

South  Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1906.



Adelaide :

C. E. BRISTOW, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1907.

# REPORT.

Aborigines Office, Adelaide, August 23rd, 1906.

I have the honor respectfully to submit for the information of the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, &c., the following report with reference to the condition of the aborigines and the work undertaken by this department for their relief during the year ended June 30th, 1906.

The census of 1901 shows the aboriginal population of South Australia, exclusive of the Northern Territory, as—

Blacks .....	3,386
Half-castes .....	502
Total .....	<u>3,888</u>

There have been reported during the year—

	Blacks.	Half-castes.
Births .....	20 ..	29
Deaths .....	58 ..	9

During the five years 1901-6 the records show a decrease of 250 blacks, and an increase of 89 half-castes.

The depôts for distribution of food, clothing, medicines, &c., are—20 under police, 4 at mission stations, 2 at post and telegraph offices, and 16 under station managers in the Far North. All furnish monthly reports, enabling the condition and requirements of the natives to be investigated and dealt with, tending to promote friendly relations between them and the European settlers.

The correspondence of this office during the year has been 950 inwards and 1,325 outwards.

At Anna Creek, Far North, where there are located from 100 to 150 aborigines, Mr. Oastler, J.P., who has had charge of the depôt for forty years, reports—"All the natives here are a quiet, well-behaved lot, and as they are well cared for and looked after by Messrs. Hogarth & Warren, they are very contented, and would not be benefited by removal to a mission station or otherwise. They were pleased with the extra clothing supplied by the department."

In the Western districts the aborigines are reported as orderly, and there has been no recurrence of the outrages which were prevalent here two years ago.

On the Murray and Lakes some new boats have been distributed, and canoes and guns are frequently repaired, the native owners being required to pay a portion of the cost, more or less, according to their ability, to encourage habits of industry and self-reliance.

## MISSION STATIONS.

Name of Station.	Average Number of Aborigines.	Number of Children.	Births.	Deaths.
Point McLeay .....	264	122	15	17
Point Pierce .....	176	102	7	4
Kopperamanna .....	96	16	3	3
Koonibba, Denial Bay .....	69	39	3	3
Manunka, River Murray .....	42	21	4	2
<b>Totals</b> .....	<b>637</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>29</b>

The financial returns from these stations show that the proceeds of all produce raised thereon during the year, amounted to £7,262, and aborigines were paid wages to the extent of £1,427.

The German Lutheran community sets a good example of liberality in aid of aboriginal mission work, as during the last three years their voluntary contributions were £959, £843, and £1,054.

The necessity for some additional legislation on behalf of the aborigines was pointed out in the last year's report of this department, and it was urged that provision should be made for the legal recognition of aboriginal mission stations as reformatory and industrial institutions, the better protection of native women and children, some system for boarding-out half-caste and quadroon children and apprenticing them to some suitable employment.

It is hoped that some definite action will be taken to introduce a Bill for an Aborigines' Protection Act during the present session of Parliament.

It has been reported that Queensland aborigines are in the habit of crossing the South Australian Border and seeking relief at the Innamincka depôt, owing to there being no depôt in their own State nearer than 200 miles. Representations have been made through the Hon. Chief Secretary to the Queensland Government.

## CRIMINAL RECORDS.

The convictions of aborigines during the year were—

Drunkenness .....	31
Common assault ..	4
Larceny .....	3
Unlawfully on premises .....	1
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>39</b>

Seven persons were convicted for supplying natives with intoxicating liquor.

Thirty-six cases of sickness received kind attention in the Adelaide, Wallaroo, and Port Augusta hospitals—21 being cured, 11 relieved, and 4 died.

The following comparative statement shows the number of aborigines and the cost of the departments in the States named :—

	South Australia.	Victoria.	N. S. Wales.
Number of aborigines	3,727	365	6,910
Annual vote.....	£4,410	£4,152	£16,106
Cost per head .....	£1 3s. 7d.	£11 7s. 6d.	£2 6s. 7d.

