

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1916.



Adelaide:

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

1916.

REPORT.

Aboriginals Department,

Adelaide, September 22nd, 1916.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the financial year ended June 30th, 1916.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

This station was taken over by the Department on the 1st September, 1915, being voluntarily given over by the Yorke's Peninsula Aboriginal Mission, Incorporated, with all assets and liabilities, viz. :—Assets, £13,189 12s. 3d.; liabilities, £1,827 2s. 10d.

The operations for the 10 months to June 30th, 1916, show a profit of £3,007 16s. 2d., which is eminently satisfactory, considering that there are 27 full-bloods and 162 half-castes who are more or less dependent on the station.

The balance-sheet, which has been audited by the Commissioner of Audit, is appended.

The natives are paid regular wages, out of which they are compelled to support themselves and families; only those who are incapable of earning a living owing to old age or infirmity are provided with food, clothing, and shelter. Medicines are given free to all natives.

A general store is kept on the station, where the natives can purchase all their requirements, including meat and milk, at cost prices.

The natives under this system are doing good work, and numbers of them seek outside employment.

For the coming harvest we have 3,200 acres under crop, which looks capable of producing four or five bags of grain to the acre.

Unfortunately we are short of sheep by at least 3,000 head. If we had 5,000 sheep on the station, as was the case some years ago, the income would be considerably increased. Sheep are now very dear, nevertheless I purpose seeking Ministerial authority to purchase more ewes for this station.

Since taking over the station the capital has been greatly increased by the addition of stock, implements, and improvements, among which are two 10-furrow disc ploughs, one Massey-Harris mower and binder, one hay trolley, a motor

launch, 21 horses, harness, &c., and everything on the station has been put in good working order. The stables have been enlarged, and two tanks are under construction.

Four hundred tons of hay was still on hand on June 30th, well stacked and thatched, and I hope to create a reserve of 800 tons or 1,000 tons on the station to provide for bad seasons which may follow.

One hundred and forty tons of super., costing over £600, were used to put in the present growing crops.

For the year ending June 30th, 1915, Point Pearce Station cost the department £2,100 15s. This was owing to a two years drought. Previous to this it has for many years been self-supporting under the able management of the committee of the Y.P.A. Mission.

The Superintendent's report is appended.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

This was voluntarily handed over to the department by the Aborigines' Friends Association, Incorporated, on January 1st, 1916, with all assets and liabilities, viz., assets, £6,546 1s. 9d. ; liabilities, £999 6s. 2d.

The six months' operations on this station show a loss of £700 0s. 8d. This is also satisfactory considering that there are about 70 full-bloods and 310 half-castes more or less dependent on the station. The audited balance-sheet of this station is also appended.

For the year ended June 30th, 1915, the station, while under the management of the A. F. A., cost the department £3,145, and for the six months ended December 31st, 1915, it cost £2,912 18s.

This station is now being developed into a dairying proposition, and already we have worked it up to 100 milkers daily. I hope to more than double this number in a couple of years, and keep a few hundred pigs as well.

Two artesian bores are now being put down, so that some of the land can be irrigated.

A 90gall. an hour separator and engine have been installed and 150 acres of scrub lands have been cleared for cultivation. Four horses were purchased, and an eight-furrow disc plough added to capital. All fences have been improved and added to, and many improvements made to the buildings. The livestock has been considerably increased by purchase and natural increase.

The wages system has been initiated on this station as far as possible, but until the dairying and piggyery are

developed more fully, we have insufficient employment for the support of the 380 natives, consequently rations have to be supplied to many who are capable of earning their own living. The sooner this can be abolished the better, as the old and obsolete system of supplying rations encourages laziness and thriftlessness, and I think it would pay the Government to completely abolish it and pay wages to all ablebodied married men and compel them to maintain themselves and families, single men being expected to find employment off the station.

The Superintendent's report is appended.

<i>Payments to Revenue—</i>		£	s.	d.
Point Pearce Station, from sales of produce, &c.		5,607	16	6
Point McLeay Station, from sales of produce, &c.		1,282	0	11
Repayment of loans, &c.		17	18	3
Total		<u>£6,907</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>8</u>
<i>The Amounts expended for the Year were—</i>		£	s.	d.
Salaries at head office	476 13 4			
Provisions, rations, clothing, transport, medical expenses, &c., for the whole State	4,234 0 2			
Grants-in-aid to the A.F.A., Point McLeay	1,100 0 0			
Purchase of farm and rent for Point McLeay	1,086 2 6			
				<u>6,896 16 0</u>
<i>Point Pearce Station since taking over—</i>				
Salaries	125 0 0			
Wages for aborigines and white laborers	2,484 13 11			
Liabilities of Y.P.A. Mission paid off	1,827 2 10			
Stores, implements, stock, &c.	4,030 8 4			
				<u>8,467 5 1</u>
<i>Point McLeay Station since taking over—</i>				
Salaries	182 0 0			
Wages for aborigines and white laborers	768 0 5			
Implements, stores, stock, &c.	1,825 15 2			
Liabilities of A.F.A. paid off	999 6 2			
				<u>3,775 1 9</u>
Total expenditure		<u>£19,139</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>10</u>

