

1906.
—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

R E P O R T

FOR

FINANCIAL YEAR

E N D I N G

30TH JUNE, 1906.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

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ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Report for Financial Year ending 30th June, 1906.

TO THE UNDER TREASURER,

SIR,

Perth, 25th September, 1906.

I beg to submit, for the information of the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer, my Report on the working of the Aborigines Department for the year ended 30th June, 1906, and on the general condition of the Aborigines throughout the State, as far as civilisation exists.

The amount voted by Parliament last session for the carrying on of my duties was £8,000, which was £1,000 less than the amount voted the previous year, and also £1,000 less than the amount estimated by me to be required. The results were that, in spite of every effort on my part to keep expenditure down, at the end of the year an excess vote of £2,099 had to be asked for. I may say that, with the exception of two months of the year, the accounts had been kept by the Colonial Secretary's Departmental Accountant, and in a great measure this prevented me from having that close grip of the outgoings that I had previously when every account was kept in the Department, and this may in some way explain this large excess.

The statutory vote of £5,000, added to the £10,099, shows a total expenditure of £15,099 for the year. The Statement of Income and Expenditure will be found after Appendix 3.

It will be seen that a sum of £238 15s. 3d. had to be paid for the expedition of Messrs. Troy and Rowe to investigate certain charges against the police in Kimberley, and a sum of nearly £600 to make up for the increased allowances to Beagle Bay Mission assented to by the late Premier, Mr. James, but held over for certain reasons until last April.

It would be well for me here to call attention to the immense area over which the department has to exercise its supervision, viz. :—One million square miles, a piece of country stretching 1,500 miles one way and 1,300 miles the other way, over numberless patches, some of great size, scattered over its surface on which it might be said the feet of the native inhabitants only tread. The lines of communication are of great length and intricacy, and the means of transport in some parts slow and expensive. All these facts must be taken into consideration when investigating expenditure of such a comparatively small sum as £14,000 per annum over such an area in the pursuit of inquiries into the treatment of individuals. To give some idea of the above remarks I attach a map showing how the boundaries of the State could include within them a considerable part of Western Europe.

The general condition and health of the aborigines, with the exception of those under relief, have been tolerably good. Where epidemics or seasonal ailments have been reported, medicines and medical advice have been obtained and administered without unnecessary delay; this will be alluded to in the District sections of my report.

The Aborigines Bill was thoroughly discussed during the late session in Parliament, and I am happy to say was passed, with very few alterations, thus crowning my efforts for the last five years to obtain fuller legislation to enable the Department to deal with the many difficulties and situations which have occurred, owing to the greater spread of civilisation since the passing of the old Act of 1886. There was some delay, however, before the Royal Assent was received, and it was not until the 30th April that the Act came into force, under proclamation of the Royal Assent on the 27th April. Immediate steps were taken to enable the public to proceed legally under the new Act. The Magistrates and Chief Officers of Police were at once appointed protectors, so that all those persons who had natives in their employ might be able to apply for permits under Section 18, and thus prevent themselves from becoming offenders under Section 21. Subsequently, 22nd June, 1906, a further list of protectors was advertised in the *Government Gazette*, comprising a number of police officers at outlying stations and a number of private gentlemen here and there; the number, however, is not yet sufficient for the requirements of the Act, and the assents of several more private gentlemen are being at present solicited. It was found that a good many printed forms would be required under the Act, and a regulation was made and published in the *Government Gazette* of 25th May, giving a schedule of eight forms, copies of which will be found at end. Those clauses relating to the wardship of young aboriginals and half-castes (No. 8), and permission to marry native women (No. 14), were

given much thought, (a.) As to wardship, I was aware that many children had been for a considerable time in the care of people who were doing their duty by them, and I saw no reason to interfere; but in order to protect these from possibly any ill consequence of such kindness, I decided on a form of assent which I have had printed, and which I issued to them after having first made the closest inquiries possible as to their treatment of the children in question. (See Appendix 5.) In this form I have left a space for conditions, which as a rule require education of the child and proper maintenance, clothing, and medical attention, also that I get a report on the child's condition during June of each year, and I never omit the condition that the permission is revocable at any moment. (b.) As to marriages, I was aware that many white men and Asiatics were living with native women in a virtual state of marriage, but without any legal contract; by doing so they render themselves liable to the new Act under Section 43, although their intentions may not be dishonourable. To prevent any unreasonable harshness in such cases I considered that it was desirable to assent to marriage when the wish was expressed, but the thought occurred to me that possibly (and in the case of Asiatics especially) after a few years' connubial bliss the husband might prefer to return to his own country and leave the woman in hers, the result of which would be that the wife and her progeny would probably be thrown into the arms of the Department. How I was to prevent such a possibility of future expenditure was the question. I therefore consulted the Solicitor General and obtained from him two forms of bond by which the intending bridegroom binds himself to pay £50 to the Department, but a clause follows providing that the bond shall only come into force if he has deserted the wife, or if a protector has reason to believe he is taking steps to do so. One form of bond is personal and the other is with two sureties. (See Appendix 6.) It will be seen that by demanding execution of such bond before I assent to marriage, I am protecting future finances of the Department at least to the extent of £50, and liability to pay such sum will probably act as a deterrent to desertion and save the Department considerably more.

Four such marriages have been contracted with my assent and the bonds duly executed, and there are four under consideration.

In forwarding the certificate of appointment to the protectors, I thought it advisable to enclose a memorandum explaining that the intention of the Act is to prevent employment of aborigines by persons known to be or suspected to be untrustworthy employers, such as those who treat them badly, interfere with their women, or in any way bring trouble or distress upon them. I have asked them to exercise their judgment so as to prevent such persons obtaining permits, the issue of which lies entirely in the discretion of the protectors; I also asked them to keep registers. (See Appendix.)

From my seat in the Head Office, which I cannot vacate for any long period without running the risk of leaving important matters unattended to, it is, of course, difficult for me to know the inner details of many native matters in the far outlying districts. It has been apparent to me, and I have advocated it on many occasions, that the Department should be provided with travelling inspectors—confidential officers, who shall be on the continual move within the districts allotted to them, so as to become personally aware of all native affairs—who shall be empowered to decide all minor matters such as relief, blankets, and clothing, and medical aid. It should be their duty to report each fortnight with a diary of their movements, to inquire as to wandering half-caste children, and when possible to appear for defendant natives in courts of law. Such officers would be eyes and ears for me, and I trust that you will see the absolute necessity of assenting to a few such appointments during the coming year.

ALLOTMENTS OF LAND.

There seems to have been a growing desire on the part of some of the more civilised natives to acquire land and establish homes for themselves. The Lands Department report that there are now seven holdings under reservation, and some applications are now under consideration. Some also hold land under the usual conditions of payment. Those who have land, of course, in their state of poverty, are not able to make a great show, nor have they that spirit of energy which the white settlers display; consequently, many people are under the impression that a native is unfit to become a small farmer. But there is no doubt that they very readily acquire the knowledge of nearly all farming pursuits, and I have great hopes that those of the mixed races will gradually add to our number of small land owners, and become absorbed as it were in the white population. The education given to the young half-caste at most of the institutions tends in this direction, and with your concurrence it is my intention this year, the power having been now given me, to gather in as many young half-castes as possible and place them under tuition so as to become useful members of the working classes instead of the gipsies they have formerly been. I have provided a sum of £350 on my draft estimates to meet this action.

TRAINING.

The power to gather in these half-castes, however, is not much use, without the means of supporting them, and when we remember that there are more than five hundred half-castes in the State under sixteen years of age, it causes me great anxiety as to what means should be taken to prevent the multiplication of them in a more rapid degree in years to come. The girls are growing up and at a very early age become mothers, and though I do not go so far as to say the enrolling of them into institutions would prevent future immorality, there would at any rate be a satisfaction of knowing that the best efforts had been made to correct an abuse, and no doubt these efforts would minimise the evil. With the funds placed at my disposal the last few years you will easily be able

to see that it is almost impossible to do more than scratch the surface of this problem, and unless more is done, and done thoroughly in a very few years' time, an immensely expensive work will stare the Government in the face.

During the year four girls and six boys have been placed in institutions; of these three boys and one girl have been sent down to me by order of the district magistrates, the rest being waifs. Six have been sent to the Swan Institution and four to the Collie Salvationist homes.

GUN LICENSES.

Another great question, which, however, I do not despair of dealing with, is the matter of gun licenses. For years past numbers of natives have been allowed to use guns, and have not abused the privilege, in fact they have been of great service to their employers; they have relieved their ration account and they have assisted those who are in the kangaroo skin trade; but nevertheless I have it on the best authority that there is a danger—that the use of guns should be limited. Now, a native is possessed of unusual cunning, and may have a gun for a long time without the police or any other person being aware of it. Even though he may be suspected, a gun is never found in his camp, however strict the search. When he carries it, his female scouts behind and before give him ample warning, and the consequence is that now and in future a great number of guns will be carried without license. Our machinery for carrying out this part of the Act is at present very inadequate, and if it continues to be so I will suggest at a future date striking a little nearer the root of the evil. At the same time I have forwarded a reasonable number of gun license forms to each protector appointed, as I know that the services of natives in shooting for food are very useful to the settlers. As regards the kangaroo shooters, there are some parts of the State where, I am informed, action should be taken to prevent any more decimation of these useful animals, especially on the South coast, where hundreds of thousands of kangaroos have, I believe, been shot within the last few years. It has recently been reported to me that owing to the drought there is a great scarcity of rabbits, and that the kangaroos are being fast swept away, and that the large number of natives employed on the stations, who have been in the habit of taking holidays for a considerable portion of the time are now unable to support themselves, and fall back upon the stations for food, although there may be no work for them. This is sure to become a burden upon the votes of this Department. I have, therefore, forwarded papers on this subject to the proper authorities, with a view to some action on their part. I attach a report on this subject from the Resident Magistrate, Esperance. (*See Appendix 1.*)

RELIEF AND MEDICAL AID.

