

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1924.



Adelaide:

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

1924.



REPORT.

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Aboriginals Department,

Adelaide, October 1st, 1924.

Sir—I have the honor to submit this my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the year ended June 30th, 1924, also reports received from the Superintendents of the Aboriginal Stations, and the Protector of Aborigines for the Far North.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

The farming and pastoral operations have given very satisfactory results, showing a net profit for the year of £1,004 19s. 1d.

There are 227 aborigines on this station, of whom only sixteen are full-bloods. The health of the natives has been fairly good. A suitable building has been set apart for a hospital, and the Aborigines' Friends' Association has kindly promised to supply a resident nurse, for which I thank them. This will be a great advantage to the institution.

The livestock on the station on June 30th, 1924, consisted of 126 cattle, 4,213 sheep, 84 horses, and 34 pigs.

POINT-MCLEAY STATION.

The operations for the year show a loss of £3,005 11s. This is less than any previous year, and when it is remembered that this station has a population of 282 aborigines, on an area of 2,407 acres of land, it is satisfactory. The number of full-blooded aborigines on this station is 38, half-castes 244. These figures include aborigines living in the immediate neighborhood along the Coorong. The land is principally used for dairying and grazing, for which it is well suited.

The livestock on the station on June 30th, 1924, consisted of 284 cattle, 188 sheep, 32 horses, 42 pigs.

I recommend that a small hospital be built at this station. This would secure much better attention and care for the sick, and obviate the necessity in many cases for patients to be sent, as at present, to the Adelaide Hospital. The Aborigines' Friends' Association kindly promise to supply a nurse.

More cottage accommodation is much needed; also a dormitory for the girls and orphan boys. Boys who have parents should be under their parents' charge. If, by a dormitory system, the parents were relieved of all responsibility for their children, the greatest incentive to industry on the part of the parents would be removed. This would be an obvious mistake.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

I visited and inspected this station last October, and was pleased with the good work carried on there. There are good substantial dormitory buildings for the care of the children. I regret, however, to notice that owing to the unreliable nature of native labor, the authorities are being compelled to reduce the area under cultivation and substitute sheep.

There are 149 aborigines on this station, of whom 65 are half-castes.

MISSIONARIES.

The Aborigines Inland Mission have two lady missionaries, Miss M. Brown and Miss R. Hellyer, at Tarcoola. These ladies visit the aborigines at Ooldea and other camps and conduct religious meetings. Miss Anna Lock, another lady missionary, is engaged in religious work amongst the aborigines in the Oodnadatta district. Medicines have been supplied to these missionaries for the sick by this department.

OOLDEA.

The East-West railway has created a problem here. In the month of November I visited this district and saw there about 80 aborigines. Altogether, between Ooldea and Fowler's Bay there are about 200 aborigines, and many of them make the natural soakage wells near Ooldea their centre. The country is more or less a desert, and the natural food supplies for the aboriginal are scarce, consequently these poor aborigines are almost entirely dependent on the department for food. They are a low type. There is no work for their young men, except that they earn a little money obtaining scalps of wild dogs. They gather around the railway station looking for gifts of food from the passing trains. The water obtained from the wells at Ooldea is largely needed for the railway. Some provision should be made for these aborigines, and Irola the best would be to grant them a reserve on the sea coast, where they could obtain fish. I hope shortly to be able to make a definite recommendation concerning this matter.

THE FAR NORTH.

There are about 2,000 aborigines north of Port Augusta in South Australia, in addition to about 1,000 on the reserve in the north-west corner of this State. Concerning the latter little is known. They are away from the influence of white men. I have visited Oodnadatta and Marree and many cattle stations in the neighborhood of the old Kopperamanna Mission Station. At nearly all these stations I found a few aborigines. The able-bodied make themselves useful, and are appreciated as boundary riders, drovers, etc. Ration depots are established for the old and infirm and children. A practical and kindly interest is taken in them by the police and station owners and managers. Mr. George Aiston, of Mulka Well, has been appointed in an honorary capacity as Protector of Aborigines for this district. He was for many years in the mounted police at Munggerannie, and has always taken a keen interest in the aborigines. Generally the number of children is small compared with the number of adults in the camps I visited.

