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REPORT FROM PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES, For Half-year ended June 30, 1868.

Aborigines Office, Adelaide, 1st August, 1868.

Sir—I have the honor to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government, my report for the six months ended 30th June, 1868.

SOUTH-EASTERN DISTRICT.

Point Macleay.—The following is Mr. Taplin's report to the 31st March:—

In making a quarterly report there are a few matters to be noticed—

1. The failure of the wheat crop. Where we ought to have had 2,000 bushels of wheat we have only had 250. The money which would have thus kept our school in flour and provisions, and our people in employment has been lost. I reckon it is a loss of nearly £500 to the Station. It will quite cripple our efforts for twelve months at least.

2. By this failure of the crops the natives are deprived of employment, not only on this Station, but on almost all the other places where they have been hitherto employed. I feel sure that many of them will have a hard job to subsist this winter.

3. The natives have expended £54 of their own money in erecting stone cottages for themselves, and they have in hand some £25 more to lay out in building a church for themselves. They only await the settlement of the tenure upon which they may possess the land, to commence.

4. Whooping-cough has been very prevalent amongst the natives. Some infant children have been carried off by it and similar complaints. Some adults have likewise died of the native scourge, consumption.

During the quarter a young man has embraced Christianity and been baptized, together with three infants of the Christian natives. A couple have also been united in Christian and legal marriage.

Again, on the 20th of July, he writes:—

I have the honor to report that the conduct and condition of the aborigines, in this district, has been during the past quarter rather an improvement on previous quarters.

We have lost that very troublesome visitor, the whooping-cough, which only carried off three or four infants, although so many suffered with it. The medicine and advice you gave me helped me to battle with it, and after a hard struggle, thank God, it is gone.

I have been much pleased with the zeal and industry displayed by all the natives in getting game to supply the Adelaide market. I am sure that a very large proportion of the game eaten in Adelaide during the last three months, has come from this place.

We have got our crops in, seventy acres of wheat, thirty acres of barley, and six acres of hay.

The attendance at school and religious worship on Sundays has been good.

I have had the pleasure of baptizing three young men during the past quarter. Others wished to partake of the same rite, but I am desirous that it should never be administered without the candidate undergoing a sufficient probation.

In January there was an assembly of the tribes at Pelican Point, when some young men were made. Their conduct was peaceful. Several children died from dysentery brought on by exposure and change of water.

The average number of natives at this station for the past six months is eighty-six.

In February last a poor woman was nearly murdered by old Peter, the chief, who in a fit of insanity attacked her with a tomahawk, and inflicted upon her nine wounds, some of them of a dangerous character. She was removed to Milang, and attended by Dr. Herbert, under whose care she soon recovered. Peter was removed to the Lunatic Asylum at Adelaide.

Milang.—Lance-Corporal Dann, the issuer, reports:—

The natives in this district have been very peaceful and well-behaved. In consequence of the failure of the harvest there has been very little employment for them during the past six months, except in

January and February, when they earned a little money by gathering leeches, fishing, &c.

The able-bodied are dissatisfied because rations are not more freely bestowed, and the old and infirm grumble at the small allowance of firewood granted to them.

The whole body of blacks suffer much from the want of firewood and material to construct their wurlies; and it is to be regretted that reserves to supply these necessaries have not been made at Milang, and other places around the lake where the natives are numerous.

The average number at the station is twenty.

Lacepede Bay.—The issuer, Police-trooper Morris, writes—

The conduct of the natives has been very satisfactory. A number of them have been employed shooting kangaroo for the settlers, but are badly remunerated. Some are fishing and others shooting game, but wild-fowl are very scarce except far down the Coorong. Many are without any employment.

The average number on the station is a little over twenty-four.

Guichen Bay.—In the month of May Police-trooper Tims, the issuer, says:—

The general conduct of the natives has been pretty good, although some have managed to get drink and have had some quarrellings amongst themselves. A few of them work about the township, and most of them shoot game for sale. There is no sickness amongst them; they are very healthy just now.

In June he writes:—

A great number of the Coorong natives have been here during this month. They left on the 20th, taking the body of old man Dick, who died the previous day. They were well-conducted during their stay, but there was no employment for them. The natives of Robe have not been so well-conducted—three of them were convicted of stealing beer.

The average number of natives on the station is twenty-one.

Mount Gambier.—Mrs. Smith, the issuer, in her return for June, remarks:—

Most of the natives belonging to this neighborhood are at present profitably employed killing kangaroo. I regret to say that much of their earnings is spent in procuring intoxicating drink, and it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to get them to tell who supplies them. I have of late been rather annoyed with them calling here on the Sabbath-Day rather the worse of drink.

Referring to the same subject, the following appeared some time ago in one of the local newspapers:—

For the past few weeks the number of blacks at the Mount has been gradually increasing, until they now muster quite a large company. Their absence from the town, however, is very much to be preferred, inasmuch as their camping-ground, opposite the Wesleyan church, so speedily becomes the daily and nightly scene of revelry and riot, to the great scandal of whites and injury of the blacks. We need scarcely add that the chief cause of the discordant yells and constant disturbances which arise at the camp is intoxicating drink, supplied to them by shameless white-skinned Britons, in defiance of laws of their own making.

It is not very creditable to the police that the law prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors to the aborigines should be so often violated with impunity, as it is at Mount Gambier.

