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SOUTH AUSTRALIA

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Protector of Aborigines

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1939.



ADELAIDE :

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**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1939.**

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide, 21st September, 1939.

To the Hon. the Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

Sir—I have the honour to submit for your information my report on the work of the Aboriginals Department for the year ended 30th June, 1939.

A large number of unemployed aborigines have been provided with food and clothing during the year. As the process of detribalization proceeds, an ever increasing number of aborigines seek help from the Department. Ration depots are established in all parts of the State inhabited by aborigines and splendid service has been rendered by protectors, police officers, missionaries and pastoralists in distributing rations and exercising a benevolent supervision of the aborigines in their respective districts and missions.

Provision has been made for the medical treatment of the aborigines. The medical officer and staff of the various hospitals throughout the State, and also the medical officers to the aborigines at various country centres have shown great interest in their work in endeavouring to maintain a high standard of physical health amongst the natives. During the year a number of aborigines were provided with artificial dentures at the Dental Hospital. The superintendent of this institution has rendered splendid service to the natives. Spectacles were also provided under contract and many of the aborigines are thus enabled to read in comfort and to use their leisure profitably.

The Salvation Army continued the work of training half-caste girls in domestic arts at the Fullarton and Gilbert Street Homes. The matron and staff of the homes have displayed great patience in this work. Some of the native girls in training do not appear to realize the value of the training afforded and show little appreciation of the opportunity thus provided for them to become useful and worthy members of the community; other girls are working hard and give promise of becoming very proficient in the domestic sphere. This scheme should at least ensure a higher standard of housekeeping in the homes of the natives.

During the year the leases held on land adjoining the large aboriginal reserve in the north-western corner of the State have been cancelled. In consequence of this a request has been made by the Department for the extension of the eastern boundary of the reserve to the 132nd degree of east longitude. If this request is granted the new boundary line will be much nearer the western boundary of the Ernabella Presbyterian Mission and there will not be sufficient unoccupied land in the vicinity to make a pastoral undertaking profitable. Consequently the natives may pass from the reserve to Ernabella for medical treatment, etc., without having to traverse pastoral country held by white men.

The superintendent of the Ernabella Mission has been licensed to receive dog scalps secured in the Musgrave Ranges, and this appointment has resulted in the natives receiving full value for the scalps brought to the Mission.

There is less evidence of trespassing on the reserve by white men than was the case last year, but there are still some people who are known to visit this area. Visits by the police officer are rather infrequent because of the pressure of other duties and the distance to be traversed from the nearest police station to the reserve. It is expected that when the Ernabella Mission becomes fully established there will be a marked improvement in the control of the reserve.

A problem that has caused great concern during the year is the increasing immorality amongst the young people, in the larger centres, particularly in the case of girls who have recently left school and boys just a few years older. The cause of this evil is undoubtedly the lack of employment and the failure of parents to exercise control over the activities of their children during leisure periods, and also, in many cases, the complete absence of a healthy moral tone in the home. On the mission stations and in mission camps sincere and earnest school teachers and missionaries are striving to build up a strong moral and spiritual life in the community, but their splendid work is largely discounted by the utter lack of co-operative effort in many native homes.

Serious consideration will need to be given to the question of providing a better environment for the native children during the period of education and adolescence. Unless there is a marked improvement in the supervision of the children it may become necessary to remove them from their homes and to reintroduce the dormitory system which has produced some of the best people living on our reserves and in our institutions.

The increasing freedom amongst young people in white communities has become known to the younger generation of natives and renders the exercise of parental control extremely difficult. The comparative isolation of the last generation has almost completely vanished in the new contacts made by the young natives of to-day. Throwing off the parental yoke exposes them to certain obvious temptations which their moral and spiritual resources seem inadequate to overcome.

Various forms of punishment have failed to eradicate this social evil but it is hoped that the passing of the amending legislation now before Parliament authorizing the compulsory attendance of the children at school until 16 years of age, and the establishment of local enterprises will result in an improved moral standard.

Inquiries are now being made as to the possibility of using the land on the various reserves where there is a good supply of water, for growing vegetables and fruit, and also for the purpose of raising poultry, etc.

If this project can be brought into operation it will provide a pleasant and profitable occupation for the people who are unemployed and living on the reserves. It will also increase the food supplies and provide a more varied diet without seriously increasing the cost of maintenance. The rations supplied to the natives not living on Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations are not regarded as being sufficient to satisfy their needs. The natives are required to supplement the rations issued by hunting, trapping, and doing any odd jobs they may be able to secure.

Unemployed white men are also engaged in trapping pursuits, consequently the field available for natives engaged in this work is limited, particularly in the settled areas.

It is not expected that the amount of land available on reserves for gardening and poultry raising will be sufficient to permit the sale of produce so raised, but it is hoped that the natives will receive benefit from improved diet and genial occupation.

The Advisory Council of Aborigines has taken a deep interest in the welfare of the natives during the period under review. Regular meetings have been held and matters of great importance have engaged the attention of members of the Council. The amending legislation now receiving consideration in Parliament was discussed at great length and from all angles, particularly the sections relating to the definition and exemption of aboriginals.

Visits were paid to Point Pearce and Swan Reach by the full Council and to Port Augusta by the Chairman, Dr. J. B. Cleland.

Dr. J. B. Birdsell, of the Harvard University, and Mr. N. B. Tindale, of the Adelaide Museum, have completed their examination of the half-caste aboriginals in this State and are now busily engaged in preparing a report on their investigations. The report will be received with great interest by all persons seeking the welfare of our native people.

I gratefully acknowledge the co-operation of police officers, missionaries, scientists, pastoralists, and others interested in aboriginal affairs, together with the various organizations working for the physical, mental, moral and spiritual welfare of our coloured citizens.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

The following figures are taken from particulars supplied to the Government Statist by police officers, station owners and managers.

