

South



Australia.

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# REPORT

OF THE

## PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1915.



Adelaide:

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

1916.

## REPORT.

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Aboriginals Department,

Adelaide, August 25th, 1915.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the financial year ended June 30th, 1915.

During the year I visited the Far North to Killalpaninna Mission Station, the West Coast to Fowler's Bay, Point Pierce and Point McLeay Missions, and a few localities near Adelaide.

The drought and the war have caused a considerable rise in prices of goods required for the aborigines, and numbers of them who previously earned their living were compelled to seek assistance from the Department.

The failure of crops, owing to the drought, necessitated the granting of £2,000 to the Point Pierce Mission, which was hitherto self-supporting, and the Point McLeay Mission had to be assisted with an extra grant of £750 and a much larger supply of stores than usual.

The lands of these two missions were resumed by proclamation in February last, with the intention of converting them into Government industrial institutions for aborigines, but the late Government allowed the missions to be carried on temporarily as hitherto.

I have long advocated bringing these stations under Government control, so that employment might be found for the ever-increasing number of half-castes and quadroons, who, under the present conditions, are growing up in partial idleness, and a burden on the State. Many of them have been assisted in the purchase of boats, guns, fishing nets, seed wheat, &c., with but little good resulting. Most of those helped still depend on the missions for rations, and are likely to continue doing so until they are found employment and made to depend on their earnings. This, of course, only applies to the able-bodied; the old and infirm should be much better provided for than at present.

The Lutheran Synod have now given up their mission at Killalpaninna and disposed of their property to Messrs. Bogner & Jaensch. Government rations are still being supplied for the old and infirm aborigines there, and the school and church work is being carried on as usual by the present owners of the property.

During the year a few more half-caste and quadroon children have been removed from the camps in the interior and placed under the control of the State Children Department.

#### POPULATION.

On June 30th, 1912, the estimated aboriginal population of the State was:—

Blacks . . . . .	4,000
Half-castes . . . . .	836
Total . . . . .	<u>4,836</u>

#### *The Births and Deaths for the Year ended June 30th, 1915.*

Reported—

Births . . . . .	Full-bloods, 16; half-castes, 38; total, 54
Deaths . . . . .	Full-bloods, 42; half-castes, 6; total, 48

The three years, 1912 to 1915, show a decrease record of 98 full-bloods and an increase of 70 half-castes.

#### MISSION STATIONS.

Station.	No. of Blacks in District.	No. of Half-castes.	Total.	No. of Children (included in total).	Births.	Deaths.	Cost of Station to Department including grants in aid and assistance to natives living there.	Cost per capita.
							£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Point McLeay..	70	310	380	175	21	10	3,145 0 0	8 5 6½
Point Pierce ...	22	151	173	85	4	—	2,100 0 0	12 2 9½
Killalpaninna..	120	10	130	27	8	—	165 0 0	1 4 0
Koonibba .....	127	50	177	86	7	—	335 0 0	1 17 10½
	339	521	850	373	35	10	6,236 0 0	—

The financial returns from these stations show—

	£	s.	d.
Voluntary subscriptions—			
Point Pierce, nil; Point McLeay, £294 4s. 3d.; Killalpaninna, £982 16s. 11d.; Koonibba, £1,851 14s. 7d. . . . .	3,128	15	9
Amount of Government Grants-in-aid—			
Point McLeay, £1,750; Point Pierce, £2,000	3,750	0	0
Proceeds of produce sold—			
Point Pierce, £4,904 13s. 5d.; Point McLeay, £2,326 16s. 11d.; Killalpaninna, £329 10s. 10d.; Koonibba, £48 19s. 2d. . . . .	7,610	0	4
Other receipts (including loans)—			
Point Pierce, £1,597 14s.; Point McLeay, £447 4s. 9d.; Killalpaninna, £793 0s. 7d.; Koonibba, £2,114 0s. 11d. . . . .	4,952	0	3
Wages paid to aborigines—			
Point Pierce, £2,364 0s. 10d.; Point McLeay, £737 4s. 6d.; Killalpaninna, £285 18s. 11d.; Koonibba, £503 7s. 1d. . . . .	3,890	11	4