Although I have said that the general health of the natives is good, yet there are many cases of severe illness, and in some districts a lot of venereal disease. Our medical item for the last year has been almost double that of the previous year. This does not show, however, a double amount of illness, for it has been caused by a more regular system of supplying boxes of drugs to various centres, the necessity of which forced itself upon me when I found how very much venereal disease seems to be increasing and what sufferings result therefrom. The amount spent in provisions has also increased by quite £500; this is only what I expected from the spread of settlement, and I do not see how the increase is to be prevented in future even with the greatest economy. Every account is carefully looked into, a scale for rations has to be entered, reason for the relief to each recipient, and I am satisfied in my mind that the cost of the rations given is not excessively charged for. The prices in some cases have to be higher owing to the distance the food has to be carried, but in no case is it more than one shilling per head per day, and for this I take care that the amount of food given shall be reasonably of that value. I look forward to the investigations of the proposed travelling inspectors to reduce, if possible, these amounts, but I do not expect that they will be able to do otherwise than to indorse my past payments. A list of distributors with numbers on relief is given in Table A.

Seventeen applications from licensed persons to employ aborigines have been assented to, but I have no doubt that there are many of such engagements which I have not heard of in out-of-the-way places, and I am advising a more systematic procedure. One of my assents was cancelled owing to sufficient precautions against drunkenness not being taken by the license holder. With regard to the employment of natives on licensed premises, under Section 6 of 2 Edw. VII., No. 44 (c.), a hitch has arisen in the working of this section at Wyndham. It has there been discovered that the powers are limited to the cases where the applicants hold a publican's general license, and the police have proceeded against the holders of wayside licenses, although they had received my assent to the employment of natives. (My assent is only given when recommended by the chief authorities of the locality.) It seems that some of these wayside licenses have been given for houses actually within municipalities, and hitherto no distinction has been made as to the different class of license. I have consulted with the Solicitor General, and he agrees with me that it would be well to amend the law so as to include all wine and spirit licenses within the privilege, and in the meantime the police officers might be asked not to interfere when the chief inspector's assent has been obtained. I therefore, recommend that such amendment be made this session.

DISTRICT REPORTS.

EAST KIMBERLEY.

The police at *Hall's Creek* report that recently no cases of ill treatment have come under their notice, and that the new Act has caused a cessation in the carrying about of native women by white men. Sickness is very rare, except in cases of long standing venereal disease. There are natives young and old, now being relieved at this station. All settlers, and others who require native assistance are obtaining permits or agreements as the case may be. In several cases general permits have been granted to trustworthy persons only. In cases where it is thought the employer is likely to interfere with the women the permit only covers employment of male natives. Several requests for female natives have been refused. (See Appendices 2 and 3.)

Crime, which is mostly confined to cattle killing, is reported to be on the increase. This is attributed to the scarcity of bush food, which is quite a serious question there. The district has been drought-stricken this season, and the police think that shortly a large number of natives will require relief. One settler actually kills bullocks for them out of sheer sympathy.

I have seen a letter from the manager of *Ord River Station* to his owners, in which the following information relative to this matter is given:—In September last year he stated that for the last month in one portion of their run 10 head of cattle had been found with only one leg and the tongue of some taken away, others with the tongue only. The blacks responsible for the above outrages came over the border from South Australia, and these natives seem to be the worst we have to deal with. They come into Western Australia when they are inclined for a bit of mischief, both for sport and spite. They keep spies upon white men's movements, and when they think trouble is at hand quietly slip back into their own South Australian territory, and defy the West Australian police to touch them. He remarks that South Australian police protection is badly wanted and that as his owners have thirty thousand head of cattle on their South Australian runs, with a large staff employed, the natives still kill with impunity, and there is also great trouble in getting men to remain in the back country risking their lives single-handed. He says "blacks and live stock will not do together, and if you lease your country you want it for cattle." He reports the necessity, when shifting the frontage cattle to the back country, of mustering the blacks towards the centre of the run and making the camp somewhere near the head station. He was trying to do this and have them looked after and provide for them as far as means would allow. He estimated the cost of this at the rate of £2,000 per annum (men's wages, rations, horses, and beef, etc., supplied to natives). He states that even this expenditure will be more profitable to his owners than letting the blacks run at large, burning the grass and killing and destroying cattle as they please. The main suggestion he makes, as one way to deal with these native difficulties, is to form regular depots similar to the one he proposes doing at his station, the police to have full charge and control of same, but that the men selected should have sound practical bush experience. He thinks that such a scheme would be fair to white and black men alike, and that it would be to the settlers' interest to agree to an assessment according to their holdings of say up to 50 per cent. of the cost of such depot. All blacks employed by the station should be legally engaged, and when discharged from service should be sent to their respective depots under the control of the police, and, of course, when natives are required as servants the police should be applied to for them. These are the suggestions of an experienced resident of the district and are worthy of consideration. The proposal of contribution quite agrees with that which I have before received from the late owners of *Sturt Creek Station*—that they contribute from their station alone two hundred head of butchers' horned stock per annum—if I could only collect the natives together and prevent them from killing and frightening the herds. This gentleman's statements were corroborated by a report I received from the *Hall's Creek* police, dated 6th November: "Having just returned from a long tour he was glad to report that he found the natives in a very fair way; that he hardly had to use the drugs he carried with him; at the stations where natives were employed he found them well clothed and fed and apparently quite contented; the bush natives also becoming more contented; but he also found that there were still a great number of offences committed by the natives, principally cattle-killing."

The patrol at *Sturt's Creek* states that native women, including children to about 60 in number, are camped there, most of their men being in gaol, and they have to depend solely on the station killing for them. The bush food in most parts was unprocurable on account of the drought, all the back waters being dried up, and this is driving the natives on to the main waters where practically no food can be obtained.

Owing to the representations made by the police some dresses have been ordered in which female witnesses may appear at the *Hall's Creek* court, and shirts have been sent up for the men. Hitherto these witnesses have been apparently paraded in the court in their usual state of nature. It is a sign of advancing civilisation that such requests are made.

I am of opinion that the relief stations at *Wild Dog*, on the Negri Creek, close to the border of South Australia, should be transferred to the *Turkey Creek* distributing station, which is only about 50 miles from there, but I have not been able yet to arrange this.

In *Wyndham* the chief business is rationing and clothing the discharged native prisoners. There is only one crippled native on the relief list.

An unfortunate fracas occurred near Sturt's Creek in January, by which a native was wounded. One of the stockmen suddenly came on some natives killing a beast, and as he galloped towards them a native threw three spears at him. The man retreated but the native followed, throwing three more spears. The horse being nearly knocked up and the native being close on the stockman the latter drew his revolver and fired three shots in the direction of the natives, who all turned and fled, including the one who was in pursuit. The stockman was not aware whether he had hit any of them; he saw the bullets hit the ground, but did not see any native fall, and it was evident that the man fired in self-defence, getting attacked while endeavouring to protect his employer's property. The police subsequently saw a native with his arm bound up at the elbow, and this native confessed that, being surprised when killing the bullock, they were frightened and threw spears at the stockman. The native, however, did not appear to be in pain, and the arm seemed to be healing. The other natives corroborated the story, and the constable who was in control instructed the wounded native to await his return the next day, instead of which he and all the other natives cleared out. The acting Resident Magistrate looked into the matter, and considered there was no necessity to take any further action.

WEST KIMBERLEY.

At *Derby* there are nine on the relief list. Native affairs have been tolerably quiet, though on the northern part of this district, on the Robinson river, there have been serious actions on their part against the police while arresting offenders. One constable, P.C. Forbes, who was wounded, seems to have exercised a great deal of good sense and moderation while engaged in his dangerous and difficult task.

At *Broome* I hear that there is a great improvement in the condition of the natives who are in employment in the town. There are a great number of loafers, and no doubt a great deal of illicit sexual intercourse takes place. On my recommendation a prohibited area, under Section 39, has been proclaimed which prevents natives, except those lawfully employed, from coming within the boundaries of the municipal area. This does not seem a large reservation, but it was restricted to these boundaries, as the Resident Magistrate considered that the food on which most of the bush natives of this district depended was obtained on the area comprised within the boundaries of the commonage which I had first suggested for prohibition.