The only station in the State still not under departmental control is Koonibba, near Denial Bay, which is controlled by the Lutheran (German) Synod. There are about 180 natives at this station. During the year rations were supplied them costing the department £256.

The Synod were approached with a view to handing the station over to the department, but up to the present negotiations have failed. This is regrettable, as all the

aborigines in the State should undoubtedly be under the control of the department, except for the spiritual work, which should be the duty of the churches.

POPULATION.

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

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

Births and Deaths for the Year ended June 30th, 1916, Reported.

Births . . . Full-bloods, 20 ; half-castes, 35 ; total, 55
 Deaths . . Full-bloods, 50 ; half-castes, 20 ; total, 70

The four years 1912 to 1916 show a decrease record of 128 blacks and an increase of 85 half-castes.

According to this there were still 3,859 full-bloods and 921 half-castes in the State on June 30th, 1916.

CRIME RECORD FOR THE YEAR.

Convictions.

Drunkenness	28
Vagrancy	3
Assaults, common	1
Mental defectives	1
Breaches of Aborigines Act	2
Breaches of Married Women's Protection Act	1
Breaches of State Children's Act	1
Unlawful possession	6
Larceny	3
Cattle and sheep killing	7
Horse stealing	1
Total	<u>54</u>

Persons convicted of supplying liquor to aborigines 6

Rations have been forwarded to 48 localities throughout the State for the relief of the aborigines as required.

NORTHERN TERRITORY.

The usual stores have been forwarded on behalf of the Commonwealth Department of External Affairs to the stations between the South Australian border and Tennant's Creek, the cost of which was debited to that department.

The Commissioner of Police and his officers have willingly assisted me in many ways in carrying out my duties, and the Adelaide, Port Augusta, and other country hospitals have also been of great assistance in attending to the sick aborigines.

On the 29th May, 1916, Mr. Charles Eaton Taplin, J.P., was appointed Honorary Protector of Aborigines for the District of Victoria.

I have, &c.,

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

To the Honorable the Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION FOR THE TEN MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1916.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Horses	—	16 0 0
Medicines for aborigines.....	16 17 11	
Rations for aborigines	293 1 2	
School books for aborigines ...	1 13 6	
	<hr/>	311 12 7
Salary of Superintendent	125 0 0	
Wages of aborigines and white assistants	2,484 13 11	
	<hr/>	2,609 13 11
Head office salaries and expenses	—	49 10 6
Interest on overdraft with H.M. Government	—	52 2 11
Balance, net profit	—	3,007 16 2
		<hr/> <u>£6,046 16 1</u>
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Store	—	209 2 10
Rent of cottages	—	135 7 10
Farm account, wheat and other produce, &c.....	—	4,693 0 11
Meat	—	44 11 10
Stock accounts—		
Pigs	93 5 6	
Cattle	474 3 0	
Sheep	397 4 2	
	<hr/>	964 12 8
		<hr/> <u>£6,046 16 1</u>

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS AT JUNE 30TH, 1916.

	£ s. d.
H.M. Government	2,961 2 0
Capital account	11,362 9 5
Net profit as above	3,007 16 2
	<hr/> <u>£17,331 7 7</u>

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	6,930	0	0			
Improvements, fencing, &c.	2,730	0	0			
	<hr/>			9,660	0	0
Implements, vehicles, boats, &c....	1,222	15	4			
Furniture	124	0	0			
Harness	72	15	4			
	<hr/>			1,419	10	8
Stocks on hand—						
Store	217	17	6			
Farm account—						
Wheat	42	15	0			
Barley	15	0	0			
Oats	2	10	0			
Hay	600	0	0			
Cornsacks	22	10	0			
Share farmers' seed and super..	100	0	0			
Livestock—						
Horses	979	0	0			
Cattle	570	0	0			
Sheep	2,611	0	0			
Pigs	122	10	0			
	<hr/>			5,283	2	6
Wheat certificates expected to realise				911	3	8
Sundry Drs.	63	10	9			
Less advances repaid	6	0	0			
	<hr/>			57	10	9
				<hr/>		
				£17,331	7	7
				<hr/>		

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY
STATION FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE
30TH, 1916.

