each case had demonstrated her ability to use endowment money in the best interests of her children.

REPORTS FROM PROTECTORS, MISSIONARIES AND STATION MANAGERS.

Inspector P. J. Bourke, of the northern and western police districts, states that the general health of the aborigines in those areas is satisfactory, those needing medical attention being referred to the hospital at Port Augusta.

All able-bodied men suitable for employment are at work on sheep and cattle stations, in labour gangs on the railways and other essential work, and are stated to be well treated. The inspector recommends that young male aborigines be trained in the management of livestock to enable them to secure continuous work in the pastoral industry.

There is an abundance of native game and other foods for the aborigines still living under tribal conditions.

Bordertown Native Camp.—The inmates of this camp are mainly old and infirm.

A windmill and tank were purchased and placed in commission to facilitate the supply of water for domestic purposes.

Port Augusta (Umeewarra Mission).—Twenty-four children are living in the mission dormitory. Those of school-going age attend a special school for aborigines, where instruction is given by the missionary sisters, Misses Simmons and Cantle.

A hut to be used for medical purposes is in course of erection, the labour being provided by friends of the mission in the form of a working bee, organized by the mayor, Mr. Riches, M.P.

Great interest is being manifested in the welfare of the aborigines by the people in this district.

Ernabella Mission (Presbyterian).—The superintendent, the Rev. J. R. B. Love, reports that there were 15 births, all full bloods, and five deaths, during the year.

A sick parade is held daily and appropriate treatment provided. To facilitate the treatment of sick aborigines a hospital and dispensary building has been erected.

Station workers and shepherds were provided with food by the mission, the food of other aborigines being mainly bush food secured by hunting in the reserve and on other adjacent lands.

Milk was distributed to all mothers and children daily.

Rations and medical supplies were provided by the Aborigines Protection Board.

Two landing strips for use by aeroplanes were provided by the workmen under official supervision.

The value of wild dog scalps purchased from native hunters amounted to approximately £350, the natives expending this money in purchasing supplementary foodstuffs.

Two patrols by camel into the reserve were undertaken by the superintendent during the year.

Regular services were held for religious instruction.

The average daily attendance at the mission school was 44, the highest number on one day being 110. The teacher Mr. Trudinger, maintained the usual high standard of work amongst the children. Morning lessons were given to all pupils, and manual training to older boys each afternoon.

One child was removed from the mission without authority, and, at the request of the Board, Mr. Trudinger made a long and arduous journey to recover the child. She suffered no harm, and was escorted safely back to Ernabella.

Lutheran Mission, Koonibba.—The superintendent, the Rev. R. H. Traeger, reports a satisfactory year.

Over 40 of the younger men from this station are rendering good service in the Army Labour Corps. They return to the station as opportunity offers, during periods of leave.

Eighty children attend the special school for aborigines in charge of Mr. Lange, and, in addition to subjects provided in the school curriculum, instruction is given in technical subjects, materials being provided by the Aborigines Protection Board.

The children's home continues to care for children whose parents are not living at the station, and also for other orphan children, the number of inmates at present being 43.

The medical work was carried on effectively by Dr. Gibson and Sister Hitchcock.

The conduct of the natives has been satisfactory.

Religious services and devotions are regularly attended at the station, and services are also held in other districts where numbers of natives are residing temporarily.

Rations, medical supplies, blankets, etc., for old, infirm sick aborigines and dependent children are provided by the Aborigines Protection Board.

UNITED ABORIGINES MISSION ACTIVITIES.

Ooldea.—The superintendent reports steady progress at Ooldea. There are approximately 200 aborigines at the mission, including 36 children in the dormitory, and 58 living with their parents in the camps. All of these children receive instruction at the local school for aborigines.

Many of the natives engage in the manufacture of native weapons and curios, which they sell to visitors and to passengers at the railway station.

Provision is made with the assistance of the Board to provide for the educational and medical needs of the people, rations, medicines, blankets, school books, etc., being provided by the Board.

Nepabunna.—The new dormitory building, which is a considerable undertaking, is nearing completion. The majority of the natives working on surrounding stations have been obliged to take their children with them, thus limiting their opportunities for education. With the completion of the dormitory the children may be safely left at the mission, and enabled to attend school regularly.

A new well is being sunk to improve the water supply for the village.

In co-operation with the Board, rations, medical attention, etc., is provided for sick and infirm aborigines.