At *La Grange Bay* a large number, from 60 to 70 natives, obtain relief at the telegraph station. By agreement with Mr. Tuckett, the telegraph operator there, who has been for many years a well known helper of the department, only 44 of these are paid for, probably the rest interchange by coming and going. I regret to say that there is some friction between Mr. Tuckett, who is a Justice of the Peace, and the police constable; both are good officers, and endeavour to do their work for me as well as possible, and I think the friction must arise from their different methods, and the desire of each to be my principal agent. As, however, Mr. Tuckett is shortly to obtain promotion to some other station, I shall be able to fix the proper line of demarcation between my police agent and his successor. By the efforts of the former a very healthy state of things now exists in regard to the intercourse between the natives and the Asiatic pearlers, who put into the numerous creeks there; he keeps a close eye upon every lugger that comes in, and upon the men who come ashore, and does not allow the natives to hang about the creeks with their women whenever and wherever a boat is in.

The presence of a police constable at La Grange, although in a large measure useful for native protection and management, is also of great service in many other ways connected with the affairs of white men, such as the duties during election time, the inspection of travelling herds, passing travellers, arrest of absconders both black and yellow and white, some postal matters, and, therefore, I consider that this Department should not be charged with the cost of upkeep of this police station any more than other stations in the East Kimberley district and other parts of the interior.

The relief on the *Upper Fitzroy* has been carried out by Mr. Annear, telegraph operator, for many years past. He is now to be transferred to La Grange. He writes to me that the relief cannot be distributed by any one except the telegraph station master, who is always on the spot. He says:

Since I have given relief I have done my best to give it out fairly; indeed, the amounts mentioned in the accounts do not cover what I give. Every morning and night each one receives his or her share of damper, and either in the morning or evening receives the meat. Nor have I ever tried to restrain any of them going away; but, on the other hand, they have had the same freedom they have been accustomed to in their wild state. They are all of a roaming disposition. There has been very little sickness this year so far, but the country is passing through the severest drought known to it since white men came here. Unless rain sets in, the losses on stock will be enormous.

I regret to see by the meteorological returns that hardly any rain has fallen there since his letter.

At the end of last year Mr. Annear wrote to me some valuable suggestions with regard to the future management of natives in his district. He thinks that it would be well to establish the present reserve, No. 1582, containing about 1,800 acres, as a depot, where natives could be relieved

and could camp. The present post office stands thereon, and is about to be abandoned. There are two wells on the land within half a mile of each other, both containing a good supply of good water. There are also soft swamps on the area, and high ground in case of floods. Relief has now been given here for nearly fifteen years, and it has been proved to be a most suitable place. Mr. Annear has found that all kinds of vegetables and maize and other things can be grown there, and a wind-mill would be of great assistance. Mr. Annear has a large herd of goats; half of them are first cross with the pure Angora, the skins of which realise about 5s. a piece, and the hair is also valuable. The milkers give nearly three buckets of milk daily, which he has found very useful when natives were ill. The common goat breeds well, giving about five kids per year. He estimates that a great profit could thus be made, and he thinks that the reserve would be an ideal position for the residence of any protector who may be appointed for the Kimberley district. It is in the centre of many stations, and might serve the whole country between La Grange Bay and Wyndham. It would not be necessary to purchase fodder for the horses, and the natives now have been accustomed to look upon this spot for relief.

Mr. Annear further wrote to me in April that, though there had been little sickness up to that time, he expected the usual yearly epidemics. As to the crime of cattle killing, he reports an alarming increase since the commencement of leniency to natives in the Derby Court, and also that the manner of the natives towards the whites has changed, he says:—

It is admitted by all that the natives have the upper-hand of the police in the district; that the police cannot cope with the trouble.

There seems to be an opinion that "it will take years to again get the natives under." He goes on to say:—

About six months ago the police captured about 18 out of 40 or 50 known cattle killers; amongst those captured were some who had been previously discharged without a hearing by the Derby Court for the same offence, and these, it was found, had been implicated in thirty different cases of killing between the time of their discharge and second arrest. Hence, one probable result of the leniency so far as is known. No further attempt was made to arrest the other offenders. A short time ago the manager of Fossil Down Station, fifteen miles away, reported that there were about 60 natives camped together and killing his cattle wholesale. Unfortunately, the police were too late; the natives heard they were out and cleared, and the police were unable to effect one arrest. Subsequently it was discovered these natives had been killing close here, where no cattle had been killed for years. They do not kill any big beasts, but instead every calf they could get, and carried the whole carcass to the hills close by. At places, where for years the station hands could find thousands of cattle quietly grazing whenever they went out, there was not one beast to be seen for miles around. The depredators had driven the cattle off. It is, I think, a great pity that in such cases the police do not keep going until every offender is arrested. It would do good to show the determination, and tend to check trouble, and assuredly save enormous expense in future. Missing these, the police went to others that had been killing elsewhere, and arrested seventeen; and since then there are other reports of killing close here, and in other directions, but the police are without equipment, having taken only the seventeen now on their way to Derby. I have also heard of cases of robbing camps, and the blacks tell the whites in very rough language, "I don't care for you or the police." Such remarks are bad. There is no doubt about it the blacks are becoming saucy; they are also becoming useless. They will seldom earn their living by work, but when hungry will ask for work, get clothing, blankets, etc., and in a few days clear out with the lot. Many fear there will be serious trouble later on. It is surprising to note the meekness of the natives once the police start moving about.

He mentions a half-caste child named Polly, aged five years. He states:

A few days ago she was out with the old woman, Mary Ann, when a bush black took her away for two nights during which time the blacks here said he made use of her. . . . Such actions as that of Polly and the man are very common amongst the natives.

I have sent for this child and will place her in proper charge.

The preceding extracts will show that we are dealing with a question which requires a very firm hand: the natives in these Northern districts far outnumber the whites, and being for the most part wild, unreasoning creatures, it would lead to a great disaster should they once get the idea that they can overpower their employers. I consider it is my duty to lay these matters before you; and though my work is mainly for the benefit and protection of these natives and not for any harsh repression, yet I consider that firmness exercised in a manner which they only understand will in the end be more to their benefit than a weak toleration of their lawlessness.

NORTH-WEST DISTRICT.

The principal work in this district has been with regard to natives in the neighbourhood of the Pilbarra Goldfields. Mr. W. Bell of *Mosquito Creek* keeps me well informed as to the necessities of natives there. There are no sheep or cattle stations within forty miles. There is a good deal of disease, and much difficulty in administering any relief, although Mr. Bell himself gives them medicines. The relief at *Wallal Station* on the coast has now been entirely stopped, and the work is done at *Pardoo Station* and at *Yinadong*; two having been left at the latter place through their inability to travel. Pardoo at any rate is accessible to the police for inspection. I have had to open relief stations for a few indigents at *Whim Creek*, *Balla Balla*, and *Station Peak*, where the police act as my district agents. Some reports have reached me that the natives on the coast, east of Port Hedland, are not only a trouble with the stock, but they also come into contact with the Asiatics on the Creek. The late Resident Magistrate having recommended that a constable should be stationed somewhere in the neighbourhood of Banningarra, the matter was referred to the Commissioner of Police, and now a regular system of patrol is established.

The question of the advisability of closer supervision of natives on the tinfields on the Coongan River is still before me. Mr. D. Brockman, of Corunna Downs, keeps me advised on these matters, and considers that some local control should be exercised in this neighbourhood. He says the natives

are well able to make a splendid living at tin-finding, and they should not be allowed to dispose of their tin to the many whites who, doing no work themselves, are simply living on the blacks, ready to give in return for the tin a quarter of its value in grog and rations. (The price of tin is now very high.) He suggests that natives employed on stations or elsewhere should not be allowed "to pinki," or spend their holidays on the tinfields among the whites, or around any of the towns. They appear to visit these places simply to live on those natives that are working, and to join in the many drinking bouts that take place.

Mr. Brockman further writes, in February, that on the night of the 15th February at Warrawoona, the blacks managed to get a good deal of liquor and a good deal of fighting took place in consequence, and one of the women was severely dealt with by her man for returning with only rations instead of a bottle. The police have, on several occasions, shifted them, but they are immediately back again as soon as the police are gone. There are some hundred and fifty natives about Moolyella, thirty-five at Warrawoona, over one hundred and fifty at Shaw tinfields, and in and around Nullagine over two hundred. Not more than one of these is signed or under any control whatever, and they simply loaf around white camps; a few make their women clean up a bit of tin, but very few. Whereas, in past years, nearly all these natives were signed servants working honestly and legitimately, now nearly all refuse to sign, knowing they will be under restriction and will have to work themselves, instead of making their women do so for them. The result of not signing is that the district finds itself now with some five hundred semi-civilised natives mostly living by their women, leading a disgraceful life, and encouraged to do so by the white men, while those in authority have absolutely no power to interfere. All natives here can earn a decent living, either by tin-working, in which they should have a small area set apart for them, and be placed under some responsible officer to see that they do so, or they can engage to work for the better class of citizens, who would be only too glad of their services if they could get them, and rely on them staying for a certain time. If any native is not desirous of earning his living by working for it, there is ample area for him to lead his bush life away from civilised temptations.