#### CRIME RECORD FOR THE YEAR.

The number of aborigines charged with offences was:—

Murder . . . . .	2
Unlawfully wounding . . . . .	1
Sheep stealing . . . . .	1
Unlawful possession . . . . .	1
Wilful damage . . . . .	1
Riotous behavior . . . . .	4
Assaults, common . . . . .	1
Breach of Aborigines Act . . . . .	1
Vagrancy . . . . .	3
Breach State Children Act . . . . .	11
Mental Defectives . . . . .	3
Drunkenness . . . . .	33
	—
Total . . . . .	62

Ten persons were convicted for supplying liquor to aborigines.

The amount voted by Parliament and approved by Cabinet warrants for the year was £8,530, and the amount expended was:—

	£	s.	d.
Rations, blankets, clothing, &c. . . . .	2,855	15	6
Public Stores Commission . . . . .	118	8	6
Medical attendance, medicines and medical comforts . . . . .	134	12	6
Burial charges . . . . .	39	5	0
Transport and agency charges . . . . .	680	10	6
Firewood for old, sick, and infirm . . . . .	9	14	3
Printing and stationery . . . . .	12	6	3
Telephone charges . . . . .	6	7	1
Postage stamps and telegrams . . . . .	6	0	0
Donation to Adelaide Hospital . . . . .	10	10	0
Clerical services at Port Augusta . . . . .	12	0	0
Grant-in-aid—Point McLeay Mission . . . . .	1,750	0	0
Grant-in-aid—Point Pierce Mission (Yorke Peninsula) . . . . .	2,000	0	0
Loans to aborigines . . . . .	41	0	0
Sundry petty and travelling expenses . . . . .	30	12	6
Boats, guns, fishing nets, &c., to aborigines . . . . .	63	7	0
Law costs . . . . .	17	6	0
Rent of block in hundred of Baker . . . . .	43	12	0
Salaries . . . . .	430	5	6
Unexpended balance . . . . .	268	7	5
	<u>£8,530</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Recoup to revenue . . . . .	£525	3	9

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The usual supplies of stores have been sent to the various depots between Charlotte Waters and Tennant's Creek.

I have, &c.,

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works.

#### POINT McLEAY.

October 4th, 1915.

Sir—I have the honor to report a successful year among the natives of this mission station.

We have been able to find employment for a larger number of natives than has been the case for some years, although this last year has been one of the driest years known on this station, and very few of the natives were able to secure outside employment about with the settlers. We are very thankful to both Messrs. K. D. Bowman and A. P. Bowman,

who have always been very kind friends to our natives, and they also find them work whenever they can. We find that among the natives we have some very good workmen, but they do not like work which requires too much constant attendance.

The conduct of the natives has been very good, and with more powers they could be made very useful citizens. The deaths for the year ending June 30th were 10. The births for year ending June 30th, 21. The general health is good at present.

The usual work, such as fencing, building, carpentering, blacksmithing, shearing, and farm work, has been satisfactorily done by the natives. We have also done a lot of house repairing, and the building has been well done by one of the natives. We have also opened the boot factory, which has found employment for one or two of the men; they have proved themselves very good bootmakers, and we have orders from all around our own district.

We have had to deepen our wells, so that we were able to carry our stock through the dry summer with very few losses.

The cereal crops were light. This also refers to the fruit, except the grapes, of which we had a fair crop. We have had very much trouble with the birds while the fruit was ripening. We had to keep one man employed to scare them away from the fruit trees and vines.