Tarpeena.—The issuer, Mr. Egan, writes:—

The weather has been (June) very severe for some time past—very heavy rains and hard frosts. The aborigines here are cold and

miserable. The males require blue shirts, and the females serge to make dresses. They also require tomahawks to cut firewood and branches to build their mia-mias. Such as are able have gone out several days kangarooing, and have returned without any. They have no dogs, and when they have no flesh to eat one pound of flour is not sufficient nourishment for one day for any one man or woman, particularly when the weather is cold.

The average number of blacks at this station, for the last six months, is seven.

Penola.—Police-trooper O'Connor, the issuer, writing in April, says :—

Most of the aborigines of this district are still employed at the surrounding stations.

And in May—

Some of the natives from the stations have come in to Penola during the past month. Their conduct and health are good, but there is very little employment for them at the present time.

The average number at the station is twelve.

Narracoorte.—Writing in June, Lance-corporal Field, the issuer, says :—

The lubra, Toby, is very bad. Dr. Gunning is attending her, but states that he can never cure her whilst she is exposed to the weather. There is also a native (Dick Turpin) and lubra (Lucy) very bad at Binnum (Mr. Jones's station). Dick Turpin has not been able to walk for a long time. Dr. Gunning suggests that these natives should be sent to Mount Gambier Hospital. I have sent some medicine, and I shall try to get them to the depôt, so that the doctor can attend upon them.

On communicating with Dr. Peel respecting the lubra, Toby, I was informed that the hospital is not yet open for the reception of patients.

The average number at this station is only five.

Border Town.—In his return for May, Police-trooper O'Reilley remarks :—

All the Tatiara blacks, numbering 38, have been stopping in Border Town during the past month. They have been attracted here by the Border Town races. Their conduct has been good, and there are no complaints against any of them. As lambing season is approaching, they have gone to the circumjacent stations to seek employment. They will all return to the depôt for blankets when lambing is over.

The average number at this station is a little under twelve.

A return of sick under treatment during the quarter ended 30th June, 1868, in the District of Tatiara, by Dr. Penny, is appended to this report.

Goolwa.—Police-trooper Moriarty, the issuer, reports :—

There has been one death from consumption this month (May). A few cases of fever, but none fatal, and influenza rather prevalent. Their conduct has been satisfactory, with the exception of a drunken charge at Port Elliot. Some are making opossum rugs, for which they are likely to get a good price. Many of the women are at times employed by the residents at washing, &c.; a few are shooting, but not doing very well; otherwise not many are able to get their own food, owing chiefly to the scarcity of fish at present.

A few of the young are attending (but not regularly) the evening school opened by Mrs. Doke.

Again he writes :—

There have been some cases of fever this month (June), one fatal; influenza still prevails to some extent. A good deal of rheumatism, but only two cases severe. Fish is now getting plentiful, and netting twine is much required.

The average number of natives at this station for the last six months is 112.

MURRAY DISTRICT.

Blanchetown.—I visited the various depôts on the Murray in April and May last, and was gratified to find the natives generally in a satisfactory condition. There were about forty at Blanchetown, but some of them were visitors from Overland Corner. They were all in good health excepting a lubra suffering from hydatids of the liver. This disease is very common in this locality, and arises from the too free use of raw, or only partially cooked meat.

There is a great deal of spirit drinking in the district. Many of the settlers are accused of giving the blacks drink in payment for their services, and publicans, and traders in the steamers also supply them freely with grog.

The average number at this station is nearly twenty-one.

Overland Corner.—There were no blacks here at the time of my visit. A few were at a station about seven miles, distant, but most of them were at Blanchetown, and at stations between this place and Chowilla. They generally can get work if so inclined, and Corporal Shaw, the issuer, has intimated to the neighbouring settlers, that if labor is at any time wanted, to let him know, and he will take care to supply it if possible. The blacks are generally paid in money, and their wages are often as much as 15s. a week.

Their general health is very good, no death having occurred since July, 1867. Their conduct has also been very good.

The average number at this station is a little over eight.

Chowilla.—About thirty-five natives were at this station, but a large proportion of that number were from the New South Wales side of the boundary.

All of them were apparently in good health. There were very few women in proportion to the number of males, and only four children.

Mr. Glennie, the issuer, says :—

The natives are very well off here, for they can get work at the stations on the river all the year round; and those not inclined to work can easily provide food for themselves, for there are abundance of ducks at this season (May). Fish are very plentiful in summer, but the weather at present is too cold for fishing.

The average number at this station is about sixteen.

YORKES'S PENINSULA.

I visited this district in June last, and was pleased to obtain evidence of a satisfactory condition of the natives generally. I travelled overland to Wallaroo, visiting by the way the depôts at Stockport, Bungaree, and the Hummocks, but saw no blacks at either of the two former places, and only three at the latter station. Much rain having fallen a short time before, the natives were busily employed in the scrub, hunting game which is there abundant, and which they can only get at in the winter season, when water is plentiful.

Wallaroo.—The depôt here was also deserted by the natives, who had for the most part gone to the southern parts of the Peninsula; a few of them were employed as lamb minders in the neighbourhood. They have been very well behaved while here, and pretty healthy, only suffering occasionally from severe colds. The average number at this station is about seven. Sergeant Besley, the issuer, reports as follows :—

I have lately visited the Peninsula as far as Moorowie, and beg to state for your information, that none of the natives below Point Pierce have been supplied with blankets this season, say about sixty adults and fifteen children.