The total native population on 30th June, 1939, viz., 4,881 represents a net increase of 652 as compared with last year. The numbers recorded vary considerably from year to year, the nomadic habits of the natives living in the northern parts of the State preclude the possibility of an accurate census being taken.

The classification of those recorded as at 30th June, 1939, is as follows:—

| | Full-bloods. | | Half-castes. | | Total. | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | Total. |
| On Mission Stations— | | | | | | | |
| In employment | 9 | 13 | 134 | 6 | 143 | 19 | 162 |
| Others | 200 | 184 | 334 | 477 | 534 | 661 | 1,195 |
| Others in employment | 299 | 120 | 212 | 70 | 511 | 190 | 701 |
| Dependants of employed | 141 | 140 | 110 | 163 | 251 | 303 | 554 |
| All other | 811 | 767 | 355 | 336 | 1,166 | 1,103 | 2,269 |
| Grand total | 1,460 | 1,224 | 1,145 | 1,052 | 2,605 | 2,276 | 4,881 |
| Adults | 1,117 | 914 | 708 | 574 | 1,825 | 1,488 | 3,313 |
| Children | 343 | 310 | 437 | 478 | 780 | 788 | 1,568 |

Full-bloods numbered 2,684, or 55 per cent. of the total, divided thus—Adults, 2,031, children, 653.

Half-castes (and lesser castes) numbered 2,197 (45 per cent. of total—Adults 1,282, and children 915.

On Mission Stations.—On the several Government and private mission stations there were 1,357 aboriginals, of whom 162 were reported to be employed. On these stations there were 406 full-blood and 951 half-caste.

In Regular Employment.—The total reported to be in regular employment was 863. In addition to the 162 employed on mission stations there were 701 others recorded as employed—chiefly on pastoral holdings. These 701 employed aboriginals were reported as having 554 dependants.

All Others.—In addition to the 1,357 aboriginals on mission stations, and the 701 others employed with their 554 dependants, there were 2,269 others (1,578 full-blood and 691 half-caste) who could be accounted for by the various police officers and pastoralists. As stated above there are still others in the wild state or "gone bush", for whom it is impossible to give even an estimated number.

The births and deaths at Point McLeay, Point Pearce, and Koonibba for the year 1938-39 were reported as follows:—

POINT McLEAY STATION.

Births, 17 half-castes; deaths, eight half-castes. The number on the station on 30th June, 1939, 17 full-bloods and 368 half-castes; total, 385.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

Births, 15 half-castes ; deaths, seven half-castes. The number on the station on 30th June, 1939, was three full-bloods and 307 half-castes ; total, 310.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

Births, three full-bloods ; 14 half-castes ; deaths, one full-blood, one half-caste. The number on the station on 30th June, 1939, was 70 full-bloods, 166 half-castes ; total, 236.

REPORTS FROM PROTECTORS, SUPERINTENDENTS AND MISSIONARIES.

NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION.

The Inspector of Police at Port Augusta, Inspector S. R. Parsonage, reporting on the aboriginals in the northern and western police districts states that during the year 36 aboriginals were convicted for liquor offences, and 11 persons for supplying natives with liquor. Twenty-two cases of unlawful possession were also recorded, chiefly carcasses of sheep that had been speared. Four aboriginals were convicted for the murder of an aboriginal shepherd at Granite Downs, and sentenced to comparatively short terms of imprisonment as the crime was regarded as an act of tribal revenge.

Another native was imprisoned for one month for inflicting bodily harm on a lubra and child. The inspector states that there is an abundance of game and natural food in the north-western portion of the State, but the conditions along the East-West Railway are less favourable. Rations are available at Ooldea for the natives who cannot secure sufficient game and natural foods to satisfy their needs.

A number of natives were treated at the Port Augusta Hospital during the year.

Port Augusta Mission.—The arrangements for the transfer to the Department of 200 acres of land recently acquired at Port Augusta, for an aboriginal reserve are not complete, but already some of the natives have removed from the old camp site to the land in question. It is hoped that with the erection of several native huts of a uniform type, the housing of the natives living at Port Augusta will be entirely satisfactory. The dedication of the reserve will be undertaken as soon as possible. This will facilitate closer supervision and provide greater protection for the native residents. Mr. A. Wyld is a very enthusiastic officer in connection with the Port Augusta Mission, which is conducted by him under the direction of the brethren. Miss Carter is in charge of the school and is rendering splendid service in that capacity.

Ernabella Mission (Presbyterian).—Rev. H. L. Taylor, Missionary in charge at Ernabella, reports that good progress has been made this year in the work of establishing the mission which is adjacent to the large aboriginal reserve in the north-western corner of the State.

The mission is being established so that the natives living on the reserve may be provided with medical attention and the children with such educational opportunities as the nomadic habits of the tribes will permit. Mr. Taylor reports that yaws, sore eyes, burns, spear wounds, etc., are treated at the dispensary, approximately 30 patients attending daily.

The population of Ernabella varies considerably on account of the wandering habits of the natives. Arrangements are being made for a medical patrol through the reserve ; provision will thus be made for the treatment of natives unable to proceed to Ernabella. The favourable season has provided an abundance of game and natural food in this area, and in addition a garden has been established which has produced a wonderful variety of vegetables, etc.

Friends of the mission presented an overhead tank and the South Australian Government provided a considerable quantity of galvanized piping at a reduced rate.

The work of the Ernabella Mission is of great importance in that it is expected to retard the detribalization of the natives living on the adjacent reserve and ensure that the inevitable contact with civilization is made first of all with people whose moral character is above reproach. The missionary is giving moral and spiritual instruction to the natives as opportunity offers.

Dr. Charles Duguid, who is keenly interested in the aborigines, makes periodical visits to Ernabella, and his assistance in relation to the medical work is greatly appreciated.