The supply of firewood is fast giving out, and we have had to secure supplies from Milang, which is very costly, the cost to the mission delivered being 15s. per ton. We have also had one team of bullocks carting wood all the year. We have to go at least nine miles before we can secure anything like a supply for our requirement. The wood question has been a very serious trouble, and is likely to become worse as time goes on; it has been suggested to secure the supplies from the river, where wood is more plentiful.

We have had lovely winter rains, and the grass and crops are doing well. Old hands say there has not been so much feed for years. Our sheep and lambs are doing well. We have about 600 sheep and lambs on the mission. Our milking cows are doing well; they are milking well, and we are sending our cream to the factory at Milang. We have quite a large population to supply with milk, of which they are very fond.

We are thankful to the Aborigines Department for assistance in blankets, stores, and medicines, without which it would be impossible to carry on the work. We have supplied less blankets to the natives than in previous years, owing to the war and drought.

The fences on the station and the whole of the working plant are in fair working order, and all stock are in good condition, and everything points to a successful year.

We are very hopeful that the Government will purchase for the mission a block of land which is being held by one of the settlers on the Narrung Estate, adjoining the mission property. We think if this is done that we shall be able to carry a much larger herd of dairy cows. This will help us to be more self-supporting than we have ever been before.

There is no reason why this station should not carry a herd of milking cows up to 200; that would mean 100 in milk, and the others coming in in rotation.

Lucerne should be planted; but this cannot be successfully done until the station has been fenced into smaller paddocks, and this our committee have been unable to do for want of funds.

I have, &c.,

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

W. G. South, Esq., Chief Protector of Aborigines,  
Adelaide.

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#### THE YORKE'S PENINSULA ABORIGINAL MISSION.

Point Pierce, August 23rd, 1915.

Sir—I have the honor to forward to you the following report for the year ending June 30th 1915:—

The number of natives on the station is 173, of whom 22 are full blacks.

Births, 4; deaths, nil; marriage, 1.

The health of the natives has been good. We have had no serious epidemic diseases.

The number of children in day school is 33.

The past year with us has been an anxious and disastrous one, owing to severity of the drought. All our crops proved a complete failure. We had 2,290 acres under crop.

Our wool clip totalled 125 bales.

Livestock figures are as follows:—Sheep, 1,750; horses, 47; cattle, 50; pigs, 28.

In November and December, 1914, we sold 2,242 sheep. It would have been necessary to have sold another 1,000 sheep. We were, however, able to keep these on the island through the summer by supplying them with water from Port Pirie, the water being brought in boats engaged by the Broken Hill Proprietary Company in connection with their flux quarries on Wardang Island.

Owing to the drought the natives have had little employment offering outside the mission, so that the full burden of their employment and wages has had to be borne by the mission during a time we were financially least able to stand the strain.

Since the break-up of the drought in April we have been favored with abundant rains, and the outlook for the season is most promising.

The religious needs of the people have been conscientiously supplied. The ministers of the churches in the neighborhood have given much-appreciated help by regularly conducting services in the mission church.

A police trooper has for some time been stationed at Port Victoria, six miles away from the mission. We have found the officer a great help, more particularly as a check on the supply of intoxicants to natives visiting the township.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS GARNETT, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines.

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### TANUNDA.

August 20th, 1915.

Sir—According to a promise given to you some time ago to furnish a report on the Killalpaninna Mission Station, which had in the preceding year changed its owners, permit me to state now the reasons why this station, that had been held for nearly 50 years by the Ev. Luth. Immanuel Synod, has been sold by the managing board to the present holders of the mission station, Messrs. Bogner & Jaensch.