He hopes that under the new Act the natives will be placed completely under the control of this Department, and that one of its officers will be permanently located in his neighbourhood to regulate, control and deal with all matters relating to them. This is more than we can do at present, perhaps, but no doubt our proposed Inspector will give particular attention to this district, and spend as much of his time supervising it as possible.

ASHBURTON AND GASCOYNE DISTRICTS.

The reports from the Upper Ashburton have been favourable; a few indigents are relieved at the Gorge, but most of the natives support themselves, or work willingly on the stations. I still have very few appeals from this part of the State, the owners of the stations being quite willing to do their duty to the destitute relations of their employees.

Constable Pollett, now at *Gorge Police Station*, follows the example of his predecessor, Constable Hulme, in sending me regular reports. He visits the stations and reports on them *seriatim*, and almost invariably states that the natives all appear to be clothed and well fed, and that there are no complaints. There is, however, some disease, though some of the stations are entirely without it. I am glad to say. The owners, however, do what they can at their own cost for those who suffer.

At Onslow, proceedings were taken against a white man for neglecting to return two natives to their country, on completion of their contract, and for allowing two native women on his pearling lugger. Fines amounting to £15 were inflicted, and the return of the natives to their own country ordered.

In the Gascoyne and Murchison districts relief is considerable, though there does not appear to be so much disease in this district. Mr. D. N. McLeod, of *Mimilya Station*, informed me that owing to his decision to leave his station in charge of a manager, it would be necessary for the Department to take charge of a number of children and young women, who had been under training by Mrs. McLeod. An exhibition of their attainments was given at Carnarvon, twenty-three having been brought down. I was quite willing to take charge of these, and asked for information as to their names, sexes, and ages, so that I might find homes for them, suitable in each case. Mr. McLeod, however, seemed to think that he had better do this, and placed six of the girls out with ladies round Carnarvon, and I believe took the rest back to the Station. I was not consulted in the matter, but feeling that Mr. McLeod had the benefit of these young people at heart, I was satisfied that he had done the best possible for the present. I now await further communication from him, and am ready to take charge of any that require it.

At *Shark's Bay*, Dr. Belgrave, Medical Officer, has sent me many communications; he gives an excellent report of the steady way in which natives work. There is very little distress, but he thinks that it will be necessary to have a separate school for young natives and half-castes; this is not on account of the parents of the white children having anything to find fault with as to the cleanliness or behaviour of the black children, but the objection seems to be that the white children so readily fall into the native dialect, which of course, should be avoided. He says:—

The parents of twelve or more eligible young blacks have visited me as a deputation requesting admission to the public school. The School Board do not see their way clear to grant their request, not because of the existence of any unworthy feeling as of white against black, but merely because of the whites' tendency to mimicry. They are given to imitate the black children in tone of voice, etc., which is a considerable disadvantage and not easily susceptible of subsequent eradication.

(I have noticed this myself in people of middle age who, when young, mixed a good deal with black children.)

We have a second school room in which the coloured children could meet, but a teacher would be required. If the Education Department would supply us with necessaries, I think it not impossible I might, on inquiry, find some worthy person to undertake the duty say for £50 per year.

He goes on to say that the condition of the natives in his locality is superb. All work who can; they go to the "Mias" during the day, and return to their settlements about a mile away. He says that some of them could not be beaten by white men under £3 per week, one such being in his own employment. Now, this is a very favourable report, and in my opinion this locality would be an excellent one in which, in the near future, we should form an establishment where half-castes and some black children could be cared for and trained; it is away from all the evil influences which rule in such places as Carnarvon, etc., and is a very healthy spot.

A considerable number of natives have been relieved at *Junction Station*, and some on the *Upper and Lower Clifton Downs*, but having regard to the large number of natives employed in that area, there does not seem to be a large percentage of destitutes.

VICTORIA AND MURCHISON DISTRICT.

A large number of natives are in employment in this area; it is well supervised by Inspector Drewry of Geraldton. Relief is distributed to small numbers at *Gullewa, Yalgoo, Field's Find, Nannine, Peak Hill, Cue, Wooleen, Mount Wittenoom, Northampton, Lynton, Boolardie, Murchison House, Meka*; and occasionally at other places. A large number of natives are to be found about *Northampton*, where some are relieved, and the Resident Magistrate pays great attention to his work for me in that part. Not much sickness prevails, but a great deal of senility and injury; and recently the question of drunkenness has become so prominent that, at his request, an area has been declared of three miles around the town, under Section 39, which prohibits all natives, except those lawfully employed, from being present thereon.

The question of guns being carried by natives has also given rise to much correspondence on the stations up the Murchison River. Many natives have been entrusted with guns by their employers, and a number of summonses were issued under the new Act. It seemed to me that this action was too sudden, and with the concurrent opinion of the Law Department I asked the Commissioner of Police to instruct his officers to give warning to natives before summoning them, as it was impossible for them to know of the new Act.

With regard to the guns taken from the natives under such action, they are kept for a time, so that if the owner of the gun gets a license it may be restored to him, otherwise it is proposed to sell the gun and return the value to its late owner.

A large number of natives in the district northward of Cue are employed kangarooing, and no doubt their employers treat them well, and it will be a pity to deprive them of this means of earning a living for themselves and their families; but in some cases the wages in kind which they only receive are not sufficient to support their women folk, and this tends to immorality. I think we shall have to establish some sort of system of wages being demanded, which being paid into a responsible officer can be expended to the benefit of these women and children, in common justice.

I hear from various sources that it is very easy for natives to obtain liquor, not always, however, in harmful quantities, yet against the law; this fact and the fact of the immoral connection with whites would, at first sight, induce one to recommend certain prohibited areas, but when it is remembered that if natives are driven from centres where they can pick up some sort of sustenance by occasional jobs of work, they will find themselves on the large runs where, probably, they are not wanted, where very frequently their dogs are poisoned and game is scarce, the advisability of such action becomes doubtful. Each year the fate of the unemployed and able-bodied natives becomes a greater question, and I see no solution of the difficulty more feasible than that the Department should establish in each great tribal area a sheep or cattle station entirely under its own management, where natives could make a home, and where all who could work would be employed in some way or other, and where the destitute, aged, and invalids could be fed. Some suggestions worthy of consideration in this connection have been sent to me by Mr. John McLean of Geraldton district.

In roughly calculating the cost of such a station I am convinced that the deficit, even if there should be any, at the end of each year would not amount to such a sum as is spent on the various areas under the present conditions of relief.

Some would say it would be impossible to get the natives to stay on these stations; I allow that at first there might be some difficulty, but the old racial hostility which endangers the lives of natives out of their own districts is now a thing of the past, in most of the settled portions of the State. Years ago on the Gascoyne I found natives from the South, from the North-West, and even from Kimberley, living amicably together, and year by year these racial barriers are being broken down. Natives of a large district would soon learn of a station where the whole of the meat was devoted to their own consumption, where clothing, shelter, and medical relief could be obtained for the asking, and where their work would not be a bit harder than on stations where they are now employed.

I trust that these remarks of mine will meet with your favourable consideration, and that action will result before long. I feel sure that it will be very beneficial and practically solve most of the present difficulties and doubts.

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS.

A great agitation arose in the public mind early this year as to the alleged cannibalism among the natives on the northern portion of the Eastern goldfields.

A tolerably well-educated half-caste named Harris had made statements in the Press that the natives in that part were in such a starving condition that they had become cannibals through sheer hunger, that the country was destitute of food, and there are not sufficient rabbits as yet to satisfy their cravings. This created a great sensation, and a great deal of correspondence. On my part I discredited the story, as I was in frequent communication with the police officers, and felt sure that they would have reported to me should natives be in such a distressing state. and my opinion was soon corroborated by Arthur Harris's own statement, which he made public, denying that he had reported cannibalism to be rife.

The utmost that he could refer to was the disappearance of several half-caste children out back. The natives said that the children had died, but Harris felt sure that they had been killed. There was no real evidence of this, and all the foundation for the agitation collapsed. The Commissioner of Police, however, was able to assist me greatly by the evidence which his officers obtained, and he supplied me with copies of statements made by no less than 59 well-known authorities of the district, which not only tended to show that Harris's story was grossly exaggerated, but that the alleged destitution of the aborigines concerned had nothing to do with cannibalism. The whole trend of the reports on the other hand went to prove that there was abundance of food to be had in the bush, and that in the towns the natives were well treated and generally healthy.

From *Norseman* I had a serious complaint in December that a large number of natives had assembled there in a very destitute condition. The well-known native, Fred McGill, had appealed to the warden on behalf of these natives, but on inquiry, I found that this distress was only a temporary matter. There had been a very trying season, and a lot of natives had congregated at *Norseman* from the districts about it, the water having become scarce. My agents, the police, were well able to cope with the difficulty, and arranged for a supply of food for a time; they reported that the total number of sick, crippled, and aged was 14, although the mob was considerably over 100.

I am thankful to say that a good fall of rain occurred very shortly, and the difficulty was got over.

Arrangements have been made for the supply of water to any natives about *Norseman*, by allowing them to get it free at the "Princess Royal" mine, about five miles distant, and by the courtesy of the Mines Department the quantity taken, averaging about 250 gallons per week, is not charged against me.