I beg further to state that the natives now more than ever require assistance from the hands of Government, their old resources being now completely cut off. The country is nearly all fenced in, and their services are no longer required as lamb minders, and the settlers do not like their hunting in the lambing paddocks which contain the best feed, consequently the most game. Clothing is less plentiful than it used to be, as the number of employes are greatly reduced, the country being fenced, and old cast off clothing is more difficult to obtain, so that the natives at present are not so well fed or clothed as they used to be.

I visited the Peninsula as far south as Lake Sunday, but without obtaining any evidence of a want either of food or of clothing among the natives there. Kangaroo and other wild animals are most abundant, and at the encampment of a large number of blacks I saw a great quantity of dried skins, which they told me they intended to sell, or exchange for flour and other necessaries. The price of full sized skins in Adelaide at present is, I believe, as much as 22s. per dozen. All the lubras in the camp were possessed of good opossum rugs, and the men had all very good ordinary clothing. They declared they had plenty to eat.

Point Pierce.—On my arrival at the new institution I found that most of the adult natives had gone off to the scrub for a few days' hunting. They had been in good health for several months past, and were exceeding well behaved.

The buildings erected here lately consist of a neat four roomed stone cottage, with galvanized iron roof for the residence of Mr. Kühn, the Superintendent, and a separate building of stone and lime with shingled roof for a school room. Mr. Kühn was only waiting the arrival of forms and a table for the school-room, to resume the work of teaching.

There were twenty-seven children then at the institution I had them assembled, and heard a number of them read a portion of Scripture, which they did very well. They also repeated part of the multiplication table, and did several small sums in addition. About fifteen of them write very well.

The average number of blacks at this station is over seventy.

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Port Lincoln.—Corporal Sullivan, issuer, in his April return remarks :—

The natives are at present in good health, and I am happy to say there has been no criminal charges against them for the last two years.

Streaky Bay.—Lance-Corporal Provis, the issuer, writes :—

The majority of the natives have now (May), left the depôt on account of the stores being spent; sickness, principally whooping-cough, is still very prevalent amongst them. There are scarcely any employed by the settlers. A further supply of stores is much needed. The conduct of the aborigines in this district is very good, no offences having been reported to the police.

but when they have money, and go into a township, they will, if possible, get drunk: there have been two cases of drunkenness to my knowledge this year. Their health has been very bad of late with rheumatism; some of them not able to get about. Dr. Wehl has been giving them medicine which has done them much good—six having quite recovered; one, a lubra, has died during the month (June) from rheumatic pains. A good many of the natives are past all work, being quite old and infirm, but they are well looked after as to rations, &c.”

The number of natives at this depôt averages sixty-three.

Millicent.—Mr. A. H. Florance, the issuer, reports—“The conduct of the natives in this district is quiet and peaceable, and their health at the present time good; although during the past two months the aged ones, of whom there are several, have suffered from colds and rheumatism, and one death has occurred. Employment—Wood cutting, bullock driving, shepherding, and kangarooing.”

The average number at this station is about fourteen.

Naracoorte.—Corporal Field, writing in July states—“The natives have been well conducted, only one case of misconduct has come under my notice during the past six months, viz.: in January, ‘Tommy Edwards’ was sentenced to three days’ imprisonment for larceny from his employer, Mrs. McDonald, of the Naracoorte Hotel. All the healthy natives are employed on the various stations; some fencing, others shepherding, and boundary riding, &c., for which they are paid in money, food, and clothes. Occasionally they leave their employment for a short time to meet their friends and have a corroboree. I have supplied blankets and rations, if required, to these when travelling. The old and infirm natives at Padthaway receive every attention from Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, and are occasionally attended by Dr. Penny, of Tatiara. Those at Naracoorte, Binnun, and Morambo, are attended by Dr. Gunning, when necessary.”

The average number of natives receiving relief at this depôt is only three.

Mount Gambier.—The issuer, Mrs. Smith, remarks—“Nineteen natives have called at the home, including four children, and fifteen received blankets from the Government store in my charge. Their conduct is on the whole good, although they occasionally manage to obtain intoxicating liquors, when of course they are a source of annoyance to the public. One is under sentence in the Mount Gambier gaol for larceny.

“Health—All are more or less suffering from diseases contracted by exposure to cold and damp, and two deaths have occurred. Dr. Jackson, of Mount Gambier Hospital, attended those who died, and did all he could to relieve their sufferings.

“The natives are occasionally employed in the bush shooting kangaroo, and in the townships cutting firewood, &c. I may also state there are seven half-castes in the neighborhood—four of them in respectable employment, and two attending school; the other (Lorra Young), has lost the use of one of his legs, and has to use crutches. I would especially bring his case under your notice, and ask that some provision should be made for him on leaving the home.”

Lacepede Bay.—Corporal Morris, the issuer, says—“The health of the natives in the vicinity of this station is good at present (June), with the exception of two suffering from pulmonary complaints. The natives of this district have a predisposition to consumption, which takes them off rapidly, particularly at this season of the year, when they do not take

sufficient care of themselves. Several deaths have occurred during the past half-year. I have procured medical advice on every possible occasion, and in many cases saw that the medicines ordered were regularly taken by the natives.

