

South



Australia.



# REPORT

OF THE

# PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1918.



Adelaide:

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

1918.

# REPORT.

Aboriginals Department,

Adelaide, September 24th, 1918.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the financial year ended June 30th, 1918.

## POINT PEARCE STATION.

The operations for the year show a profit of £915 12s. 6d., plus profit brought forward from the two previous years, £6,695 16s. 8d. ; total profit, £7,611 9s. 2d.

The season was not so good as the two previous ones, and the mice plague was responsible for the destruction of a large portion of the seed sown, causing the crops to be light. The area under crop was slightly over 3,000 acres.

The livestock now consists of 5,114 sheep, 72 horses, 62 cattle, and 72 pigs. The area now under crop for the coming harvest is 3,270 acres.

There are 27 full-bloods and 169 half-castes on the station, and the sum of £4,054 10s. 4d. was paid to them in wages during the year, and many of them earned large sums off the station.

The births on the station during the year were seven half-castes, and the deaths were two half-castes and one full-blood.

As will be seen by the Superintendent's report, appended, the property has been greatly improved during the year.

The audited balance-sheet is appended.

## POINT McLEAY STATION.

The operations for the year show a loss of £2,364 7s. 2d., plus loss brought forward from the previous 18 months, £3,088 8s. 7d. ; total loss, £5,452 15s. 9d. This is only what might be expected, as the available land fit for cultivation is limited, and a large portion of the grazing country was submerged for the greater part of the year.

There are 397 aborigines more or less dependent on this station for a living, and the sum of £2,591 17s 4d. was paid to them in wages during the year, and although most of this was for unproductive work, it is better to spend it in wages than in providing them with rations while living in idleness.

Another 60 acres have been put under lucerne, which brings the area now under this fodder to 90 acres, and it is all doing wonderfully well, and will increase the carrying capacity of the station considerably and make the dairying much more profitable.

In the year 1912 I reported that I could keep 300 head of cattle on this station, and was subjected to a certain amount of criticism; nevertheless, I have been carrying more than this number ever since the station was brought under my control. The livestock on the station now consists of 344 cattle, 694 sheep, 33 horses, and 61 pigs, therefore my estimate was well within the mark.

The births on the station during the year were 12 half-castes and two full-bloods, and the deaths four half-castes and four full-bloods.

The audited balance-sheet is appended.

#### POPULATION.

On June 30th, 1917, the estimated population of the State was—

Full-bloods .....	3,852; half-castes, 920; total, 4,772		
Births for 1918—Full-bloods ..	43; half-castes, 40; total, 83		
	<u>3,895</u>	<u>960</u>	<u>4,855</u>
Deaths for 1918—Full-bloods..	59; half-castes, 18; total, 77		
Estimated population, 30/6/18.	<u>3,836</u>	<u>942</u>	<u>4,778</u>

#### CRIME REPORT FOR 1918.

Drunkenness .....	12
Breaches of Licensing Act .....	22
Unlawful possession .....	1
Mental defectives.....	1
Breaches of Aborigines Act .....	1
Breaches of Police Act .....	8
Vagrancy.....	2
Total convictions .....	<u>47</u>

The number of persons convicted for supplying liquor to aborigines was seven.

Rations, clothing, and blankets, also medical comforts, were distributed to the aborigines scattered over the State as usual, but not in such quantities as in other years owing to the good season, which made game plentiful and employment easily obtainable.

During the year I visited the aborigines along the East-West railway line between Port Augusta and the Western Australian Border, where I met about 200, most of these having come in from country near the borders of Western Australia and the Northern Territory to see the new railway line. They were not giving the white residents any trouble, and will no doubt return to their own country later on.

<i>Revenue for the Year—</i>		£	s.	d.
From sales of produce, &c., at Point Pearce Station.....		9,318	13	5
From sales of produce, &c., at Point McLeay Station.....		5,076	19	3
Refunds of advances to aborigines for rail fares, etc. ....		86	13	6
Rent of aborigines reserve at Baroota Creek ..		8	0	0
Total revenue .....		<u>£14,490</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>

which shows an increase over last year of £1,134 9s.