United Aborigines Mission.—Nepabunna.—Mr. F. Eaton, missionary in charge of Nepabunna, reports that the seasonal conditions have been particularly favourable, and feed is abundant everywhere.

The large storage tank and mill provided by the Department have been of great service in connection with the water supply for gardening and domestic purposes. Some splendid vegetables were grown at the mission house and it is hoped that an extension of this work will be possible so that the natives may enjoy a balanced diet. The question of poultry farming is also being investigated. Miss Fraser is in charge of the school and the children have done good work under her direction, notwithstanding the irregular attendance at school on account of the movements of the parents. During the year an iron roof was placed on the school building, the old roof being beyond repair. Sewing classes are held also for the older girls who show great interest in their work.

The medical work is also in charge of Miss Fraser, who is a trained nurse. The natives are very grateful for the splendid services of the nurse. Plans have been made for a hospital building at the mission, the walls will be built by local labour, the timber cut from the surrounding scrub and prepared by the mission machinery. Roofing materials will be supplied by the department. The conduct of the natives at Nepabunna has been exemplary. Mr. and Mrs. Eaton and staff are busily engaged in caring for the moral and spiritual welfare of the natives.

United Aborigines Mission—Ooldea.—Mr. H. E. Green, missionary in charge at Ooldea, reports that rations are issued regularly on behalf of the department. Medical treatment is provided also, the medicines being supplied mainly by the department. A daily average of 10 patients receive treatment for wounds, yaws, sore eyes, impetigo, etc. Thirty patients received dental attention during the year. Services for religious instruction are held regularly and well attended by the natives.

There are 16 inmates of the Children's Home under the personal supervision of the missionaries. Parents of these children are nomadic in their habits, and leave the children at the home when going on a walkabout.

Miss West is in charge of the school where there is an average attendance of 30, and good work is being done in this sphere. Personal cleanliness is insisted on and baths are given to babies and children each week. Clean clothes, washed and mended by the native women are provided regularly.

An extensive building programme has been carried out during the period under review. A children's dormitory, guest room, shelter shed, motor shed, school building, church building and mission house having been erected, constructed of disused railway sleepers, sawn to requirements.

It is expected that an area of country surrounding and including Ooldea Soaks and the tribal ceremonial grounds, will be dedicated as an aboriginal reserve in the near future.

Approximately 150 natives reside at Ooldea, and the general health and conduct of these people is satisfactory.

Colebrook Home, Quorn (United Aborigines Mission).—The children's home at Quorn is in charge of Matron Hyde, and there are 32 children in residence. The general health of the children has been very good. The boys living at the home have established a vegetable garden, and are very proud of their work. The children were brought to Quorn from the northern parts of the State, in some cases from camp life of an unsatisfactory nature, and are now being trained to live and think after the manner of white children.

Twenty-one children attend the Quorn Public School and their work compares very favourably with that of white children of the same grade. Three children obtained the Qualifying Certificate during the year and are now attending high school. Two girls have completed their school course and are employed in the town, returning to the home each night to sleep. Three other girls are employed at the home.

Ten girls are members of the Methodist Church Choir.

The department recently supplied a 2,000gall. galvanized iron tank to augment the water supply at the home. I visited this home during the year and was favourably impressed by the splendid work of the matron and staff, ensuring the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of these children.

United Aborigines Mission—Swan Reach.—The officer in charge of this mission, Mr. A. H. Peel, reports very favourably on the year's operations. The reserve was fenced by natives holding working bees. Individual householders have also fenced their own blocks. Two native cottages and a mission house were erected by the natives under the direction of the superintendent. In addition, a native family was moved into the house that formerly served as a residence for the superintendent. Several of the natives have enclosed the verandah of the houses they occupy, thus increasing the living space for their families. Special efforts have been made to induce the natives to keep their homes clean and tidy and good results have been obtained. For those willing to establish a garden the department has provided a water service, with additional facilities for gardening and, as a result, some of the gardens growing both vegetables and flowers are a credit to the owners.

Sand drift has caused some trouble, but working bees were arranged, and the holes filled and the area covered with gravel to make a firm surface. A road through the settlement is now under construction. Additional rations were provided by the department for the men engaged on this work. Several of the natives have been employed cutting firewood for use in connection with the Goolwa Barrage, others obtain casual employment at surrounding farms and sheep stations.

Several of the inmates have licensed fishing grounds and are very diligent in this work.

It is hoped to extend gardening activities and possibly to introduce poultry keeping on a small scale to provide the natives who are unemployed with a pleasant and profitable occupation. The school work on this reserve is carried out by Mr. Peel, and a very high standard is maintained. Services for religious instruction are held regularly, and well attended by the native people.

United Aborigines Mission—Finniss Springs.—This mission was inaugurated during the period under review and a school established with quite a number of children in attendance. During the evening hours some of the older working boys receive instruction from the missionary in charge, Mr. Nelson. Regular services are held at the mission. A first aid cabinet was provided by the department for the medical treatment of the natives.

It is expected that Finniss Springs will become an important mission, providing educational facilities and caring for the physical and spiritual needs of the natives in that area.

Koonibba Lutheran Mission.—Pastor Traeger reports :—" This completes my third year as superintendent at Koonibba. The work has been rather a strain for me and for two months I was compelled to leave the station on account of ill health. During this period Pastor Hoff, of Emu Downs, a former superintendent with 10 years' experience, kindly took charge.

The behaviour of the natives and the discipline have been satisfactory. Drink and gambling have not come under my notice to any extent. The hotel has been closed at Denial Bay, much to the benefit of the mission, and the owners of betting shops have agreed not to allow the natives on their premises during betting hours. The police at various towns have helped in every way to maintain discipline among the natives, and have given protection to them when needed.