The warden has informed me of an intelligent native named Big Ben who is desirous of obtaining a block of land and working it for himself, as "he is tired of working for white men who forget to pay him his wages." I have referred him to the Lands Department, who can grant blocks to natives.

At *Coolgardie*, a native boy named Willie Scott, about fourteen, who had been in the hospital for some time and discharged, was reported to be quite unable to get employment. The Resident Magistrate recommended his being sent to the coast. I therefore sent for him, and have obtained a situation for him on a farm near the Salvation Army Institution at the Collic, and the Manager, Captain Head, who is now a protector, has promised to keep an eye upon him; he seems a well-behaved, intelligent boy.

There are several of these stations on the Eastern Goldfields, the relief being distributed under the inspection generally of the police, but at the far distant localities of *Duketon* and *Lake Darlot*, I have to depend upon the good offices of Mr. McInnes and Mr. F. Squires respectively, the latter being Manager of a State Battery. Mr. Squires has had great experience among the natives previously in Queensland, and says the natives here are no worse and no better than they are there. He does not think much impression is likely to be made upon their nomadic character and laziness. He reports that there are plenty of rabbits now, but that the heat is so great the natives prefer lying in the shade to hunting for them; he advocates keeping them out of the town and supplying them with small quantities of food; he mentions the alleged cannibalism, and speaks as follows:—

The principal requirement amongst them is food, and whilst I know they are quite capable of killing and eating their young, I am just as sure they do not make a practice of this. It is only natural that they owe a certain grudge to young half-castes, and if they have killed one it is no trouble for them to let you have full particulars. This is generally done by the mother of the child who, on the spur of the moment, would blow its light out, and then the child may not be eaten. I might say the mother would lose her temper over the child crying, and fly up in a fit of passion, and hit it with the first thing she got her hand on, and probably kill it. I am watching the natives very closely, and often have a conversation with them.

Now, these are the words of a man of observation, who lives continually in this outlying district, and may be taken to be a true description of facts. At another time he says that they appear to have, not a particle of morality.

At Mr. Squires' request, he has been supplied with a stock of medicines, bandages, etc., which he has kindly promised to use to relieve suffering among the natives. He has also had a year's supply of food stuffs, comprising 1½ tons of flour, 80lbs. of tea, 7cwt. of sugar, and some etceteras, enough to supply about 25 natives for the year, of the distribution of which he promises to keep a strict account. The constable at *Mount Malcolm* informs me that the few natives that he sees are, as a rule, a very healthy lot.

THE SOUTH-EAST COAST.

The relieving stations in this district are at *Eucla*, *Mundrabillia*, *Israelite Bay*, *Bremer Bay*, *Esperance*, and *Balladonia*. The natives' chief occupation has been in kangaroo hunting; but in the Western portion there is little of this, and here they find it hard to get any employment, and food must be supplied. Although there seems to be plenty of game, they have a habit of hanging about the relief station in idleness.

Nothing has yet been done towards the collection of natives on the reserve near Esperance Bay, about which there was so much correspondence last year. It seems to me that the natives do not want to be so collected, and wander about, so that it is impossible to find them when wanted. I am advised that they are not likely to do any work, and would be a considerable burden upon the Department, so it is better to allow them to spread out and find their own food in their own way.

Mr. Ponton, senior, a man of many years' residence in the district, wrote to me from Cape Arid in October, stating that if a reserve were made, the most suitable spot would be near Duke of Orleans Bay, where there is good fishing, where they could get no drink, and stores could be landed without the great expense of carting, but as a man of forty years' experience among natives on that coast, he did not advocate any such scheme.

He reported the local native to be quiet, well conducted, and useful, and considered that if any were brought from other parts, all the natives would become unsettled and a menace.

SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.

Here I have a great number of relieving stations, but no change appears to have taken place in the general condition of the natives. There is a good deal of destitution, a good deal of sickness, and some accidents, which, when serious, the patients are forwarded to the Public Hospital in Perth. Nearly all the able-bodied natives in this district find employment on farms and stations, but there is no doubt they are getting fewer year by year. From the Blackwood, and South from there, they have nearly disappeared; northwards of Albany, however, there are a considerable number who are very useful about Kendinup, Katanning, and Williams and Arthur Rivers. A few are found in the Avon district here and there, and a good many North of Newcastle, but there is a strong proportion of half-castes. Near Wyening, there is quite a collection of natives who have taken up land, they have to eke their subsistence by going round the district shearing and clearing for the whites, but some of them are really making an effort to form homes for themselves.

In one deserving case, I have found wire for the fencing of the block, and some other cases are now being considered. After a visit I mean shortly to make to the place, I may be able to do more for them, and encourage them in their efforts.

On the Swan they find a good deal of employment; but there are many destitute who are relieved principally now from Perth. I am endeavouring to gather them as much as possible on the Welshpool Reserve, and have broken up some of the camps at Guildford and Bayswater, which were becoming a nuisance to the white residents.

Action will probably have to be taken under Section 39, as I find it almost impossible to keep them out of the towns; in spite of my warnings and threats they are always coming in.

One troublesome habit is on the increase, viz., that natives from the Eastern and Southern districts come to Perth on single tickets paid for out of their wages; they spend the balance of their money amusing themselves, and then come to me in a perfectly destitute state to pay their passages home. It is better, of course, to do this than to allow them to loaf about, but some means must be adopted to stop the practice. A number of North-West natives are in this district, and it is very noticeable that they are good workers and do not indulge in drink to any great extent.

At *Bunbury* I have, with the assistance of the authorities, established a camp in a more suitable place than where they formerly used to live. I went there and selected the spot on the Commonage, some distance from any main road, and yet only about two miles from the town.

I have had a well dug there, and the land has been surveyed (a block of forty acres); and the natives have been removed there, instructions having been sent to give them every assistance to make their huts as comfortable as they were before. There are a few on permanent relief, but there are always a good many half-castes knocking about.

At *Busselton* there are really very few natives left, but there are some considerable families of half-castes, most of whom are in constant work.

On the *Upper Blackwood* there are very few. The aged ones are relieved alternately at *Deeside* or *Dingup*, but they move backwards and forwards at their own sweet will; nevertheless Mr. Thomas Muir and Mrs. T. Giblett never allow them to want.

In the *Moore River* district most of the natives are more or less connected with those who have from time to time lived at the New Norcia Mission. There are not many on relief.

MISSIONS.

Beagle Bay Mission.—I have received a report from a temporary officer giving me details of the work at this place very fully; he has also supplied me with photographs showing the buildings and the members and their protégés. A great deal of work seems to have been done of recent years; there are thirty children under tuition, and several couples married in the mission church

supplied with residences. He describes the country as being excellently well adapted for cattle; the soil is good, but the surface water is rather scarce. The missionaries have several acres under cultivation; almost any vegetable will grow if care is taken and manure and irrigation supplied.

Tropical fruits such as the Singapore potato and coconuts grow well, bananas being the exception. Sorghum grows magnificently. There are fifteen acres at present under cultivation. About two thousand head of cattle have been reared, many of which, however, are still young. There is great loss in horses, which are affected by worms. The natives are well treated and some of them taught useful occupations. They are taught cleanliness by daily bathing and swimming, and considerable attention is paid to their education.

Sunday Island Mission.—Accounts from here are still very encouraging; there has been a proposal that the mission shall be undertaken by the South-Western Diocese, and the Right Rev. Bishop Goldsmith has visited the North recently. Negotiations, however, are still pending, and my dealings are as yet with Mr. Hadley, the original founder. During the past year he has obtained the services of Mr. Glover for the education of the children, and his report is attached to that of Mr. Hadley in the Appendix.

An expedition was made to the coast of the mainland near Yampi Sound, and Mr. Hadley has great hopes of being able to make an impression on the very wild natives of that part by their friendly intercourse with his natives.

New Norcia Mission.—I do not get any reports from this mission beyond statements as to the amount of children and their school. I believe, however, that there are not so many natives now at the mission as formerly. I know of a good many having gone off to cultivate land of their own; these, however, obtain employment off and on at the mission, and also at the stations in the neighbourhood. The administrative staff has been much increased for the past few years and the buildings largely added to.

The Anglican Mission, Swan.—A few children have been sent here from Hall's Creek and elsewhere. There are now twenty boys and twenty girls who are paid for by the Department. A short report has been sent to me which is included in the report of the Perth Orphanage, and I gather that the treatment and the health of the children are as good as ever. Yearly outings are given to them. They have a small garden farm in which the girls take interest; they keep poultry and make jam and attend to a few cattle, all which fit them for their future lives.

Collie Homes (Salvation Army).—We have five children in charge here, and in my opinion it is the most excellent place for the training especially of half-castes who have been for some time subject to the evil influence of native camps. The system is rigid though kind, every effort is made to eradicate vice and not only to make the children industrious but honest, to show them how they can make their living, and how much better it is to make it by fair means. The situation is all that can be desired as regards isolation from outside interruptions.

The Ellensbrook Homes.—There are now only two at this institution who are not small children. During the year two girls have been married to men of their own race living on small holdings in the neighbourhood, both industrious and steady men, and these marriages are looked upon as having been most successful. The eldest girl is now to enter upon domestic service, and the black woman, who has three children in the institution, remains to assist in the cooking and other work.