“Their conduct has been good.

“There are very few about now. Some are employed on stations and some shooting kangaroo.”

Average number at the station about nine.

Border Town.—P. T. Humphries, writing in April, states, “The natives employed on the stations came to the Township during the month for their blankets, and afterwards returned to the stations. They are all in good health, and well behaved.”

No rations were issued at the depôt during the last six months. The report of Dr. Penny, Medical Officer to Aborigines, in Tatiara District, is appended, showing the number of sick under treatment during the half year ended 30th June.

McGrath's Flat.—Mr. McCallum, writing in June, reports the conduct and health of the natives satisfactory. A few were suffering from colds, prevalent at this time of the year. Fish and game are tolerably plentiful on the shores of the Coorong, and the natives of this locality are less dependent on supplies from the depôt.

Two additional canoes were supplied to this station in the early part of the year.

At the last Criminal Sittings of the Circuit Court at Robc, three natives of this district were charged with murder, convicted, and sentenced to death. The crime had been committed in carrying out a tribal custom among the natives, and the Court appeared impressed with a sense of difficulty in bringing a case of this nature under the operation of our Criminal Law, where the prisoners had doubtless acted under the belief that they were performing a sacred duty. The sentences were subsequently commuted to two years’ imprisonment with hard labor.

The Minister of Justice (the Hon. W. H. Buncdy) recently called the attention of Parliament to this subject, and announced his intention of introducing a Bill to amend the existing Criminal Law in respect to its application to offences committed by aborigines.

MURRAY RIVER DISTRICT.

Overland Corner.—Corporal Shaw, the issuer, writing in March says:—“A good many of the natives are out of employment at the present time, but mostly procure their own living. I have had no complaints for misconduct. Their health, with exceptional cases of cold, is good.”

Again, in June, he writes:—“The bulk of the natives are now down on the Lower Murray, only a few are employed on stations above this place. I have visited the River from North-West Bend to the Boundary of the Province, during the last month, and heard of no complaints of misconduct, and the health of those I saw was good. Average number on station about nine.”

Chowilla.—Mr. McLeod reports—“Very few of the natives have been about this place for the last half year, and during the last two months there have been none at all. In February, March, and April, about forty came at different times, and I distributed the tomahawks, netting, twinc, fish-hooks, &c., and some rations among them. I have heard of no births or deaths, and their general health appears to be good. The articles supplied to them have been of much use, enabling them to catch fish and wild-fowl, so that they have plenty of food. They have all gone down the River to get

employment at the stations during the shearing time, and will not return till it is over."

Blanchetown.—P.T. Ewens, the issuer, states—"There have been no complaints against the natives. I have had some trouble with them when under the influence of drink only.

"Two deaths have taken place from consumption.

"The able bodied have been almost regularly employed, to the number of about twenty, and are good trustworthy servants.

"Average number at the depôt, nineteen."

Wellington.—P.T. Deane reports—"The natives about Wellington during the first half of the year were very idle and would not work, several were locked up for being drunk and disorderly. Three parties were proceeded against for supplying them with drink, and fined.

"Their general health is good.

"At present a great many of the natives are employed on stations, shepherding, fencing, &c. Their conduct is now, on the whole, good."

Average number at this station, sixteen.

YORKE'S PENINSULA.

Point Pierce.—The Rev. W. Y. Kuhn reports as follows:—"The Yorke's Peninsula natives are divided into two tribes—the Wallaroo and the Peninsula—together numbering from 150 to 170.

"The Wallaroo tribe is in the summer season in the Township of Kadina, Wallaroo, and Moonta, fishing, where, I am sorry to state, they often indulge in many vices, such as immorality and drunkenness, and sad to say, the blame is generally attributable to the whites.

"The Peninsula tribe frequent Parara, Black Point, Yorke Town, and Penton Vale for fishing.

"In the winter both tribes are chiefly occupied in hunting. The able-bodied then barely find themselves in the necessaries of life. Occasionally the two tribes meet about eight miles from here, and I visit them to hold service, when I have had as many as sixty present.

"Just now the health of the tribes is good, though some suffer from consumption, to which the aborigines are very prone, to the lowest type; when a severe cold settles on their lungs they are gone in a few weeks. The old ones come for relief to this depôt. I am sorry to say a prejudice still prevails against this station, owing to the death of many of the inmates in 1872, from inflammation of the lungs, consequently several children have been taken away by their parents into the bush. They come occasionally to the station, but only stay a few days at a time. I have a daily school, and the scholars progress pretty well; they are instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, geography, and the rudiments of knowledge. The girls on the station attend to cooking, baking, washing, mending, and always make their own dresses. The boys are occupied in attending the sheep, fencing, ploughing, gardening, and various out-door duties.

"I hold service regularly every Sabbath morning and Sabbath school in the afternoon. The Scriptures are read every day, morning and evening, and prayer offered; Bible class every Friday.

"I beg to acknowledge and also express my thanks for the aid tendered by Government to the benefit of aborigines, without which this Mission could not be carried on."

The number at this station averages twenty-eight.

Wallaroo.—P.T. Campbell states—"I have had charge of this station since the 3rd ultimo, and during that time the

natives have not visited this depôt. The majority of them are hunting at York Valley and others in the vicinity of Kadina, whilst a few are employed on the Wallaroo Mine.