The church work continues to flourish. All services, devotions, and other religious meetings are being attended better than previously. Services are conducted at Koonibba, Bookabie, Coorabie, Colona, Wurrulla, Penong, Ceduna, Yantanabie, and Streaky Bay.

The children's home has 44 inmates. Mr. and Mrs. P. Koehne, and an assistant, are in charge; the school has a new head teacher, Mr. O. B. Lange. There are 80 children on the roll. At a convention of the Lutheran Church, held at Hahndorf recently, it was decided to build a new school which will be a big improvement.

We have again had a satisfactory year on the farm. Two thousand three hundred acres were cropped with wheat, and 140 acres with oats. The oats were cut for hay and the wheat yielded 6,151 bags. Two thousand acres under crop this season is in great heart; our 1,300 sheep returned 33 bales of wool.

The death rate at Koonibba this year has been a pleasing feature. There were only two deaths, both old people, compared with 10 last year. The establishment of the Koonibba Hospital, no doubt, contributed to this desirable result in no small degree.

The following figures for the 13 months that our hospital has been opened will be of interest. The number of in-patients has been 57. Number of day patients in hospital, 994, making an average of 2.48 per day. Number of out-patients treated was 13,897. This number appears large and is accounted for by the fact that during the period of eye disease epidemic (iritis and corneal ulcers) the same patients were treated four or five times daily. Also, since August, 1938, there has been a daily treatment of trachoma, amounting to approximately 22 daily. Patients have been brought from as far as Nullabor and Ooldea. Sister Hitchcock is particularly happy in her work and her self-sacrificing efforts on behalf of the health of the natives is most admirable. Drs. R. W. and F. Gibson have given the natives the very best medical attention.

As in previous years the Chief Protector of Aboriginals and his staff have been ever ready to help us."

Point McLeay Station.—The superintendent, Mr. A. L. Payne, reports that the general health of the natives has been good. Precautions were taken to protect the residents against the ravages of the infantile paralysis epidemic, and not a single case was recorded.

On the advice of the Medical Officer, Dr. F. B. Turner, children are being immunized against diphtheria. Sister D. E. Goldfinch is in charge of the medical work under the supervision of Dr. Turner, and she has been kept busy with patients in hospital, outpatients, and other sick folk confined to their houses.

Twenty patients needing special treatment were conveyed to the Adelaide Hospital. Seventeen babies were born in the station hospital, and in connection with this work Sister Goldfinch was assisted by partially trained native women.

Dr. Turner paid regular monthly visits to the station and examined an average of 30 patients on each occasion. The population on 30th June, 1939, was stated to be 385, a net decrease of nine compared with last year. The number of births, 17, exceeded the number of deaths, eight, but several families have removed to other localities, thus creating a net decrease in the population.

The conduct of the natives has been satisfactory. There were fewer prosecutions than for several years past. Liquor is brought to the station occasionally by unscrupulous white men and action is taken against them when a successful prosecution seems likely.

Rev. H. E. Read is in charge of the religious work on the station. The natives do not appear to be as responsive to the spiritual appeal as once they were. Mr. Read has been in indifferent health but is now improving and is hoping for greater interest in the religious life of the station. This is an essential element in the moral and spiritual welfare of the natives.

There are 110 children enrolled at the primary school. Mr. W. T. Lawrie, and his assistants, Misses Storer and MacFarlane, are doing excellent work in training the children. The school premises are commodious and well lighted, and the teachers do not spare themselves in their efforts to impart instruction.

On a recent visit to Point McLeay I spent some time at the school and was greatly impressed by the atmosphere of the classroom.

Mrs. Lawrie carried on the work of instructing the girls in domestic arts with her customary thoroughness and sincerity.

Old, sick and infirm natives and widows have received regular supplies of rations and clothing. Firewood is also provided for every home or camp. Unemployed youths are provided with rations if they do light work for two days per week.

During the year five new two-roomed cottages and one four-roomed cottage were erected, whilst some of the older dwellings were renovated.

The new hall was completed during the year and officially opened on 28th January, 1939, by the Hon. the Commissioner of Public Works. It is a fine building and will undoubtedly play an important part in the development of the social life of the people. A new residence for the superintendent was also erected, and is greatly appreciated by that officer and his wife.

At Block K, one three-roomed cottage was built as a residence for the natives living and working on that area. A chaff room, engine room, and barn were erected, adjoining the stables.

Improvements were also effected at the house occupied by the working overseer.

The dairy herd was subjected to a further test for tuberculosis and is now regarded as being in first-class condition. A daily average of 50 cows in milk produced milk of splendid quality. The monthly test for butterfat content shows a distinct improvement due to the cows being fed on ensilage during the summer months, and also to the improved type of Jersey bull introduced in recent years. The standard of the herd would be further improved by the purchase of well-bred Jersey heifers.

The pigs have also done well, except for the loss of a number of very young pigs. The feeding system has been overhauled and it is expected that a greater proportion of young pigs will reach maturity.

The lambing was later than usual and only 281 lambs were marked during June. The superintendent anticipates that there will be a total of approximately 400 lambs.

Twenty-one bales of merino wool and Border Leicester-Merino crossbred wool were sold during the year and realized £196 15s. 6d. The top price received being 12½d. for merino wool.

The livestock on the station on the 30th June, 1939, were:—Sheep, 1,085—432 were slaughtered during the year; cattle, 141—11 were slaughtered during the year; horses, 46; pigs, 50.

At the head station 160 acres were sown to oats, which produced 240 tons of hay. Eighty acres were sown to lucerne, with a cover crop of barley, but owing to the dry spring it was a failure. The same area has been planted with lucerne and barley this season, and at present shows great promise. This crop will be cut for ensilage.

A smaller area has been sown to oats this year on account of having 160 tons of hay on hand. Most of the pasture land on the station has been top dressed with superphosphate at the rate of 100lb. per acre.