WORK.

The aboriginal stations are not able to find work for all the able-bodied residents. The more competent and industrious aborigines are more or less successful in obtaining work elsewhere, but it is desirable that some system be organised providing work for those unable to obtain it for themselves. Unfortunately, this class is the less efficient, and with the further disadvantage of difference of race they are not able to compete with the white man in the labor market. The district councils in the country have been asked, when they have a difficulty in obtaining labor, to apply to the Superintendents of the stations for same.

ABORIGINES' CHILDREN'S TRAINING ACT, 1923.

The administration of this Act has been temporarily suspended owing to native sentiment being opposed to it. The Superintendent of the Koonibba Mission Station regrets this. There has been no objection made to the Act by the aborigines at Koonibba. I recommend that in cases where the parents are willing the children should be taken for training in accordance with the Act, also any orphan children.

POLICE OFFICERS.

I wish to express my appreciation of the work done by

and protecting them from unscrupulous white men. They find the clauses in the Licensing Act, 1915, dealing with aborigines helpful in minimising the drink evil.

CENSUS.

This has been completed for the State. The numbers of aborigines are—Full-bloods, 3,941; half-castes, 1,166; total, 5,107.

Point Pearce.—Births, 10 half-castes; deaths, 5 half-castes.

Point McLeay.—Births, 1 full-blood, 6 half-castes; deaths, 2 full-bloods, 9 half-castes.

Koonibba.—Births, 3 full-bloods, 7 half-castes; deaths, 4 full-bloods, 1 half-caste.

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

		EXPENDITURE.					
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Head Office</i> —							
	Salaries	816	8	10			
	Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, &c.	3,798	6	8			
	Advisory Council of Aborigines, Printing, stationery, and allow- ance to secretary	53	14	10			
					4,668	10	4
<i>Point Pearce Station</i> —							
	Salaries and wages	5,476	3	6			
	Implements, stock, stores, &c.	5,919	18	0			
					11,396	1	6
<i>Point McLeay Station</i> —							
	Salaries and wages	3,203	17	8			
	Implements, stock, stores, &c. ...	4,789	9	5			
	Rent of sections	41	15	9			
					8,035	2	10
	Total	—			£24,099	14	8

The total expenditure is £142 10s. more than the previous twelve months.

		£	s.	d.
RECEIPTS.				
	From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station	11,814	15	0
	From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station	4,745	19	7
	Refund of advances to aborigines for rail fares, &c.	155	14	10
	Sales of property	20	0	0
	Total receipts	£16,736	9	5

This amount shows an increase of £1,035 8s. 1d. on last year.

RECEIPTS—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure	24,099	14	8
Less total receipts	16,736	9	5
Cost of aborigines to South Australian Government for 12 months ended June 30th, 1924..	7,363	5	3

I have, &c.,

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.
The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works.

POINT PEARCE ABORIGINAL STATION.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30TH, 1924.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Salary of superintendent and storekeeper	476	10	7			
Wages of aborigines and white laborers	4,378	16	11			
				4,855	7	6
Rations for aborigines	429	2	4			
School books for a aboriginal children	5	10	8			
				434	13	0
Head office salaries and expenses ..	—			94	13	4
Depreciation—						
Furniture	5	14	3			
Implements, tools, &c.	24	0	4			
Harness	159	7	7			
				189	2	2
Net profit brought forward.....	3,602	2	6			
Add net profit for year.....	1,004	19	1			
				4,607	1	7
				£10,180	17	7
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store	—			47	11	7
Farm account—Wheat and other produce	—			4,650	9	6
Rent	—			103	19	1
Stock accounts—						
Horses	17	0	0			
Cattle	711	19	8			
Pigs	126	0	0			
Sheep	563	6	6			
				1,418	6	2
Meat	—			358	8	9
Net profit, from 1915 to 1923, brought forward	—			3,602	2	6
				£10,180	17	7