The amount voted by Parliament for the year was £4,410, and the expenditure was as under—

	£	s.	d.
Provisions for 42 depots .....	1,081	7	10
Clothing, blankets, &c. ....	661	13	5
Medical attendance and medicines .....	147	10	4
Transport charges .....	491	16	1
Burial charges, aboriginals .....	28	0	0
Boats, fishing tackle, &c. ....	76	14	6
Firewood—Old, infirm, and sick .....	12	8	9
Petty and travelling expenses .....	34	6	7
Meals, aboriginal prisoners, &c. ....	27	19	2
Telephone exchange .....	10	0	0
Adelaide Hospital—Contribution .....	10	10	0
Printing and stationery .....	15	13	7
Postage stamps and telegrams .....	24	2	6
Receiving, storing, and issuing stores at G.P.O. stores	20	0	0
Clerical assistance, Sub-Protector, Port Augusta ..	12	0	0
Protector of Aborigines .....	210	0	0
Grant-in-aid Aborigines' Friends' Association for Point McLeay .....	1,000	0	0
Grant for erection of cottages at Point Pierce for Point McLeay natives .....	200	0	0
	<u>£4,064</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>

Reports are appended from the Sub-Protector, Far North, and the Point McLeay, Point Pierce, Koonibba, and Kopperamanna mission stations.

E. L. HAMILTON, Protector of Aborigines.

#### FAR NORTHERN DISTRICT.

The Sub-Protector (Mr. Clode, Port Augusta) states—

I have the honor to inform you that the general health and conduct of the aborigines in the Far Northern District during the past year has been fairly good; of course there are some exceptions, especially with the half-civilised ones.

I have visited several of the depôts myself, and in the outlying districts I have made inquiries from the police constables, and find that the natives are well cared for and that the Government rations have been judiciously distributed by the issuers.

From present prospects I think there should be a good many of the able-bodied employed on the stations, and with their native food there should not be such a heavy drain on the Government rations. From the

police in the interior I have ascertained that the country at present is in a deplorable state, owing to such a long drought and a great scarcity of native food. The blacks in the Northern Territory are very troublesome, and have taken to cattle-killing. Ten have been arrested, and are on their way down from Alice Springs, sentenced to six months in Port Augusta Gaol. Eight were also arrested last August, and sentenced to six months.

The offences committed by natives in the southern State were—Three for larceny; one unlawfully on premises, fined £5; and five for drunkenness. Four persons were convicted for supplying liquor to aborigines; three were fined £2 and costs, and the other £5 and costs.

I regret to say that, owing to the great heat last March, seven native women and one child perished for want of water about 25 miles from Oodnadatta. This sad occurrence was reported to you at the time.

Very few deaths have been reported. Three died in the Port Augusta Hospital during the year, and several have been attended to by Dr. Chenery, who, with the nurses, have been very kind and attentive to the sick natives.

---

#### POINT McLEAY MISSION STATION.

Mr. Garnett, Superintendent, states—

The average number of aborigines at this station during the year has been 254; births, 15; deaths, 17; marriages, 2.

There have been several cases of typhoid fever, all of which, I am pleased to report, have recovered. We have also suffered from a severe epidemic of whooping cough, which, with its complications, has carried off several of our native children.

*Farm.*—Owing to improvement of our Needles property, containing 1,900 acres, by vermin-proof fencing and clearing the scrub, the land is able to carry more stock than in the past. We have at present 19 horses, 114 horned cattle, and 1,175 sheep. An exchange of lands with Mr. Philip Charley, of Narrung Station (adjoining our mission property), has been effected, securing to the mission a home block of about 1,600 acres. This exchange will increase the productiveness of the farm. We cut 40 tons hay this year from as many acres. The barley crop at the Needles, of 50 acres, gave poor results. Lucern is being given a trial there.

There are very few rabbits on our lands. Foxes are sometimes killed. So far they have done very little damage to lambs.

*Work.*—The difficulty of finding employment for our large number of able-bodied men (50) is a serious problem which urgently needs the early attention of our legislators.