The board felt, at the present juncture, itself incapable of continuing the mission work, on



account of an accumulating debt, which it saw itself unable to reduce, because of the continuous drought in the northern part of South Australia, and it could not raise sufficient income, consequent upon the stock not being in a marketable condition. Thus with a diminishing income and an accumulating debt, the board decided to accept an offer made by Messrs. Bogner & Jaensch to buy the station. These gentlemen offered the sum of £5,000 for the leases held by the Immanuel Synod, including all stock and inventory. The board stipulated the condition that the buyers should continue the teaching and caring for the blacks. After the consent of the Hon. the Commissioner to the transfer of the mission leases from the Ev. Luth. Immanuel Synod to Messrs. Bogner and Jaensch had been obtained, the sale of the station was transacted, and with the exception of the resident missionary, Rev. Riedel, who left the station, the other helpers, for many years having been in the service of the mission, entered into the service of Messrs. Bogner & Jaensch, and continue now the school work amongst the children on the station and the oversight of the adults, which number at the present approximately, say, 80 to 90 all told. Thus closes a chapter of the story of mission work done by the Ev. Luth. Immanuel Synod for nearly 50 years at the Cooper, with great financial sacrifices and bodily hardships.

We fervently hope the present occupiers of the station may be enabled to succeed in their present courageous enterprise.

L. KAIBEL, Chairman of the Board of the  
Evang. Luth. Mission of the Immanuel  
Synod, Incorporated.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines.

### KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

August 12th, 1915.

Sir—I have the honor to submit to you this my annual report for the year ending June 30th, 1915.

The average number of natives was 171, of whom 47 were half-castes. Seven children were born, three being half-castes and four blacks. With only a few exceptions, the health of the natives has been good. No death occurred on the station.

The conduct and discipline among the aborigines has been very good, with the exception of a few cases of disobedience, which were dealt with.

Divine services and devotions were attended very regularly. The school attendance has been excellent; 51 names are on the roll. Of this number 44 did not miss a single day's school during the year 1914. The attendance since Christmas has been equally as good. The two teachers were therefore able to make good progress.

Our up-to-date Children's Home continues to prove a great success. Forty-two children are under the constant and full control of the two matrons.

A change took place in the management of the farm department. Mr. J. Rudolph, of Victoria, who had charge of this work for four years, left the mission at the beginning of June, 1914, to continue his private occupation; Mr. A. Schmidt, of Lower Bright, became his successor.

The severe drought and the rise of the prices for foodstuffs and other material prevented us from making the much-desired progress. From about 1,500 acres (we had 2,000 under crop) we reaped 578 bags of good wheat and 94 bags of oats.

Our 37 head of cattle, which are all very young, we kept for nearly 12 months at Davenport Creek. The supply of meat for the mission has become a problem. We managed to procure sufficient feed, which enabled us to prevent our horses being sent away; however, four horses died lately, the cause being sand.

Although being unable to work our horses for several months during the year, sufficient employment was found for the natives. The greater number of them were employed to clear the old land of stumps. Notwithstanding the hard times, we managed not only to provide all the natives with food and clothing, but paid them £497 10s. in wages during the year 1914.

The nine officials work harmoniously to further the cause of the mission.

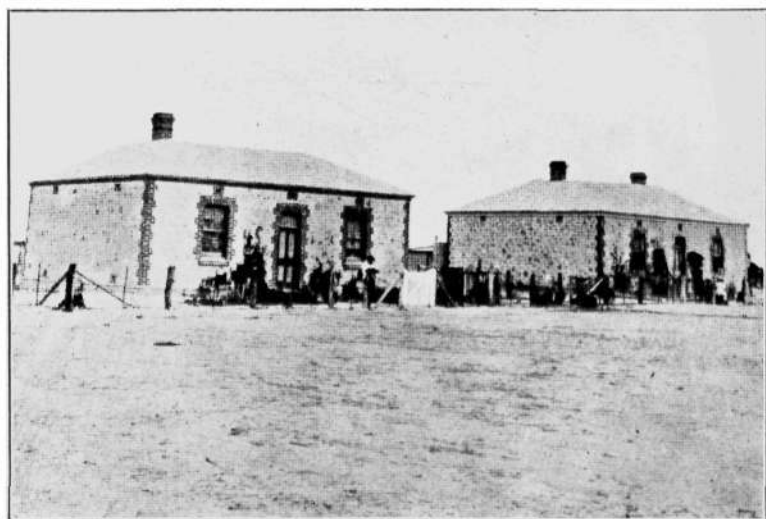
I gratefully acknowledge the receipts of stores and blankets supplied by your department.

