

S.W. Hill
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1929.

—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT

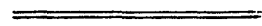
OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1928.

28 AUG 1963



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Annual Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines for Year ending 30th June, 1928.

The Honorary Minister.

As required by Section 64 (6) of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," I have the honour to submit herewith my report on the condition and welfare of the aborigines, and the transactions of the Department throughout the State, for the year ended 30th June, 1928.

POPULATION.

The total estimated native population of this State at the 30th June last was 25,513, being a decrease of 176 as compared with the previous year's total. It will be noticed from the summary, at page 11, that the decrease occurred amongst the full-bloods, the half-castes slightly increasing.

INSPECTIONS.

Active inspection work has been carried on throughout the State during the year under review. In addition to monthly visits to the Moore River Native Settlement, I paid several visits to centres throughout the South-West and Midlands. I also visited Eastern Goldfields centres, including Laverton, Morgans, Linden and Leonora. In May last I left for the North, and disembarking at Wyndham proceeded thence Southwards, generally overland, returning to Perth at the end of July. This itinerary included stops of several days at Moo'a Bulla, Violet Valley, and Munja Native Stations, Forrest River Mission, and calls at nearly every cattle station in the Kimberleys and many others in the North-West, some of which had not been inspected for years. Places visited in the North-West included Marble Bar, Wodgina, Whim Creek, and Middle Creek Tableland. Conditions obtaining at all North-West coastal towns were also under review. While on this trip I was also afforded an opportunity of visiting Darwin, and conferring with the Chief Protector of Aborigines there (Dr. Cecil Cook) upon many matters of mutual interest.

Inspections carried out by Inspector Mitchell included stations throughout the Murchison and Lower North-West as far as Carnarvon; thence return by another route to Cue, and practically all stations on the Eastern Goldfields, including remoter places such as Mount Vernon and Wongawell. The Inspector next visited Coolgardie, Norseman, and South Coast stations. An inspection was twice made of conditions adjacent to the Trans-Australian Railway. Following this, a second visit to Meekatharra and district was made, also to Wiluna and neighbouring stations. Inspector Mitchell's next itinerary included all stations Meekatharra to Marble Bar, after which, in company with Dr. Davis, numerous stations throughout the Port Hedland district were examined. In June visits were made to stations throughout the Ashburton district, upon the completion of which the Inspector returned to Port Hedland in order to meet and accompany me through the North-West.

HEALTH.

The health of the natives throughout the State has been generally good, only a few stations reporting sickness of any kind, mainly influenza and colds. Out of 67 outstation officers reporting, eleven notified the presence of odd cases of venereal disease, while three indicated that this disease was prevalent.

From time to time statements are made that leprosy or venereal disease is rampant amongst the aborigines in certain more or less isolated portions of the State, but the Department is unable to find anything to substantiate these statements. It has been variously stated that the natives in the unsettled country between Derby and Wyndham are so afflicted, yet amongst the 700 odd people who have visited Munja Native Station on Walcott Inlet within two years past, only two were found to be suffering from venereal disease. There may, of course, be isolated cases of which neither the Department nor anyone else at present has cognisance, but though the managers of the two Missions, situated within the area referred to, have been asked to advise the Department should such cases come under their notice, no advices of this nature have been received for a very long time past. A statement was made a little over a year ago, and published in a weekly metropolitan paper, that the condition of the aborigines on what is known as the Ninety-Mile Beach was causing much comment, and that natives were walking about in the last stages of horrible disease. Similar rumours had come to the Department through other sources, consequently it was decided to make a thorough investigation. Warrants were accordingly issued for the apprehension of twelve natives reported to be diseased. Seven of these twelve were arrested. The majority were found to be in good health. Three were taken to Broome for medical examination, and declared to be free of disease by the District Medical Officer, while two others in the meantime had died. No authentic information was obtainable respecting the remaining five then at large, and in the circumstances it was decided to take no further action. Nothing has since happened to cause further apprehension in this district.

In October last year I received advice from a resident of the Marble Bar district that venereal disease existed amongst the natives, and asking for a special medical inspection. I asked the District Medical Officer, Port Hedland, if he could make such inspection, and subsequently arranged that he should be accompanied by Inspector Mitchell, though it was June, 1928, before the matter could be finalised. The inspecting officials could locate scarcely a solitary case, though they visited practically every station between Port Hedland and Cooglegong on the one hand, and Port Hedland and Marble Bar on the other. The visit, however, had a beneficial effect, and a few afflicted natives have since presented themselves at the Port Hedland Hospital for attention. Once the

natives realise that by submitting themselves to treatment they can be cured, and that the hospital is not a gaol, no difficulty will be experienced in securing those afflicted. Such a position now appears to obtain in the Port Hedland district, and is already largely the case in West Kimberley, engendered by the faith which the natives have in Dr. Hodge of Derby. There is a tendency to send natives to hospital on the assumption that they are suffering from venereal disease. A few such natives have been sent to Port Hedland, and found upon examination to be quite healthy. It is better, of course, to err on the right side, but hasty action of such a nature is liable to cause unnecessary expense and inflict undue hardship on the natives themselves.

Our native hospitals are no longer restricted to the reception of cases of venereal disease, but now admit all cases of a general nature as well. An additional hospital is badly required for the reception of patients from the East Kimberley district, and should be placed near Wyndham, though preferably, not in the town itself. On my return from the North I made a recommendation to the Government in this connection.

Several inspections were made throughout his district by the District Medical Officer, Roebourne (Dr. Kenny). In the course of his journeys he traversed the coast for 50 miles South from Cossack townsite and visited many inland stations, including Millstream, where a woman suffering from leprosy was discovered, and subsequently removed to the lazarette at Cossack.

Port Hedland Native Hospital.—The number of patients admitted to the Port Hedland Native Hospital was 60, as compared with 23 for the previous year. As there were already 11 in the institution, the total number under treatment was 71. The increase in the number of patients was mainly due to the fact that general cases were accepted in addition to venereal disease cases. Of the total 25 were non-venereal, and the balance of the increase indicates the confidence with which the natives now regard this institution. Of those treated 58 were discharged cured, and six died, leaving seven under treatment at the close of the year.

Following is the report of the Medical Officer, Dr. Albert P. Davis:—

If only from the point of view of the numbers treated, the year ended 30th June, 1928, has been a successful one for the Lock Hospital, Port Hedland, for in all 71 cases have been admitted, which is about double the number admitted during the previous 12 months.

When I first came to Port Hedland in July, 1927, I found a want of confidence in the hospital on the part of the natives. It seemed that they looked on it as anathema, and as a kind of gaol wherein they received an indeterminate sentence instead of being cured of their complaints, and being sent home again. I could find little to justify this attitude, except, perhaps, it was the uncertainty of getting back to their country which decided them not to report for treatment. Be that as it may, it seemed that if we could prove to those few who came in or were sent in for treatment that they could be cured, and would be returned home, we would show them by examples (and they would talk about it amongst themselves) that the hospital was a refuge in sickness, and not something in the nature of a gaol. In this we were fortunate, for one by one the inmates were healed and sent home, and more and more reported for treatment and were in their turn repatriated.

Some few months ago, in company with Inspector Mitchell, I was able to medically examine a few hundred

natives in the district, and to the Inspector's and my own gratification I found the old antipathy gone, and the natives willing to come into hospital of their own accord when sick.

Of the 71 patients admitted during the period under review, 32 were treated for granuloma pudendum, 17 for gonorrhœa, and 24 for a variety of non-venereal complaints which I shall enumerate later. It will be convenient to deal first with the two venereal complaints, granuloma and gonorrhœa. No cases of syphilis were seen during the 12 months.

Granuloma pudendum.—All were treated with antimony tartrate—tartar emetic—given intravenously at weekly intervals. A 2 per cent. solution in distilled water is used. The method I use is to commence with a 1 c.c. dose diluted up to 6 c.c. with normal saline. The dose is increased weekly by 1 c.c. up to a maximum of 8 c.c., which represents $2\frac{1}{2}$ grains of antimony tartrate, and which dose I never exceed. With this dose the patient usually coughs a good deal, but never vomits. Some cases, depending on severity of virulence of infection, require a second course, in which case I commence after three weeks' interval with a 2 c.c. dose, and reach the maximum of 8 c.c. in four injections. All except one case have responded to two courses. The exception is a female aborigine with a particularly bad attack and who has been an inmate since 1925. I have given her three courses. After the third she developed symptoms of antimony poisoning, and I ceased treatment for three months. I have just commenced a fourth course this month.

Local treatment at the site of the lesions consists of burning the prominent granulations with silver nitrate, and applying alternately red oxide of mercury ointment and calomel ointment.

As recommended by authorities, in this disease I tried the local application of a 1 per cent. antimony tartrate ointment, but because of irritation the patients would not keep the dressings on, and we obtained equally good results with the bland mercurial unguents.

The average duration of treatment and co-incidental stay in hospital is 105 days, a little over $3\frac{1}{2}$ months.