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT JUNE 30TH, 1924.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account	—			11,678	15	6
Capital account	—			11,362	9	5
Sundry creditors	—			528	9	2
Net profit for year	1,004	19	1			
Add net profit brought forward.....	3,602	2	6			
				<u>4,607</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>
				<u>£28,176</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>
ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	9,170	0	0			
Improvements	5,910	0	0			
				<u>15,080</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Implements, vehicles, &c.	1,434	8	3			
Furniture	108	11	1			
Harness	216	3	6			
				<u>1,759</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>
Sundry debtors	—			47	4	6
Stocks on hand—						
Store	923	11	10			
Wheat	40	15	4			
Oats	26	17	5			
Hay	1,710	0	0			
Corn­sacks	5	0	0			
Woolpacks	26	11	3			
Pigs feed barley	4	0	0			
Binder twine	9	12	0			
Bricks	5	0	0			
Lime	7	10	0			
Sheep dip	8	4	0			
Fencing posts and standards.....	27	10	0			
Share farmers seed and super.....	562	6	6			
Livestock—						
Horses	1,245	0	0			
Cattle	1,190	0	0			
Sheep	5,413	10	0			
Pigs	85	0	0			
				<u>11,290</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>
				<u>£28,176</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>

These statements do not include any charge for interest on capital expenditure or rent for land comprising the station.

The above balance-sheet and accounts have been examined, and in my opinion are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the transactions and the state of affairs of the institution.

W. E. ROGERS, Auditor-General.

September 27th, 1924.

POINT McLEAY ABORIGINAL STATION.
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30TH, 1924.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Farm account, dairy and other produce	—			607	15	6
Horses	—			27	0	0
Rations for aboriginals	473	17	9			
School books for aboriginal children	7	6	2			
				481	3	11
Salary of Superintendent	276	0	0			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	2,950	2	11			
				3,226	2	11
Depreciation—						
Furniture	6	10	5			
Implements, vehicles, &c.	71	17	6			
Harness	7	11	11			
				85	19	16
Head office salaries and expenses ..	—			94	13	4
Rent	—			41	15	9
Net loss from 1915 to 1923 brought forward	—			23,255	7	0
				£27,819	18	3
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store	—			738	6	6
Meat	—			90	13	3
Cattle	353	16	11			
Sheep	65	4	0			
Pigs	309	10	10			
				728	11	9
Mats and baskets	—			1	8	9
Net loss for year	3,005	11	0			
<i>Add</i> net loss brought forward ...	23,255	7	0			
				26,260	18	0
				£27,819	18	3

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT JUNE 30TH, 1924.

	LIABILITIES.			£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account				31,575	7	7
Sundry creditors				393	10	6
Capital account				5,550	6	4
				£37,519	4	5
	ASSETS.	£	s.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings		4,499	1	3		
Improvements		2,034	1	11		
				6,533	3	2
Furniture		123	17	6		
Implements, vehicles, &c.		646	17	8		
Harness		68	7	7		
				839	2	9

ASSETS—*continued.*

Stocks on hand—	£	s.	d.	
Store	654	4	4	
Mats and baskets	1	0	0	
Boot shop materials, &c.	6	0	0	
Skins	15	0	0	
Pollard	1	10	0	
Bran	1	4	0	
Barley	27	0	0	
Chaff	2	10	0	
Hay	480	0	0	
Motor spirit	0	4	0	
Lime	1	2	0	
Bricks	1	0	0	
Cement	2	7	6	
Fencing posts	5	0	0	
Galvanized and barbed fencing wire	16	10	0	
Rabbit-proof fencing	16	9	7	
Timber	10	6	10	
Galvanized iron	22	18	7	
Guttering	1	10	0	
Livestock—				
Horses	273	0	0	
Cattle	1,922	0	0	
Sheep	245	2	0	
Pigs	161	0	0	
				3,866 18 10
Sundry debtors	—			19 1 8
Net loss for year	3,005	11	0	
..Add net loss brought forward	23,255	7	0	
				<u>26,260 18 0</u>
				<u>£37,519 4 5</u>

These statements do not include any charge for interest on capital expenditure or rent for land comprising the station.

