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South



Australia.



REPORT

176 MAR 1967

OF THE



PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1907.



Adelaide :

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

1907.

REPORT.

Aborigines Office, Adelaide, September 19th, 1907.

I have the honor respectfully to submit for the information of the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, &c., the following report on the condition of the aborigines, together with the reports of the managers of the different mission stations, and also the usual financial statement, showing the expenditure of the sum voted by Parliament for the year ended June 30th, 1907.

According to the census of 1901 the aboriginal population of South Australia, exclusive of the Northern Territory, was—

Blacks	3,386
Half-castes	502
Total	3,888

During the year there have been reported—

	Blacks.	Half-castes.
Births	22 ..	20
Deaths	60 ..	8

The six years 1901-7 show a decrease recorded of 289 blacks, and an increase of 104 half-castes.

The general health and conduct of the natives have been fairly satisfactory; no special epidemic has appeared among them. Several deaths have been noted of very old aborigines, apparently over 80 years; and a woman, the head of the Kingston tribe, died lately whose age was said to be from 90 to 100 years by old European residents, who remembered her as a middle-aged woman when Kingston was first founded.

MISSION STATIONS.

Name of Station.	Average Number of Aborigines.	Number of Children.	Births.	Deaths.
Point McLeay	243	120	15	19
Point Pierce	159	72	9	3
Killalpanina (Kopperamanna)	94	16	2	8
Koonibba, Denial Bay	50	35	4	4
Manunka, River Murray	40	20	2	1
Totals	585	263	32	35

The financial returns from these stations for the year show—

	£	s.	d.
Voluntary contributions received	1,537	5	7
Proceeds of produce raised	6,326	10	1
Wages paid to aborigines	1,509	10	3

The sale of the Narrung Estate for closer settlement, which surrounds the Point McLeay mission on the land side, will probably interfere to some extent with that institution. It will lose its isolated position. A new township in its vicinity will be formed, and perhaps a public-house will appear, tending to create a condition of things not favorable to mission work, and under such adverse circumstances very careful management will be necessary.

The question of firewood for a community of about 300 aborigines is also a serious one for consideration. Formerly the mission had the free run of Narrung Estate to remove as much fuel wood as it needed; now the mission has only a supply estimated to last about twelve months.

Referring to the promised introduction of the much-needed legislation on behalf of the aborigines, this is the only Australian State without an Aborigines Protection Act.

Six years ago this question came before Parliament, and was referred to a Committee of the Legislative Council, who, after examining 21 witnesses and taking 114 pages of evidence, recommended the introduction of a Bill with the following provisions:—

1. Issue of certificates to reputable persons, giving authority to employ aborigines or half-castes, and for prohibiting the illicit intercourse of such persons or their employes with female aborigines or half-castes whilst so employed.
2. For prohibiting removal of aborigines from their own district, unless stringent provisions are made for their return.
3. For increased powers to protectors of aborigines, enabling them, amongst other things, to prosecute offenders against the law.
4. To prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor and opium to natives and half-castes, and to prevent Chinese and other sellers of such articles from harboring natives and half-castes.
5. For preventing the bartering of goods supplied by the Government to aborigines and half-castes.
6. For the further encouragement of *bond fide* mission stations.
7. For the exemption of certain aborigines and half-castes from the provisions of the Act.

A Draft Bill, including above recommendations, has been in preparation for some time, and it is hoped will soon be advanced a further stage.

CRIMINAL RECORDS.

The number of aborigines charged with offences during the year was—

Drunkenness	44
Common assault	1
Larceny	1
Murder of aboriginal (at Milang).....	1
Lunacy.....	2
Total.....	49

resulting in 48 convictions, and in the case of murder a verdict of not guilty.

Twelve white persons were convicted for supplying aborigines with intoxicating liquors.

Fifty-seven cases of sickness were admitted into the hospitals at Adelaide, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, and Wallaroo, and received kind attention from the hospitals' staffs; 19 were cured, 23 relieved, and 7 died, while 8 remained *in statu quo*.