At Block K 350 acres were cropped, producing 400 bags of barley and 80 bags of oats. Twenty-five acres were sown to peas but owing to the dry spell during the spring the pea pods did not mature.

One hundred and sixty acres of land were cleared, bringing the total area cleared to 750 acres. The working plant is now quite adequate to deal with any obstructions in clearing the whole of Block K.

Three hundred acres of Evening Primrose sown this year shows great promise. This plant has given the best results of all the grasses tried on the farm and appears to be suitable for the pasture lands.

Point Pearce Station.—The station superintendent, Mr. A. H. Bray, reports as follows :—The conduct of the natives has been good, there being very few prosecutions for misdemeanours. Drinking and gambling offences were detected occasionally.

Rations were supplied as usual to aged and infirm natives, widows and orphans. The unemployed single men received rations in return for two days' light work about the station. There was considerable sickness amongst the natives during the year, but, fortunately, it was not of a serious character. Nevertheless Sister Bray experienced a very busy year as the following figures indicate :—Visits to the dispensary, 3,823 ; visits to homes of patients, 1,846 ; births, 15.

The medical officer, Dr. Wells, paid 56 visits to the station and the dentist two visits.

Two native patients had X-ray examinations at the Maitland Hospital, and other patients needing special attention were treated at the Wallaroo Hospital or the Adelaide Hospital.

Artificial dentures and spectacles were supplied as required, six persons receiving dentures and eight persons spectacles.

Four marriages were celebrated during the year. Religious services have been maintained as usual. The Anglican, Lutheran, and Methodist Churches held regular services.

Mr. B. J. Grewar, the head teacher and his assistant, continued the work of the Education Department at the station school and carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner. The attendances of the children has been somewhat irregular.

Three new cottages were erected and extensive renovations carried out in connection with the older cottages, such as new windows, and floors, replastering and painting, etc. The new seed and superphosphate shed at Jericho paddock was completed. It is intended to erect a similar structure at the Point Paddock this year. The roof of the hall was painted red which has improved its appearance as well as to preserve the iron from the effect of rust.

A septic tank was installed at the residence of the farm overseer. A new bathroom and washhouse was erected at the stock overseer's house, and a septic tank will be installed there. Sheds were built at various native cottages for the storage of cars and carts, also two bathrooms and stone tanks. Two stone tanks, each having a capacity of 7,500gall., were constructed on the farm.

Another important improvement in the form of a new cow byre was commenced, and will be completed this year. Fencing repairs and renewals were continued, 413 chains being treated during the year. In addition a 90-acre paddock was netted for a lucerne plot, and the piggery, sheep yard and woolshed received necessary repairs. The motor launch is to be placed on the slip for overhauling. The barge and dinghy are in good order.

One new 6ft. Metters mill was erected on a 20ft. stand in the lucerne paddock. A new 2in. pipe line two miles long was laid, at a cost of approximately £500, from the beach wells to the overhead tank at the station to ensure a constant supply of good water for domestic purposes and for the livestock. Windmills are used to force the water through this pipe line, but during windless periods the engine from the shearing plant is used to drive a pump to do the work. An engine to be in constant use in connection with the water supply is urgently required. On Wardang Island two miners were engaged for some weeks driving in search of water but little success attended this effort. Boring will be restarted shortly.

Fallow Crops.—The native sharefarmers sowed 735 acres of wheat and 65 acres of "Mulga" oats on fallow. The oats were sown for the purpose of obtaining good clean seed, but, unfortunately, just as the oats were ready for reaping a strong wind blew the best of them to the ground. The residue contained too much barley to be used for seed. Fresh seed will be needed next year.

The three white sharefarmers each sowed 240 acres of fallow with wheat which produced 10,168bush. of grain.

"Nabawa" type wheat gave the best results for yield and fortunately was sown extensively. The other types of wheat showed little variation in yield. The average for the whole of the wheat crop was 13.3bush. per acre. Fifteen acres of wheat were cut for hay yielding approximately 1.5 tons per acre.

Stubble Crops.—The native sharefarmers sowed 16 acres of wheat, 472 acres of barley, and 312 acres of oats on stubble land. The oats were sown early and resulted in quite a good crop. Two hundred and seventy-two acres cut for hay yielded 1.8 tons per acre, and 40 acres cut for ensilage averaged five tons per acre. Four hundred and seventy-two acres of barley produced 7,291bush., all C grade quality. The seed was pickled with Agrosan and the grain was free from smut.

The white sharefarmers sowed 835 acres of barley on stubble land. The crops produced 939bush. of A grade barley, and 13,561bush. of C grade barley. Generally speaking the harvest was fairly satisfactory, and reaping was completed on 8th December, 1938, the earliest finishing date for many years.

The following is a summary of farming results :—

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Wheat produced on station | 19,729bush. 39lb. |
| Station's share | 13,696bush. 31lb. |
| Sharefarmer's share | 6,033bush. 8lb. |
| Area reaped | 1,440 acres. |
| Average yield per acre | 13·7bush. |
| Barley produced on station | 21,792bush. 32lb. |
| Station's share | 13,452bush. 42lb. |
| Sharefarmer's share | 8,339bush. 40lb. |
| Area reaped | 1,307 acres |
| Average yield per acre | 16·6bush. |
| Oats produced on station | 861bush. |
| Area reaped | 65 acres |
| Average yield per acre | 13·2bush. |
| Hay produced on station | 523 tons |
| Area cut | 287 acres |
| Average yield per acre | 1·8 tons |
| Ensilage produced on station..... | 200 tons |
| Area cut | 40 acres |
| Average yield per acre | 5 tons |

The crops sown in 1939 were as follows :—

| | Acres. |
|------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Native sharefarmer's wheat on fallow | 800 |
| White sharefarmer's wheat on fallow | 950 |
| White sharefarmer's barley on stubble | 720 |
| Native sharefarmer's barley on grassland | 670 |
| Native sharefarmers' oats on stubble | 125 |
| Total area under crop | 3,265 |

The native sharefarmers fallowed Hughes Paddock, containing 800 acres, the work being completed on 11th August, 1938. This section was harrowed and cultivated in the early spring, and again in October and November. Another cultivation took place in March, 1939, and the wheat was sown in May and June. The white sharefarmers fallowed 950 acres in Jericho Paddock, worked their fallows periodically, and completed seeding operations in good time. All wheat crops are in great heart and promise excellent returns.