<i>Expenditure for the Year—</i>		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries at head office.....	668	15	2				
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, &c., in connection with depots other than Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations .....	3,117	16	5		3,786	11	7
<i>Point Pearce Station—</i>							
Salaries .....	360	0	0				
Wages to aborigines and white assistants.....	4,054	10	4				
Implements, stock, and stores, &c.	6,647	0	8		11,061	11	0
<i>Point McLeay Station—</i>							
Salaries .....	364	0	0				
Wages to aborigines and white assistants.....	2,591	17	4				
Implements, stock, stores, &c. ...	5,106	13	6				
Rent sections and roads .....	93	9	9		8,156	0	7
<i>Advisory Council of Aborigines—</i>							
Printing, stationery, &c. ....	—				7	2	9
Total expenditure for the year .....					<u>£23,011</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>

which shows a decrease of £3 1s. on last year's expenditure.

The advance in the price of all supplies has been very great, otherwise the expenditure would have been considerably reduced.

Religious services have been regularly provided for by visiting ministers to both stations, and great credit is due to Mr. Lawson, of Meningie, who has done excellent work at Point McLeay.

I regret to have to report that the medical officer for Point McLeay has left the district, which leaves the station without one. To overcome this difficulty serious cases are being sent to the Adelaide Hospital, or to the medical officer at Strathalbyn, for treatment. In ordinary cases of sickness the officers on both stations are capable of prescribing, as they are well supplied with drugs and medical books.

The conduct of the natives on Point Pearce and Point McLeay, ever since the stations were taken over under Government control, has been creditable, and they have done good work on the farms and on the "Glenora"—Point McLeay Dairy. On Point Pearce Station they work the largest up-to-date machinery.

I understand that a movement is on foot, supported by the Advisory Council of Aborigines, to raise the standard of education in the schools on the aborigines stations, which was lowered some years ago on the advice of Dr. W. Ramsay Smith, who considered the aborigines and half-castes physically unfit for long hours of study and confinement. If this movement should be given effect to I fear it will entail a large expenditure of money, resulting in ill-health among the children, and will prevent them from seeking outside employment. I think better results would be obtained by helping them to learn trades and rural work, under proper supervision, off the stations; but I dealt with this matter in my last annual report under the heading "A Difficult Problem."

I have, &c.,

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. J. G. Bice, Commissioner of Public Works,  
Adelaide.

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BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS AT  
JUNE 30TH, 1918.

	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government .....		—			6,593	3	0
Capital account .....		—			11,362	9	5
Net profit for year .....		915	12	6			
Add net profit brought forward .....		6,695	16	8			
		<hr/>			7,611	9	2
					<u>£25,567</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings .....	7,230	0	0			
Improvements, fencing, &c. ....	3,240	0	0			
				10,470	0	0
Implements, vehicles, boats, &c. ....	1,620	16	7			
Furniture .....	129	13	7			
Harness .....	143	19	3			
				1,894	9	5
Stocks on hand—						
Store .....	663	13	11			
Farm account—						
Wheat .....	2	0	0			
Oats .....	0	9	4			
Hay .....	1,200	0	0			
Corn sacks .....	475	0	0			
Wool packs .....	2	2	0			
Binder twine .....	16	0	0			
Pig feed, wheat, and barley .	12	0	0			
Superphosphate .....	5	0	0			
Share farmers' seed and super.	224	9	10			
Stone raised and carted ....	40	0	0			
Bricks .....	2	0	0			
Livestock—						
Horses .....	1,139	0	0			
Cattle .....	653	0	0			
Sheep .....	6,840	8	0			
Pigs .....	100	0	0			
				11,375	3	1
Wheat certificates—						
1915-16 expected to realise .....	10	0	0			
1916-17 expected to realise .....	943	0	11			
1917-18 expected to realise .....	730	15	0			
Retention money, 1917-18 wool clip..	142	1	6			
				1,825	17	5
Sundry debtors .....	—				1	11
				£25,567	1	7