"There have been no reports against the conduct of the aborigines made at this station during the past half-year. I therefore must presume that they are well-behaved." The average number at this depôt is ten.

WESTERN DISTRICT.

Poonindie.—The Rev. R. W. Holden reports in reference to the Wurley natives—"I beg to say that from some unaccountable cause during the past half-year but few Wurley natives have visited us, and even those few made but flying visits, *en route* to the back country.

"As far as I can learn, without personal observation, their conduct has been good. Only one case has come under my notice of intoxicating liquor being supplied to them in Port Lincoln, and in that case I think the giver got two months' imprisonment. Regarding health I have heard of but one death in the district. In reference to employment very few of the Wurley natives are fit to work; but still we at all times hold out every inducement for them to remain with us, whether they are old or young.

"Last year the Wurley natives earned a good round sum of money by grubbing land for us, and we were in hopes they would have embraced the same opportunity during these winter months."

I am indeed sorry I am not able to give you a fuller report about the Wurley natives at this date (July).

"Resident natives at Poonindie ever remain with us and receive constant employment and wages. They number some eighty-eight. The children attend school twice a day. All attend, young and old, morning and evening service daily in our church.

"I have not had any deaths among the residents. All in good health, and many births."

Port Lincoln.—Corporal Sullivan states—"The natives have been absent from here for the past three months. No complaints reached me from the settlers as to any misconduct, and no natives have been charged with any offences before Magistrates during the past half-year.

"I cannot speak positively as to their health, but I believe it to be generally good." The average number at the station is about eight.

Wallanippie.—Mr. W. R. Thompson, the issuer, reports—"With regard to the conduct of the natives in this district they are singularly quiet and inoffensive, only one misdemeanor (theft by a boy) having come under my notice during the last three years.

"I regret that I cannot give a very favorable report as to their health, as there has been, and still is, much sickness among them—chronic consumption principally. Fully 80 per cent. of the deaths that occur are from chest complaints. I can, however, confidently state that it is not from want of sufficient clothing, the Government supply and what they get from settlers being ample. They are strangely predisposed to consumption.

"There being very few settlers (only two) in this district the natives have few opportunities of earning much by work, and therefore rely almost entirely upon Government supplies and game, the latter being very plentiful; consequently a large number of blacks are always about, and many come occasionally from a great distance inland to this station.

"The aborigines are naturally very lazy, though with kindness, combined with firmness, they can be trained to

most kinds of bush work, and in many cases become very expert. The work done by natives in this district during the past six months has been much in excess of what they have ever done before in a similar period. Many of them were employed in brush fencing, at which they are very clever; they receive payment in food, clothes, tobacco, knives, axes, and but little or no money, as they do not know the value of it.

"The actual amount of work done by them during the half-year could not have been done by white labor under £50 or £60. Were there more settlers in the district many natives would find employment who cannot do so now."

The average number at this station is seventy.

Three Lakes.—P. T. O'Shanahan, the issuer, says—"Health and conduct of the natives in this district during the past six months has been good. I have not received a single complaint from any of the settlers against the natives during the period mentioned. They are chiefly employed in fencing, shepherding, and other useful work; they have not called upon me for any assistance from the depôt during the past three months."

The average number at this station is only three.

Streaky Bay.—The issuer, P. T. Crossland, reports—"During the preceding six months no cases of felony have been reported against the natives, and their conduct has been very good. Several of them are now suffering from influenza and coughs, which are now very prevalent at this season. In consequence of the runs in this district being fenced, a small number of the natives are now employed by the sheep-farmers, excepting during the shearing season."

The average number at this station is fifty-four.

Venus Bay.—P. T. Clode, the issuer, states—"During the past half-year the conduct of the aborigines in this district has been very good, and not a single complaint has been lodged against them. Some of the natives seem to suffer a good deal from severe colds, and affections of the chest. The healthy natives are generally employed by the settlers in brush fencing, and other station work, and a large number are now employed driving sheep to the back country, and only a few have been at this station during the month of June."

Average number at this depot about nineteen.

NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Mr. Buttfield, S.M., the Sub-Protector in the Far North, reports as follows for the six months ended 30th June:—

"I regret to state that an unusual number of offences against the law have been perpetrated by the blacks. Five aboriginal young men have been committed to gaol for cattle stealing. The magistrates, who adjudicated in these cases, sentenced each of them to twelve months' imprisonment with hard labor.

"'Billy White,' a Port Augusta black boy, charged with an assault with intent, &c., upon a white woman at Blinman, was, of course, sent to take his trial at the Supreme Court of this Province, where he was sentenced to imprisonment for six months, with hard labor.

"Serious depredations have been committed by aborigines known as the Salt Water blacks. These men come down every year from Cooper's Creek and elsewhere to obtain supplies of ochre from the Aroona Cave. On returning to their own country they not unfrequently rob the huts of shepherds, and in one or two cases took away all the food and clothing. They did so at the Myrtle Springs Run and also St. A'Beckett's.

"The police have no power to deal with cases of this kind, as it is impossible to track and identify the offenders.

"I have had the honor to suggest for your consideration the desirability of a supply of ochre being sent to the Lutheran missionaries at Lake Hope as the only means whereby a repetition of the crime adverted to may be obviated.

