

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1925.



Adelaide:

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

A

1925

REPORT.

Aboriginals Department,

Adelaide, September 28th, 1925.

Sir—I have the honor to submit this my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the year ended June 30th, 1925; also reports received from the Superintendents of the Aboriginal Stations and the Protectors of Aborigines in the North.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

The harvest results for the past season were disappointing in yield, wheat only averaging 9bush. per acre. However, as good prices for wheat, barley, and wool were obtained, the year's operations show a profit of £198 18s. 2d. The total rainfall for year ended December 31st, 1924, was 11.67in. Mr. W. R. Penhall resigned his position as Superintendent on October 31st, 1924, and Mr. J. B. Steer was transferred from Point McLeay to this position. Mr. Steer takes a keen interest in stock and agriculture and is well qualified for the position.

POINT MCLEAY STATION.

Owing to the increasing cost of firewood for this station, and the loss in return from the dairy, caused by the culling out of cows not up to standard, on the advice of the herd tester, also the drier season, this station shows a loss of £5,123 15s. 11d. The loss on the dairy will be only temporary, as this system of herd testing will eventually make the dairy much more profitable, and we hope this year to reduce the cost of firewood, as we have arranged to cut and cart same with our own men and teams, instead of letting this contract to white men, which has been done previously. It should, however, be pointed out that though the contract for firewood has been for some time let to a neighboring farmer, nearly all the work was done by aboriginals employed by him. The present Superintendent, Mr. C. Ramsey, was appointed at the beginning of this year, Mr. Steer having been transferred to Point Pearce Station. Mr. Ramsey is proving an energetic officer.

While this station has to carry its population of 287 aborigines and the necessary officers on its 2,300 acres of land, it can only be run at a loss. The land is chiefly suitable for grazing and dairying.

A necessary cause of some loss of revenue is the fact that there are about 45 horses belonging to aboriginals grazing on the land. Horses are needed by them to enable them to get away for employment. Owing to the cost of this station to the Government, I am reluctant to recommend any steps which will increase the expenditure, but as this station has not the advantage of having a sufficiency of land to make it self-supporting and find reproductive employment for most of the aboriginals living there, it is more than ever advisable that the boys as they leave school should receive further training of a practical nature. For this purpose, I would recommend the appointment of an additional officer competent to train the boys in use of tools, carpentry, and general work. As the boys leave school, unless they are able to find work for themselves, it should be obligatory for them to work under such officer for at least two years, after which they should be expected to find outside employment, for which they would thus be much better fitted.

The housing accommodation on this station, as also on Point Pearce, is not sufficient. I recommend that some of the wood and iron cottages, not now needed on Pompoota, be transferred to these stations.

The nurses appointed by the Aborigines Friends' Association are doing good work on both these stations, but a hospital is much needed on Point McLeay similar to the one on Point Pearce.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The Superintendent, Rev. C. Hoff, reports that although the station crops, which were smaller than usual, only averaged between 6bush. and 7bush. per acre, the good prices obtained for their wool gave them a satisfactory year. It will be noted from his report herein that while the population of full-bloods is stationary, the number of half-castes is increasing quickly.

NORTHERN TERRITORY.

About 20 young half-castes from the Bungalow at Alice Springs are in situations under agreement in various parts of this State, generally as domestics. I recently visited Alice Springs and the Hermannsburg Mission Station.

The "Bungalow" at Alice Springs, for half-caste children, is roughly built of wood and iron, no verandahs, and has rightly been condemned as "out-of-date." It must, however, be remembered that many of the houses of white

settlers in this district are just as primitive. Two aboriginal women have charge of the children living in bungalow, and Mrs. Stanley, the teacher, acts as matron. Mrs. Stanley conducts morning school for the five white children attending, and afternoon school for the half-caste children. She is a very busy and capable person, and takes a real and conscientious interest in her work. There are 55 children in the bungalow. The bungalow is situated in the immediate neighborhood of the hotel. This is certainly very undesirable. It is, however, also in close proximity to the police station, and this is helpful.