The crop sown on grassland instead of stubble is an experiment, the purpose of which is to obtain a clean sample of barley.

The lucerne crops were a great success, the number of sheep, cattle, and horses fattened on this area is astounding. It was topdressed in April and beneficial results are expected. An additional 90 acres has been sown with a cover crop of barley this year. Some of the lucerne seed was inoculated and the balance sown without treatment so that the effect of inoculation may be observed. Two hundred tons of ensilage was cut from 40 acres of oats. It was stored in underground tanks and fed to the dairy herd during the summer. Portion of the ensilage was charred as it had not been processed before being stored. A portable chaffcutter is required for this work. The ensilage cut this year should be of excellent quality on account of the favourable seasonal conditions.

The sheep have done very well, maintaining prime condition throughout the year. The percentage of lambs to date is very satisfactory, and the lambs are a fine healthy lot. Some difficulty was experienced last year in obtaining blade shearers to shear the sheep on the Island. A portable two-stand shearing plant has been ordered and this will ensure the mechanical shearing of the whole flock.

The total number of sheep and lambs shorn was 4,759, and they produced 170 bales of wool containing 52,373lb. The best price obtained was 10d. per lb., and the average 7·9d. per lb. The average return per sheep, inclusive of lambs, was approximately 7s. 3d. The average weight of fleece was 11lb., which is considerably above the average for the previous year. A heavy wool clip appears likely for the current year. The wisdom of purchasing 12 young Koonoona rams each year is shown in the increasing average weight of fleece obtained. Dipping was carried out as usual and a large number of sheep from surrounding farms were shorn and dipped on the station. The "Mules" operation was carried out on the lambs with the result that they enjoyed practically 100 per cent. immunity from the blowfly menace.

Enterotoxaemia was responsible for the loss of many sheep. Inoculations are carried out at the first signs of this trouble.

The lambs marked represent a percentage of 75·5, which is very satisfactory.

Sheep figures for the year are as follows :—

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-------|
| Sheep on station 30th June, 1939 | 5,386 |
| Births on the station for year | 1,372 |
| Rams purchased | 12 |
| Old rams sold | 1 |
| Deaths on the station for year | 323 |
| Butchered | 634 |

Sheepskins sold throughout the year realized considerably lower prices than last year. This is due to the lower prices ruling for wool. Five hundred and eighty-nine skins were sold for £118 9s. 11d., an average of approximately 4s. per skin.

Feed being plentiful the cattle have again done well. Ensilage has been available for the dairy herd, with very beneficial results. Milk has been distributed more freely this year. An issue of hot milk for all children attending school during the winter months absorbed 5gall. daily. The children show marked improvement and greater interest in their studies as a result of this innovation.

Proceeds of cream and butter sales amounted to £42 7s. 6d.

The cattle figures for the year are as follows :—

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| Cattle on the station 30th June, 1939 | 129 |
| Births on the station for year | 62 |
| Deaths | 7 |
| Sold | 32 |

There is a growing local demand for pigs that have been raised on the station. One hundred and seventy were sold during the year, mostly very young pigs, the proceeds amounting to £217 16s. 11d.

A new Berkshire boar was purchased from the Roseworthy Agricultural College, and this should ensure a type of pig suitable for local requirements or for export.

Consideration is being given to the question of having our stock registered, with a view to increased sales and better prices. Additional farrowing pens will soon be required to meet the needs of this expanding enterprise.

The figures relating to pigs are as follows :—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Pigs on hand on 30th June, 1939 | 138 |
| Births for the year..... | 264 |
| Purchased (boar) | 1 |
| Sold | 170 |
| Deaths | 29 |

The horses were kept in good condition throughout the year, and they accomplished a tremendous amount of work. Several young draught horses were broken in and are shaping very well. The stallion was also broken in and is proving a good worker in the teams.

Twelve mares were selected for breeding purposes and five of them are visibly in foal. Some old and worn-out horses died, or were destroyed.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|----|
| Horses on the station, 30th June, 1939 | 53 |
| Births..... | 3 |
| Deaths | 7 |

The whole station is in good order and it is hoped that this satisfactory state of affairs will encourage the residents to co-operate with the officers in securing even greater progress during the current financial year.

A statement of receipts and expenditure of the department and income and expenditure statement of the Point McLeay and Point Pearce Aboriginal Stations are appended.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. R. PENHALL, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Honourable the Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE—ABORIGINALS DEPARTMENT, YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1939.