"If ochre from Aroona were obtainable outside the settled districts the Salt Water blacks would remain in their own localities and thus not only would the property of shepherds be secured, but the several tribes of natives in the settled districts would be relieved of anxiety about the movements of their hostile neighbors, the Salt Water blacks.

"I have also to record the death of an old black man at Strangways Springs, who was shot by a white man named Warm. I visited that distant station in consequence. After close and minute inquiry I satisfied myself that Warm was compelled to shoot the black to save his own life. Full particulars of this case are in the hands of the Honorable Attorney-General.

"With the foregoing exceptions the aborigines of my district are quiet and orderly.

"Indigenous game is abundant, and the general health of the natives is good.

"I have travelled some seven hundred miles and visited many stations. The settlers, as a rule, treat the aborigines with kindness and generosity."

Mr. Buttfield has been instructed to procure and forward a supply of ochre to the Lutheran Mission depot at Kopperamana, Lake Hope.

If the action taken in this matter succeeds an important result will be obtained, inasmuch as the annual migrations of the Lake Hope blacks to the southward in search of ochre will be stopped and collisions with the shepherds—possibly leading to loss of life—prevented.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

It appears from the last census returns (1871) that the total number of aborigines in the Province was as follows:—In 1861—males, 2,642; females, 2,404; total, 5,046. In 1871—males, 1,833; females, 1,539; total, 3,372; showing a net decrease of 1,674 during the ten years. A tabulated statement in detail is appended.

DEPOTS.

There are now fifty-three depôts in existence, at which blankets, various stores, and medicines are kept and distributed, as necessity requires, among the aborigines.

Nineteen canoes have recently been supplied to the depôts on the Murray and Lakes.

It has been found necessary to abandon the old system of marking the blankets, as the chemical dye used for that purpose seriously injured the wool. The blankets now being issued are stamped with the "Broad arrow" and "Aborigines" in white paint.

I have paid official visits of inspection to the depôts at McGrath's Flat, Milang, Goolwa, Long Island, and Stockport. The last-named station has since been closed, there being no necessity for its continuance.

Appended are tabulated statements, showing—Offences committed by the Aborigines—Persons charged with supplying intoxicating liquors to the Aborigines—Sick under treatment in the Adelaide Hospital—and Births and Deaths at those Stations from which the returns are complete.

I have, &c.,

E. L. HAMILTON, Sub-Protector.

The Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands, &c.

Statement showing Return of Aborigines charged with any Offence during Half-year ended 30th June, 1874.

Name of Accused.	Charge.	Place where alleged offence committed.	Date of offence.	Date of arrest.	Date of hearing.	Name of Magistrate before whom charge was heard.	Result of inquiry.
Samuel Rankine <i>alias</i> Sumner	Drunk and disorderly.	Goolwa	Feb. 9	Feb. 9	Feb. 10	Thos. Good, J.P. and Abraham Graham, J.P.	Fined 5s.
Ditto	Assaulting P.T. Moriarty	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Committed for one month with hard labour.
James Spender	Drunkenness	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Fined 5s.
Benjamin Tippe	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Fined 10s.
Tommy Newland	Ditto	Ditto	March 25	March 25	March 25	Abraham Graham, J.P.	Fined 10s., or 14 days' imprisonment in default.
Billy Newland	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Martha Newland	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
John Lush	Assaulting P.T. Moriarty	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto and T. Good, J.P.	Committed to Gaol for one year with hard labour.
Joseph Newland	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Tommy Newland	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Billy Newland	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Committed to Gaol for six months with hard labour.
Jack	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Susan Lush	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Felix	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Discharged.
Tommy	Stealing a tin of kerosine	Naracoorte	Jan. 14	Jan. 14	Jan. 16	H. J. Smith, S.M.	Imprisoned for three days.
Mingerie	Deserting service	Streaky Bay	March 22	March 28	March 28	O. K. Richardson, S.M.	Discharged.
Policeman Dick	Drunkenness	East Wellington	Jan. 6	Jan. 6	Jan. 7	E. C. Hughes, S.M.	Discharged.
Harry Lampert	Drunkenness and fighting	Ditto	Jan. 31	Jan. 31	Feb. 2	Ditto	Discharged with a caution.
Young Buffalo	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto ditto
Larry	Drunkenness	Mount Gambier	May 9	May 9	May 11	R. J. Turner, S.M.	Ditto ditto
Juno <i>alias</i> Johnny Friday	Stealing a saddle, &c.	Comaun Station	March 24	May 29	June 11	Ditto	Committed for six months with hard labour.
Johnny Pearson	Drunkenness	Kingston	May 1	May 1	May 1	E. S. Burkett, J. P.	Fined 1s. each.
Joe Gifford	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Deaf Tommy	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Frank	Ditto	Ditto	May 12	May 12	May 13	Jas. Cooke, and E. S. Burkett	Imprisoned till the rising of the Court.
Isaac	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	
Jessie	Ditto	Wellington	June 14	June 14	June 15	E. C. Hughes, S.M.	Fined 5s.
Blackmore	Ditto	Adelaide	April 18	April 18	April 20	Saml. Bedome, P.M.	Fined 5s.
Jenny Cook	Ditto	Ditto	April 20	April 20	April 21	Ditto	Fined 5s.
Dick Turpin	Ditto	Ditto	May 1	May 1	May 2	Ditto	Fined 5s.
Ditto	Indecent language	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Fined 10s.
Blackmore	Drunkenness	Ditto	May 10	May 10	May 10	Ditto	Fined 5s.
Tommy Gallop	Ditto	Ditto	May 27	May 27	June 1	Ditto	Fined 5s.
James Tom	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Fined 5s.
John Bullock	Ditto	Ditto	June 2	June 2	June 3	Ditto	Fined 5s.
James Davis	Assault	Ditto	June 23	June 23	June 24	Ditto	Fined 5s., in default two months' imprisonment.
Bobby Graham	Drunkenness and attempted housebreaking	Port Pirie	April 5	April 5	April 5	Messrs. Williams, J.P. and Herman, J.P.	Fined 5s. on first charge, and the other was dismissed.
Billy White	Attempting to commit rape	Blinman	May 27	June 2	June 4	A. Vonnida, J.P.	Committed for trial, and since sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment.
Billy Midnight	Killing one of the Hon. T. Elder's cows	Mount Freeling North	May 21	May 24	June 6	A. Vonnida, J.P., and P. Phillips, J.P.	Sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment with hard labor in Port Augusta Gaol.
Jack Truman							
Mulligan Billy							
Charley							