A table showing how the children are distributed at the various institutions will be found in the Appendix.

CRIME.

I have been supplied with the depositions of two hundred and two aborigines, who have been tried for various crimes, two of whom were cautioned and discharged. Of these far the greater number were for cattle-killing and the unlawful possession of meat. As many as one hundred and sixteen of the former, chiefly in the Kimberley district, and twenty-five of the latter. Some of the sentences have been heavy in the West Kimberley district. I find that on 10th February, seven natives were brought up, and these were each sentenced to three years' imprisonment and hard labour for killing one bullock (the lot of them). This seems to me very hard, and I would have appealed in their favour had it not been for the reports which are referred to elsewhere of the lawlessness of the natives in the locality where the crime was committed, viz., near the Isdell police station. Again, in April, thirty-nine prisoners were sentenced each to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, having been found killing cattle, four of them killed one on Secure Downs, six killed another on the same station, six killed another at Phillip's Range, seven killed another near Barnett River, four killed another near Christmas Creek, seven killed another and five killed another, also at Christmas Creek. The fact of each of these thirty-nine natives having to serve three years for killing seven cows means that the public funds are charged with their keep, which is the same as keeping one man for one hundred and seventeen years for killing seven cattle. This seems an expensive way of protecting the pioneer settlers, and I put it forward for your serious consideration. True, the crimes were committed in very wild country, where it is necessary to show the efficacy of British law to these untutored savages, but it seems to me that some system of gathering the natives together at certain depôts, and making them thoroughly understand that the cattle contributed for slaughter at these depôts were entirely for their benefit, would have a far better effect, and would be better for the native character than the present system.

As Mr. Annear says in an extract elsewhere, that having served the sentences the natives return to their old habits and commit the same crime again; therefore it seems to me the money spent annually in arresting, trying, and incarcerating these black hunters is spent in vain. We have been at the game for many years now, and surely it is time to try some other measures. There have been twenty-six convictions for stealing and breaking into, some of these having been for stealing whisky; this sort of crime seems to be on the increase. There were ten cases of violence, one of which was an attempt to shoot a police constable near Esperance, for which a sentence of ten years was given.

The amount of £143 3s. 8d. has been spent in the legal defence of aborigines tried for such serious crimes as murder and rape, and in most cases successfully. (See Table B.)

BLANKETS AND CLOTHING.

Blankets to the number of 2,390 have been sent to the various stations for issue to aged, crippled, and destitute natives, as shown in Table D. at end. A quantity of second-hand clothing has also been purchased at very low price, and distributed from the Head Office. It is much appreciated by the indigent natives and half-castes in these more populous centres, where some decency as to raiment must be observed.

Tables are also attached showing the number of children at institutions, the proportion of crimes committed, and the distribution of food.

I have etc.,

HENRY C. PRINSEP,

Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Appendix 1.

Extract from Report by Resident Magistrate, Esperance.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Resident Magistrate's Office, Esperance, 25th May, 1906.

SIR,

There is not a squatter or farmer to whom I have spoken that has not protested against the kangarooer in this district. With one or two exceptions, the kangarooers are simply parasitic on the blacks—using their labour, feeding them on the kangaroo, living with them, and, I am afraid, supplying them with liquor. When the kangarooer leaves he either takes the natives away or they fall back on the stations for support.

In my opinion the kangaroo should be protected in this district except for food.

I am, etc.,

RICHARD H. WACE, R.M.

Appendix 2.

Police Report on condition of Aborigines on Kimberley Goldfields.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

Hall's Creek Police Station, 30th June, 1906.

SIR,

For the quarter ending 30th June, I have to report as follows *re* the condition, etc., of the natives in the Kimberley Goldfield District.

Treatment.—Under this heading I am pleased to inform you that during the past quarter no case of ill-treatment has come under my notice, and since the new Act has been in force a stoppage has been put to white men carrying native women about with them.

Sickness.—With the exception of several cases of venereal diseases and syphilis of long standing, sickness is very rare. This I would say is due to the fact that we have not had any very cold weather or winter rains as in previous years, which have always brought on sickness.

Blankets.—Some time ago I wired for thirty blankets; these I believe have been forwarded to the Resident Magistrate; I have not issued any myself.

Relief.—Thirteen natives—young and old—are now relieved at this station. Constables Richardson and Jenkins complained to Corpl. Goodridge *re* gross irregularities in the Turkey Creek relief list, which, I believe, is discontinued in consequence of this complaint.

New Act.—All settlers and others who now require native assistance are obtaining permits or agreements as the case may be. In several cases I have granted permits to employ male natives to only trustworthy persons; any whom I think may interfere with the women I have only granted agreements with a male native. Several requests have been made to employ female natives, but these I have refused.

Crime.—Crime, which is mostly cattle killing by natives, is, I am sorry to say, on the increase, and the natives are becoming very troublesome. This I put down to the scarcity of bush food as much as anything else. Of course, killing cattle is always a practice of the natives, but never in the numbers as at present.

Bush Natives.—I regret to inform you of the very serious state of the bush natives through the scarcity of bush tucker. The surrounding district is drought-stricken, and, from information received from settlers and constables under me, I believe large numbers will have to receive aid. Mr. F. Meinsin informs me that the bush natives in his locality are getting very little bush tucker, and they depend solely on a settler killing a bullock for them.

Constable Schultz, just returned from Sturt's Creek, states that the native women are camped up to about 60 (sixty), including children, and most of their men being in gaol they have to depend solely on the station killing for them. The natives camped in the vicinity of Hall's Creek will require relief shortly; in fact, I might truthfully state the bush food in most parts is unprocurable on account of the drought. All the back waters are dried up; this has driven the natives in on to the main waters, where practically no food can be obtained.

J. A. CALDOW,

Constable 366.

Appendix 3.

**Extract from Annual Report, Kimberley Police District, for the year ended
30th June, 1906.**

The interests of the natives have been kept in view and closely watched. They are well treated by their employers throughout the district; two cases only of common assault being reported; both were dealt with in petty sessions. Two cases of criminal assault on a native girl were also reported; one alleged offender was committed for trial on the charge but was acquitted at sessions. The second case was not proceeded with. It was submitted to Crown Law Department for instructions. Fourteen cases of supplying liquor to natives during the year were reported; 10 were brought before the Court; the others have so far evaded service of summonses. The fact of a constable being stationed at La Grange Bay, also constables stationed at Beagle and Cygnet Bays during the "lay-up" season, lessens this class of offence.

Crime by natives during the year has been serious. Two white men were killed in East Kimberley during the year, and a report was received of natives attempting to shoot stockmen at Obagooma in West Kimberley. The two former cases were brought to trial, but the alleged offenders in the latter case are still at large.

Cattle-killing by natives, 58 cases, were reported during the year; 179 natives brought to trial, 159 summarily convicted, 8 committed for trial, 10 discharged, two cautioned. This does not include charges against natives convicted of unlawful possession of beef; the convictions for the latter offence numbering 58.

Cattle-killing in the Wyndham and Hall's Creek sub-districts is very prevalent. This is caused by the leniency of the magistrates towards native offenders, who formerly received sentences of about two years, but now in most cases a sentence of one to six months is inflicted. In Wyndham most of the natives are charged with unlawful possession of beef, owing to the magistrates not convicting for cattle-killing, for want of evidence that it is impossible to obtain.

In the Isdell country, over the Leopold Ranges, the natives are very numerous, and the three constables stationed there are kept continually patrolling to lessen depredations. Quite recently two more stations have been opened in that district, a fact which I have already alluded to. Whether that will increase or lessen the work of the police in that sub-district remains to be seen.

The new Aborigines Act has not been in force sufficiently long enough to form an opinion as to how it will work. I consider that it will cause a very great improvement in the welfare and conduct of the natives who loiter about the towns and the creeks along the coast.

(Sgd.) J. McCARTHY,
Acting Sub-Inspector.

17th August, 1906.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Statement of Income and Expenditure for year ended 30th June, 1906.

DR.				CR.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1905-6.				1905-6.			
By Vote, 1905-6, under 61 Vict., No. 5	5,000	0	0	To SALARY—			
„ „ Parliamentary	8,000	0	0	Chief Protector	550	0	0
„ Approved Excesses	2,099	17	2	Clerk	220	0	0
„ Refunds	25	4	11	Labourer, Welshpool	100	0	0
				Travelling Inspector	50	11	6
							920 11 6
				„ RELIEF TO ABORIGINES—			
				Blankets and Clothing	1,089	6	6
				Provisions	8,533	3	4
				Medical Fees and Medicines	220	2	9
				Native Shelters	53	2	9
							9,895 15 4
				„ MISSIONS, ETC.—			
				Swan Native and H.C. Mission	732	2	0
				New Norcia Benedictine,			
				R.C.	496	13	0
				Beagle Bay Native Benedic-			
				tine, R.C.	936	13	0
				Sunday Island Mission	386	17	6
				Salvation Army	86	9	0
				Deaf and Dumb Institute	25	0	0
				Troy's Expedition	236	9	3
				Ellensbrook House	125	4	6
							2,975 8 3
				„ Police Protection, La Grange			240 10 6
				„ Travelling and Transport			528 16 2
				„ Defence of Native Prisoners			143 0 8
				„ Burial Expenses			232 1 0
				„ Postages, Telephones, and			
				Stationery			125 2 5
				„ Miscellaneous			63 16 3
							£15,125 2 1
							£15,125 2 1

J. R. CAMPBELL, A.I.A.A., W.A.
Accountant.

Aborigines Department - Report for Financial Year ending 30th June 1906
Corporate Author: Western Australia Aborigines Department

SF 25.6/2

www1.aiatsis.gov.au/exhibitions/removeprotect/prot/lists/wa_prot_list.html

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Appendix 4.