The above balance-sheet and accounts have been examined, and in my opinion are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the transactions and the state of affairs of the institution.

W. E. ROGERS, Auditor-General.

September 27th, 1924.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

June 30th, 1924.

Sir—I have the honor to present the following report for the year ended June 30th, 1924 :—

Harvest.—The returns per acre were as follows :—Wheat, 22½bush.; barley, 11bush.; oats, 36bush. The system of farming on shares was continued, and after making allowances for share farmers the total station share was—Wheat, 17,938bush.; barley, 2,959bush.; oats, 591bush.

making a total of station share of grain grown, 21,488 bush. ; hay grown, 457 tons ; hay now in stock, 570 tons.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 18.63in.

Wool.—The wool clip totalled 95 bales from 3,152 sheep and 710 lambs shorn.

Lambs.—The total number lambs tailed was 1,208, being a percentage of 65 per cent. average.

Harvest Prospects.—We have about 2,750 acres under crop, and it is looking well at present. With opportune rains the prospects are good. We are experimenting with a new type of super. which (it is claimed) will greatly increase the yield per acre.

Water Supply.—The supply continues clean and abundant. The wells and windmills have been kept in good order, dams cleaned, and good progress made with a new dam, and also a new well, the latter is being timbered preparatory to erecting a windmill.

Buildings.—In addition to maintenance work on cottages, &c., one new stone and brick cottage and one new wood and iron cottage have been erected. The iron cottage is an experiment by which we hope to improve the housing conditions of the people.

Skilled Labor.—This is an acute problem with us, and we have initiated a system of apprenticing boys and youths for carpentering and mason work. By this means we hope to improve the standard of work.

Health.—The general health of the natives has been fair ; occasional outbreaks of influenza and children's ailments have made great demands on Mr. Roper's time and energy. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Roper for his untiring work in this capacity.

We hail with pleasure the appointment of a resident nurse by the Aborigines Friends' Association.

Religious.—Services are held twice on each Sunday, together with Sunday School sessions. The attendances are very good indeed. Mr. Roper and myself usually supply the Sunday evening service.

The Aboriginal Friends' Association appointed the Rev. W. Owen as Resident Missioner, but after six months' residence Mr. Owen resigned, and the local religious bodies have again taken up the work.

Miss Roper continues to act as organist for the church services, and also as organist and teacher in the Sunday School, and her help is invaluable.

Several native girl teachers show great promise in the Sunday school.

Staff.—My staff of officers are both loyal and proficient, and have rendered splendid service during the year.

I have, &c.,

W. R. PENHALL, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

POINT McLEAY ABORIGINAL STATION.

July 31st, 1924.

Sir—I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ended June 30th, 1924 :—

We have had a very successful year on the station, the men, women, boys, and girls doing their work very well. We still continue with success the dairy, and we are more than pleased with the milking machines; they have been working well. I am sure that the cows are doing quite as well now they are milked by machines as when they were milked by hand labor. The new oil engine, which has taken the place of the petrol engine, is quite a success, and the more we use it, the better we like it.

We have a number of young heifers to come in this year, and we are looking forward to this to see if they are any improvement on the heifers which were broken in last year. They are a very fine type of milking Shorthorn. We have milked on an average 71 cows for the year.

Our hay crops were very good last season, and we have a good reserve on hand should we have a dry season later on. The lucerne is doing well, and we expect to get splendid returns from the present paddocks which are sown down with lucerne. Last year we cut 102 acres of oats for hay—return, 102 tons; we also cut 60 tons of lucerne hay from 30 acres. The present crops are looking well and promise good returns.