Statement, showing the number of Aborigines, Males and Females, in each County and Pastoral District, South Australia, at the date of the Census of 1861 and 1871, together with the increase or decrease.

District.	Adults.										Children.					Total.					Males employed by settlers.			
	Healthy.					Sick and Infirm.																		
	Males.		Females.		Increase.	Males.		Females.		Increase.	Males.		Females.		Increase.	Males.		Females.		Increase.				
	1861	1871	1861	1871		1861	1871	1861	1871		1861	1871	1861	1871		1861	1871	1861	1871			1861	1871	
County—																								
Adelaide	13	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	22	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Onawyer	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Light	4	12	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	16	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stanley	35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	65	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Victoria	65	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	123	79	37	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daly	93	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ferguson	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Frone	55	63	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hindmarsh	90	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sturt	30	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Byre	17	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Burra	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Young	39	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hanley	—	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Albert	7	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alfred	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Russell	66	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardwell	30	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Buckingham	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
MacDonnell	53	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobe	43	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grey	132	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flinders	32	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Counties	831	393	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,385	625	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pastoral Districts—																								
Western District	246	448	162	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northern District	786	226	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North-Eastern District	106	74	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kangaroo Island	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Districts	1,178	784	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,457	1,208	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grand Total of S. Australia	2,009	1,141	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,842	1,833	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Return of Sick Natives under Treatment in the Tatiara District during Six Months ended 30th June, 1874.

No.	Name.	Country or Tribe.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Where attended.	Distance.	Dates of Attendance.	Result of Treatment.
1	Scottie	Tatiara	M.	20	Influenza	Charla	Milos.	January 30	Relieved
2	Jemmy	Ditto	M.	31	Catarrh	Ditto	—	January 7	Ditto
3	Pinky	Ditto	M.	21	Cough	Ditto	—	January 24	Ditto
4	Infant	Ditto	M.	10 mos.	Disordered bowels	Ditto	—	Ditto	Ditto
5	Wirrega Bob	Ditto	M.	22	Constipatio	Ditto	—	Ditto	Ditto
6	Jemmy	Ditto	M.	31	Catarrh	Ditto	—	January 30	Ditto
6	Louisa	Ditto	F.	37	Rheumatism	Ditto	—	February 25	Ditto
“	Scottie	Ditto	M.	20	Boils	Ditto	—	March 1	Ditto
“	Jemmy	Ditto	M.	31	Cough	Ditto	—	March 24	Ditto
“	Wirrega Bob	Ditto	M.	22	Constipatio	Ditto	—	March 29	Ditto
“	Pinky	Ditto	M.	21	Fall from horse and bruise	Wirrega	7	Ditto	Ditto
7	Punch	Ditto	M.	26	Toothache	Charla	—	April 1	Cured
8	Joey	Ditto	M.	32	Ditto	Ditto	—	April 11	Cured
9	Emma	Padthaway	F.	24	Ditto	Ditto	—	Ditto	Cured
10	Old Mary	Tatiara	F.	48	Catarrh	Ditto	—	Ditto	Relieved
“	Wirrega Bob	Ditto	M.	21	Constipatio	Ditto	—	April 12	Ditto
11	Lizzio	Ditto	F.	20	Catarrh	Ditto	—	April 13	Ditto
12	Archie	Ditto	M.	24	Constipatio	Ditto	—	Ditto	Ditto
13	Lawson's Tommy	Padthaway	M.	26	Fits	Ditto	—	April 16	Ditto
“	Joey	Tatiara	M.	32	Constipatio	Ditto	—	April 21	Ditto
“	Ditto	Ditto	M.	32	Pleuritis	Cunnanya	7	April 26	Ditto
“	Ditto	Ditto	M.	32	Ditto	Ditto	7	April 29	Ditto
“	Punch	Ditto	M.	26	Catarrh	Charla	—	May 14	Ditto
“	Scottie	Ditto	M.	20	Sprained foot	Ditto	—	Ditto	Ditto
“	Punch	Ditto	M.	26	Cough	Ditto	—	May 19	Ditto
“	Joey	Ditto	M.	32	Constipatio	Ditto	—	Ditto	Ditto
“	Pinkey	Ditto	M.	21	Nouralgia	Ditto	—	June 9	Ditto
“	Joey	Ditto	M.	32	Constipatio	Ditto	—	Ditto	Ditto

30th June, 1874.