Finnis Springs.—Considerable progress has been made at the mission during the past year. A wireless transceiver plant and freelite service were installed.

The flying doctor visits the mission and directs the medical treatment of the natives, which is carried out by the superintendent.

A large underground tank of 20,000gall. capacity is being constructed. The cement for this work was donated by the Aborigines Uplift Society, and the freight charges paid by the Board.

Work at the school for aborigines was maintained as usual during the year.

Quorn (Colebrook Home).—There are 26 children in the home at present. During the year under review six young people, whose training was completed, took positions in various parts of the State, the girls in domestic service and the boys on pastoral stations.

A system of vocational training has been introduced by the appointment of a lady teacher, who instructs the girls in dressmaking, etc.

With a view to improving the water supply for the home a well is being constructed, the Board providing a grant of £200 to finance the project.

The children living in the home attend the Quorn public school, and their work is regarded as being highly satisfactory.

Swan Reach.—Pending the removal of the mission plant to a more suitable site, temporary arrangements were made for the establishment of a small dairy. Several boys have been taught to milk the cows, also to use the separator and to make butter.

Gardening implements have been purchased, the engine and pump overhauled to improve the water supply, and the young people instructed in gardening and irrigation.

A hut is in course of erection to facilitate the instruction of women and girls in laundry work, dressmaking and cookery, and the young men and boys in woodwork and other useful crafts, the materials for the building being provided by the Board.

The usual activities of the mission, including the special school for aborigines, have been maintained during the year.

Point McLeay Station.—There were 17 births and 11 deaths during the year, the population on the 30th June, 1943, being 315.

The erection of a new dairy building was commenced, and will soon be completed. The production of cream was satisfactory, the milking herd being well maintained, both in number and quality.

The harvest was satisfactory, yielding 200 tons of hay and 300 tons of ensilage.

All established pastures at the head station, and also at Primrose Farm, were top dressed with superphosphate.

A shearing plant was installed during the year.

The garden produce was of excellent quality, but the production of some types of vegetable was restricted by the activities of garden pests. Owing to the absence of male workers, a great deal of the work in the dairy and in the garden was performed by women and girls.

The health of the natives generally was very good, attributable, in a large degree, to the better food supply following the establishment of the garden.

The special school for aborigines under the direction of Mr. W. T. Lawrie as usual, maintained a high level of efficiency.

Regular church services were conducted under the auspices of the Parkin Mission.

Approximately £150 was raised by special effort toward the cost of a proposed kindergarden room and kitchenette.

Other efforts in aid of the Red Cross, Children's Hospital, and other worthy objects yielded £60.

Point Pearce Station.—There were 23 births and six deaths during the year, the population on the 30th June, 1943, being 306.

The health of the natives has been fairly good.

It is hoped to establish a small hospital at the station when labour and materials are available to overcome the disabilities associated with nursing patients in their homes.

Religious services, educational work in the special school for aborigines, picture shows and other entertainments, and patriotic efforts were maintained throughout the year.

The harvest results were satisfactory, the hay crop giving a record yield.

Simpler types of farming machinery were used on the farm, and good results obtained by the native farmers.

Returns from livestock operations were very satisfactory; all stock is reported to be in good condition.

A disastrous fire, starting on a neighbouring farm and sweeping across the station lands, destroyed 5,000 acres of feed, a large area of lucerne pastures, and 30 miles of fencing. Much greater damage would have resulted but for the efforts of a willing band of fire fighters, consisting of officers and natives.

The annual quota of suitable trees were planted during the year.

A statement of receipts and expenditure of the department, and income and expenditure statements of the Point McLeay and Point Pearce Stations are appended.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

M. McINTOSH,	} Aborigines Protection Board.
J. B. CLELAND,	
CONSTANCE M. COOKE,	
A. M. JOHNSTON,	
S. T. C. BEST,	
LEN. J. COOK,	
CHARLES DUGUID,	

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1943.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance—Excess of income over expenditure, account trading store	—			175	0	3			
Station Accounts.									
To Farm expenses.....	—			416	6	4			
Horses	—			74	0	0			
Salaries	1,104	13	8						
Wages	1,961	2	1						
				3,065	15	9			
Head office salaries and expenses..	—			85	17	1			
Rent—Hundred of Baker	—			41	15	9			
Accident insurance	—			23	5	1			
Institution Accounts.									
To Salaries	386	2	4						
Wages	1,305	12	3						
				1,691	14	7			
Head office salaries and expenses..	—			85	17	1			
Accident insurance	—			11	12	7			
Medical, dental, and optical expenses	—			504	15	4			
Rations	—			492	14	7			
Institutional expenses	—			633	10	5			
School books and materials	—			14	3	1			
Firewood	—			324	15	6			
Depreciation—									
Furniture	0	3	3						
Hospital equipment	4	12	5						
Hospital furniture	3	14	8						
				8	10	4			
				£7,649	13	9			
							£7,649	13	9