In addition to the usual round of station work and wool-washing, contracts have been made for clearing scrub lands for neighboring squatters, and carried out under supervision of our farm overseer.

*Educational.*—The school building, having been partially destroyed by fire, has been thoroughly repaired and modernised by the Education Department. The number of children on the roll is 66. The teacher, Mr. P. W. Francis, continues to get good reports on his work from the Inspector of Schools.

We have had no trouble with intoxicants on or about the mission.

Religious services are regularly held, and the church (capable of seating 140) is well filled every Sunday.

We thank the department for the stores, blankets, &c., supplied. They have been a great help, and of good quality, especially mentioning the clothing sent for aged and infirm blacks.

The writer has resigned his position as superintendent for family reasons. He has now been engaged for 12 years in mission work among the aborigines, and will continue to take a hearty interest in their future welfare.

---

### POINT PIERCE MISSION STATION.

Mr. B. Lathern, superintendent, reports—

The number of natives on the station is 176, an increase of 46 for the year, viz :—Males, 44 ; females 30 ; children, 103. Births during the year have been 7 ; deaths, 4.

The general health of the people is satisfactory. For children this institution is an ideal spot ; they grow up like mushrooms, and in a few years it will become a difficult problem to solve, viz., what to do with the boys and girls when they leave school.

Thirty-seven children are in the day school, which is under the Education Department. The attendance is generally good and the results first-class. Religious services, with two or three exceptions, are regularly held, and the attendance improving. The Methodist and Anglican denominations conduct monthly services ; the intervals are filled in by laymen or local preachers from the Maitland circuit. Most of the children attend Sunday school in the afternoon. Week evenings have variations—service of songs and sometimes prayers. This arrangement apparently appeals more to the people than prayers only.

We have no serious offences to report. Now and again we have some trouble, caused by intoxicating liquor ; recently I infer that the local hotels are better kept and liquor less easily obtained.

Shearing and harvest results were good. Wool realised over 110 bales, and from 1,000 acres of land cultivated we reaped an average of three bags to the acre of wheat and oats.

Rabbits are still numerous and no end of trouble. During the summer months we sent the poison cart round for all it was worth ; now we are paying men, women, and children for scalping.

Stock are as follows :—Sheep, 7,000 ; horses, 21 ; cattle, 40 ; pigs, 40.

The wages paid to natives vary from 3s. weekly to 3s. 8d. per day. The difference largely depends on the workman and the special kind

of work. We employ from 30 to 35 natives and sometimes five or six white people; these, however, are only doing work that we could not do ourselves, and will be dispensed with as soon as possible.

For work that is not worth much we adhere to the rule—two days' work for rations, but for some sorts of work wages are paid for every day. When possible we let contracts to the people, viz.:—Shearing, fencing, scrub-cutting, dam-sinking, quarrying stores, drains, and tank excavations. For this sort of work we select the natives best adapted for the purpose, and in every case have to consider the married people with children.

Our committee of management have a rather large programme in view, and, should we succeed, our mission reserve will be largely developed in the near future.

---

### KOONIBBA MISSION, DENIAL BAY.

The Rev. C. A. Wiebusch, superintendent, states—

In the year 1897 the Evangelical Lutheran Church obtained from the Government about 16,000 acres of land for mission purposes—12,000 in the hundred of Catt and 4,000 in the hundred of Bartlett. The latter is our water resort in times of severe drought.

We can keep only a limited number of stock, as we are dependent on underground tanks for water. At present we have 15 horses, 35 horned cattle, and 18 pigs. Our main work is wheat-growing. A manager supervises the farm work. Native men assist in cultivating the land. Some do their work fairly well and receive wages accordingly; the majority of men barely earn the necessaries of life. We find great difficulty in providing the women with suitable employment.

Since the beginning of our mission work we can record only a few good seasons, but the kind contributions from our various congregations have supplied us with the necessary means; the donations in all amounted to £3,000, in addition to which we have supplies of clothing.

The necessary buildings, schoolhouse, ministers' and managers' houses, and usual farm requirements have been erected; a few native families live in houses.