I interviewed Sergeant Stott, the local Protector of Aborigines. He estimates that when the new bungalow is completed, the number of children will increase to 80. With reference to the boys as they leave the bungalow, there is no difficulty in obtaining work for them on stations at £1 per week and food. With reference to the girls, the country is not yet sufficiently developed to absorb them in the Northern Territory. Many of the men on cattle stations are not married, and there are few white women in the country. Personally, I feel that, for the time being, it is best to continue the practice of sending them to situations in South Australia. This, however, should be considered a temporary expedient and stopped as soon as possible. Presuming the railway is built to Alice Springs. I feel sure the Territory will be able to provide employment for these girls, and this certainly should be the ideal. When such time comes, children who have been sent into South Australia should be given the opportunity of returning to their own country.

From a humanitarian standpoint, the practice of taking these half-caste children from their aboriginal mothers is objectionable, but it seems fully justifiable for the following reasons :—

- (1) The mothers are nomads, and this is the only way to secure for these half-caste children the advantages of education and training.
- (2) It is generally reported, and doubtless true, that aborigines in these parts of Australia often kill children not wanted, and especially half-castes.

Sergeant Stott motored me out to Jay Creek, the site for the new bungalow. It is about 24 miles from Alice Springs. The site is well chosen, amongst the hills of the McDonnell Ranges, and away from travelling routes. Aborigines, with white overseers, are already at work

there, burning lime for the concrete foundations. The Government have reserved 25 square miles of surrounding country. This will enable them to keep stock for house use and consumption, and give the boys the opportunity of receiving their first lessons as stockmen. The annual rainfall is about 11in., mostly in summer. A well is to be sunk, and it is fully expected that good water will be obtained near the surface, as this is the general experience in the district. This will enable them to grow all kinds of vegetables. There are several gardens in Alice Springs showing most successful results with all the vegetables we, in Adelaide, are familiar with. Orange trees do well, also tomatoes and maize. The gardens are irrigated from wells of good soft water, in which the water rises to within 20ft. of the surface.

Presuming the many favorable indications of mineral wealth result in the growth of a mining population in the neighborhood of Alice Springs, fruit and vegetable gardens under irrigation should prove profitable in the district, and largely supply the needs of the population.

FULL-BLOODED ABORIGINALS

are largely employed as stockmen, drovers, and camel drivers. Many are now employed improving the main track between Oodnadatta and Alice Springs, and are doing good work. The advent of motors into the district has made this work more than ever necessary, as the crossings of the Finke and other creeks, also of sandhills, have caused much delay and trouble. The method of improving these crossings is to excavate the sand to a depth of about 2ft. over the width of the crossing, and bundles of spinifex put down as a roadway, then lightly covered with sand to the level of the rest of the creek bed. It has been found from experience farther north that the spinifex used in this way withstands traffic for about five years. Motors, even when heavily loaded, can negotiate these crossings without difficulty. The aboriginals are paid at the rate of 2s. per day and rations. The aboriginal women assist them in the work, and I notice often work better than the men. Police officers supervise this work, which the natives do voluntarily. In addition to these semi-civilised aboriginals, who work as I have described, there are thousands roaming the bush, hunting and living on native foods. A missionary, Mr. Kramer, who has been working for some time amongst the aborigines in the Alice Springs neighborhood, has been recently appointed by the Government to distribute rations to old and sick persons.

HERMANNSEBURG MISSION STATION

is about 84 miles from Alice Springs. I visited this station. The church, school, storerooms, blacksmith's shop, children's dormitories, and officers' homes are good stone buildings. The aborigines live in well made grass huts which, I think, suit their manner of life and the mild climate. The number of adult aborigines is 141, children 95, total 236. The station has about 3,000 cattle, 150 sheep, 20 goats. There is also a large, but unknown, number of horses. Here, as in other places in the Territory, horses are almost valueless from a selling standpoint, and often shot.