Forms to be used under Regulation 1, approved in Executive Council and Gazetted 24th May, 1906.
[Form 1.]

THE ABORIGINES ACT, 1905.
(Section 7.)

Certificate of Appointment of Protector.

This is to certify that....., of....., is appointed by me to be a Protector of Aborigines.

Dated the.....day of....., 190 .
(Minister's signature).....

[Form 2.]

THE ABORIGINES ACT, 1905
(Section 9.)

Recognisance.

Know all men by these presents that I,....., of....., hereby bind myself to the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the payment to him of the sum of.....pounds.

Sealed with my seal thisday of....., 190

Whereas the above-named.....has applied to the Chief Protector of Aborigines for authority to remove.....[* an aboriginal or male half-caste under the age of sixteen years, or a female half-caste] from.....to.....

Now the above written obligation is conditioned to be void in case the above bounden..... on or before the.....day of....., 190 , returns the said.....to the place from which he is to be removed, and defrays the expense of such return, or else to stand in full force and virtue.

Signed, sealed, and delivered by }
the above-named..... }[L.S.]
in the presence of— }

* Strike out words which do not apply.

[Form 3.]

THE ABORIGINES ACT, 1905.
(Section 13.)

Permission is hereby granted to.....to be absent from the Reserve for Aborigines No.....at.....for*.....from this date.

Dated the.....day of....., 190

.....
Protector of Aborigines.

* Here insert.....months,.....weeks, or.....days, as the case may be.

[Form 4.]

THE ABORIGINES ACT, 1905.
(Section 18.)

Permit to employ an Aboriginal.

Permission is hereby granted to....., of....., to employ.....
[*an aboriginal, or a male half-caste under the age of fourteen years, or a female half-caste]†.....

This permit shall continue in force until the.....day of....., 190 , unless in the meantime cancelled, and is granted subject to the provisions of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," and the Regulations thereunder, and to the following conditions:—

1. The employer to supply to the said.....substantial, good, and sufficient rations, clothing, and blankets, and also medicines and medical attendance when practicable and necessary.
2.
3.

Dated the.....day of....., 190

.....
Protector of Aborigines.

* Strike out words which do not apply. † Here insert "on land," or "on a ship or boat," as the case may be.

[Form 5.]

THE ABORIGINES ACT, 1905.
(Section 18.)

General Permit to employ Aborigines.

Permission is hereby granted to....., of..... to employ aborigines *.....

This permit shall continue in force until theday of....., 190 , unless in the meantime cancelled, and is granted subject to the provisions of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," and the Regulations thereunder, and to the following conditions:—

1. The employer to supply to every aboriginal employed by him substantial, good, and sufficient rations, clothing, and blankets, and also medicines and medical attendance when practicable and necessary.
2.
3.

Dated the.....day of....., 190

.....
Protector of Aborigines.

* Here insert "on land," or "on a ship or boat," as the case may be.

[Form 6.]

THE ABORIGINES ACT, 1905.
(Section 22.)

Agreement.

THIS Agreement, made the.....day of....., 190 , between *....., of....., and †....., an aboriginal native [or a male half-caste under the age of sixteen years, or a female half-caste], witnesseth:

1. The said †.....agrees to serve the said *.....as ‡
2. Such service is to begin on the.....day of....., 190 , and is to continue until the.....day of....., 190 §
3. The said *.....is to supply the said †.....during the said service with substantial, good, and sufficient rations, clothing, and blankets, and also with medicines and medical attendance when practicable and necessary.
4. The said *.....is to give the said †.....during the said servicelb. of flour,.....of tea,per day; and at the commencement of the service is to give him.....
5. Before or at the termination of such service the said *.....is to give the said †.....
6. ¶ Before the termination of such service the said *..... shall convey the said †....., or cause him to be conveyed, to the place or district to which he belongs, namely.....

Signed in the presence of me, this.....day of....., 190

¶

* Name of employer. † The native name of the aboriginal. ‡ Here state the nature of the service or employment. § Term of engagement not to exceed 12 months if on land or 8 months if at sea. ¶ Strike out this clause if the employment is not on or in connection with a ship or boat. ¶ A Justice of the Peace, Protector of Aborigines, Police Officer, or person appointed under Section 22.

INDORSEMENT.

I,....., of..... *....., do hereby certify that the within Agreement was fully explained by me to the within named †.....before he executed the same, and that he appeared to fully understand the same, and to be a free and voluntary agent in the matter, and under no fear, coercion, or constraint, and physically fit for the work specified.

Dated the.....day of....., 190

* A Justice of the Peace, Protector of Aborigines, Police Officer, or person appointed under Section 22. † Using the native name of the aboriginal.

[Form 7.]

THE ABORIGINES ACT, 1905.
(Section 47.)
Gun License.

This is to certify that....., of.....
is licensed to use or carry a gun for*.....months from this date.

Dated the.....day of....., 190

.....
Protector of Aborigines.

* Not to exceed 12 months.

[Form 8.]

THE ABORIGINES ACT, 1905.
(Section 63.)
Certificate of Exemption.

This is to certify that....., of....., is exempt from the provisions of
"The Aborigines Act, 1905."

This certificate may be revoked at any time by the Minister administering the said Act.

Dated the.....day of....., 190

(Minister's signature).....

Appendix 5.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.
Form of Assent to charge of Infant.
THE ABORIGINES ACT, 1905.
(Section 8.)

To.....

.....
.....

As the legal guardian of the ^{aboriginal}/_{half-caste} child....., I am willing that.....
shall remain in your care for the time being, and until this permit is revoked, but on the following
conditions:—

- (1.)
- (2.)
- (3.)
- (4.) That this permit is revocable at my will.

I am,

.....
Yours obediently,

.....
Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Appendix 6.

Personal Bond required before receiving Assent to Marriage.

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that I,, of, hereby bind myself to HENRY CHARLES PRINSEP, Chief Protector of Aborigines, his executors and administrators, and to the person who for the time being shall fill the office of Chief Protector of Aborigines, for the payment to him or them of the sum of Fifty pounds sterling.

Sealed with my seal
 thisday }
 of, 19 . }

WHEREAS the said.....has, under the provisions of Section 42 of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," applied to the Chief Protector of Aborigines for permission to marry....., a female aboriginal, and the Chief Protector of Aborigines has agreed to grant such permission subject to the above written obligation being executed conditioned as hereinafter expressed :

Now the above written obligation shall not be put into force unless a Protector of Aborigines shall certify, in writing, that the said.....has deserted the said....., or that such protector has reason to believe that the said.....is about to desert the said....., or is about to leave Western Australia without making sufficient provision for the maintenance of the said..... and his children by her (if any).

Signed, sealed, and delivered }
 by the said..... } SEAL.
 in the presence of— }

Bond with Sureties required before Assent to Marriage.

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that We,, of, and....., of....., hereby bind ourselves jointly and severally to HENRY CHARLES PRINSEP, Chief Protector of Aborigines, his executors and administrators, and to the person who for the time being shall fill the office of Chief Protector of Aborigines, for the payment to him or them of the sum of Fifty pounds sterling.

Sealed with our seals }
 thisday }
 of, 19 . }

WHEREAS the said.....has, under the provisions of Section 42 of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," applied to the Chief Protector of Aborigines for permission to marry....., a female aboriginal, and the Chief Protector of Aborigines has agreed to grant such permission subject to the above written obligation being executed, conditioned as hereinafter expressed :

Now the above written obligation shall not be put in force unless a protector of aborigines shall certify, in writing, that the said.....has deserted the said....., or that such protector has reason to believe that the said.....is about to desert the said....., or is about to leave Western Australia without making sufficient provision for the maintenance of the said..... and his children by her (if any).

Signed, sealed, and delivered } SEAL.
 by the said..... }
 in the presence of— } SEAL.

Appendix 7.

Advice to Protectors on their Appointment.

MEMORANDUM FOR PROTECTORS OF ABORIGINES.

Aborigines Department, Perth, 24th May, 1906.

The intention of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," Section 18, is to prevent the employment of aborigines by any persons who are known or suspected to be untrustworthy employers, such as those who treat them badly, interfere with their women, or in any way bring trouble or distress upon them.

It is hoped you will exercise your judgment so as to prevent any such persons obtaining permits, the issue of which lies in your discretion entirely.

A register should be kept of the names of all persons to whom you issue permits, giving date of issue and whether general or single.

HENRY C. PRINSEP,
 Chief Protector of Aborigines.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

TABLE A.

Details of Permanent Relief to Aborigines and Half-castes in Western Australia, not including those in Institutions or occasional relief.