C. A. WIEBUSCH, Superintendent.

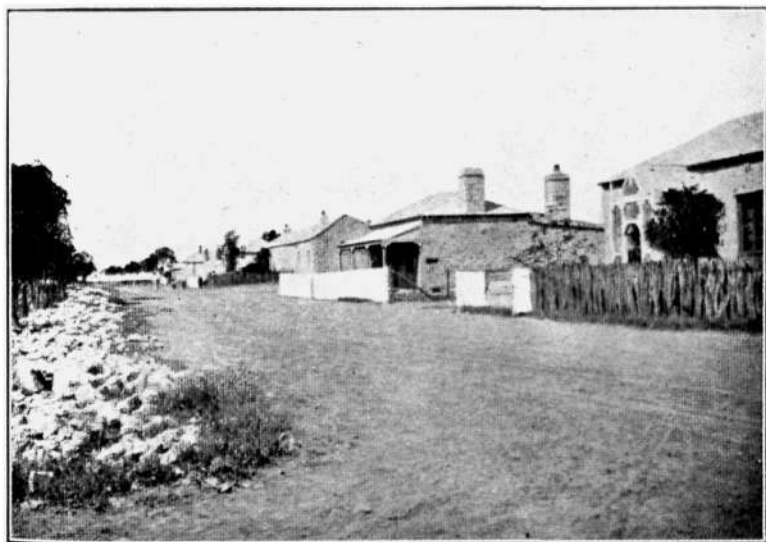
The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

PLATES.

**Some images of Indigenous people have been removed from this document for sensitivity reasons. If you wish to see copies of the photographs, please contact the AIATSIS Library at [library@aiatsis.gov.au](mailto:library@aiatsis.gov.au)**



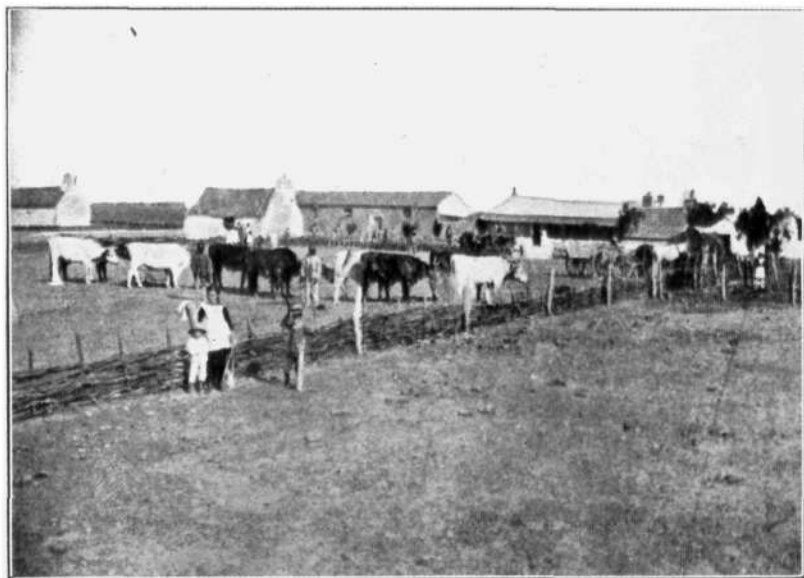
(2) Native Cottages of Recent Structure—Point Pearce Mission.



(3) A Street View.



(4) Point McLeay Mission.



(5) Point Pearce Mission as it appeared in 1880.



(6) As it is To-day, showing Homestead, Church and Store.