	£	s.	d.
To Freight and carriage	64	17	1
Mats and baskets	0	17	8
Meat	66	14	2
Rations for aborigines	331	3	11
Salaries, superintendent and storekeeper	182	0	0
Wages, aborigines and white assistants.....	768	0	5
Head office salaries and expenses	32	7	2
Medicines for aborigines.....	13	11	4
Interest on overdraft with H.M. Government	15	5	3
	<hr/>		
	£1,474	17	0
	<hr/>		

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cattle	413	6	4			
Sheep	50	0	0			
Pigs	74	11	8			
	<hr/>			537	18	0
Farm account, wheat, dairy, &c.	—			181	16	4
Store	—			55	2	0
Balance, net loss	—			700	0	8
				<hr/>		
				£1,474	17	0
				<hr/> <hr/>		

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION
AS AT JUNE 30TH, 1916.

LIABILITIES.			£	s.	d.	
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H. M. Government				2,492	7	9
Capital account				5,550	6	4
				<hr/>		
				£8,042	14	1
				<hr/> <hr/>		
ASSETS.			£	s.	d.	
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Buildings	3,626	10	0			
Improvements, fencing, &c.	585	13	6			
	<hr/>			4,212	3	6
Furniture	40	0	0			
Implements, vehicles, &c.	365	12	0			
Harness	45	2	7			
	<hr/>			450	14	7
Stocks on hand—						
Store	350	0	0			
Boot shop, uppers, &c.	12	15	6			
Mats and baskets	0	15	0			
Farm account—						
Super,	2	1	8			
Oats	6	0	0			
Wheat	10	2	6			
Barley	1	10	0			
Hay	45	0	0			
Livestock—						
Cattle	1,685	0	0			
Sheep	223	0	0			
Pigs	75	10	0			
Horses	246	10	0			
Fowls	1	10	0			
	<hr/>			2,659	14	8
Sundry Drs.	—			20	0	8
Balance, net loss as above	—			700	0	8
				<hr/>		
				£8,042	14	1
				<hr/> <hr/>		

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

ABORIGINAL ROLL OF HONOR.

Roland W. Carter	Point McLeay Station
Proctor M. Wilson	“ “
Garnett A. Wilson	“ “
Cyril S. Rigney	“ “
Gordon W. Rigney	“ “
Everet L. Sumner	“ “
Rufus G. Rigney	“ “
Lush Wilson	“ “
Albon F. Varcoe	“ “
Clifford Wilson	“ “
Miller Mack	“ “

Several others offered, but were refused.

William Karpany	Wellington
George Karpany	“
Hurtle Muckray	“
Alfred Cameron, jun.	Coorong
Arthur Walker	Goolwa
Hubert Tripp	Victor Harbor
Louis Lindsay	Point Pearce Station
Arthur Weetra	“ “
Herbert Millera	“ “

Several others offered, but were refused.

Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta,

August 3rd, 1916.

Sir—In submitting my annual report upon the condition, etc., of the aborigines in the Far Northern Division for the year ended the 30th June, 1916, I have the honor to state that the general health of the natives has been good. Reports have been received from the police stationed in outlying districts regarding the general condition of the natives. The constable stationed at Mungeranie reports that in consequence of the heavy rains experienced along the Diamantina River the natives are able to obtain an abundant supply of their native food, and, with few exceptions, will not require any rations until about next January. He also reports two cases of syphilis in the district.

Owing to numerous complaints having been received from stockowners at Todmorden and Indulkinna regarding the

conduct of the natives in these localities, the Police Department decided to open a police camp at Indulkinna, and a police camp was opened at the latter place in March, 1915, and seven natives have since been convicted for cattle-stealing, &c. The return of these natives to their localities after having served their sentences has been rather an expensive item to your department, but in all probability a police prison will, in due course of time, be proclaimed at Oodnadatta, which will mean a considerable saving to both the Police and Aborigines Departments.

Repeated requests for blankets have been received from Mr. R. Smith, of Yudnapinna Station, and a supply has been forwarded by Sergt. Gibbons, of Port Augusta, for distribution amongst the natives on that station.

Deaths.—Males, 20; females, four.

Births.—Nine.

I have, &c.,

P. THORNTON, Protector.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

POINT PEARCE ABORIGINAL STATION

Port Victoria, July 26th, 1916.

Sir—I have the honor to forward you the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1916 :—

On September 1st, 1915, the trustees of the Yorke's Peninsula Aboriginal Mission handed this station over to the Government.