Females seem to predominate, for of the 32 cases treated only 12 were males. There have been three recurrences after complete healing of lesions In order to avoid this one would like to keep the patients in hospital for two or three months after cure, and so segregate them. This is economically and financially impossible, or, if possible, unwise, for when cured the native becomes restless and desires to return to his tribal locality. If I keep him against his will he will not return if his trouble recurs. If I let him go he will return if necessary. The aboriginal is a child at heart, and apparently must be treated as one for his own good.

Only one death occurred from granuloma—an intractable case in an old woman who had been an inmate since 1926.

Gonorrhœa.—Seventeen cases were treated: seven females and 10 males. The average stay in hospital in the case of the males was 23 days, and of females 30 days.

Non-Venereal Cases.—The non-venereal cases comprise a great variety of ailments. Some were trifling and others severe. Tabulated they were as follows:—

Gastric cases	...	...	...	...	9
Heart cases	...	...	...	...	1
Mental cases	...	...	...	...	1
Eye diseases	...	...	...	...	2
Skin diseases	...	...	...	...	1
Rheumatic complaints	...	...	...	...	2
Injuries	...	...	...	...	3
Ear diseases	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2
Nothing abnormal diagnosed	...	...	...	...	3

Four operations were performed during the year.

In the treatment of such cases as have gone to form the body of this report, I have been very ably assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Batty. I cannot speak too highly of their work and attention to that part of the treatment of cases which I have deputed to them. Both have a genuine sympathy for those under their care. Mr. Batty is to be commended for, in spite of an ever-increasing muscular impediment, one of the symptoms of which is depression, he has carried on and continues to carry on with efficiency and cheerfulness.

I am glad the work of these officers has been referred to by the doctor. I cordially endorse all he says about them. These are old and faithful servants of the Department and real friends of the natives.

Derby Native Hospital.—There were six patients in this hospital at the beginning of the year, while the number admitted through the year was 26, making a total of 32 under treatment. Of these 24 were discharged cured, five died, leaving three under treatment at the end of the year. The Medical Officer, Dr. W. Theodore Hodge, advises as follows:—

During the past 12 months in the Native Hospital I have given 555 intravenous injections, 42 inter-muscular injections, and 5 hypodermic injections for pneumonia and feneuculosis.

The proportion of cures at these two hospitals speaks for itself, and surely demonstrates the efficacy of the particular treatment adopted and the earnest attention bestowed upon their patients by the two medical men respectively in charge.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths reported to the Department, as shown by the subjoined table, was 122, the majority of the deceased being adults. The total is 48 less than for the previous year. Twenty-six natives were said to have died from natural causes, and 17 from senile decay, while 27 died from influenza or pulmonary trouble. Twenty-two children under 16 years of age died from various causes. I believe that the lives of many children could be saved if their condition was made known to us sooner. Of those arriving at the Moore River Native Settlement, where there were six deaths of infants, some were weaklings and others arrived in a very low state of health. The deaths on Government stations were few in number.

	Adults.		Children under 16.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Accident	1	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	2	1	...	...	3
Burns ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Bowel trouble	1	1	1	...	3
Bladder trouble	3	...	...	1	4
Childbirth ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Chest trouble ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Dropsy	1	...	...	...	1
Diabetes ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Epilepsy ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
Fits ... ..	...	1	...	1	2
Heart failure	5	6	...	...	11
Haemorrhage	2	...	...	...	2
Influenza	4	2	...	...	6
Insane	1	...	...	...	1
Internal complaint ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Leprosy ... ..	...	1	...	...	1
Meningitis ... ..	...	...	1	...	1
Natural causes	14	11	1	...	26
Pleurisy	1	...	1	1	3
Pneumonia	1	1	3	1	6
Premature birth ... ..	...	...	2	3	5
Paralysis	1	...	1	...	2
Rheumatic fever	1	1	...	...	2
Senile decay	10	7	...	...	17
Still-born ... ..	...	...	...	1	1
Tuberculosis	2	4	...	...	6
Tribal quarrel	2	...	...	...	2
Venereal	5	5	...	...	10
	57	43	11	11	122

Two deaths were due to tribal quarrels. One of these, a youth, was killed in a rather more serious tribal fight than usual not far from the Forrest River Mission, when 130 natives indulged in a spear-throwing battle for some cause which could not be ascertained. This appears to be an annual event, but seldom is any native killed during the fight. With commendable pluck one of the staff of the Forrest River Mission, Mr. William T. Taylor, endeavoured to stop the fight. While both sides were ranged in battle Mr. Taylor entered the ring, and dispossessed of their spears certain natives who were fighting in the centre over a woman. When this interlude had been adjusted Mr. Taylor handed back the spears and proceeded to depart, but later, when the real fighting commenced, went amongst the natives and fired his rifle in the air to stop them. Failing to do this, and as spears were falling all round him, he was obliged to let matters proceed. The youth who died was probably accidentally speared on this occasion.

RELIEF.

In some respects the distribution of relief has presented considerable difficulties during the past year. It will be seen from the return which follows (page 14) that there has been a considerable increase in the number of natives requiring sustenance, and a corresponding increase in the cost. Owing to the fact that native game in many districts is fast becoming depleted, I considered it desirable that the meat ration should be extended throughout, instead of as heretofore its supply being regarded as a special privilege to be issued in certain cases only. I am glad to say that the Government listened to my representations and granted me additional funds to meet the cost of the proposed increase in the diet scale. In consequence, the indigent natives throughout the State are now allowed three-quarters of a pound of meat three times weekly, instead of a select few receiving three-quarters of a pound daily. The flour allowances of ten pounds weekly has not yet been reduced to eight pounds, as was formerly the case when meat was supplied. The demand for baking powder, however, is so insistent at present that I am considering a reduction in the flour allowance in order to provide for an equivalent amount of baking powder, and this, I think, will be welcomed by the natives. It is a commodity which has not hitherto been supplied. The demand for soap is also increasing, and I hope also to be able to supply this requirement to a limited extent.

Owing to the closing of the telegraph stations at Eucla, Eyre and Israelite Bay the services of the postal officials formerly residing at these centres were no longer available to assist in rationing the indigent natives resident along the South Coast, and it became necessary to make other arrangements. It was decided that the indigents at Eucla and Eyre should proceed to Mundrabilla Station there to obtain their rations in future, while those at Israelite Bay were required to go to Esperance. Unfortunately the Israelite Bay people seemed to be at variance with the Esperance people and refused to go there, and another depot had to be opened at Mr. Dimer's Balladonia Station. It was formerly customary to send supplies by steamer to South Coast depots, but since the alteration railway transit has had to be employed.

In December, 1927, the presence of a large number of natives in the vicinity of Karonie, on the Trans-Australian Railway, caused considerable annoyance and concern. An inspector was sent to the district, and reported that over 100 natives belonging to Yarri, Linden, and Ooldea in South Australia, had joined up with the Karonie tribe to celebrate their usual rites. Naturally a good deal more was seen of these people by travellers passing over the line than is generally the case, and the importunities of the natives became greater than ever. As a temporary measure, I decided to send supplies of provisions to Karonie, Mr. Walter Mills of Karonie Station kindly agreeing to act as distributor. The natives promised my inspector that they would return to their own centres if they might be allowed to remain in corroboree until after the Christmas festivities. This promise they carried out, with the exception of some 30 South Australian people who are still frequenting the vicinity of the line, and to whom it has been found necessary to occasionally supply rations. Subsequently Karonie Station was made a permanent rationing depot for the indigent members of the Karonie tribe only. In addition to police patrols, I was obliged to send my inspector more than once to Karonie to try and settle matters. I am afraid that this congregation of natives will be repeated annually until such time as we are able to make other provision for the natives at present habitually frequenting the Trans line. There are ample supplies available for these people at the various Government relief depots situated at comparatively short distances from the line, but so long as passengers purchase spurious native curios, give the natives money, and food is obtainable from the trains, they will continue to frequent the vicinity of the various stopping places. There are, naturally, other undesirable features connected with the presence of the natives along the line which have not escaped attention. Additional rationing depots were established at Mount Vernon, Wiluna District, and Turee Station, while those at Linden and Morgans were closed. The latter followed upon a visit I made to these places in September, 1927, when it was decided that a central rationing station for the whole district be established at the Mount Margaret Mission under the control of Mr. R. Schenk, Missionary-in-Charge.

Additional funds provided by the Government also enabled me to secure and distribute a greater supply of blankets and clothing than had been the case for a number of years, a fact which was much appreciated by the natives. The blankets were manufactured by the Albany Woolen Mills, and are very suitable, while the whole of the clothing was manufactured by the elder girl inmates of the Moore River Native Settlement.

The return at page 14 supplies particulars showing where rations have been distributed, and the cost thereof.

CONSTITUTION COMMISSION.

The Royal Commission on the Constitution of the Commonwealth took evidence in Perth in November, 1927, when I was required to appear to give my views upon the proposal put forward by previous witnesses that the care of the aborigines throughout the Commonwealth should be transferred to Federal

jurisdiction. Reference to the statement I made before the Commission appeared in the daily Press, and the evidence will no doubt be published with the Report of the Royal Commission when issued.