Expenditure on aborigines by different States, 1906 :—

State.	Estimated Native Population.	Expenditure.		
		£	s.	d.
South Australia (excepting N. Territory)	5,745	4,210	0	0
Queensland	20,000 (approximate)	9,086	15	0
Victoria	365	4,300	0	0
Western Australia	30,000 (approximate)	15,099	0	0
New South Wales	6,910	18,136	0	0

The correspondence of this office during the year was—inwards, 945; outwards, 1,525.

The amount voted by Parliament for the year was £4,210. The expenditure was as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Provisions for 41 depôts	1,167	18	6
Blankets and clothing	631	13	8
Transport charges	525	18	8
Medical attendance and medicines	138	1	5
Boats, fishing tackle, &c.	81	16	0
Petty and travelling expenses	35	16	11
Firewood for old, infirm, and sick	7	5	0
Burial charges	42	7	6
Meals, sundry aborigines travelling and prisoners ..	32	9	0
Printing and stationery	10	6	10
O.S. postage stamps and telegrams	24	0	0
Telephone exchange	10	0	0
Law costs, defending aboriginal prisoners	21	14	0
Adelaide Hospital—Annual contribution	10	10	0
Clerical assistance, office of Sub-Protector, Far North	12	0	0
Receiving, storing, and issuing stores at G.P.O. stores	20	0	0
Protector of Aborigines	210	0	0
Grant-in-aid Aborigines' Friends' Association, Point McLeay	1,000	0	0
Total	£3,981	17	6

I have to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by the Police Department.

The administration of this office extends to the remote parts of the State, where the police are the only representatives of the Government. They have to be often called upon by different departments of the service for local information and reports, and, when considered in addition to their other multifarious duties, their willing help in looking after the interests of the aborigines deserves special commendation.

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

E. L. HAMILTON, Acting Protector of Aborigines.

FAR NORTHERN DISTRICT.

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

I have the honor to submit my annual report on the general conduct and condition of the aborigines in the Far Northern Division for the year ended June 30th, 1907, and I have much pleasure in stating that their conduct on the whole has been fairly good, also their general health.

During the year I have inspected most of the depôts in the settled districts, and from inquiries made from the constables in the outlying parts I find that the aborigines are well cared for, and that the Government rations, &c., have been issued carefully and judiciously. With the present prospects of a good season in the North there should not be such a drain on the Government supplies during the coming year, as there should be plenty of work for the able-bodied and plenty of their natural food and game for those able and willing to hunt for it.

No complaints have reached me of any ill-treatment of the natives.

During the year six were charged with drunkenness, one for riotous conduct, one for larceny, two for indecent language, two for lunacy (one of whom was discharged and the other sent to the lunatic asylum).

Dr. Riddle has attended to a good many aboriginies at the Port Augusta Hospital for colds, consumption, &c. Both the doctor and nurses have been very kind to them.

POINT McLEAY MISSION STATION.

Mr. A. Redman, superintendent, reports—

The average number of natives at the station during the past year has been 243. The total native population of the district is about 300, all of whom, more or less, come under my supervision.

During the year there have been—Births, 15; deaths, 19; marriages, 2.

The health of the natives is now very satisfactory, very little sickness prevailing; but, taking the year as a whole, the death rate has been high, but includes seven who died in the Adelaide Hospital, sent there from our mission and its surroundings.

Work has been fairly plentiful around the mission this year, and I am pleased to report more of our young men going out and seeking employment, and thus relieving the mission of a burden. We have used every effort in this direction, and have had no trouble with our young people in that respect, and the conduct of the natives generally has been good.

In farm work we have had a successful year, our products, wool, &c., bringing in higher returns than for many years previously; and since the exchange of land with the Narrung Estate, we are placed in a better position as regards stock.

It is a pity the Government could not have seen their way clear to have given us more land at the cutting up of Narrung Estate for closer settlement, as with an increased area we would considerably help to make the mission self-supporting.

The live stock on the station consists of—Sheep, 1,771; horned cattle, 124; horses, 18.