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Audited and passed,

EDGAR WM. GILES, Commissioner of Audit.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE  
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1918.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Salaries of superintendent and storekeeper .....	360	0	0			
Wages of aborigines and white assistants .....	4,054	10	4			
				4,414	10	4
Meat .....	—				35	0
Horses .....	—				17	10
Rations for aborigines .....	554	16	11			
School books for aboriginal children	10	19	6			
				565	15	10

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Interest .....	—	—	—	226	1	3
Head office salaries and expenses .	—	—	—	76	18	11
Depreciation—						
Furniture .....	6	16	6			
Implements .....	180	1	10			
Harness.....	15	19	11			
				202	18	3
Balance net profit for year .....	915	12	6			
Add net profit brought forward...	6,695	16	8			
				7,611	9	2
				<u>£13,150</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store .....	—	—	—	212	7	0
Rent of cottages, &c. ....	—	—	—	152	9	2
Farm account, wheat and other produce .....	—	—	—	4,039	4	4
Stock accounts—						
Cattle .....	193	10	0			
Sheep .....	1,729	4	0			
Pigs .....	121	13	0			
				2,044	7	0
Sundry debtors, amount collected in excess of anticipation .....	—	—	—	6	0	0
Net profit brought forward.....	—	—	—	6,695	16	8
				<u>£13,150</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS  
AT JUNE 30TH, 1918.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Capital account .....		5,550	6	4			
H.M. Government .....		10,152	4	7			
		<u>£15,702</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>			
ASSETS		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Buildings .....	3,693	1	3				
Improvements, fencing, &c. ....	854	15	6				
				4,547	16	9	
Furniture .....	87	4	7				
Implements, vehicles, &c. ....	586	0	7				
Harness .....	74	0	6				
				747	5	8	
Stocks on hand—							
Store .....	1,146	12	9				
Boot shop, boots and materials, &c.	10	0	0				
Mats and baskets .....	7	16	2				

Stooks on hand— <i>continued.</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Farm account—		
Super. ....	6 11 3	
Oats .....	3 12 0	
Wheat .....	5 5 0	
Barley .....	0 18 0	
Cow hay .....	40 0 0	
Oaten hay .....	12 10 0	
Pollard .....	2 8 9	
Bran .....	1 13 0	
Wool retention money .....	15 13 9	
	1,253 0 8	
Livestock—		
Cattle .....	2,359 0 0	
Sheep .....	895 10 0	
Pigs .....	122 0 0	
Horses .....	305 0 0	
Fowls .....	1 0 0	
	3,082 10 0	
Sundry debtors .....	—	19 1 8
Balance net loss as above .....	2,364 7 7	
Add net loss brought forward .....	3,088 8 7	
	5,452 16 2	
		£15,702 10 11

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Audited and passed,

EDGAR WM. GILES, Commissioner of Audit.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY  
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1918.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Boot shop, boots and materials . . . .	1 0 0	
Horses .....	1 10 0	
Freight and carriage .....	196 17 4	
Salaries .....	364 0 0	
Wages .....	2,591 17 4	
Interest .....	379 6 3	
Head office salaries and expenses ..	76 18 11	
School books .....	12 0 9	
Rations .....	365 8 7	
Depreciation .....	77 18 7	
Rent .....	93 9 9	
Meat .....	170 7 6	
	4,330 15 0	
Net loss brought forward .....	—	3,088 8 7
		£7,419 3 7



	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cattle .....	612	8	9			
Sheep .....	209	15	6			
Pigs .....	310	3	9			
	<hr/>			1,132	8	0
Farm account .....	—			309	18	3
Store .....	—			522	8	7
Mats and baskets .....	—			1	12	7
Balance net loss .....	2,364	7	7			
Add net loss brought forward ....	3,088	8	7			
	<hr/>			5,452	16	2
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				£7,419	3	7

### POINT McLEAY ABORIGINAL STATION.

September 22nd, 1918.