This mission is evidently in financial difficulties. It is not sufficiently staffed with officers. The manager, Mr. Johannsen, acts as Visiting Superintendent. He is a very able man, but unfortunately cannot give his whole time to the work, as he has his own station at Deep Well, and also accepts contract work elsewhere. Mr. Heinrich, the teacher, is also a very capable and conscientious officer, but he has too many other duties. The teaching of the English language should be emphasised on this station, as the lack of knowledge of English must be a handicap to these aborigines when they leave the mission to earn a living elsewhere. The native language (Arunta) is used almost exclusively on this station. It will be seen from the number of children (95) on this station that these aborigines are increasing in number, and it is very satisfactory to note that, with very few exceptions, all the children are full blacks. The problem is, how are these aborigines to find employment? The mission cannot afford to employ them. The few men employed are paid 10s. weekly, plus rations. A plentiful supply of good water for irrigation is obtained by sinking wells about 50ft. deep. The soil is fertile, and all kinds of vegetables do well. Maize grows well, and should prove most useful when ground as a food for the people. A garden of three or four acres has been started with this in view. I think the Lutheran Church will find it advisable to ask the Government to relieve them of this station. They would, I presume, continue to minister to the religious needs of the aborigines, even should the Government take control.

Mr. G. Aiston, Protector of the Aborigines in the Newcastle District, would like to see the Queensland system of giving exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Act extended to worthy aborigines in this State. I have written the Queensland Chief Protector of Aborigines, asking for a report on the workings of this provision.

Mr. P. A. Giles, Inspector of Police, Port Augusta, who also acts as Protector of Aborigines, reports favorably on the condition of aborigines along the East-West railway. As a result of pastoral developments following the construction of the railway there is now more work in that district for aborigines, especially near Tarcoola. Rations for old and infirm aborigines are now supplied at Wilgena Station. This should tend to keep the aborigines away from the railway. An inquiry has been made by this inspector and his officers into use of rations issued for aborigines to stations in the North, with very satisfactory results.

MISSIONARIES.

Two lady missionaries are at work along the East-West railway, and three in the Oodnadatta district.

With reference to the large reserve in the extreme north-west of this State, the aborigines on this land are practically untouched by the vices of civilization. They are necessarily very nomadic in their manner of life, living on native foods. In my judgment, missionary efforts amongst these aborigines should be done by using camels as means of transport, and no attempts should be made to encourage these aborigines to congregate in any one place, as the country would not be able to support them if they ceased to hunt and travel to obtain their natural supplies of food. Industrial missions can only be a success in comparatively good country.

POLICE OFFICERS.

I wish to express my appreciation of the work done by them as issuers of rations to old, infirm, and sick, and generally caring for the welfare of the aborigines in their districts.

The estimated numbers of aborigines for this State are :—
Full-bloods, 3,897 ; half-castes, 1,196 ; total, 5,093—
showing a decrease of 14 on previous year.

Point Pearce.—Births, 12 half-castes ; deaths, 2 full-bloods, 7 half-castes ; number on station, 9 full-bloods, 211 half-castes ; total, 220.

Point McLeay.—Births, 1 full-blood, 12 half-castes ; deaths, 1 full-blood, 7 half-castes ; number on station, 20 full-bloods, 267 half-castes ; total, 287.

Koonibba.—Births, 2 full-bloods, 11 half-castes ; deaths, 1 full-blood, 2 half-castes ; number on station, 57 full-bloods, 88 half-castes ; total, 145.

GENERAL EXPENDITURE.

The total expenditure is £2,322 9s. 8d. more than the previous twelve months. This increase has been unavoidable, owing to the high prices of flour and blankets during the past year. It will be readily seen that the prices of these two items must very considerably affect the finances of this department.