Our pigs have been a success on Point McLeay this season, and we have been able to dispose of all the fats we could get ready. We sold 91 fat pigs this year. We had 16 acres of field peas, which were a boon to all pigs, both young and old. So useful did we find this class of crop that we increased the number of acres sown this year, and we hope still to increase again next year. Our return from 16 acres of peas was 64 bags, and from 30 acres of Cape barley we reaped 63 bags. We lost quite half this crop through hailstorm.

We only keep enough sheep for rations, but these have all been purchased from local people. The wool clip was good, and we are getting splendid prices for the skins and also for the wool.

The firewood question is still with us, but our present Protector is looking ahead, and we have planted this season close on 1,000 young trees. They are sugar and yate gum and stone pine and other trees suitable for firewood and fencing posts, &c. have been planted, and we hope to be able to plant twice that number next season. The same contractor is supplying us with firewood as last year, but his supply is getting short.

We are having the telephone laid on to the station from Narrung. This will fill a much needed want and will prove a boon in cases of sickness as well as in many other cases concerning the station.

The conduct of the natives has been fair, and for a time were able to secure a great deal of drink, but thanks to the constable in charge of Tailem Bend (M.C. Bourke) we were able to sheet it home to the persons who were supplying, and since then we have not had quite as much drinking on the station. In M.C. Walsh, of Meningie, we have an officer who is doing his best to stamp out this curse from our station.

We have had a great many cases of sickness on the station in this last year, and had it not been for Dr. Linn and our Missioner we would have had a great many more deaths, and we wish to thank them for the able manner in which they have dealt with all the cases under their care, and when the telephone is erected the services of Dr. Linn will be much greater to us than at present.

We also wish to thank the Chief Protector for his assistance in getting our sick natives admitted to the hospital.

The religious work is still being carried on by the A.F.A., who have the services of Mr. H. E. Read, and he is doing good work. We are sorry to have to report since our last report the death of Mrs. Read, and we deeply sympathise with Mr. Read in his sad loss. We also wish to thank the members of the Aborigines' Friends' Association, who have visited the station from time to time, for the great help they have given us.

We also wish to congratulate Mr. F. Garnett on being appointed the Chief Protector of Aborigines, in place of the late Mr. W. G. South, and we feel sure that he will fill the position with credit to the South Australian Government and also to himself. In Mr. Garnett the natives have one who can look to their various wants, and his expert knowledge of this class of people is very valuable to our department; therefore we wish him every success.

Births.—Full-bloods—Males, 1; females, 0. Half-caste—Males, 2; females, 4.

Deaths.—Full-bloods—Males, 2; females, 0. Half-caste—Males, 5; females, 4.

All the officers of the station continue to prove conscientious workers in their several departments.

I have, &c.,

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

LUTHERAN MISSION STATION, KOONIBBA.

August 18th, 1924.

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

The year ended June 30th, 1924, proved to be successful from an agricultural point of view. About 1,800 acres were sown, from which nearly 5,000 bags of wheat, 530 bags of oats, and 100 tons of hay were harvested. The 370 acres of new ground averaged approximately 15bush, and the 700 acres fallow 16bush., whereas the wheat on stubble land was comparatively poor.

During the year a new policy was introduced, but it is too early to make any comment. The new policy is to reduce the wheat-growing area and to extend wool growing. Several hundred sheep were purchased off shears, so that with natural increase we now have 1,500 sheep. They are doing remarkably well. We were forced to adopt this attitude on account of the fact that we cannot depend upon the natives. They would occasionally leave on their periodical wanderings just when they were needed most.

For several months of this year we had only about 110 to 120 natives at the station, a fair number having found employment at Thevenard, the new deep sea port, and others taking on scrub cutting down the line. Now, however, most of them have returned.