Sir—I have the honor of forwarding you the following report for year ending June 30th, 1918:—

We have been very successful this year with our dairy. The cows milking well both at "Glenora" and the head station; but still feel that the dairy at "Glenora" is too near the outside of the station property, and it is our intention to shift it to a more central position and closer to the head station so that the cows and also the workmen can be under direct supervision of the superintendent. We also propose moving all the pigstys to a site near the dairy so that the skim milk can be taken by pipes direct to pig-yards. This will help very considerably to lessen cost of labor in looking after the pigs. We have a fine supply of young pigs almost ready for the fattening pens, and all our breeding sows are heavy in pig and show signs of carrying good litters. We have done very well with our fat bacon pigs in the Adelaide market, securing top prices for all classes sent from Point McLeay.

Our grain crops at "Wirrilda" have been a failure. The cost of putting this land into crop is proving too expensive with the labor available. The property is too far away for the successful working of it by native labor. They work well while you are with them, but as soon as your back is turned they will not do much. The rabbits were very numerous at "Wirrilda," and quite 50 (fifty) acres were eaten by them. Our hay and lucerne crops at the station were good. We had three fine stacks of hay to carry us through the winter months. The cows are very fond of lucerne hay and do well on it. We have put in another 64 acres of lucerne this year. It is looking well, and I am very pleased with the start it has made.

Our sheep have been doing well. We are having a good lambing although the ewes are late. They did not tup in the early part of the season, hence the lateness of lambing. Our lambs are doing splendidly, and I am in hopes of sending a draft to the Adelaide market at an early date. We have not been troubled with dogs among our sheep this year. I have kept a good supply of poison in the paddocks where the sheep have been running.

The livestock figures are as follows :—Sheep, 494 ; lambs, 200 ; total, 694 ; horses, 33 ; cattle, 344 ; pigs, 61.

We have been able to find employment on the station for a large percentage of natives, and those who have not been employed on the station have all been able to find work outside. We have built a new chaff and engine shed by native labor, and also the walls of a row of rooms erected for the old people, and when finished they will be very cosy, and should be a big help in the winter months, saving fuel and bags. These old people will then be close to the stores for their rations, wood, and medicine.

We still find wood a costly item. Each year the wood in the district becomes more difficult to procure, and the Chief Protector has given instructions to find out the full quantity of wood required on the station so that he may call tenders to supply same and thus save worry and expense.

The conduct of the natives has been good. We have had less trouble with the drink than in former years.

The health of the natives, on the whole, has been fair. There have been several deaths, but they have been mostly old people and children. We thank the Chief Protector for the splendid supply of medicines on the station. We feel the loss of Mr. Pengelly, chemist, of Meningie, very much, who has gone to the West Coast, and hope that he will be of the same service to the natives there as he was here.

The religious needs of the natives have been well attended to by the A.F.A., who send a minister from Adelaide once a month, and have secured the services of the Revs. E. Lawson, who visits the station twice a week. He is doing good work among the natives, and they all like him very much. We most heartily thank the A.F.A. and the Rev. E. Lawson.

Mr. J. A. S. Miller, as storekeeper and bookkeeper, is proving himself a very capable officer, and is the right man in the right place.

Mr. E. A. Read, dairyman, has proved himself a thoroughly reliable man, and we regret losing his services but wish him every success in his future sphere.

Miss Hunter continues to be a capable and energetic officer.

I have, &c.,

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

To W. G. South, Esq., Chief Protector of Aborigines,  
Mercantile Chambers, Adelaide.

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### POINT PEARCE ABORIGINAL STATION.

Port Victoria, July 1st, 1918.