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

I indicated in my previous report that a scientific survey of the social organisation of the aborigines under the auspices of the Committee on Anthropological Research of the Australian National Research Council was about to begin in this State, and that Dr. A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D., who was granted a Fellowship by the Rockefeller Foundation, had been appointed to carry out this survey. Dr. Elkin left for the North in November, 1927, and arranged to begin work forthwith amongst the natives resident in Dampier Peninsula and adjacent islands, including the Beagle Bay, Lombadina and Sunday Island Missions. He proceeded from thence to Wyndham in April last, and subsequently spent several weeks at the Forrest River Mission. I met Dr. Elkin in Wyndham, and we journeyed through the Kimberleys together until reaching Munja Native Station, where I left the doctor to continue his work amongst the uncivilised peoples to be found there. Considering the nature of his duties, one might have expected that some of the natives would have shown a little resentment towards anyone probing into their secret affairs, as Dr. Elkin found it necessary to do, but I am glad to say that nothing of this kind manifested itself at any time. On the contrary, the people throughout appeared anxious and willing to supply all possible information, and passed Dr. Elkin on from one tribe to another in the friendliest possible manner. Dr. Elkin assured me more than once that he was obtaining invaluable scientific data, and I feel sure that nothing but good can result from such investigations carefully undertaken. The result of the doctor's researches in certain directions has already assisted me in solving one or two difficulties. While visiting Departmental stations in the North, Dr. Elkin was the guest of the Government. The present survey was to conclude in September, after he had visited, in addition to other centres mentioned, Port George IV. Mission and our La Grange Bay Depot.

Dr. Elkin's Fellowship has been extended for another year, and I have no doubt the work will be continued later. Further work of this nature will be taken up early next year by Dr. S. D. Porteus, Professor of Clinical Psychology in the University of Hawaii, Honolulu.

EMPLOYMENT.

The statement at page 15 indicates the number of natives in legal employment under the Aborigines Act, the nature of the permit issued, and the place of issue. The number of natives engaged under general permit was the same as during the previous year, while those under individual permit increased by 44. The total figures still indicate a decrease in employment as compared with previous years, and references to the relief tables will show how this is reflected in the additional number of natives requiring sustenance. There were 52 engagements made in Perth, these being mostly trainees from the Moore River Native Settlement, approximately 90 of whom are now employed on wages throughout the South-

West. In such engagements the Department not only fixes the wages, but places portion of the money earned to the credit of the individual, some of whom have quite substantial sums of money standing to their accounts. The majority of these employees are giving satisfaction, and the demand for their services very considerably exceeds the supply of trainees available. There is a growing tendency on the part of employers of native labour to rely upon the Department or local Protector to remind them when the time for the issue of annual permits falls due, and it may be well to state that it is not the intention of the Department to continue this practice, as the obligation to take out such a permit lies with the employer.

OFFENCES BY ABORIGINES.

	1926-27.	1927-28.
Assault	2	9
Cattle-killing	19	...
Breach of Section 40 (females frequenting creeks)	...	7
Breaking and Entering ... ..	...	1
Deserting Service	1	3
Drunkenness	9	22
Disorderly conduct	4	8
Escaping legal custody	2	1
Cruelty to animals	2	2
Lighting fires... ..	2	...
Manslaughter... ..	...	1
On prohibited area	3	9
Obscene language ... ..	...	4
Receiving liquor	21	21
Rogue and vagabond ... ..	...	1
Resisting arrest ... ..	...	1
Removing inmates from Mission ...	1	...
Stealing	7	8
Stealing and receiving	2	...
Unlawful possession of beef	13	4
Unlawful possession of mailbag ...	1	...
Unsound mind	2	1
Unlawful use of gun	1	1
Unlawful use of horse	1	...
Wilful murder	3	1
	96	105

No less than 43 of the offences were due to the supply of liquor to natives, but it is satisfactory to note that 18 persons other than aborigines were convicted in this connection. There has been, however, a regrettable increase in the offences, due to this cause. While 19 natives were convicted of cattle-killing during the previous year, none were sentenced during the year under review, though four were found to be in possession of beef as against 13 during 1926-27. This probably constitutes a record, and is doubtless the outcome of the policy of maintaining native stations in the North.

OFFENCES AGAINST ABORIGINES.

Twenty-two persons other than aborigines were convicted of breaches of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," as against 20 for the previous year. There were 18 convictions for supplying liquor, nine in Broome, two in Port Hedland, and one in each of the following places:—Shark Bay, Laverton, Moora, Albany, Goomaling, Meekatharra, and Fremantle. These convictions show an increase of six as compared with those occurring during the previous twelve months. Fines ranging from £3 to £50 and imprisonment from 12 days to six months were imposed. One person

was fined £5 for harbouring a native, and another £2 and costs for assault, while two persons were ordered to pay £3 and £25 respectively, the first for enticing a native from employment and the second for permitting a female to remain on a lugger—a second offence.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION.

Sec. 63.

On the 1st July, 1927, six applications were under consideration, while during the year 15 others were received. Of the total, four were granted, two were inadmissible, seven were refused, one was withdrawn, leaving seven still under consideration at 30th June, 1928. Two certificates were cancelled. The number of exempted persons now totals 76.

RECOGNISANCES.

Permission was granted, under Section 9 of the Aborigines Act to seven persons to remove 10 natives from one part of the State to another. Bonds for the return of these aborigines within the given time were entered into in every case, and it was not found necessary to take action to estreat any of these undertakings.

Action was required to be taken in two instances in which natives were removed from their districts without permission, and left stranded elsewhere. One of the offenders left the State before legal proceedings could be instituted, but the other was suitably dealt with. In one case the offence was aggravated owing to the fact that the native sustained an accident while in the employ of the person who removed him. I found it necessary to send a circular letter to the several Protectors residing at places adjacent to the stock routes, asking them to exercise vigilance in preventing breaches of the section of the Act above quoted.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.

It has been ruled that aborigines are workers within the meaning of the above-mentioned Act whether receiving payment in money or kind. Several employers of native labour have recognised the obligation, and taken steps to insure their employees. I have already dealt with a few claims on behalf of certain aborigines, and there are one or two under consideration at the moment. I have suggested that an amendment of the Act is desirable in order to meet the particular conditions surrounding the employment of aboriginal labour.

REMOVALS UNDER SECTION 12.

Warrants were issued in accordance with regulations made under the above section, transferring 15 natives from one part of the State to another. Of these seven were admitted to the Moore River Native Settlement, and in addition 12 children under 16 years of age, wards of the Chief Protector, were similarly removed for various reasons.

GENERAL.

The need of another settlement in the lower South-West, which I have previously urged, is being much felt. There is a large number of natives who are fit subjects as inmates for such a settlement, in addition to scores of children who are not receiving any kind of education or training whatever. These could not be accommodated at the Moore River Native Settle-

ment owing to lack of room, nor for tribal reasons would it be advisable to send them there. This is a matter to which I hope consideration will be accorded before long, as well as to those other matters referred to in my previous Annual Reports, including the amendment of the Aborigines Act and regulation of labour conditions in relation to the payment of wages.

The establishment of a home in Perth for half-caste girls is another object I have in view. There are now so many of these girls proceeding to employment, and returning to the city for further engagement or holidays, that the provision of such a home is, I consider, most desirable.

Throughout the year information has been gathered which might assist in deciding upon the best situation for an additional reserve and future native station in Central Kimberley. I was also able to inquire into this matter personally when in the far North, and consult others concerned, and I am now in a position to make a recommendation to the Government in this connection.

A reserve of 706,000 acres in the Kwinana district was declared under the Land Act in July, 1927. Portion of this formerly comprised the Avon Valley Station purchased from Easton Brothers as the nucleus of a native station.

In April this year an area of 17,000 acres immediately to the East of the reserve previously referred to was declared a reserve for public utility, in response to my request that it should be included within the area of the Munja (Avon Valley) Native Reserve.

CENTENARY.

I have been asked by the Executive Committee of the Western Australian Centenary (1929) to endeavour to arrange for a native corroboree and exhibition, to take place somewhere within the metropolitan area in September next. To this end circulars have been sent out to all Protectors and managers of Mission Stations with a view to ascertaining whether enough natives, who by reason of their prowess and attainments might be included, could be got together for the occasion. I see no reason why a successful affair should not be organised, and feel sure that the exhibition of native work, at all events, will be of great interest.