The selling of the Narrung Estate for closer settlement has taken place since last report, and we are being fenced off and closed in on all sides; but it is too soon to say whether the settlers will be permanently of assistance to us, but think that more work should be available for the natives than heretofore.

A serious question has, however, arisen, viz., the providing of firewood for the mission requirements. We are practically without wood, and, while we can procure a supply from outside for the present, in a very short time the means of keeping the natives supplied will be a serious matter, and requires immediate attention.

About 40 acres were planted for hay, which yielded well, and 27 acres of lucern proved a great boon to the cattle in the dry season. The vineyard gave a good yield, and the figs, pears, and quinces gave a heavy return of fruit.

The school (now under the Education Department) is doing good work, and was classed by Inspector Whitham at the last examination as "Very good," which means 85 per cent. This reflects great credit upon Mr. Francis, the teacher of the school. The average attendance is 54, with 59 on roll.

The religious services are regularly held and well attended.

The temperance work has been successfully carried on, and we have used every effort to suppress the supplying of drink to the natives, and are pleased to report a better state of things in that direction, but would urge upon those in authority to make the law exceptionally stringent in regard to the supplying intoxicating liquor to aborigines.

Our aim is and has been to raise the natives step by step, so that in the near future they may be able to cope with their surroundings.

POINT PIERCE MISSION STATION, YORKE PENINSULA.

Mr. B. Lathern, the manager, states—

The natives on the station number 159, viz., 55 males, 32 females, and 72 children—a decrease of 17 since last year. A few of the absentees were from Point McLeay, others our own. During the year there were—Births, 9; deaths, 3; marriages, 3. Now and again we have a few cases of sickness, but in a general way our people are fairly healthy.

About 30 children attend the day school; results are creditable.

Religious services are held regularly on Sundays, including Sunday School; general attendance could easily be better. As week evening prayers did not appeal much to many of our natives, we have now variations instead, viz., service of song, practice in singing under the leadership of Mr. H. Towan, who is a capable musician.

We continue to have a little trouble now and again with a section of our people who get intoxicating drink. Recently there has been some improvement, but I am none too sanguine about stopping the liquor business with the few who get it—we don't know how or when—but for the present we are trying an experiment which may mend matters.

As the general trend of all these mission institutions is more or less evolutionary, it will, I think, be necessary in the near future to alter all our rules and regulations. In any case this will apply to Point Pierce.

Two days' work for rations has for the present been discontinued. Wages vary from 3s. 6d. per week for boys to 3s. 6d. per day for one of our best men, rations of course included. When possible we let contracts in various sorts of farm and station work—shearing, fencing, dam and tank sinking, boat work, and scrub-cutting, the natives being selected for the work they are best adapted for.

The station buildings (new and old) are in good repair: improvements continue on the usual lines; farm implements are up to date; and the mission reserve is being utilised under present conditions to the best possible purpose.

Rabbits continue to give endless trouble. We are wire-netting all our northern boundary and have several natives digging out the warrens and killing immense numbers by pumping bisulphide of carbon into the rabbit holes.

In improving the general water supply we have laid 1½ in. pipes from the Point Pierce wells to the mission, a distance of 2½ miles, and have erected at the wells a good windmill and force pump half way between the station and the wells. A 5,000-gall. receiving tank of stone has been built, and new galvanized-iron troughs put down for watering stock. At the station a 10,000-gall. tank is to be erected, when the water by gravitation and a second windmill will be distributed in pipes to the various paddocks. In addition to the wells scheme we have excavated another very large dam, and on Wardang Island have built a third tank, with a holding capacity of 100,000galls., thus improving the water supply on our reserve, which at one time was very poor indeed.

The stock consists of—Sheep, 7,000; cattle, 50; horses, 24; pigs, 60.

Our wheat yield was 3½ bags per acre, giving a total of between 2,000 and 3,000 bags; and 127 bales of wool.

The present prospects look fair, and apparently the next 12 months will be a success.