Sir—I have the honor to forward you the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1918 :—

Our harvest returns were—Wheat, 15,239bush. ; barley, 7,609 bush. ; oats, 400bush. ; total grain grown, 23,248bush. ; hay, 290 tons, making total hay now on hand 600 tons. The wheat averaged fully 10bush. to the acre. Seventy acres of Cape barley on fallow ground averaged 40bush. to the acre.

Our wool clip totalled 100 bales and 3 bags from 2,461 sheep and 1,032 lambs shorn.

Our number of sheep is steadily increasing, lambing results for the season being 1,320 (including 220 summer lambs), making total number of sheep and lambs, 5,114 ; the net increase on last year's total being 1,307.

Our other livestock figures are—Horses, 72 ; cattle, 62 ; pigs, 72.

It will be seen from above returns that we have had a very satisfactory year, and with the bright outlook before the pastoral industry, it is especially pleasing to note the fact that our sheep are now nearly at pre-drought figures.

This year we have in crop 3,271 acres. The rainfall so far for this season has been light, but quite sufficient to give the crops a good start. In addition, we have put in 20 acres of lucerne on land which promises to be suited for this plant. This crop is already showing well above ground. I am glad to report that mice are not troublesome here this year.

About three miles of new fencing has been completed on Wardang Island, subdividing the run and giving us two additional paddocks. A windmill, with iron tank and troughing, has been erected at new underground tank constructed last year on island.

Rabbits were very numerous last summer. We have, however, greatly reduced them by poisoning, and now have men employed rabbiting and filling in holes around all lands under cultivation to prevent damage to crops.

The fencing of "South" paddock has been nearly completed. This will give us another 160 acres suitable for cultivation. A well has been opened up in this paddock, and a small 6ft. windmill erected, with iron tank and troughing.

A new milking shed has been built and chaff room attached, with cow yards paved, well drained, and fenced.

From the above improvements effected, with agricultural, pastoral, and general work, it will be seen our natives have been well employed.

The conduct of the natives has been good. There has been little sickness and no epidemic diseases. The number of natives on the station now is 196, of whom 27 are full-bloods.

The officers assisting me carry out their duties efficiently—Mr. C. Pethick as farm overseer and Mr. D. Roper as storekeeper, &c.

Religious services have been conducted on the station regularly by visiting ministers and laymen from the churches in our neighborhood. One of our natives, John Milera, is superintendent of the Sunday school, and shows conscientious interest in the work.

Lantern lectures have been given here by Revs. J. H. Sexton, R. Campbell, and J. C. Jennison, and were much appreciated by the natives.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS GARNETT, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector Aboriginals, July 1st, 1918.

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### KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

September 4th, 1918.

Sir—I have the honor to report as follows concerning operations on the above mission station during the 12 months ending June 30th, 1918 :—

From a mission point of view the work here during the past year was fairly successful, the congregation, *e.g.*, having grown appreciably. On the whole the behaviour of the natives has been pleasing, though, of course, there have been numerous disappointments. One of our particular aims is to induce the aboriginals under our care to

work and to fulfil their various duties for conscience sake without compulsion, and in many cases the result has been gratifying.

Up to the middle of October, 1917, the teams were constantly busy carting the remainder of the 1916-17 harvest to Denial Bay. As only 1,300 acres were under crop last year, yielding 3,500 bags of wheat, the gathering and marketing of the past harvest presented no difficulties. This year we have 2,500 acres (all ploughed) sown with wheat and 50 acres with oats. There are 63 head of cattle on the station, 51 horses, 36 pigs, and 20 sheep (for consumption only). If only we had a better water supply here cattle and sheep raising would be a better paying proposition than wheat-growing is at present.

During April and May last five of the officials left the mission. The positions have since been filled by apparently very capable persons. Since the beginning of March I have had an assistant missionary here, who also helps in the school. He has proved a real help, especially where the care of the young people is concerned.

This winter we intend erecting a number of two-roomed cottages for the married people, and if possible also an additional large room at the children's home, thus making the number of rooms there 15.