District	Receiver and Station.	No. of Natives.		Total natives in District	District.	Receiver and Station.	No. of Natives.		Total natives in District		
		M.	F.				M.	F.			
EAST KIMBERLEY.	Goodridge, W., Wyndham ...	1	...	40	EASTERN GOLDFIELDS, MURCHISON AND VICTORIA—contd.	Brought forward ...	23	43	417		
	Hill, J. H. (P.C.), Argyle Station ...	7	8			O'Connor, J. (P.C.), Peak Hill ...	3	12			
	Caldow, J. A. (P.C.), Hall's Creek ...	8	9			McLenon (P.C.), Cue ...	1	...			
	McManus, J., Turkey Creek ...	5	7			Stone, H. E., Geraldton ...	2	4			
	Buchanan & Gordon Bros., Flora Valley	2	2			Burges, S. L., Bowes ...	2	2			
WEST KIMBERLEY.	Walter, Rev. Father, Palatine Mission, Beagle Bay	7	11	149	EASTERN GOLDFIELDS, MURCHISON AND VICTORIA—contd.	Mitchell, S. T., Geraldine ...	1	1	130		
	Emo, Rev. Nicholas, Broome ...	11	5			Dixon, E. M., Nannine ...	1	2			
	Annear, C. J., Fitzroy Telegraph Station	8	15			Carlyon, R. J., Yuin ...	3	2			
	Tuckett, F. W., La Grange Bay Station	14	36			Nairn Bros., Byro ...	2	6			
	Hadley, S. (Mission), Sunday Islands	2	7			Woolf, Isaac, Northampton ...	4	2			
	Carrigan, W., Yinadong ...	3	5			Sharpe, J., Wooleen ...	2	3			
	Edgar & Biddles, Yardagurra	2	6			Brand, A., Lynton ...	1	6			
McCleery, B., Derby ...	1	...	Walsh & Sons, Mileura ...	1	2						
NORTH-WEST.	Roe, G. H., Thangoo ...	2	3	85	EASTERN GOLDFIELDS, MURCHISON AND VICTORIA—contd.	Kurth, E., Davyhurst ...	9	8	53		
	Metcalfe, Thompson & Co., Pardoo ...	3	8			McInnes, P., Duketon ...	1	...			
	Padbury & Loton, Millstream ...	1	3			Kennedy, Bros., Kookynie ...	6	18			
	Ray, G. R., Balla Balla ...	1	2			McAlpine, T. D., Mulline ...	4	5			
	Rogers, T. (W.P.C.), Cossack ...	2	3			Transport Trading Co., Coolgardie ...	1	1			
	Meares & Cusack, Tambrey ...	1	3			CENTRAL AND SOUTH-WESTERN.	Swan Meat Co., Wilson Gill, Guildford	4		4	152
	Blythe, R. G. (P.C.), Tableland	5	13				Cooper, Benedict, Catabody ...	1		...	
	Church, J. H., Mount Florence	2	2				Tuckey, C., Mandurah ...	3		5	
	McRae & Straker, Croydon ...	1	3				Edwards, C. (P.C.), Beverley		1	
	Meares, J. G., Sherlock ...	2	2				Giblett, M. A., Dingup ...	1		3	
	Gillam, A. C., Chiritta	2				Adams, Jane, Mangowine ...	2		5	
	Pead, W. J., Woodstock ...	3	1				Rev. F. Torres, New Norcia Mission	2		2	
	Anderson, R. M. (P.C.), Marble Bar	1	5				Waddington & Arnock, Bridgetown	1		1	
	Edwardes, E. (P.C.), Port Hedland	1	4				Piessé, C. A., Wagin ...	2		3	
Withnell, E., Bamboo Springs	...	2	Monkhouse, Stone, Fcuracre & Wass, Bunbury	3	2						
Huxtable, E. (P.C.), Nullagine ...	3	4	Lockhart, E., Busselton ...	3	2						
Wilding, A., Hillside ...	3	4	Guerin, E., Busselton ...	1	...						
Tuck, J., Whim Creek ...	3	3	Muir, Thos., Deeside ...	4	4						
SOUTH-EASTERN.	Barry (P.C.), Onslow ...	3	6	184	CENTRAL AND SOUTH-WESTERN.		McGuckin, Drew, Robinson & Co., Albany	3	1	152	
	Pollett, A. (P.C.), Gorge Police Station	4	3			Jones, W. T., jun., Kojonup ...	2	2			
	Breen, T., Wooramel ...	2	4			Brown, C. F., Arthur River ...	2	6			
	Spry, E. J. (P.C.), Junction Station	4	18			Dowsett, John, Wandering ...	...	5		
	Binning, Thos., Mooka ...	1	3			Harrison, T. A., Northam ...	1	2			
	Ayliffe, P., & Co., Bangemall ...	9	8			Rogers, W. J., Katanning ...	13	13			
	Lefroy, G. & W., Yanyearredie	...	3			Spratt, M. A., Arthur ...	3	2			
	McLeod, D. N., Minilya ...	1	12			Cowcher, Wm., Williams ...	2	1			
	Francis, Celia, Shark Bay ...	...	2			Morrell, A., Jennapullen ...	2	1		
	Bush, R. E., Clifton Downs ...	2	5			Massingham, A. J. C., Kellerberrin ...	2	2			
	Bush, R. E., Upper Clifton Downs	2	...			Urquhart, V., Pinjarra ...	2	2			
	Dalgety & Co., Carnarvon ...	5	7			Head Office, Perth ...	8	16			
	Martin, J. T., Hamelin Pool	3			SOUTH-EASTERN.	McNamara, J. (P.C.), Mount Barker	3	2		85
Gooch, G. J., Wandagee ...	3	6	Dempster Bros., Esperance ...	1	2						
Campbell, R., Booloogooroo ...	3	1	Gardiner, A. C., Cranbrook ...	7	8						
Munro, Hogarth, Doorawarrak ...	...	2	Ponton Bros. & Sharpe, Balladonia	8	4					
Fitzpatrick, R., Dairee Creek ...	...	9	Gorman, P., Bremer Bay ...	5	7					
Watts, A. E., Ullawarra ...	...	3	Moir, A. G., Glenvale ...	4	4					
MURCHISON AND VICTORIA.	Ogilvie, A. J., Murchison House ...	2	2	Moir, John, Albany ...	...		1	85		
	Meginess (P.C.), Mount Wittenoom	4	10	Talbot, Thos., Mundrabilla ...	4		1				
	Wallace, R., Yaloo ...	6	10	Donovan, T., Norseman ...	7		7				
	Wittenoom, F., Boolardie ...	...	3	Hassell, J. F. T., Kendenup ...	2		2			
	Broad, R., Wydgee ...	2	3	Muir, J., Cape Riche ...	...		1			
	Trotman, A. H., Gullewa ...	4	4	Dimer, H., Israelite Bay ...	3		2				
	Clinch, G., Field's Find ...	3	3	Turnbull, A. P., Lynburn ...	...		1			
Walker, Wm. (P.C.), Wiluna	2	8									
Carried forward ...	28	43	417	Total Natives ...	...	...	837		

TABLE B.
Convictions of Aborigines, 1905-6.

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. in 1904-5.
Killing cattle and taking flesh	134	53
Sheep stealing	1	20
Stealing, larceny, etc.	25	31
Assault, threatening, etc.	9	12
Absconding from custody	5	6
Absconding from service	6	4
Drunkenness	1	18
Injuring property	1	1
Supplying liquor to other aborigines ... ..	...	4
Murder (shooting at constable)	1	...
Attempt at rape ... ..	...	1
Firing grass, arson, etc.	1	4
Driving without lights ... ..	...	1
Evil fame ... ..	...	1
Total	184	156

TABLE C.
Payment of Legal Defence of Aborigines, 1905-6.

Date Scheduled.	Creditor.	Native Defended.	Item.	Amount.
1905.			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
June 21 ...	Clarke Hall	"Corbia" alias "Charlie," tribal murder ... ..	...	5 5 0
October ...	Goold, L. B.	"Charlie," murder	5 5 0	
	Barton, A. B.	"Toby" and "Monkey," murder	10 10 0	
	Crown Solicitor	"Chewing," murder	5 5 0	
				21 0 0
November ...	Morrisby, H. W.	"Sam," murder	10 10 0	
	Baker, Sergeant	"Papertalk," murder	2 0 0	
				12 10 0
1906.				
January ...	Morrisby, H. W.	"Bolubung" alias "Gilly" ... ..	...	10 10 0
February ...	Crown Solicitor	"Mickie" ... ..	...	61 5 0
May ...	Keall, H. C. F.	"Gubarloor" and "Alamagundie"	11 0 0	
	Crown Solicitor	"Timut"	5 5 0	
	Do.	"Carney," attempted rape	5 15 8	
				22 0 8
	Do.	"Old man," murder ... ..	...	10 10 0
				148 0 8

TABLE D.
Distribution of Blankets.

District.	Quantity.
Kimberley, East	80
Kimberley, West	240
North-West	260
Ashburton	93
Gascoyne	207
Victoria (including Murchison)	358
Eastern Goldfields	540
South-East	147
Central	196
Southern	269
TOTAL	2,390