In conclusion, I might add that we have a first-class practical committee of management, and Point Pierce for present purposes could be an ideal institution. The future success or otherwise largely depends on the existing community.

KILLALPANINA MISSION STATION (KOPPERAMANNA), COOPER'S CREEK.

The Rev. L. Kaibel, chairman of the Lutheran Mission of the Immanuel Synod, reports--

The past year, I am thankful to say, has been in its material prospects very prosperous. The copious rains Queensland enjoyed brought down the Cooper in a big flood, and nearly 100 square miles of our run were covered for months with the precious liquid, an abundance of feed sprung up, and my only regret was, after a personal inspection of the run, that there was so little stock. To increase our small flock of sheep we bought over 4,000 from Mr. S. Redman, which are doing very well.

Our blacks have done very good work last year, and very willingly too. As all the traffic to Queensland goes through our run, and the Cooper for 10 miles width covered the track, punting had to be resorted to for landing all goods and mails on the other side. This kept our overseer (Vogelsang) and some 70 of his black boys busy for nearly six months. We paid away in blacks' wages a greater amount than ever before, as we find it encourages them in their work. The difficulty is to make them spend the money in a judicious way, without restricting their personal liberty too much. They are big children, and anything that takes their fancy they wish to buy, no matter what it costs. The younger men sometimes buy a useful article, as a dressing-table, a washstand, or mirror, and good clothes for themselves and wives.

The number of natives at present in the station is 94. During the year there were 2 births, 8 deaths, 3 marriages.

KOONIBBA MISSION, DENIAL BAY, WEST COAST.

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

The average number of aborigines during past year has been 50. Fourteen of these have received baptism.

Every Sunday morning we have Divine service, and all attend regularly. On Sunday evenings we generally hold services of song.

The day school has an average attendance of 25 children. Religious instruction is also given to the grown up in the morning, and in the evening a number of them are taught to read and write. Very satisfactory results are attained.

During the months of March and April we visited, with four native children, a number of our various congregations in Victoria and South Australia. Our people take much interest in this mission work, and cheerfully care for the spiritual and bodily welfare of this race of aborigines. The reduced fares granted to us by our Government, and Messrs. LeMessurier, agents for the s.s. *Australian*, we accepted with thanks. We also thank the Aborigines Department for the stores, blankets, rations, and medicines for the old, infirm, and sick.

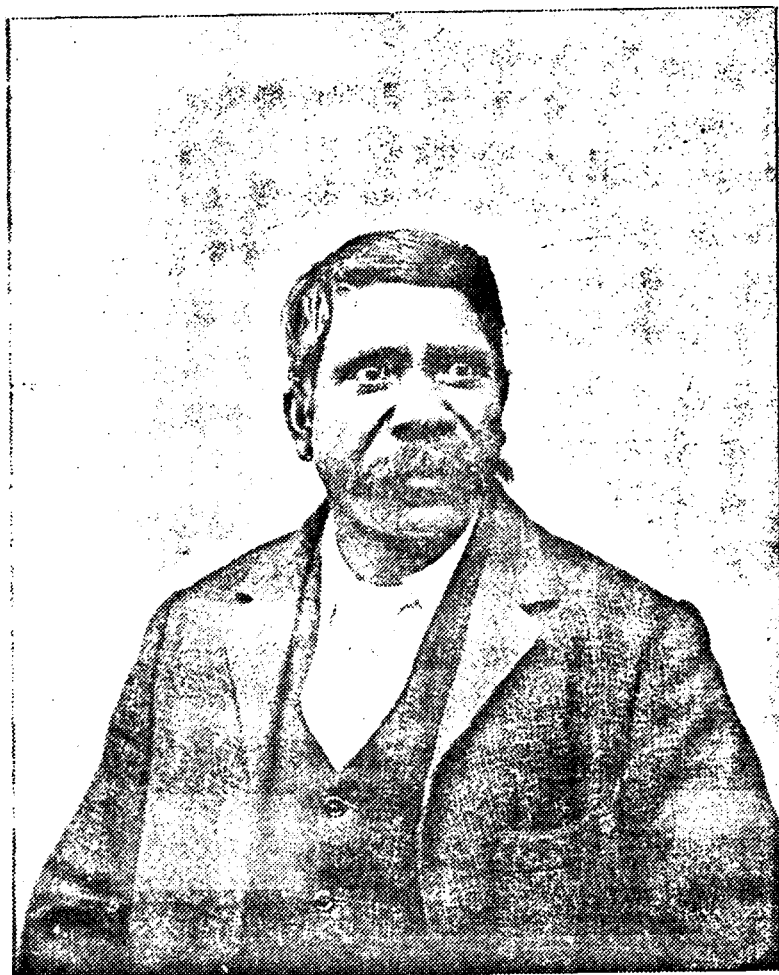
Last summer we had a very trying time. The drought was so severe we were forced to take all the horses and cattle to the water resort. Davenport Creek, in the hundred of Bartlett. All the natives were also sent there.