We had expected that the new Act of Parliament concerning native children would have been put into operation immediately. It is only too evident that something must be done for the benefit and welfare of these children. The principle underlying this Act is sound. We try to give the children a fair education, but when they leave school they are, by force of circumstances, allowed to drift. In our humble opinion the State should extend a helping hand to the rising generation and take them out of their environment into a different atmosphere. Only then will they to an appreciable extent embrace the ways of the white man.

Statistics.—During the 12 months there were 10 births, three full-bloods and seven half-castes and five deaths, four full-bloods and one half-caste. The health of the natives was good in general.

Our teacher, Mr. Bode, has 59 children in school, where they receive secular and religious training. Besides, there are several classes of young people receiving instruction in religion.

We were very fortunate in obtaining the services of Nurse Semmler as matron of the Children's Home. Her services are highly appreciated also by the natives, especially since we are 25 miles from the nearest medical officer. It would be of benefit to the natives if a qualified medical practitioner were appointed by the Government.

I have, &c.,

C. HOFF, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta,

July 28th, 1924.

Sir—I have the honor 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, 1924.

The health of the natives generally has been good, although influenza and lung complaints have been prevalent amongst some of the tribes, and have been responsible for the deaths recorded in some cases, while a great many succumbed to the dreaded venereal diseases.

There are about 100 aborigines in the Mungeranie district, and those in need of assistance are supplied with rations, &c., and the able-bodied natives are induced to accept employment on the cattle stations, and the more energetic of them earn good money at times, which, in most cases, is afterwards spent foolishly and not put to good account.

At the Innamincka depot there is an average of about 30 natives receiving Government rations, and 15 able-bodied native males and females are employed on the station. The general condition of the natives in the Marree district has been satisfactory, nearly all the young men are kept in constant employment and well paid; only the old and infirm aborigines receive Government assistance. The constable at Marree advocates Government control of "aboriginal employment," and considers that there should be a standard wage. He strongly favors the system at present in operation in Queensland.

There are about 150 natives living at the various sidings along the East-West railway. The majority of these originally came from the Musgrave Ranges when the railway was in course of construction. The old and feeble ones are supplied with rations, &c., from the depot at Ooldea.

There are no circumstances associated with the natives in any other part of the division calling for special mention or attention. The stores provided by the Government satisfy the wants in most cases of those entitled to them. The full-blooded natives, if allowed to live their primitive manner of life and protected from the vices of others, would be happy and contented, but the race is fast disappearing. With further development of the pastoral areas, accompanied by an increase of white population, will hasten their complete and inevitable extinction. In the place of the pure bred and inoffensive native we will have the half-caste and mixed bloods to deal with, whose standard of morality is considerably lower than the pure bred Australian aboriginal.

On the 14th February last, at Marree, an aboriginal was murdered by a half-caste named Gus Elliott, who was subsequently found guilty of manslaughter at the Criminal Sessions held at Port Augusta in March last, and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. At the Criminal Sessions held at Port Augusta on the 8th July, 1924, Wallace Nicholson (half-caste) received a sentence of 12 months' imprisonment for bestiality. The offence took place at Oodnadatta. Other offences recorded against aboriginals during the year have been as follows:—Breach Licensing Act, 18, and drunkenness, 2. Nine persons were convicted for supplying liquor to aboriginals.

During the year 21 aboriginals have been treated at the Port Augusta Hospital, 18 were discharged either cured or partly so, and three died at the institution. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to bring under your notice the care and attention given the natives by Dr. Symons while inmates of the hospital. The secretary and nursing staff are also deserving of praise for their untiring care and treatment of the natives while under their charge.

Births.—Full-bloods—Males, 16; females, 11. Half-bloods.—Males, 12; females, 9.

Deaths.—Full-bloods—Males, 21; females, 10. Half-bloods—Males, 4; females, 2.

I have, &c.,

P. A. GILES, Inspector.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines. Adelaide.