The expenditure and receipts of the department for the year are as follows:—

		EXPENDITURE.			
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Head Office—</i>					
Salaries		895	6 1		
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, &c.		4,296	2 5		
Advisory Council of Aborigines, printing, stationery, and allow- ance to secretary		67	9 2		
				5,258	17 8
<i>Point Pearce Station—</i>					
Salaries and wages		5,748	2 3		
Implements, stock, stores, &c ..		6,996	3 7		
				12,744	5 10
<i>Point McLeay Station—</i>					
Salaries and wages		3,118	14 11		
Implements, stock, stores, &c. ..		5,258	10 2		
Rent of sections		41	15 9		
				8,419	0 10
Total				£26,422	4 4

The total expenditure is £2,322 9s. 8d. more than the previous twelve months.

		RECEIPTS.			
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
From sales of produce, Point Pearce Station ..		11,866	8 4		
From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station		4,369	8 10		
Refund of advances to aborigines for rail fares, &c.				167	19 3
Total receipts				£16,403	16 5

This amount shows a decrease of £332 13s. on last year.

		£	s. d.
Total expenditure		26,422	4 4
Less total receipts		16,403	16 5

Cost of aborigines to South Australian Govern-
ment for 12 months ended June 30th, 1925 . £10,018 7 11

I have, &c.,

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works,
September 28th, 1925.

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POINT PEARCE STATION.

August 6th, 1925.

Sir—I have the honor to present the following report for the year ended June 30th, 1925 :—

Harvest.—The returns per acre were as follows :—Wheat, 8·56bush. ; barley, 10bush. ; oats, 20bush. The system of farming on shares was continued, and after making allowances for share farmers the total station share was—Wheat, 13,722bush. ; barley, 3,144bush. ; oats, 250bush., making a total of station share of grain grown, 17,117bush. ; hay grown, 80 tons ; hay now in stock, 350 tons.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall was 11·67in.

Wool.—The wool clip totalled 107 bales from 2,944 sheep and 1,216 lambs shorn.

Lambs.—The total number lambs tailed was 944, being a percentage of 57·4 per cent. average ; foxes and dry weather the cause of such a low percentage.

Harvest Prospects.—We have about 2,650 acres under crop, and it is looking well, and with a decent rain in August and September we should have good crops.

Water Supply.—The supply continues to be good, the mills on the wells and tanks doing good work. The wells and tanks have been kept in good order, and all dams cleaned.

Buildings.—In addition to maintenance work on cottages, &c., one new stone and brick cottage has been erected, but the housing conditions of the people are far from being perfect, and we are sorry that more houses have not been erected, want of funds being the drawback.

Health.—The general health of the natives has been fair, occasional outbreaks of influenza and children's ailments and colds being most prevalent. We wish to thank the members of the Aborigines Friends' Association for the resident nurse. Both the nurse who has just left us and the present nurse, with the help of the hospital, have been a boon to the natives, and I feel sure that a great deal of sickness has been averted by the timely help of the nurses and the hospital, also to Mr. Rooper we wish to extend our thanks for his help in times of sickness.

Religious.—Services are held twice on each Sunday, together with Sunday School and Kindergarten classes. The attendance at all are very good, and the conduct of the people on the station is a credit to them, and our hopes are that it will still continue.

Miss Roper continues to act as organist for the church services, and also as organist and teacher in the Sunday School, and her help is invaluable.

Mr. Roper is also doing splendid work with his classes for the young men.

We also wish to thank the Protector of Aborigines for his visits to our station, and for his help and advice both to officers and natives.

Staff.—My staff of officers are both loyal and proficient, and have rendered splendid service during the year.

I have, &c.,

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

August 28th, 1925.

Sir—I respectfully beg to submit to you the following report for the year ended June 30th, 1925, this being my first report.

I took charge of this station from Mr. Steer, who was transferred to Point Pearce on January 1st of this year. Mr. Steer had made my incoming easy, and yet hard, as I found it difficult to follow an officer of his efficiency and ability. I will long remember the assistance given me by the officers on this station. Especially do I thank Mr. Lawrie, who was generous enough to forego part of his holidays to assist me in getting a grip of my new duties.