Although we acquired this land from the Government in 1897, we were not able to commence the real mission work before December, 1901. During this short period of four and a half years our labor among these aboriginals was under many unforeseen difficulties; but God is crowning our work with some success. Three grown-up natives, after good instruction in the chief parts of Christian religion, have, with three infants, received the sacrament of holy baptism. Eight school children and two adults have nearly finished their baptismal instruction.

We have always paid special attention to the education of school children; the average number during the year was 27. The work increased so much that a teacher was sent to aid the missionary.

Divine services are regularly held in the English language, and are well attended.

The average number of natives at the station during the past year has been 69, of whom 44 are full blacks, 20 half-caste, 5 three-quarter caste, including 39 children.

The general health and discipline have been excellent, with one exception.

The Government has kindly made our mission station the depôt for the aborigines of the district, and for the blankets and rations for the old and infirm and school children, and the occasional supplies of medicine, &c. We are very much indebted to the Aborigines' Department

As this is our first report I thought it advisable to give a more general statement in regard to our mission and the work we do among the aborigines.

#### KOPPERAMANNA MISSION, COOPER'S CREEK.

The Rev. L. Kaibel, chairman of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission, states—

We have at present 96 natives in the station ; 62 of these belong to the Christian Church, some of them for a long time. In regard to their moral life much is to be desired, as their old habits, to which they have been used, break out now and again ; also their want of veracity is to be deplored, otherwise they have willingly submitted to rule and order. They have worked hard, having had extra work ferrying over the Cooper all goods and chattels to and from Queensland.

As the North about here is at present abounding in feed and water the blacks will be in no want, having plenty of eggs, water birds, and later on fish will be available.

In adult cases the deaths are caused by consumption.

There have been a few marriages ; but I am sorry to say the fecundity of the black women seems a thing of the past ; this may be caused partly by the tendency of the women to grow unnaturally fat and partly from their past lives. We try to place young married couples into two-roomed houses, and some of the women keep the rooms clean and tidy ; others are less satisfactory in their habits. We intend to offer small prizes for the best-kept house, as an inducement to keep them orderly.

The Rev. F. G. Reuther, being compelled by ill-health to retire from his work here, our arrangements at present to supply his place are incomplete. The Rev. F. Bogner, who has had the out-door management of the station, is working himself now into the language of the blacks, so as to be able to teach and preach in 'Dieri,' and thus we hope to be able to keep on the good work of educating the blacks to a useful Christian life.

The stock of this station now consists of—3,400 sheep, 500 cattle, 170 horses, 600 goats.





### AN ABORIGINAL KING.

The King of the Warramunga tribe of aborigines, who inhabit the country near Tennant's Creek, died in the Adelaide Hospital on Sunday, September 15th, 1889. Deceased, who was better known as Mr D. Lindsay's (the explorer) black boy Dick, was about 19 years of age, and was 6ft. 6in. in height. He had been with Mr. Lindsay in all his journeys since 1886, and had proved a very faithful and trustworthy attendant. He was a perfect gentleman in his behavior, never misconducting himself in any way, and when he became King of the Warramungas, through the shooting of his brother last year, his aspirations for a higher form of life than he could get by going back to his tribe prevented his assuming his royal rank. He seemed to have a very fair idea of a future state, and frequently asked the nurses to read the Bible to him. About four months since he went into the Adelaide Hospital suffering from tumors on the chest, and, despite every attention, succumbed to tuberculosis. Dick was a good representative of a large tribe, and was introduced to more representatives of the English nobility than perhaps any other Australian aborigine. During the holding of the Jubilee Exhibition many visitors sought his acquaintance, and all found him intelligent and pleasing in his manner. Mr. Lindsay, who was very much attached to Dick, feels his death very keenly, and says he was the best specimen of an Australian black he has ever met.



POINT PIERCE NATIVES.—THREE GENERATIONS.

MOUNTED CONSTABLES WILLSHIRE, WURMBRAND, AND NATIVE POLICE, CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.





TEAM OF ABORIGINAL FOOTBALLERS.