DEPARTMENTAL STATIONS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Moola Bulla Native Station, East Kimberley.—

The usual financial returns will be found at page 16 of this report. The year's transactions disclosed a net loss of £95 6s. 7d., as against £2,155 18s. 2d. for the previous year. Trading continued to be good, and sales effected resulted in the sum of £5,080 being received. This represented considerably more than the cost of maintenance, and approximately £1,500 more than the Estimate. Operating expenses were reduced by nearly 30 per cent. Taking into consideration the economic position, this station did very well. Owing to its success as a cattle and stud station, the real and original purpose of its establishment is liable to be overlooked, and there are already those who begin to talk of cutting up the property and disposing of it for closer settlement. The time for that, in my opinion, has not yet arrived. It would be a sorry day for the natives in East Kimberley if this institution was ever abandoned as a

native station, and it should always remain to supply permanent sanctuary for these people so long as any number of them are left, even in the days of closer settlement, which may eventually come about. Seeing that the object of the station is the care of the natives within its influence, it carries a financial burden in this respect which no other trading station has to bear, and the cost of operating it cannot very well be further reduced. It is debited, moreover, with its full share of Departmental costs, depreciation, etc., and the stock are valued at a low figure. The average price received from the Wyndham Meatworks for 1,005 head of cattle delivered there during the season was £4 7s. 6d. per head. As a matter of fact, the cattle we delivered on contract averaged £4 9s. 1d. per head, and the stragglers sent in with other herds £3 18s. 10d. The result of sales indicates a steady improvement in the class of cattle disposed of, due to the introduction of pedigree stock from Queensland some few years ago.

The sheep purchased during the previous year, although they had rather a trying time owing to the comparatively light rainfall, managed to hold their own, and after visiting Moo'a Bulla and conferring with the manager I have been encouraged to approach the Government with the object of obtaining the provision of additional funds with which to establish the industry on sound lines, paddocks and the provision of waters being the main requirements to this end. The first of a series of paddocks was completed in June.

Mr. A. T. Woodland, Manager, reports as follows:—

Natives.—I have the honour to report on the condition and treatment of natives for the year ending 30th June, 1928. An average of 140 men, women and children have been in the main camp during the year, and 104 head of cattle were killed for their use.

The health of the natives has been good during the year.

Season.—Owing to the very light rainfall, 976 points, the season has not been good. All the small waters are dry.

Stud Cattle.—Balance at the 1st July, 1927, was 13 bulls and 33 cows. Branded 4 bulls and 2 heifers, leaving a balance of 17 bulls and 35 cows.

Half-breeds.—These are calves by stud bulls from picked cows. Branded, 18 bulls and 21 heifers and transferred to herd.

Horses.—These numbered 363 on 1st July, 1927, and 361 at close of the year.

Mules.—These decreased by 3, leaving 53 at the close of the year.

Donkeys.—On the 1st July, 1927, these numbered 215 and included one Jack. During the year 25 were branded, leaving a balance of 240 donkeys and one Jack.

Goats.—Balance at 1st July, 1927, was 250. Killed 15, one died, one sold, and there was an increase of 31, leaving a balance of 264.

Sheep.—At the 1st July these numbered 231 and 7 rams. These are accounted for as follows:—Sheep: died 4, killed 1, increase 133; rams, died 1, leaving a balance of 359 sheep and 6 rams. There were shorn 254, averaging 4½ lbs. a fleece. Owing to the very bad season and the sheep being very low on arrival, I am not disappointed at the light clip.

Herd Cattle.—On the 1st July, 1927, these numbered 13,919. These are accounted for as follows:—998 to Meatworks, 2 sold locally, 58 sold to Violet Valley, 20 destroyed, 104 indigents' rations, 27 stock camp, 87 station rations, mortality 10 per cent., equal to 1,516, branded 2,550, leaving a balance of 13,657, a decrease of 262. All cattle are in good condition at present, but I expect a loss at the end of the year.

Transport.—The stores are being carted by Mr. F. Castles, using our teams in accordance with arrangement previously in force. Owing to the very bad state of feed and water on the road, the teamster will only be able to provide for three trips, and the balance will have to be carted by contract teams at £20 per ton.

Employees.—Seven permanent hands were employed during the year, and an average of 55 natives doing station work and repairs to roads.

Improvements.—The new yard at the station has been completed, and the draining yard at Gnewing has been completed. Three miles of sheep-proof fencing (netting) has been put around the house paddock for sheep.

Munja Native Station, North-West Kimberley.—Excellent progress has been made in establishing this station, which has only been in our occupation a little over two years. I am now able to submit financial returns as in the case of Moola Bulla, but naturally as no trading has yet been possible, a loss is shown. This practically represents the amount we have had to spend to maintain the station since inception. I visited this property in June last, and subsequently submitted a detailed report to the Minister. Mr. Woodland, manager of Moola Bulla Station, accompanied me to Munja Station, and at my request submitted a report regarding the stock thereon. Ultimate success can be anticipated in three main directions: cattle, sheep, and tropical agriculture. Cattle are doing well, but the introduction of new blood is desirable. Surplus cattle from this station could later on be sent to the Southern markets, but it will be some years before the requirements of the station will admit of such surplus. As a matter of fact, the cattle on the property are now too few to supply all requirements without depleting the herd. It is hoped to try sheep later, and certain recommendations are pending in this connection. Both Mr. Reid, manager of Munja, and Mr. Woodland recommended that sheep be given a trial. Tropical agriculture offers excellent possibilities. Much has already been demonstrated in this direction, and the natives have been mainly fed on the produce of the garden. The manager, Mr. Reid, has done a great deal of work since he took up residence some two years ago. The buildings have been carefully erected, and everything is in excellent order. Mr. Reid's greatest success, however, has been with the natives, of whom some 700 already frequent the place. These uncivilised people are so well in hand, and have so much confidence in the manager, that they are bringing their sick from all parts for attention at his hands. The manager, by his fearless and kindly attitude, has earned their respect and liking, and there are only one or two malcontents who still refuse his friendly advances. It is impossible at present to employ all the natives who present themselves for work. The people appreciate the Government's action in establishing this station, and realise what it means to them. They are most orderly, happy and friendly. The paucity of children is remarkable. There are not a dozen youngsters in evidence amongst the whole 700 or so people frequenting the station.

The contrary is the case on stations established some years ago. There it would appear that consistent care and attention has the effect of restoring the confidence of the natives, resulting in less restriction of birth, a renewal of family life, and the relegation of certain evil practices such as infanticide into the background. I was impressed and delighted

with all I saw at Munja, and well rewarded for the somewhat difficult task of getting there overland through the Leopold Ranges. Munja is a beautiful and valuable property, and I believe that within a few years will demonstrate what can be done with this North Kimberley country.

The last of the buildings to be erected for the present were sent up during the year. These comprised single men's quarters, with harness room attached, and storeroom.

On my recommendation the name of this station has been changed from Avon Valley to Munja. Munja is the native name of the Harding Range which traverses the property, and the highest points of which are visible from a great distance. This name seemed to me much more appropriate, and was suggested by the natives themselves.

The average annual rainfall in this area is said to be between 50 and 60 inches, while at Port George IV. Mission, a little further North, it is something over 60 inches. Between October, 1926, and April, 1927, inclusive, the rainfall was 47.67 inches, while from October, 1927, to April, 1928, the station received 29.43 inches. The past season is alleged to have been the driest for a great many years, but it has apparently made little appreciable difference in the abundant water supplies to be found throughout the area.

Mr. Harold Reid, Manager, reports as follows:—

Natives.—There are approximately 700 natives in touch with Munja; they receive medical attention, and when in the station bush camp are fed and their welfare looked after. During the last 12 months 43 cases of sore eyes were treated, one of gonorrhoea and one, a male, suffering from granuloma in an advanced stage, died whilst undergoing treatment prior to the boat's arrival, when he was to have been sent to Broome. The old natives who have got beyond the hunting stage are fed at the station.

Stock.—Mustered and branded stock, as shown on returns. Moved cattle from bottom end of run in September, 1927, to fresh pasture 15 miles North-East of station which had been burnt early in the year, and had a second growth of good green feed and an unending supply of running water. Mustered and brought cattle back when sufficient rain had fallen to make green feed and clean drinking water plentiful. Grass on this property may be burnt at any time during the year, and will grow again. This is partly attributable to the heavy dews which occur for at least nine months in the year.

Improvements.—Erected manager's residence, married man's quarters, and common kitchen for same. Oiled floors and painted buildings. Built wooden trolley for carting timber. Cut timber for new yard at homestead. Erected new branding yard on Red Hill Creek, 15 miles North-East of homestead. Made three new pack saddles and bags, bridles, girths, croupers, surcingles, etc., also furniture, including five tables, two "cooler" safes, book case and medicine chest, two washstands, and pot stand for kitchen.

Maintenance.—Repaired branding yard at Moore's Creek. Counterlined all saddles, and put four new panels in riding saddles, repaired existing fences.

Fencing (new).—Enclosed residential quarters, 4 wires and 2 feet wire netting, 3 gates.

Agriculture.—Fenced, grubbed and cleared 25-acre paddock (approx.), making a total of 28 acres prepared for cultivation. Peanuts, broom millet, red millet, feterita (Kaffir corn), and rice can be successfully grown here. Sugar cane will also grow. Castor oil is also another crop that will do well later when cultivation reduces the white ant pests. The white ant does not do much damage to other crops as they are quick producers, and with intense cultivation the damage will be reduced to a negligible quantity.

Outside Work.—Explored country West and North of station and partly in the East and marked many permanent waters, timber belts, etc.; in addition it was necessary to ride the outside fringe of the cattle at regular times during the wet season to prevent them from getting too big a spread on, and thereby making them more difficult to muster during the following season. The cattle killing by natives during the past year has been reduced to such a minimum that it is hardly worth mention.