16th August, 1943.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1943.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government Account	154,875	13	0	Station buildings	13,775	19	2			
H.M. Government Deposit Account.....	559	10	8	Cottages and hospital transferred from Pompoota	2,080	10	7			
Capital Account	5,812	8	5	New cottages	1,925	17	4			
Sundry creditors	716	6	3					17,782	7	1
				Land purchased.....	—			3,630	0	0
				Improvements	—			4,833	9	2
				Implements, vehicles, etc.	—			1,210	14	10
				Harness.....	—			80	8	3
				Furniture	—			90	15	1
				Hospital furniture	—			31	19	9
				Hospital equipment	—			32	13	9
				Cash on hand	—			199	19	9
				Sundry debtors	—			192	11	1
				Stocks on hand—						
				Store	728	15	4			
				Sheep	1,134	16	0			
				Cattle	942	10	0			
				Pigs	136	10	0			
				Horses	365	0	0			
				Farm stores, seed, super, fencing material, etc.	541	8	10			
				Institution stores	301	16	11			
								4,150	17	1
				Excess of expenditure over income for the year—						
				Station accounts.....	1,539	16	9			
				Institution accounts	3,767	13	6			
					5,307	10	3			
				Less excess of income over expenditure account Trading Store	175	0	3			
					5,132	10	0			
				Excess of expenditure over income brought forward, 1915-43	124,395	12	6			
								129,528	2	6
					£161,763	18	4	£161,763	18	4

16th August, 1943.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1943

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance—Excess of income over expenditure—Account Trading Store	—			253	7	9			
Station Accounts.									
To Salaries	1,010	3	7						
Wages	2,762	6	10						
				3,772	10	5			
Accident insurance	—			25	15	1			
Head office salaries and expenses..	—			85	17	1			
Depreciation—									
Implements, vehicles, etc.	125	13	11						
Harness	16	7	9						
				142	1	8			
Balance—Excess of income over expenditure—Station accounts	—			1,521	19	7			
Institution accounts.									
To Salaries	330	10	9						
Wages	2,086	1	7						
				2,416	12	4			
Rations	—			701	10	7			
Accident insurance	—			12	17	7			
School books and materials	—			50	12	5			
Head office salaries and expenses .	—			85	17	1			
Medical, dental, and optical expenses	—			490	6	2			
Institutional expenses	—			977	9	10			
Depreciation—									
Hospital equipment	0	19	7						
Hospital furniture	0	14	3						
				1	13	10			
				£10,538	11	5			
							£10,538	11	5

16th August, 1943.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1943.

LIABILITIES.			£	s.	d.	ASSETS.			£	s.	d.	
H.M. Government Account	118,606	6	6			Station buildings	13,823	11	4			
H.M. Government Deposit Account	273	19	2			New cottages	6,132	9	10			
Capital Account	12,930	1	7							19,956	1	2
Sundry creditors	854	6	0			Improvements	—			9,937	9	3
						Implements, vehicles, etc.	2,079	16	9			
						Harness	91	12	9			
						Hospital furniture	10	3	1			
						Hospital equipment	12	3	3			
										2,193	15	10
						Cash on hand	—			40	0	9
						Sundry debtors	—			173	3	5
						Furniture	—			165	10	2
						Stocks on hand—						
						Store	783	2	0			
						Farm stores, seed, super, fencing materials, etc.	3,094	14	5			
						Sheep	6,077	6	0			
						Cattle	778	0	0			
						Pigs	649	10	0			
						Horses	558	10	0			
						Institution store	293	0	1			
										12,234	2	6
						Excess of expenditure over income for the year—						
						Institution account	4,706	1	1			
						Less excess of income over expenditure—						
						Trading Store	£253	7	9			
						Station accounts	1,521	19	7			
										1,775	7	4
										2,930	13	9
						Excess of expenditure over income brought forward, 1915-43	85,033	16	5			
										87,964	10	2
										£132,664	13	3

16th August, 1943.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.