The station had suffered severely from the drought, our crops for previous season (1914-15) having been a complete failure, and the number of livestock greatly reduced. Our last harvest gave good results—wheat, 21,373bush.; barley, 2,790bush.; oats, 150bush. The average was about five bags per acre. The hay crop was very good, enabling us to gather in over 600 tons. As this gives us a supply for the future, the stacks have been well thatched.

Our wool clip totalled 37 bales and six bags from 1,557 sheep shorn. The number of sheep on the station is much less than usual, owing to recent drought, and it will be necessary to purchase sheep to enable us to further increase our flocks. This is especially necessary as, in addition to about 30 sheep wanted monthly for our own consumption, we need the same number to supply mutton to the Broken Hill smelters' men at the quarries on Wardang Island, as we act as their butchers.

Our livestock figures are as follows :—Sheep, 1,700 ; lambs, 660, equal to 2,360 ; horses, 63 ; cattle, 59 ; pigs, 56.

Owing to our being short of sheep, we are cultivating more extensively than in the past. This year we have in crop 3,200 acres. The rains commenced this season later than usual, the summer having been, as elsewhere in our State, exceptionally dry. We have, however, had splendid rains since the month of May, and the outlook for this season's crops is bright.

We have been able to find work for all married men wanting employment. Several of our men have been employed for some months at the flux quarries on Wardang Island ; others have earned a living for themselves and their families by fishing. All the wheat-lumping at Balgowan jetty has been done by our men. A certain amount of work has been found on the station for single men, but as far as possible they have been encouraged to seek for work elsewhere. Farmers in the neighborhood have employed some, especially during harvest.

Since shearing and harvesting we have had three teams cultivating and three drills at work. Others have been employed clearing land of stumps and stones, fencing, tank-sinking, building extension to stables, and tree-planting. Owing to drought little painting has been done for some years ; this necessary work is being done now.

Religious services have been conducted on the station as usual by visiting ministers and laymen from the churches in our neighborhood, whose unselfish work we gratefully acknowledge.

The police trooper stationed at Port Victoria visits the station, and has a salutary influence on the life and character of our natives. Since the introduction of 6 o'clock closing we have had little trouble with the drink question, and consequently the conduct of the natives has been exceptionally law abiding and orderly. The clause in the new Licensing Act imposing a penalty on the native himself when found in possession of drink, will undoubtedly be most helpful in checking them from getting drink.

The farm overseer (Mr. C. Pethick) has proved an efficient and conscientious officer.

Since the Government took control of this station the Chief Protector of Aborigines has paid periodical visits and always shown keen interest in the work, and given valuable assistance in the management.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS GARNETT, Superintendent.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines.

POINT McLEAY ABORIGINAL STATION.

September 18th, 1916.

Sir—I have the honor to forward you the following report for the six months ending June 30th, 1916 :—

This station has been taken over by the Government from the Committee of the A.F.A., acting on the advice of the Chief Protector of Aborigines, which has been a wise step, both for the natives and the committee. The station came under the management of the Aborigines Department on the 1st January, 1916.

The new laws and regulations under which our Protector is working have made a great difference to our natives, and of course it will mean some time before they become accustomed to them, because it means much to the native to break him of his old customs, such as he had been used to for the last 50 years.

We are still enlarging the dairy, and hope before the end of the present season to milk at least 100 cows. The cows up to the present have been milking very well, although the first part of the year has been very dry, the rains not starting till late, which means the feed will be short for some time to come. We have planted 55 acres of barley as green feed for the cows, which will be a big help to the dairy stock, and we hope that the 20 acres of lucerne which has been sown will enable us to give our milkers some green fodder in the summer, which is much needed in dairying. We have also added another separator room to the dairy buildings, and we find it a big improvement; also new bails have been added to the yard, so that we now find the milking is done in much less time. The cow and pig yards have also been extensively enlarged.

Our pigs are doing very well, and before the year is out we should have a very nice piggery, and also have it well stocked with young pigs. We are using a White Yorkshire boar; he is leaving very nice litters, but we are not satisfied with the class of pig—they are always looking for more feed. We want to try a Poland China boar crossed with the Berkshire sow, and think this class of pig will be best for us as they fatten and grow very quickly, being ready for market at five months old.

We have few sheep on hand, and only 100 breeding ewes, and some of these are very old and broken mouthed. We are using a half Shrop cross ram on these ewes, breeding more for mutton than wool.