| RECEIPTS. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | EXPENDITURE. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|----|----|---|----|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|----|----|--------|----|----|
| Point Pearce Station— | | | | | | | | Head Office— | | | | | | | |
| From sales of produce, etc. | ..... | 5,532 | 11 | 11 | | | | Salaries | ..... | 1,175 | 6 | 8 | | | |
| From interest on Aboriginals Depreciation Investment Account (Public Debt Commission) | ..... | 15 | 13 | 10 | | | | Provisions—Blankets, clothing, medical, dental and optical expenses, transport, etc. | ..... | 7,239 | 16 | 8 | | | |
| From store sales | ..... | 3,595 | 4 | 0 | | | | Boarding home for aboriginal women, etc. | ..... | 185 | 9 | 8 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Advisory Council of Aborigines | ..... | 83 | 10 | 11 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Training of half-caste girls for domestic service | ..... | 188 | 12 | 4 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Superannuation Fund pensions | ..... | 127 | 16 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 9,000 | 12 | 3 |
| Point McLeay Station— | | | | | | | | Point Pearce Station— | | | | | | | |
| From sales of produce, etc. | ..... | 1,635 | 16 | 11 | | | | Salaries and wages | ..... | 6,826 | 18 | 11 | | | |
| From store sales | ..... | 4,282 | 1 | 5 | | | | Implements, stock, fertilizers, etc. | ..... | 4,699 | 2 | 2 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | New cottages | ..... | 349 | 4 | 6 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Interest on loan for the purchase of plant | ..... | 87 | 19 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Purchase and expenses for store | ..... | 3,568 | 5 | 4 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 15,531 | 10 | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | Point McLeay Station— | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Salaries and wages | ..... | 5,556 | 11 | 5 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Implements, stock, fertilizers, etc. | ..... | 4,598 | 15 | 7 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Rent of section, hundred of Baker | ..... | 41 | 15 | 9 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | New cottages | ..... | 297 | 18 | 5 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Hall for recreation | ..... | 1,436 | 0 | 4 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Residence for superintendent | ..... | 1,333 | 11 | 1 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Purchases and expenses for store | ..... | 3,976 | 11 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | 17,241 | 3 | 10 |
| Cost of aboriginals to the South Australian Government for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1939 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | ..... | £41,773 | 6 | 3 | | | | Total | ..... | £41,773 | 6 | 3 | | | |

11th August, 1939.

W. R. PENHALL, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1939

| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|--------|----|----|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|----|-------|----|--------|---|----|
| To Balance, excess of income over expenditure, account Trading Store Station Accounts. | | | | 132 | 2 | 1 | By Trading store account | | | | 132 | 2 | 1 | | |
| Farm expenses | | | | 416 | 11 | 4 | Station Accounts. | | | | | | | | |
| Horses | | | | 68 | 15 | 0 | Pigs | ..... | 219 | 15 | 10 | | | | |
| Salaries | 703 | 15 | 8 | | | | Cattle | ..... | 893 | 2 | 10 | | | | |
| Wages | 2,084 | 10 | 7 | | | | Sheep | ..... | 605 | 14 | 10 | | | | |
| | | | | 2,788 | 6 | 3 | | | | | 1,718 | 13 | 6 | | |
| Head office, salaries and expenses | | | | 62 | 14 | 8 | Balance, excess of expenditure over income, station accounts | ..... |  |  | 1,813 | 5 | 4 | | |
| Rent, hundred of Baker | | | | 41 | 15 | 9 | Institution Accounts. | | | | | | | | |
| Accident insurance | | | | 20 | 9 | 1 | Balance, excess of expenditure over income, institution accounts | ..... |  |  | 5,487 | 1 | 0 | | |
| Depreciation— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Implements, vehicles, etc. | 111 | 16 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Harness | 21 | 10 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 133 | 6 | 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| Institution Accounts. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries | 456 | 18 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wages | 2,089 | 9 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2,546 | 7 | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| Head office, salaries and expenses | | | | 62 | 14 | 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| Accident insurance | | | | 20 | 9 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Medical, dental and optical expenses | | | | 430 | 18 | 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| Rations | | | | 1,399 | 15 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Firewood | | | | 441 | 12 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| Institutional expenses | | | | 530 | 10 | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| School books and material | | | | 25 | 6 | 10 | | | | | | | | | |
| Depreciation— | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hospital furniture | 16 | 17 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hospital equipment | 12 | 9 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 29 | 6 | 9 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | £9,151 | 1 | 11 | | | | | | | £9,151 | 1 | 11 |

11th August, 1939.

W. R. PENHALL, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

*B

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1939.

| LIABILITIES. | | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | ASSETS. | | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
|---------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|
| H.M. Government Account | ..... | 125,868 | 19 0 | | | Station buildings | ..... | 9,999 | 2 10 | | |
| H.M. Government Deposit Account | ..... | 631 | 17 9 | | | Cottages and hospital, transferred from Pompoota | ..... | 2,080 | 10 7 | | |
| Capital account | ..... |  |  | 126,500 | 16 9 | New cottages | ..... | 1,242 | 12 0 | | |
| Sundry creditors | ..... |  |  | 5,612 | 8 5 | Hall for recreation | ..... | 1,816 | 17 9 | | |
| | | | | 861 | 5 2 | Residence for superintendent | ..... | 1,333 | 11 1 | | |
| | | | | | | Land purchased | ..... | — |  | 16,472 | 14 3 |
| | | | | | | Improvements | ..... | — |  | 3,630 | 0 0 |
| | | | | | | Implements, vehicles, etc. | ..... | 816 | 16 10 | 3,977 | 9 2 |
| | | | | | | Harness | ..... | 50 | 0 0 | | |
| | | | | | | Furniture | ..... | 110 | 2 2 | | |
| | | | | | | Hospital furniture | ..... | 42 | 13 10 | | |
| | | | | | | Hospital equipment | ..... | 47 | 10 5 | | |
| | | | | | | Cash on hand | ..... | — |  | 1,067 | 3 3 |
| | | | | | | Sundry debtors | ..... | — |  | 198 | 5 11 |
| | | | | | | Stocks on hand— | | | | 294 | 18 1 |
| | | | | | | Store | ..... | 784 | 10 11 | | |
| | | | | | | Sheep | ..... | 811 | 19 4 | | |
| | | | | | | Cattle | ..... | 666 | 5 0 | | |
| | | | | | | Pigs | ..... | 120 | 0 0 | | |
| | | | | | | Horses | ..... | 428 | 0 0 | | |
| | | | | | | Farm, stores, seed, super, fencing materials, etc. | ..... | 628 | 10 4 | | |
| | | | | | | Institution stores | ..... | 297 | 18 9 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 3,737 | 4 4 |
| | | | | | | Excess of expenditure over income for the year— | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Station accounts | ..... | 1,813 | 5 4 | | |
| | | | | | | Institution accounts | ..... | 5,487 | 1 0 | | |
| | | | | | | | | 7,300 | 6 4 | | |
| | | | | | | Less excess of income over expenditure, account trading store | ..... | 132 | 2 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | 7,168 | 4 3 | | |
| | | | | | | Excess of expenditure over income brought forward, 1915-38 | ..... | 96,428 | 11 1 | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 103,596 | 15 4 |
| | | | | | | | | | | £132,974 | 10 4 |
| | | | | | | | | | | £132,974 | 10 4 |

11th August, 1939.