The health of the natives was only fairly good. In most cases the ailments were not serious, but several times the services of the doctor from Denial Bay were required. The births totalled four full-black males, and the deaths one full-black male and two full-black females. The number of natives on the station averaged 135 (98 blacks). Including the surrounding district the number would be about 170 (129 blacks).

In conclusion I wish to thank you heartily for a generous supply of stores and medical and other comforts.

I have, &c.,

E. APPELT, Superintendent.

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Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta, S.A.,

July 24th, 1918.

Sir—I have the honor respectfully 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, 1918.

The Mungerania police report that there are about 200 aborigines at Kopperamanna for the past 12 months. These have come from Oodnadatta, Marree, Mundowdna, Murnpeowie, and Kanowna, the majority of them belonging to the Dieri tribe. They have been self-supporting, trading away the dog scalps and rabbit skins, for which they receive good prices. At Mungeranie there are about 10 natives of both sexes. These are too feeble to travel, and have been receiving Government rations. The general health of these is very poor, especially the females. The usual supplies will be sufficient for the next year ; at present the greatest need is for shirts and dress material.

The Indulkinna police report that the country west of Oodnadatta is at present in a very bad state, consequently the natives in these localities are badly off for food, and are continually asking for rations, especially the older natives, who are too old to hunt for themselves. Should this state of things continue, it will be necessary to establish a "ration" depot at Indulkinna, also that a supply of blankets (about 40) be forwarded for the use of these natives.

At Innamincka there is a big decline in natives receiving rations. There has been an average of about 40 natives at this depot, comprising 16 old natives receiving rations and 24 able-bodied natives, males and females, mostly employed at station and stock work.

At Cordillo Downs and Haddon Downs there are about 40 natives, comprising 20 old natives receiving rations and 20 able-bodied natives employed at station and stock work.

At Coongee lakes there are about 12 old natives, who occasionally get rations at Innamincka. These natives are able to get an abundance of fish, game, and eggs on the lakes, and after such a good season, plenty of seeds, etc., to make up their native food.

At Merty Merty there are about six old natives in receipt of Government rations. The natives of this district roam about a good deal from one station to another and along the Cooper, where they are able to get plenty of fish and game.

There are a few old aboriginals in the Farina and Mount Serle districts who are unable to work, and are supplied with rations and blankets periodically. The other natives in the district are either employed on the stations or with camel teams, and are in receipt of good wages.

From reports received from the police stationed on the East-West Railway, it appears that as the line proceeded through the out-back country the natives flocked to the various camps along the line, and came into contact with a certain section of the workmen, who induced them to remain in the vicinity of the camps, with the result that their standard of living, both morally and otherwise, became lowered. The police, realizing the danger confronting the natives (particularly the females), persuaded them to return to their respective districts, and were successful in inducing the majority of them to return. These natives (about 200) consisted of tribes from Kalgoorlie, Penong, Fowler's Bay, and Musgrave Ranges, and they all appeared to be in good health.

During the year 11 aboriginals have been treated at the Port Augusta Hospital; seven of them were discharged as cured, three died in the institution, and one is still under the care of Dr. Pellew, to whom credit is due for his unremitting care of the natives, and the same remarks apply with equal force to the secretary and nursing staff for their care and treatment of the natives while under their care.

Offences recorded against aboriginals during the year have been as follows:—Drunkenness, 8; obscene languages, 1; indecent language, 2; common assault, 1; rogue and vagabond, 1; breach of the Licensing Act, 2; and two natives were deemed to be mentally defective and sent to the Mental Hospital.

Six persons were convicted for supplying liquor to aboriginals.

*Births.*—Full-bloods—Males, 12; females, 5. Half-bloods—Males, 5; females, 2.

*Deaths.*—Full-bloods—Males, 9; females, 3. Half-bloods—Males, 1; females, 1.

I have, &c.,

P. THORNTON. Protector.

The Chief Protector of Aboriginals, Adelaide.