Miscellaneous.—In addition to items already mentioned the usual station routine has been carried on, such as cooking, greenhide work, making ropes and hopples and necessary running repairs to plant and gear.

Violet Valley Native Station, East Kimberley.—No money was available for improvements on this property during the year, though it is expected provision will shortly be made for an additional well, windmill and accompanying tanks. The number of cattle required to be sent from Moola Bu'la is now decreasing, owing to Violet Valley being almost able to produce sufficient cattle for its own requirements. This is an end to which we have been working for a long time, and I hope it will not be long before the place will be self-supporting.

The Manager, Mr. Hector Burness, reports as follows:—

I have the honour to hand you my report on the general conditions of the natives and work done at Violet Valley Station for the year ended 30th June, 1928.

Natives.—The average number of natives monthly supplied with meat and clothing where necessary at this depot was 100; the general health of the natives has been good.

Cattle.—The number of cattle on hand at 30th June, 1927, was 961; purchases during the year numbered 85 and brandings 159, making a total of 1,205. Of these 28 were killed for station use and 128 for natives, and mortality accounted for a decrease of 109, leaving a balance on hand at 30th June, 1928, of 940.

Horses.—Balance on hand at 30th June, 1927, was 70, and brandings for the year 3, making a total of 73. Five horses died, leaving a balance on hand at 30th June, 1928, of 68.

Mules.—At the 30th June, 1927, these numbered 27. Brandings for the year were 6, making a total of 33 on hand at the 30th June, 1928.

La Grange Feeding Depot.—Mr. John Spurling, Officer-in-Charge, advises as follows:—

I have the honour to submit my annual report regarding the conduct and operations in connection with the Aborigines' Feeding Station, La Grange, for the current financial year ending 30th June, 1928.

Natives.—The monthly average attendance of decrepit, old and orphan natives receiving rations and wearing apparel during the financial year amounted to 55. For the first six months the average was 50, and the next six months 63, showing an increase of 8 over the first half of the year.

Rations.—Particular attention has been exercised in feeding only the old, infirm and orphan natives twice daily, with a small ration of tobacco once a week, strictly in accordance with authorised schedule, and although the flour has been of excellent quality, it is found that the issue of bread in place of flour confirms the quantity to be sufficient ration. The ration of sugar and tea twice daily is ample and sufficient.

Rugs and Clothing.—Of excellent quality and sufficient quantity.

General Health.—Sickness amongst the natives has been noticeably absent throughout the year, barring a few simple winter colds, etc., the hospital having no patients other than a few serious mishaps arising out of tribal arguments.

Deaths.—The following aborigines died during the year:—Males 4, females 2.

Buildings, fences, etc., are in good repair.

Garden.—Is fully sown with vegetables and plants, although somewhat backward owing to dry season.

General.—I am of the opinion that the aboriginal population in the district is not diminishing. Treatment of natives throughout the district is particularly good, and anything to the contrary in evidence is resented by both white and black.

Moore River Native Settlement.—The accommodation at this institution has been rather overtaxed. At the close of the year there were 316 inmates present, whereas when the Settlement was established in 1917 it was not intended to accommodate more than about 200 souls. The closing of the other Southern institution known as Carolup River Native Settlement has, however, caused the existing congestion, to which matter I have referred elsewhere. Two hundred and six of the inmates were in the institution proper, while 110 were in camps. There were nearly 100 children of school age. In order to ease the position it is intended to build a new hospital almost immediately, for which provision has been promised. When this is done the existing hospital will be released for the use of the elder girls. It is intended to erect a maternity ward adjacent to the hospital, and admit native women from outside the Settlement. This is a very necessary provision, to which I referred in my last report. Attention must also be given to better housing accommodation for the older people.

Under the present management there is a notable improvement in the morale of the institution, and attempts to abscond have practically ceased.

There is yet much to be done here, and it will take some time to bring this institution to the stage of completeness aimed at. I am inclined to think that a beneficial change in the system would be the introduction of the "house mother" plan, but that cannot be attempted yet.

Considerable development has taken place in regard to the proposals to bring further land under cultivation, and the provision of a tractor and other necessary machinery to accomplish this end has been promised by the Government. This course, it is hoped, will before long enable the Settlement to rear sufficient sheep for its own requirements. An area of 100 acres of fairly good land on the eastern boundary was leased temporarily from the Midland Railway Company, and put under crop to provide additional horse feed.

The following is the report of the Superintendent, Mr. Arthur J. Neal:—

I wish to submit a report of the year's working on the Settlement. During the period under review I have cleared and cropped 35 acres, also fenced with a 6-wire fence about 100 acres of leased Midland Railway land.

Altogether I have about 87 acres of land under crop, viz., wheat, oats, barley and rye, the two latter for feed.

I have post holes sunk and posts cut for three miles of fencing.

I have pulled down and re-erected practically all the old fences which were in a very bad state. I have cleared about 250 acres of new country ready for the plough.

A new tank stand has been erected of stone and cement to carry two 5,000-gallon tanks. These will be filled from the river by the pumping engine.

The health of the Settlement has been very good indeed. There was a very noticeable absence of sores, which were very much in evidence when I took charge.

There were five adult deaths; most of these were very old people who died of senile decay. There were six

deaths of infants. Most of these were weaklings from birth, and others arrived here in a very low state of health.

The school has shown a decided improvement under the control of Mrs. Rae. There are 84 children on the roll.

Other changes in staff included the appointment of Miss Crosse as sewing mistress and Mr. Metcalfe as farm assistant, while Miss Evans superseded Miss Gillespie as missionary.

The general discipline of the Settlement has improved.

MISSIONS.

At page 18 will be found information in the shape of a return supplied by the managers of the various Mission Societies operating in this State. Several missionaries are working independently in different parts of the State.

Mr. R. S. Schenk, of the Gospel Mission to the Australian Aborigines, is doing very good work at Mount Margaret, and also acts as rationing officer for the district. Some 6,000 acres of land have been leased, and quite a number of buildings erected.

Through the kindness of the Public Works Department I was able to arrange for the transfer of the school buildings formerly at Lancefield to this Mission. A teacher was obtained, and some 18 of 30 children present are already receiving education. There are a number of half-castes in the district, and the establishment of the Mount Margaret Mission supplies a long-felt want; in fact about the time of its establishment I had under consideration the opening of a Departmental settlement somewhere in the district.

The following extracts from a report submitted by the Rev. J. R. B. Love, Superintendent of Kunmunya Mission, Port George IV., are of interest:—

Area.—Notification was received from the Chief Protector of Aborigines by letter dated 15th March, 1928, that the area of the Mission has, in response to request, been extended to include country South and East of Augustus Water. The area has thus been increased by about half as much again as the former area, and now includes some country not so rocky as most of the original reserve. It is hoped that this increase will make it possible to maintain a herd of cattle for a meat ration to the inhabitants of the Mission reserve.

Population.—The Mission is in contact with approximately 300 aborigines. Of this number 18 are children. The number of children is very small, due to the practice of infanticide by the natives. Under the primitive conditions of living among the tribe this was probably necessary, as the country will not support a large number in its undeveloped state, nor could the women carry the children about in their nomadic life in the search for food. It is hoped that by providing sanctuary at the Mission this repulsive practice will die out.

Health.—The Worrora, the tribe with whom the Mission is in most direct contact, being situated in their territory, are a people of splendid physique, big in stature and generally healthy. Epidemics of colds and boils swept through the population, causing some temporary inconvenience. Obstinate sores are not uncommon. It has been found that these yield to treatment by potassium iodide. In the absence of expert medical advice it cannot be asserted what is the cause of these sores. Burns and injuries such as might be expected among a people who sleep by a fire and are daily hunting in the bush for their food are frequent, but none very serious in the time under review. No other serious complaints have been noticed, with the exception of a death that I attribute to the fear of witchcraft, as still practiced on occasions.

The people show a willing and affectionate response to the efforts of the Mission to uplift them, and many are living quite good lives in accordance with the principles of Christian teaching. . . . Taking into consideration

the fact that English is not the mother tongue of the children, and that they do not speak English among themselves, the progress of the school work is very encouraging. All is conducted in English.

Cultivation.—The 1927 season was a good one, and Mr. Beard had good results from rice, durrha, Kaffir corn, sorghums and vegetables. The 1928 season failed from lack of rain. Rice was a total failure. Other grain crops were fair. Peanuts were good. Fruits and vegetables fair. About 30 acres are cleared for cultivation.

Boats.—Owing to the decay, through old age, of the "W. S. Rolland," the matter of transport for the Mission was considered. It was decided to have a lugger built in Perth, and after full consideration and a good deal of reluctance on my part, I finally decided that the conditions of sailing on this coast called for the further installation of an auxiliary engine, to add to safety first and speed second. . . . I am greatly pleased that we have such an excellent boat for our needs, and believe that she will not only take the place of the "W. S. Rolland," but much improve on her work. The old "W. S. Rolland" is being kept in commission for the purpose of beach-combing, under the care of Harry Shadforth.