W. R. PENHALL, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1939

| | | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | | | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|---------|-------|
| To Balance excess of income over expenditure, account trading store | ..... | — |  | 401 | 7 2 | By Trading store account | ..... | — |  | 401 | 7 2 |
| Station Accounts. | | | | | | Station Accounts. | | | | | |
| Horses | ..... | — |  | 239 | 2 0 | Pigs | ..... | 323 | 11 2 | | |
| Salaries | ..... | 672 | 5 9 | | | Cattle | ..... | 418 | 6 7 | | |
| Wages | ..... | 1,490 | 14 11 | | | Sheep | ..... | 2,134 | 14 7 | | |
| | | | | 2,163 | 0 8 | Farm | ..... | 342 | 10 7 | | |
| Accident insurance | ..... | — |  | 14 | 17 9 | | | | | 3,219 | 2 11 |
| Head office, salaries and expenses | ..... | — |  | 62 | 14 8 | Interest on aborigines depreciation investment account (Public Debt Commission) | ..... |  |  | 15 | 13 10 |
| Interest on loan account | ..... | — |  | 87 | 19 3 | Institution Accounts. | | | | | |
| Depreciation— | | | | | | Rent of school building | ..... |  |  | 24 | 0 0 |
| Implements, vehicles, etc. | ..... | 364 | 2 9 | | | Balance—Excess of expenditure over income, institution accounts | ..... |  |  | 6,470 | 2 7 |
| Harness | ..... | 14 | 17 5 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 379 | 0 2 | | | | | | |
| Balance, excess of income over expenditure, station accounts. | ..... | — |  | 288 | 2 3 | | | | | | |
| Institution Accounts. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries | ..... | 606 | 10 4 | | | | | | | | |
| Wages | ..... | 3,513 | 8 3 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 4,119 | 18 7 | | | | | | |
| Rations | ..... |  |  | 917 | 9 9 | | | | | | |
| Accident insurance | ..... |  |  | 35 | 4 3 | | | | | | |
| School books and materials | ..... |  |  | 35 | 5 2 | | | | | | |
| Head office salaries and expenses | ..... |  |  | 62 | 14 8 | | | | | | |
| Medical, dental and optical expenses | ..... |  |  | 256 | 5 11 | | | | | | |
| Institutional expenses | ..... |  |  | 1,067 | 4 3 | | | | | | |
| | | | | £10,130 | 6 6 | | | | | £10,130 | 6 6 |

11th August, 1939.

W. R. PENHALL, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION, AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1939.

| LIABILITIES. | | | | ASSETS. | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|----|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------|----|---------------------|
| | £ | s. | d. | | £ | s. | d. |
| H.M. Government Account | 98,054 | 0 | 11 | Station buildings | 13,317 | 15 | 4 |
| H.M. Government Loan Account . | 2,094 | 7 | 4 | New cottages | 5,442 | 13 | 11 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Capital account | | | 100,148 8 3 | Improvements | — | | 18,760 9 3 |
| Sundry creditors | | | 11,374 9 5 | Implements, vehicles, etc. | 2,519 | 13 | 4 |
| | | | 685 4 6 | Harness | 91 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | Furniture | 129 | 3 | 10 |
| | | | | Hospital furniture | 12 | 11 | 0 |
| | | | | Hospital equipment | 11 | 10 | 9 |
| | | | | | | | 2,764 1 2 |
| | | | | Cash on hand | — | | 13 7 7 |
| | | | | H.M. Government Deposit Account | — | | 180 12 10 |
| | | | | Sundry debtors | — | | 89 18 11 |
| | | | | Aboriginals depreciation invest- | | | |
| | | | | ment account (Public Debt Com- | | | |
| | | | | mission) | — | | 538 15 2 |
| | | | | Stocks on hand— | | | |
| | | | | Store | 313 | 0 | 5 |
| | | | | Farm, stores, seed, super, fencing | | | |
| | | | | materials, etc. | 1,391 | 19 | 10 |
| | | | | Sheep | 5,198 | 18 | 0 |
| | | | | Cattle | 709 | 10 | 0 |
| | | | | Pigs | 346 | 2 | 6 |
| | | | | Horses | 457 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Institution store | 90 | 11 | 10 |
| | | | | | | | 8,507 2 7 |
| | | | | Excess of expenditure over income | | | |
| | | | | for the year—Institution ac- | | | |
| | | | | counts | 6,470 | 2 | 7 |
| | | | | Less excess of income over ex- | | | |
| | | | | penditure— | | | |
| | | | | Station accounts . | 288 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | Trading store | | | |
| | | | | accounts | 401 | 7 | 2 |
| | | | | | | | 689 9 5 |
| | | | | Excess of expenditure over income | 5,780 | 13 | 2 |
| | | | | Brought forward, 1915-38 | 66,291 | 19 | 4 |
| | | | | | | | 72,072 12 6 |
| | | | | | | | £112,208 2 2 |
| | | | <u>£112,208 2 2</u> | | | | <u>£112,208 2 2</u> |

11th August, 1939.

W. R. PENHALL, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.