Harvest results were satisfactory. About 500 acres cultivated yielded 970 bags of wheat.

The wages paid to natives vary from 6d. weekly to 14s. during harvest and other busy times, when we raise their wages accordingly.

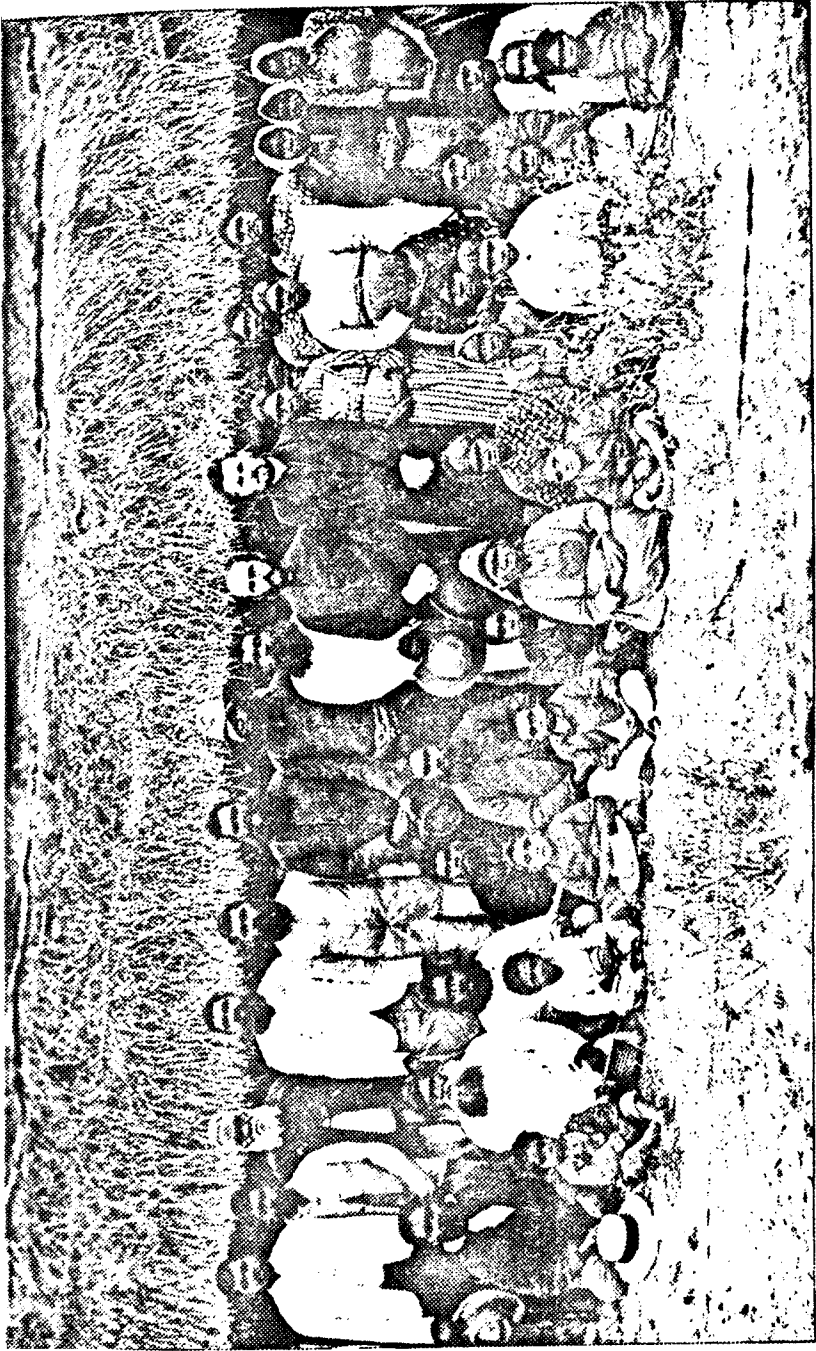
The stock on station are—Cattle, 43; horses, 17; pigs, 27.