Buildings.—The "Watt-Leggatt" brought up to the Mission, as her first cargo, a consignment of material for a new church, to be erected at the Mission.

General.—I would sum up the position of the Mission by saying that good work has been done here in the past, and that the people are well worthy of the best efforts we can make on their behalf.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Wright are doing excellent work at Gnowangerup.

FINANCIAL.

A statement of Receipts and Payments on all accounts will be found at page 19. Total payments amount to £29,251 5s. 7d. The larger expenditure as compared with the previous year was offset by a reduction in the cost of running Moola Bulla Station, thus the natives generally throughout the State have benefited. The actual increase was £1,355 17s. 6d. It will be seen from the expenditure figures as compared with the total population, that the cost of maintenance of the aborigines to the State is just under 23s. per head of the total aboriginal population. Receipts credited to Trust Account amounted to £1,659 15s. 8d., as compared with £1,472 10s. 11d. for the previous year. In addition, £5,141 5s. 4d. derived from Moola Bulla and Munja Native Stations was paid direct to the Treasury, and therefore not available. This is an increase of £355 10s. 9d. over the previous year.

In conclusion I desire to extend thanks to all Managers of Stations and Settlements, Honorary Protectors of Aborigines, Police and others throughout the State who have assisted in the care of the aborigines.

A. O. NEVILLE,

Chief Protector of Aborigines.

17th December, 1928.

ESTIMATED POPULATION.

COMPARATIVE SUMMARY.

	1926-27.	1927-28.
Full-bloods	12,942	12,759
Half-castes (Column 2)	2,343	2,507
Half-castes (Column 3)	404	247
Aborigines outside the influence of civilisation (estimate only)	10,000	10,000
	25,689	25,513

TABLE I.—STATEMENT SHOWING POPULATION ACCORDING TO DISTRICT AND OTHER PARTICULARS.

District.	Estimated Population.							Increase or Decrease noted for year.	Condition and Health.	Epidemics.	Venereal.	Conduct.	Employment.	
	1 Full-blood.		2 Half-castes deemed to be Aborigines.			3 Half-castes not deemed Aborigines.								Total.
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.								F.	C.
Albany ...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	Good ...	Nil ...	...	Good ...	Not plentiful. Natives disposed to accept.
Beagle Bay ...	203	206	130	31	46	63	3	690	do. ...	do. ...	...	do. ...	Plentiful.
Beverley ...	4	...	7	6	5	14	...	37	do. ...	do. ...	...	Fair ...	do.
Brookton ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	do. ...	do. ...	...	Very fair ...	Plentiful and accepted by natives.
Broome ...	245	223	75	28	46	69	5	695	do. ...	do. ...	Prevalent ...	Good ...	Plentiful.	
Bunbury ...	6	6	...	12	8	6	...	38	do. ...	do. ...	Nil ...	do. ...	do.	
Buseilton ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	15	35	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do.
Carnarvon ...	51	39	15	11	8	10	7	141	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do.	
Coolgardie ...	15	17	4	1	1	3	...	41	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	Natives accept casual work when offered.	
Cue ...	52	44	3	...	...	...	3	104	do. ...	Slight colds ...	3 cases only	do. ...	Plentiful.
Derby ...	361	304	76	20	10	20	1	791	do. ...	Nil ...	Odd cases	do. ...	do.	
Dongarra ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	do. ...	do. ...	Nil ...	do. ...	do.
Esperance ...	15	7	6	5	2	4	...	39	Fairly good ...	do. ...	do. ...	Very fair ...	Not plentiful. Natives not disposed to work.	
Fitzroy Crossing ...	1,031	937	330	9	2	23	3	2,335	do. ...	do. ...	Few cases	Very good ...	Plentiful.	
Fremantle ...	2	1	...	2	1	...	...	6	do. ...	do. ...	Nil ...	do. ...	do.
Gascoyne Junction ...	280	200	35	10	5	4	2	536	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do.	
Geraldton ...	1	...	...	2	3	6	1	15	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do.
Gnowangerup ...	24	21	36	17	15	32	...	145	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	Plentiful but natives not disposed to work.	
Goomalling ...	5	2	2	3	1	1	...	14	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	Plentiful.	
Greenough ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do.
Guildford ...	1	...	...	11	6	10	2	35	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do.
Hall's Creek ...	260	210	77	8	2	7	1	565	do. ...	do. ...	Very little	Fair ...	Plentiful and natives disposed to accept.	
Kalgoorlie ...	40	25	14	18	6	3	4	111	Slightly decreasing ...	do. ...	Nil ...	Good ...	Not plentiful. Natives not disposed to accept.	
Katanning ...	6	3	5	10	7	18	6	83	Slightly increasing ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	Plentiful.	
Kellerberrin ...	20	10	20	6	4	5	...	65	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do.	
Kojonup ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	18	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do.
Laverton... ...	660	510	97	14	13	...	1	1,295	do. ...	do. ...	Slight	do. ...	Fairly plentiful.	
Leonora... ...	12	10	6	5	4	4	1	46	do. ...	do. ...	Nil ...	do. ...	Not plentiful.	
Marble Bar ...	270	194	64	30	22	4	1	585	Slightly decreasing ...	do. ...	Prevalent	do. ...	Plentiful.	
Maylands ...	3	...	...	2	...	...	1	7	do. ...	do. ...	Nil ...	do. ...	do.
Meekatharra ...	106	92	14	8	4	7	...	231	do. ...	do. ...	Prevalent	do. ...	do.	
Meuzies ...	...	2	1	...	...	...	2	8	do. ...	do. ...	Nil ...	do. ...	do.
Merredin ...	3	2	5	...	...	...	...	10	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	do.
Carried forward ...	3,693	3,073	1,027	278	229	343	59	8,783						

TABLE I.—STATEMENT SHOWING POPULATION ACCORDING TO DISTRICT AND OTHER PARTICULARS—continued.

District.	Estimated Population.										Increase or Decrease noted for year.	Condition and Health.	Epidemics.	Venereal.	Conduct.	Employment.	
	1 Full-blood.		2 Half-castes deemed to be Aborigines.				3 Half-castes not deemed Aborigines.										Total.
	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.	M.	F.	C.								
Brought forward ...	3,693	3,073	1,027	278	229	343	59	45	36	8,783	Normal	Good	Nil	...	Good	Plentiful	
Mingnew ...	42	41	48	15	18	14	1	...	...	48	do.	do.	do.	...	Fair	Not plentiful.
Moora ...	20	6	10	54	93	165	3	2	...	41	do.	do.	do.	...	Good	Plentiful.	
Mt. Barker ...	22	8	5	3	2	5	...	...	...	52	Decreasing	do.	do.	...	do.	do.
Mt. Magnet ...	12	4	5	9	5	6	...	...	...	53	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	do.
Mullewa ...	4	3	...	32	30	36	4	...	...	105	Increasing	Fair	do.	...	Fair	do.
Narrogin ...	20	15	6	2	1	3	...	...	...	51	Decreasing	Good	Influenza	...	Good	Very little.
Norseman ...	3	...	9	...	4	...	...	...	...	5	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	Plentiful.
Northam ...	10	8	20	6	1	5	3	1	...	57	Normal	Fair	Influenza and colds	...	do.	do.	
Northampton ...	177	166	20	6	1	5	3	...	...	378	Decreasing	Fair	Very little	...	do.	do.
Nullagine ...	81	80	25	5	3	7	1	...	...	202	do.	Good	Nil	...	do.	do.
Onslow ...	95	89	10	3	2	...	...	...	...	205	do.	Fairly good	Nil	...	do.	do.
Peak Hill ...	8	4	12	3	2	8	4	2	...	43	Normal	Good	do.	...	do.	Sufficient. Natives disposed to accept.	
Perenjori... ..	...	...	...	90	60	90	...	...	...	240	Increasing	do.	do.	...	do.	Plentiful.
Pingelly ...	8	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	Decreasing	do.	do.	...	do.	do.
Pinjarra ...	150	150	10	29	20	8	11	...	...	378	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	do.
Port Hedland ...	3	1	...	66	60	75	2	8	...	205	Increasing	do.	do.	...	Fair	Not Plentiful.	
Quairading ...	2	2	100	30	30	40	3	...	...	18	Decreasing	do.	do.	...	Good	Plentiful.
Ravensthorpe ...	200	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	603	Normal	do.	Influenza and heavy colds	...	do.	Plentiful but natives not disposed to accept.
Rosebourne ...	3	1	...	3	2	1	...	...	...	10	Decreasing	do.	Nil	...	do.	Plentiful.
Sandstone ...	8	6	5	23	13	27	...	...	...	82	Increasing	do.	Few cases	...	do.	do.
Shark Bay ...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	Decreasing	do.	Nil	...	do.	do.
Southern Cross ...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	do.
Tambellup ...	8	6	4	6	6	9	2	1	4	46	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	do.	
Three Springs ...	2	2	3	6	6	7	...	...	...	26	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	do.
Toodyay ...	485	385	100	5	5	5	7	6	4	980	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	do.	
Turkey Creek ...	3	3	4	7	7	7	...	...	...	48	Normal	do.	do.	...	do.	Fairly plentiful.
Wagin ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	Plentiful.
Wickepin ...	...	...	...	40	45	105	...	...	...	200	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	do.
Williams ...	60	60	20	5	5	6	2	2	...	160	Decreasing	do.	Few cases	...	do.	Not plentiful.	
Wiluna ...	690	780	250	6	6	26	...	...	...	1,758	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	Plentiful.
Wyalkatchem ...	71	59	18	41	35	30	...	...	...	254	Normal	do.	do.	...	Fairly good	do.
Wyndham † ...	2	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	Fairly plentiful.
Yalgoo ...	5,895	5,166	1,698	775	687	1,045	107	76	64	15,513	do.	do.	do.	...	do.	do.	