ROBERT BANKS PENNY, M.R.C.S., L., District Medical Officer for Aborigines, Tatiara.

Statement showing Return of each Person charged with any Violation of the 17th Clause of Act No. 22 of 1872, forbidding Liquors to be supplied to Aborigines, during the Half-year ended 30th June, 1874.

Name of Accused.	Residence.	Occupation.	Place where alleged Offence was committed.	Date of Offence.	Name of Magistrate before whom charge was heard.	Result of Inquiry.
George Toombs .. James Myles	Traveller Goolwa	Laborer Seaman	South Blinman Goolwa	1874. March 7 Feb. 9	J. P. Buttfild, S.M. Thos. Goodc, J.P., and Abraham Graham, J.P. Ditto	Fined £1 and costs, £1 Dismissed
John Lewis	Ditto	Shepherd	Ditto	Ditto	—	Fined £1
Eliza Tait	Ditto	Married woman	Ditto	March 25	—	—
Frances Kent	Stirling North	Publican	Stirling North	Jan. 2	Erasmus Gower, S.M.	Dismissed
James Wilson	Wecia	Laborer	Streaky Bay	Jan. 11	O. K. Richardson, S.M.	Fined £1 and costs
Charles Walker ..	Allandale	Ditto	Allandale	Feb. 5 1873.	R. J. Turner, S.M.	Fined £5; in default com- mitted for two months
Charles Wilson	Kingston	Publican	Kingston Hotel	Dec. 23 1874.	H. J. Smith, S.M.	Dismissed
James Hall	Wellington	Laborer	Wellington	Jan. 31	G. F. Dashwood, S.M.	Fined £2
Alfred Sanders	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Feb. 2	Ditto	Dismissed
George Milligan ..	Hill River	Farmer	Near Claro	March 14	J. Varley, S.M.	Fined £2
F. L. Kruger	Kingston	Barman	Royal Mail Hotel, Kingston	April 28	J. Cooke, J.P., and E. S. Burkitt, J.P.	Fined £5 and costs, £2
Reuben Corker	Ditto	Laborer	Blacks' Camp, Kingston	May 12	Ditto	Fined £5 10s. and £1 costs, or 2 months' imprisonment
Thomas Rooney ..	Adelaide	Ditto	Adelaide	May 27	S. Beddome, P.M.	Fined £1
William O'Brien ..	North Adelaide	Gardener	North Adelaide	May 15	Ditto	Fined £1 and costs, 13s.
John Cooter	Ashford, Bay Road	Butcher	Bay Road	May 27	Ditto	Fined £2 and costs, £1 6s.
John Farquher	Adelaide	Laborer	Adelaide	June 16	Ditto	Fined £2 and costs, 10s.
Mary Ann Smith ..	Ditto	Widow	Ditto	June 24	Ditto	Fined £1
William Brown ..	Port Pirie	Laborer	Port Pirie	April 5	Messrs. Williams, J.P., and Herman, J.P.	Dismissed
Henry Hill	Ditto	Shoemaker	Ditto	April 14	Ditto	Fined £1 and £1 costs

Aborigines.—Return of Sick under Treatment in the Adelaide Hospital during the Half-year ended 30th June, 1874.

No.	Name.	Country or Tribe.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Date of Admission.	Result of Treatment.	Date of Discharge.
1	George Willundi	Ooutalpa	M.	24	Fractured leg	1873. December 6	Recovered	1874. January 20
2	Mary Dair	Mount Bryan	F.	25	Hydatid tumor of uterus	December 15 1874.	Died	January 11
3	George Bennett	Port Elliot	M.	25	Acute rheumatism	January 6	Recovered	January 31
4	Johnny Lush	Ditto	M.	20	Tumor in abdomen	January 7	Relieved	January 16
5	Frank Gordon	Yorke's Peninsula	M.	24	Phthisis	March 17	Died	March 23
6	Fanny Brown	Port Lincoln	F.	—	Phthisis	March 20	Died	Ditto
7	Susan Gollan	Meningie	F.	15	Syphilitic nodes on tibia	May 29	—*	—
8	Frank Wilkinson	Ditto	M.	30	Abscess in groin	June 4	Abscess in groin	June 29
9	George Dermoty	Riverton	M.	24	Ascites	June 10	—*	—

* Still in Hospital.

Tabulated statement, showing return of Births and Deaths during six months ended 30th June, 1874.

Name of Depôt.	Births.	Deaths.
Bimbowrie	—	1
Blanchetown	—	2
Border Town	1	—
Crystal Brook	—	1
Franklin Harbor	—	1
Goolwa	2	1
Guichen Bay	—	1
Kopperamana	—	2
Lacepede Bay	—	8
Lacepede Bay Native School	1	—
Long Island	2	1
Milang	3	—
Mount Remarkable	—	1
Millicent	—	1
Nilpena	1	1
Point Macleay	4	4
Point Pierce	—	1
Port Augusta	—	1
Strangways Springs	1	1
Streaky Bay	2	—
Tarpeena	2	2
Venus Bay	1	1
Umberatana	1	1
Wallaroo	—	1
Wallianippie	—	1
Wellington	1	3
Yadlamalka	1	2
Total	23	39