Last June our committee made arrangements for the erection of a parsonage for the missionary.

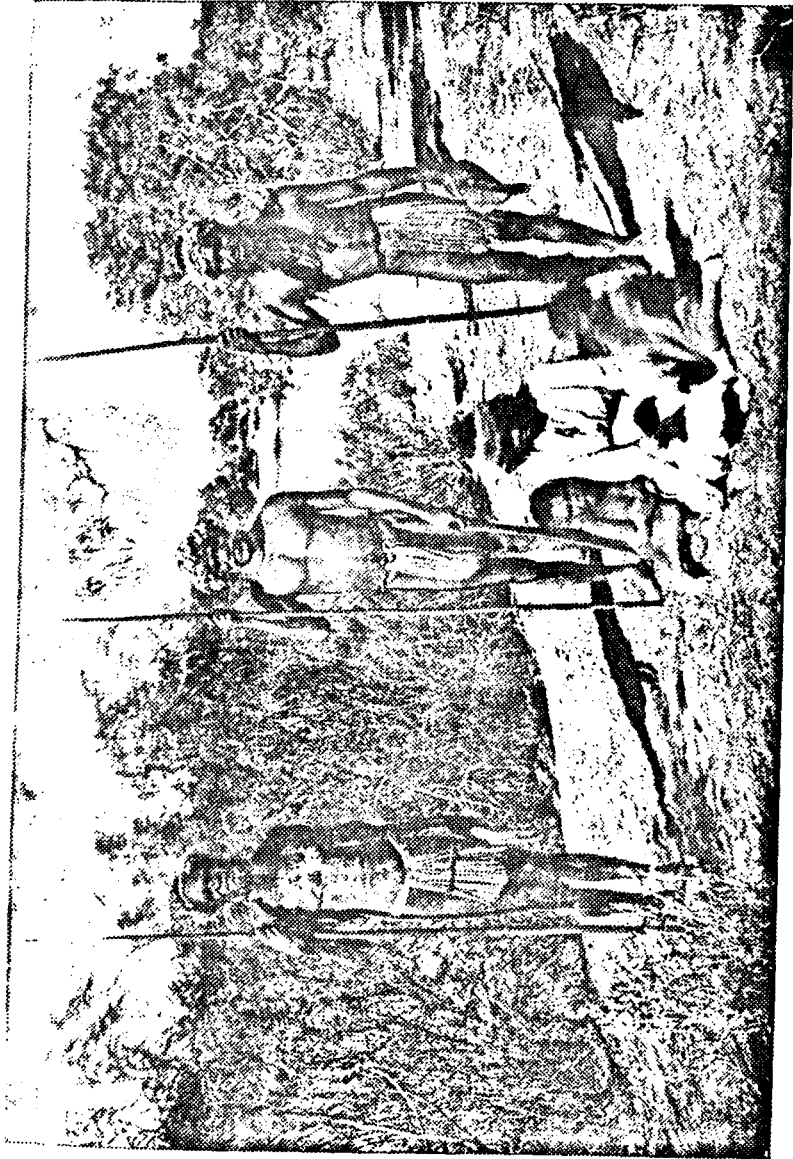


AN INGENIOUS ABORIGINAL.