* No natives at present in the District. † Figures for year 1927-28 not available; 1926-27 figures inserted. For Summary of totals see p. 11.

TABLE II.—COMPARATIVE RETURN SHOWING NUMBER OF NATIVES RATIONED AND COST OF RATIONS ISSUED WITH OTHER PARTICULARS.

Place.	Rate.	By whom supplied.	Supervised by	Average No. of natives fed per month.		Total Cost.	
				1926-27	1927-28	1926-27.	1927-28.
<i>Departmental Settlements and Feeding Depots.</i>							
Munaj Native Station ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	Manager ...	63	136	£ s. d. 202 5 5(a)	£ s. d. 232 6 10(a)
La Grange Feeding Depot ...	do. ...	do. ...	Officer in Charge	58	57	162 6 9	493 16 7
Moola Bulla Native Station ...	do. ...	do. ...	Manager ...	197	187	387 18 7(a)	321 7 10(a)
Moore River Native Settlement	do. ...	do. ...	Superintendent ...	289	293	2,618 14 11(b)	2,686 17 8(b)
Violet Valley Native Station	do. ...	do. ...	Manager ...	81	115	446 18 4(a)	454 10 11(a)
<i>By Contract under Police or Departmental Supervision.</i>							
Albany ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	Police ...	9	3	17 7 3	13 13 5
Ramboo Creek ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	3	3	24 3 0	18 7 8
Balladonia ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	Dimer H. ...	...	11	...	30 9 11
Brookton ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	Police ...	...	4	...	24 12 4
Carnarvon ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	1	...	6 0 6	...
Cue ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	9	12	50 15 2	143 4 6
Coolgardie ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	11	6	146 11 1	78 3 1
Coodingnow Station ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	4	3	29 13 10	34 15 5
Derby ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	7	4	52 2 11	56 15 1
Esperance ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	6	6	56 0 9	67 7 2
Eucla ...	Bulk supplies ... (closed September, 1927)	Aborigines Department	Manager, Telegraph Station	1	8	4 3 6	8 4 2
Eyre ...	Bulk supplies ...	do. ...	do. ...	5	...	13 11 8	...
Fitzroy Crossing ...	do. ...	do. ...	Police ...	31	24	134 0 10	181 9 10
Giralia ...	do. ...	do. ...	Dawe, W. H. ...	6	6	45 14 2	39 17 6
Gascoyne Junction ...	do. ...	do. ...	Police ...	4	4	41 3 6	35 18 5
Geraldton ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	do. ...	1	1	15 17 8	17 8 3
Gum Creek ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	17	...	135 18 5	...
Gnowangerup... ..	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	...	6	...	20 14 11
Israelite Bay ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	Postmaster ...	7	...	56 8 11	...
Jigalong ...	do. ...	do. ...	Rabbit Department	15	18	61 17 4	81 8 0
Kookynie ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	Police ...	8	2	7 13 6	30 10 1
Lake Darlot ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	5	5	40 5 0	67 1 8
Lawlers ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	8	...	19 5 7	...
Laverton ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	16	30	166 0 10	332 14 5
Leonora ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	3	2	7 18 5	2 4 4
Lindon ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	59	60	560 2 6	345 0 0
Marble Bar ...	do. ...	Aborigines Department	do. ...	4	3	10 8 6	38 8 5
Meckatharra ...	do. ...	Contractor ...	do. ...	5	7	62 13 4	75 13 11
Morgans ...	do. ... (closed December, 1927)	do. ...	do. ...	68	77	653 15 11	551 7 10
Morgans Mission ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	Schenk, R. S. ...	...	207	...	333 5 5
Mingenew ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	Police ...	3	3	21 18 0	15 15 0
Mundiwindi ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	Cockram, R. J. ...	...	17	...	34 18 6
Mt. Vernon ...	do. ...	do. ...	McHugh, W. A. ...	...	25	...	203 13 9
Moora ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	Police ...	8	...	1 7 4	...
Mt. Barker ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	...	1	...	0 16 4
Mt. Magnet ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	5	4	47 6 2	35 17 6
Mt. Narryer ...	do. ...	Station Manager	Station Manager	7	6	89 2 3	64 1 0
Mullewa ...	do. ...	Contractor ...	Police ...	2	1	13 12 0	12 4 9
Mundrabilla ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	Station Manager	10	22	48 16 8	54 12 8
Norseman ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	Police ...	4	5	22 5 8	99 5 11
Nullagine ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	do. ...	16	20	89 15 11	131 15 6
Onslow ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	do. ...	4	...	36 2 8	...
Perth ...	Local purchase ...	Aborigines Department	Aborigines Department	...	...	5 3 0	...
Peak Hill ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	Police ...	33	19	345 12 7	283 7 8
Pinjarra ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	1	1	10 18 8	11 13 4
Port Hedland	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	...	7	...	13 6 1
Turee Station ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	Piesse & Maguire	...	16	...	64 7 7
Roebourne (Ind.) ...	do. ...	do. ...	Police ...	2	3	65 16 9	24 7 7
Sandstone ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	do. ...	2	...	4 10 0	...
Shark Bay ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	3	1	17 3 8	17 12 3
Tableland ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	Secretary, Road Board	20	19	90 17 1	65 9 8
Tuckenarra ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	Storekeeper ...	8	20	33 1 10	241 5 0
Wallal ...	Bulk supplies ...	Aborigines Department	Ennis, H. ...	15	16	48 0 4	118 5 4
Whim Creek ...	do. ...	do. ...	Police ...	13	13	38 6 7	44 1 0
Wodgina ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	5	5	23 3 3	48 1 10
Wiluna ...	As per contract ...	Contractor ...	do. ...	14	17	114 18 10	244 11 4
Winning Pool ...	do. ...	do. ...	Mrs. Hardy ...	1	4	12 0 0	38 0 0
Yarri ...	do. ...	do. ...	Police ...	13	...	92 11 0	...
Yalgoo ...	do. ...	do. ...	do. ...	7	6	69 9 6	54 3 4
Freight and Cartage	...	...	...	...	...	780 0 0	1,174 18 7
				£ 1,197	1,551	8,359 17 10	9,912 7 1

(a) Including cattle killed for rations.

(b) Including white employees.

TABLE III.—NATURE OF PERMIT ISSUED AND NUMBER OF NATIVES AUTHORISED TO BE EMPLOYED THEREUNDER.

Place of Issue.	1926-27.				Total.		1927-28.				Total.	
	General.	Natives.	Single.	Natives.	Permit.	Natives.	General.	Natives.	Single.	Natives.	Permits.	Natives.
Albany ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Beagle Bay ...	17	190	8	9	25	199	19	266	4	4	4	4
Reverley ...	...	...	2	2	2	2	...	...	3	3	3	3
Bunbury ...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	2	2	2
Broome ...	15	207	70	80	85	287	9	126	90	105	89	231
Carnarvon ...	12	95	6	6	18	101	10	86	8	8	18	94
Cue ...	6	42	11	11	17	53	5	47	9	9	14	56
Derby ...	35	1,010	36	37	71	1,047	39	1,019	36	36	75	1,055
Esperance ...	...	...	9	9	9	9	...	...	5	5	5	5
Eucla ...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fremantle ...	...	...	2	2	2	2	...	...	4	4	4	4
Geraldton ...	3	23	8	8	11	31	1	6	3	4	4	10
Gascoyne Junction ...	11	290	1	1	12	291	10	240	2	2	12	242
Hall's Creek ...	20	243	9	9	29	252	19	257	9	10	28	267
Kalgoorlie ...	...	...	2	2	2	2	...	...	5	5	5	5
Katanning ...	...	...	2	2	2	2	...	...	2	2	3	4
Kojonup ...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	5	5	5	5
La Grange ...	8	91	2	2	10	93	5	76	6	7	11	88
Laverton ...	...	...	20	20	20	20	...	...	16	16	16	16
Lawlers ...	3	19	3	3	6	22	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leonora ...	2	22	2	2	4	24	3	31	10	10	13	41
Marble Bar ...	16	251	17	17	33	268	13	199	13	13	26	212
Meekatharra ...	8	80	12	12	20	92	6	49	7	7	13	56
Menzies ...	...	...	5	5	5	5	...	...	3	3	3	3
Merredin ...	...	...	7	7	7	7	...	...	11	11	11	11
Moola Bolla ...	14	191	2	2	16	193	9	115	2	2	11	117
Moore River ...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moora ...	...	...	8	8	8	8	...	...	11	11	11	11
Morgans ...	2	14	4	4	6	18	...	...	...	...	...	...
Narrogin ...	...	...	1	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mt. Magnet ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Northam ...	...	...	6	6	6	6	...	...	2	11	8	10
Nullagine ...	16	158	6	6	22	164	14	256	9	9	16	19
Norseman ...	1	8	4	4	5	12	1	8	2	2	9	9
Onslow ...	11	93	3	3	14	96	18	152	7	7	10	258
Onslow ...	8	80	3	3	11	83	9	80	11	11	17	17
Peak Hill ...	1	4	44	44	45	48	1	5	47	47	20	159
Perth ...	...	...	2	2	15	161	16	200	1	1	20	91
Port Hedland ...	13	150	2	2	15	161	16	200	1	1	17	210
Pinjarra ...	...	...	4	4	4	4	...	...	5	5	5	5
Ravensthorpe ...	...	...	6	6	6	6	...	...	4	4	4	4
Roebourne ...	13	189	1	1	14	190	16	219	5	5	21	224
Shark Bay ...	1	25	27	27	28	52	1	25	10	10	11	35
Sandstone ...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Toodyay ...	1	15	1	1	2	16	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violet Valley ...	15	188	3	3	18	191	11	170	4	4	15	174
Wiluna ...	2	14	...	...	2	14	1	5	2	2	3	7
Wyndham ...	7	56	29	29	36	85	8	64	27	27	35	91
Yalgoo ...	11	90	6	6	17	96	16	116	4	4	20	120
Totals ...	272	3,847	399	412	671	4,259	264	3,847	427	456	691	4,303