The farm horses have not done well this season; so far we have had a lot of trouble with their shoulders, and have had to turn some out so that we could heal them. Most of

the farm horses are only young and just broken in, and I think this is partly the reason we are having such bad luck with them. We have had a lot of trouble with sand in the horses, and this means very careful attention on the part of the driver.

We have been able to find employment on the station for a large number of natives, both full-bloods and half-castes, but a number have been employed on the water-works at Hindmarsh Valley, near Victor Harbor; these were mostly young men. A number of young men have volunteered to go to the war, which is a credit to them. Then there is the usual number who go to the different stations in breeching, dagging, and shearing time, and they could find much employment if they would only stick to the work when they get it. We had quite a trouble to get men to go and contract to grub yaccas and cut mallee at Wirrilda; but we were able to grub and cut down about 150 acres, which is only a small acreage compared with what should have been cleared. We have also the usual number of men at wood-cutting and carting. We have had to cart the wood nine miles, which means a very tiring day for the bullocks. Firewood is going to be a serious question, as the supply is yearly getting less. We have had to have some brought from Milang by boat, which makes it very costly.

Since coming under the Aboriginal Department we have been able to repair a great many of our fences, and have also erected one mile of new post and wire fence.

The walls of a building to be used as a boot shop have been built, but before starting the work there we must have it under the management of a white foreman, as the natives are careless in the use of the materials used in the manufacture of boots and shoes, but they are very good workmen under a white foreman, who must be responsible for the cutting of the leather.

We have had a great deal of trouble with the African box bush. This was formerly planted for hedges, but it has now become a pest in this district.

On the whole the conduct of the natives has been fairly good, only one case of misconduct and assault taking place.

The health of the natives has been good, and has been well looked after by Mr. Pengelley, of Meningie. We have had some deaths, but these have been mostly old people or infants.

The religious needs of the people have been well attended to by the supply sent along by the A.F.A., Mr. E. Lawson, and Mr. H. E. Read, the storekeeper and book-keeper here.

Since coming under the Government the dormitory has been abolished, so that now the mothers of the children going to school have to wash and mend their children's clothes; this was formerly done under the direction of the matron. The matron is now employed as an assistant in the store, for which position she seems well suited.

We are very thankful to the Chief Protector for the many comforts he has allowed us to give the old people, of whom there are very few left. These old natives try to earn a little money by making mats and baskets, at which some are very clever.

I have, &c.

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

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

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

July 28th, 1916.

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

The general health and conduct of the aborigines has been very good.

Five children were born; one death occurred.

Divine services and morning and evening devotion were held regularly. The attendance was very good. During the last 15 years 112 natives were baptized. These members of the congregation strive more and more to conform their lives to the teachings of Christ.

The school attendance was equally as good as last year. Over two-thirds of the children went through the school year without a day's absence. During December our head teacher, F. M. Linke, left the mission station and the West Coast on account of ill health of his wife. Mr. S. Rudolph, the assistant teacher, also left the mission to study theology. Mr. A. Bode, of Rhine Villa, has been called as head teacher, and the Rev. Blaess, of New South Wales, has accepted the position of assistant missionary, and as such is assisting in the school.

Last November the Superintendent received two calls, one from the Brinkworth parish, and one from Gawler parish, and mainly for the sake of his health and his grown-up children, he deemed it necessary to sever his connection with the mission after nearly 15 years' labor and accept

the call to the Gawler parish. The Rev. E. Appelt, of Murray Bridge, has been called as head missionary. He took up his duties at Koonibba on the 23rd of July. We can confidently assure you that the mission is in good hands, my successor being a very capable man.

Because of scarcity of labor in the district, quite a number of our men have, with our permission, assisted neighboring farmers during harvest and seeding time. All the farmers were well satisfied with the conduct and the work done by our men, and are overrunning us with requests for similar help for the coming season.

From about 2,200 acres we reaped 3,600 bags of wheat, 100 bags of oats, and about 150 tons of hay.

Abundant rains have fallen so far (since 1st of January 13in. and 65 points), and our wheat crop of 2,400 acres gives promise of a very good yield.

We have managed to solve the meat problem by purchasing a number of sheep, some pigs, and a few head of cattle. Our total stock to-day comprises 40 cattle (mostly calves), 40 pigs, and 36 horses.

The late heavy rains (in three days we registered 6in.) have replenished our water supply. Owing to floods, however, we have lost three of our tanks.

For the receipt of stores and blankets supplied by your department, and for your co-operation with me and my staff in the work of uplifting the aboriginals, I thank you most heartily.

I have, &c.,

C. A. WIEBUSCH, Superintendent.

To the Protector of Aboriginals, Adelaide.