

1929.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.



ABORIGINES.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF BOARD FOR PROTECTION OF, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1928.)

Printed under No. 1 Report from Printing Committee, 19 September, 1929.

Report of Board for Protection of Aborigines for the year ended
30th June, 1928.

Office of Board for Protection of Aborigines,
Sydney, 21st November, 1928.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the established practice, we, the undermentioned members of the Board for Protection of Aborigines, duly appointed under the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909, have the honor to submit for the Chief Secretary's information the following report of the operations of the Board during the period 1st July, 1927, to the 30th June, 1928, together with the usual particulars of the numbers, location, and present condition of the Aborigines throughout the State and means adopted for their relief as far as the funds at our disposal would permit.

GENERAL.

The usual routine inspections of reserves and stations throughout the State were made by the Board's Inspector, who reported that, with a few exceptions, there was an improvement in general conditions. Work was scarce owing to the new industrial awards and regulations, which resulted in a considerable increase in the ration lists.

While it was found possible to make substantial improvements on several stations under the control of Managers, it was noticed that a number of reserves without residential supervision had deteriorated so far as the condition of their buildings, fencing, and other improvements were concerned. To remedy this condition of affairs it is the Board's policy to, where possible, appoint the female Teacher of the Aborigines School, when such is existent, as Matron of the Reserve, in which capacity she is responsible for the general oversight of same, and is charged with the duty of reporting anything immediately affecting the Board's interests.

New Managers' residences were erected on the Aboriginal Stations at Pilliga and Angledool, the former building replacing one which had been destroyed by fire. These structures were erected under the supervision of one of the Board's own officers, who was released from other duty for that purpose.

New huts were erected on the Aborigines' Reserve at Gingie Gingie by the Aboriginal residents, the Board supplying the material. Additional huts were also provided at Urunga and Condobolin, while improvements were effected to existing buildings at Runnymede, Carowra Tank, Burra Bee Dee, and Ulgundahi Island.

A motor truck was purchased for use on the Aboriginal Station, Walhallow, near Quirindi.

While much has been done by the Board during recent years in the general improvement of housing conditions for the Aborigines, and the provision of adequate water supplies, there are several centres at which much work remains to be done, and in respect of which the Board is particularly desirous of securing additional funds to enable it to complete its programme. Representations have been made to the Government in this connection, and it is hoped that the matter will receive favourable consideration.

The usual issues of rations, blankets, and clothing were made to all deserving cases, a very careful check, however, being maintained to ensure that public funds were not in any way imposed upon.

The passing of the Family Endowment Act has resulted in a large number of Aborigines benefiting under its provisions. From reports obtained it would appear that in some cases the money has been wisely expended, but it is feared that in most instances the reverse is the case. It is understood that representations having been made to the Commissioner for Family Endowment, a proposal is being considered that the duty of administering money payable to Aborigines under this Act be imposed upon the Board. Properly expended this money should result in a considerable improvement in the living conditions of the recipients.

ABORIGINAL STATIONS.

At seventeen centres throughout the State the Board has established Aboriginal Stations, which are under the supervision of Teacher-Managers and Matrons, and the results achieved are satisfactory. The constant presence of a responsible officer ensures a proper distribution of aid, the maintenance of a decent standard of cleanliness and conduct, and tends to raise the moral tone of the residents. The Manager