MISSIONS.

TABLE IV.—GENERAL INFORMATION.

	Beagle Bay.	Forrest River.	Lombadina.	Sunday Island.	Port George IV. Hanover Bay.	Drysdale River.
Name of Governing Body	The Pious Society of Missions ...	Australian Board of Missions (Anglican)	Pious Society of Missions	Australian Aborigines Mission Incorporated	Board of Missions, Presbyterian Church of Australia	Benedictine Community of New Norcia (Roman Catholic), 50,000 acres Leasehold, 50,000 acres Freehold.
Brief description of land held and nature of tenure	10,000 acres Freehold; poor pasturage of 80,000 Leasehold Use of Aborigines Reserve of 700,000 acres	90,000 acres 21 years leasehold; 1,000 acres Freehold Within Aborigines Reserve of 3,120,000 acres	Poor pasturage, and lease of 19,000 acres	Aborigines Reserve	Approximately 140 square miles from Prince Regent River to Augustus Water, Aboriginal Mission Reserve 58,000 acres	
Livestock owned by Mission at 30th June, 1928—						
Cattle	3,200	1,500	200	7	34	
Horses	5	28	...	...	...
Sheep	60	148	13	...	14	
Donkeys	40	...	1	...	...
Mules	350	400	160	150	160	
Goats	22	...	...	...	...
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...
Area under crop or in process of cultivation, clearing, etc.	10 acres of garden	59 acres	4 acres	1 acre garden	30 acres	No particulars to hand.
General improvements effected during year ended 30th June, 1928	50 acres cleared for rice plantation	New buildings, fencing	New School	1 dwelling-house	Road completed from coast to Station; Septic tank sanitary system installed	
Special efforts to make the Mission self-supporting during the year under review	Rice plantation, but a total failure for want of rain	Meat, vegetables, milk, maize, millet for food, home grown	Gardening and stock raising	Trocas shell, needle work, tortoise shell, cargo carrying	Cultivation; rice failed; peanuts, good; melons, pumpkins, etc., fair; new boat obtained for mail and cargo service, leaving old boat free for beach combing	
Average number of natives within Mission influence	M. 70 F. 80 C. 90 Total. 240	M. 250 F. 250 C. 60 Total. 560	M. 60 F. 70 C. 35 Total. 165	M. 46 F. 59 C. 40 Total. 145	M. 132 F. 150 C. 14 Total. 300	
Number of inmates supported at cost of Mission	180	50 (also 100 frequent visitors)	14	39	10	
Number of inmates supported by the State (exclusive of above)	45	22	...	7	17	
Average Number of children under 16 years attending school daily	25 aboriginals, 31 half-castes	31 aboriginals, 20 half-castes	21 aboriginals, 7 half-caste	25 aboriginals, 5 half-castes	11 aboriginals, 2 half-castes	
Number of children received at the Institution since 1st July, giving age, sex, whether full-blood or half-caste, also district from whence received	1 half-caste boy, about 12 years of age from Broome	...	7 from Madana—4 girls and 3 boys under 14 years of age, and 1 girl from Pender Bay	3 full-bloods—2 males and 1 female, all under 14 years, from Cape Leveque; 1 half-caste male, age 6 years from Derby	1 boy (Jerry) full blood, belongs to locality, came ashore from beach combing boat	
Number of children discharged and placed in situations or otherwise disposed of—give brief particulars, including age, name, sex, if full-blooded or half-caste, wages to be paid or other consideration for service	15 births, 3 marriages, 4 deaths	4 births, 1 death	3 births	3 births, 4 marriages	2 births, 1 death	
Particulars of births, deaths or marriages	(a) 4 and a number of cases with sores and sore eyes	(a) No serious cases	(a) Ordinary colds	(a) 12 ill	(a) whole population colds, large proportion boils, other complaints, 14	
Health—	(b) 2 venereal disease and 1 rheumatic fever	(b) Influenza and slight ailments (colds, etc.)	(b) —	(b) Colds, influenza, venereal disease, accidents, fish poisoning	(b) Sores, injuries, burns, kidney trouble, Fourri-pourri	
(a) Number of inmates ill from any cause during year	(c) Nil	(c) Nil	(c) Nil	(c) Nil	(c) Nil	
(b) Enumerate diseases from which inmates have suffered						
(c) Number of visits from medical officer						

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 1927-28.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Grant under Section 5 of the Aborigines Act, 5 Edward VII., No. 14	10,000	0 0	By Salaries— Departmental—		
„ Receipts paid to Trust* ...	1,659	15 8	Chief Protector of Aborigines and Staff	1,799	14 5
„ Amount provided on Estimates for 1927-28	17,591	9 11	Travelling Inspector (Including Allowance)	483	2 5
					2,282 16 10
			„ Relief to Natives (General)—		
			Provisions ...	5,382	11 10
			Blankets and Clothing ...	2,742	15 0
			Medical Supplies ...	215	3 7
					8,340 10 5
			„ Port Hedland Native Hospital—		
			Salaries— Medical Officer ...	157	5 2
			Officer-in-Charge and Matron	229	18 0
					387 3 2
			Provisions ...	454	19 6
			Medical Supplies ...	33	13 5
			Freight, Travelling and Miscellaneous	191	17 5
					680 10 4
			„ Derby Native Hospital—		
			Salaries— Officer-in-Charge	119	18 7
			Cook and Laundryess	143	18 7
					263 17 2
			Provisions ...	293	19 6
			Medical Supplies ...	13	18 6
			Freight, Travelling and Miscellaneous	95	15 8
					403 13 8
			„ Grants to Missions —		
			Beagle Bay ...	290	5 3
			Broome Convent School ...	156	5 0
			Sunday Island ...	143	10 0
			Port George IV. ...	149	11 7
			Drysdale River ...	80	0 0
			Forrest River ...	225	0 0
			New Norcia ...	119	12 0
					1,164 3 10
			„ LaGrange Relief Depot—		
			Salaries ...	208	0 0
			Rations, etc. ...	16	5 9
					224 5 9
			„ Violet Valley Native Station—		
			Salaries and Wages ...	513	17 0
			Rations, etc. ...	156	1 1
					669 18 1
			„ Moola Bulla Native Station—		
			Salaries and Wages ...	1,783	18 4
			Improvements and Upkeep	2,859	14 8
					4,643 13 0
			„ Munja Native Station—		
			Salaries and Wages ...	630	11 2
			Improvements and Upkeep	759	16 8
					1,435 7 10
			„ Moore River Native Settlement—		
			Salaries and Wages ...	1,190	2 4
			Stores and Provisions ...	2,931	5 5
			Freight and Cartage ...	19	5 5
			Forage ...	28	16 11
			Furniture and Hardware ...	199	2 5
			Farm Requirements ...	26	11 2
			Buildings and Improvements	161	8 7
			Motor Truck Upkeep ...	295	11 1
			Miscellaneous ...	353	17 2
					5,206 0 6
			„ General—		
			Freight and Cartage ...	1,174	18 7
			Travelling Expenses ...	595	10 7
			Transport of Natives ...	609	16 3
			Burials ...	283	1 3
			Miscellaneous ...	885	18 4
					3,549 5 0
					£29,251 5 7

* Exclusive of £5,080 4s. 6d. derived from Moola Bulla Native Station, and £61 0s. 10d. from Munja Native Station paid direct to Treasury and therefore not available.

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