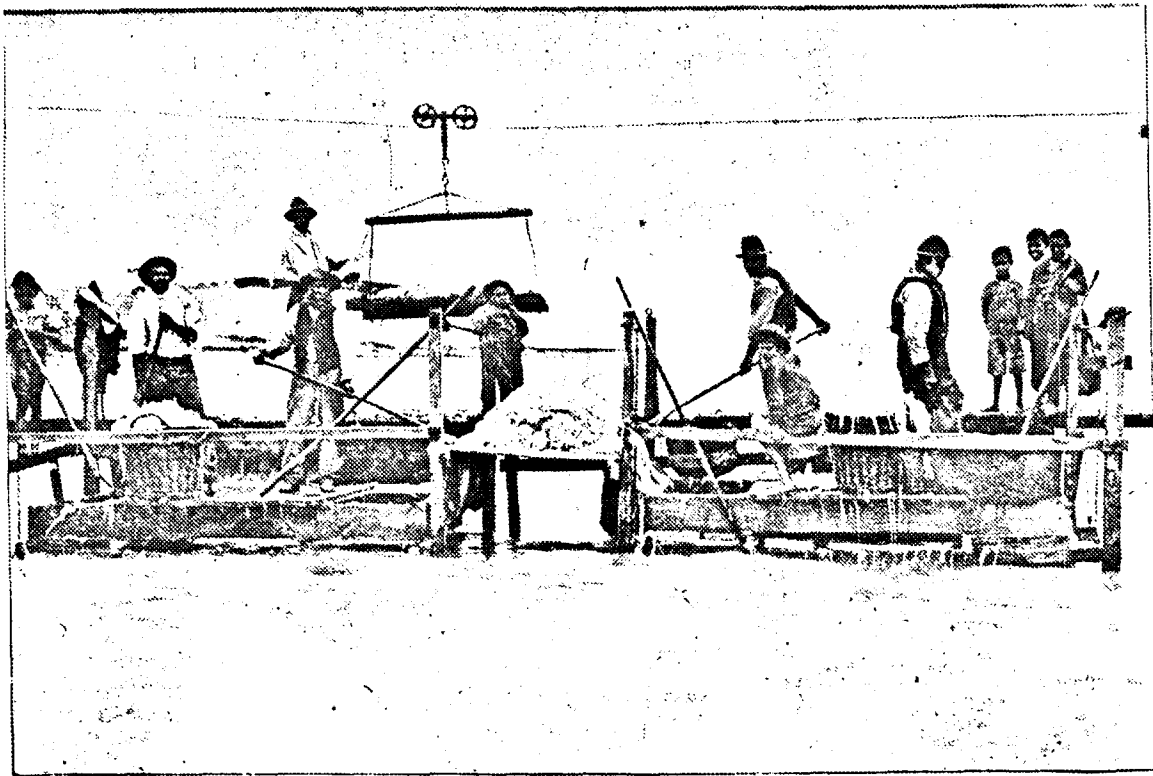
Mr. David Unaipon, of the Point McLeay Mission, has lately been in Adelaide on a remarkable errand. He brought with him a neatly drawn design of a piece of mechanism which he claims can be attached to machinery and facilitate the attainment of perpetual motion. He proposes to bring about this result by the forces of gravitation and momentum. The Aborigines Department is assisting him to pursue his project. Mr. Unaipon is fond of music, and plays the organ in the Point McLeay Mission Church. It is interesting to note that there are two other natives of a mechanical turn of mind on the Mission Station, viz., Albert Karloan and Edward Kropinyert, and both of them are employed as blacksmiths.



2 GROUP OF ABORIGINES AT KOPPERAMANNA MISSION STATION, AND TWO OF THE MISSIONARIES.



3 NATIVES OF THE ANDROWILLA TRIBE, DIAMENTINA, FAR NORTH.



WOOL-WASHING SCENE AT POINT McLEAY JETTY.