The natives on the station for the most part fill their various positions honestly and with a fair amount of ability. There are of course, some slackers, but this is found wherever we go. The dairy is our main source of revenue, and under the management of Mr. Wyatt is doing all we can expect of it.

We are hopeful, however, of being able with the assistance of the Narrung herd tester to do a deal of culling, and further improve our dairy herd, which at the present time is of an inferior nature.

The average number of cattle milked has been 59. Our oats gave us 1 ton of hay per acre—96 tons; 14 acres of peas were grown and fed to pigs. Fifty-eight pigs were

sold for a return of £232 7s. 6d.; 112 cattle sold for £487 2s. 6d. The amount received from sales of milk and cream for year was £647 18s. 5d.

The 1924-1925 crop was only a moderate one, and our supply of hay is almost exhausted until, at the present time, we have only a few tons of poor lucerne hay left. This year we have sown 200 acres of oats and barley, 150 acres of lucerne, and 45 acres of peas. We also have 100 acres on shares with an outside settler. At the present time things are looking well, and we are anticipating a good return.

The pigs are a great asset to this station, and compare more than favorably with any on Narrung. They are readily sought by auctioneers and bacon curers. By going in more extensively for peas we are hopeful of being able to increase our number of pigs without any extra actual feeding costs.

We are badly in need of more land to allow us to produce more, and in consequence show a better balance-sheet by increased revenue.

The unemployment is still with us, and all the evils that arise from it. It is a sad thing to see boys and girls just leaving school and drifting into the life that inevitably awaits them. I respectfully beg to recommend, sir, that a technical branch of education be attached to the local school under the supervision of Mr. Lawrie, where all boys and girls up to a certain age must attend and be taught a trade. I am of the opinion that this would not only eventually supply this station with competent tradesmen, but would be a step towards lifting the young life here to a higher moral level.

The firewood is still an acute problem. We are hoping, however, to considerably reduce this expense by a system of rationing, and later by carting our own. We have also wire netted about 30 acres, and intend introducing an extensive scheme of afforestation, for the success of which we find wire netting essential.

During the year a telephone has been installed, and one wonders how the station got along without it.

On the whole the conduct of the natives has been very fair. Most of the cases needing disciplinary measures can be traced to idleness.

M.C. Walsh, who rendered good service whilst at Meningie, has been transferred to Adelaide, and M.C. Gleed succeeds him. Mr. Gleed is an efficient officer who is

always willing to render whatever help he can to maintain good order and discipline on this station. He also issues rations to the Coorong natives.

During the year we have been visited by several influential men, chief among them being the Hon. L. L. Hill, Commissioner of Public Works, Mr. Reidy, M.P., and the Director of Education, Mr. McCoy. We have also had several visits from the Chief Protector, Mr. Garnett. In Mr. Garnett we have an officer who has his work at heart, and is every ready to impart his years of knowledge and experience to one less fortunate.

During the year there have been several changes. The religious work has been taken over by the Parkin Mission, and that body has retained the services of Mr. Read as missionary. The medical work is now done by Sister Flower, a very capable and efficient nurse, and we owe a deal of gratitude and thanks to her for the work she is doing on this station. Our thanks are also due to the A.F.A., who made this possible. We are also indebted to Dr. Linn, who is ever ready (sometimes at great inconvenience to himself) to visit this station and relieve the suffering. We call him under all weather and conditions, and always receive the same ready response.

We can boast of a school second to none in the State, and Mr. and Mrs. Lawrie have the work of teaching these children at heart. It seems a great pity that the work done by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrie is not carried further.

It is with regret that I have to record the death of Mr. Thurgarland, at one time an officer of this station. To the bereaved wife and relatives we extend our heartfelt sympathy. These circumstances necessitated the removal of Mrs. Thurgarland, our book and storekeeper, causing a vacancy which has not yet been filled.

The housing problem on this station is still very acute. There are families of 12 living in two rooms, and a family of seven living in one. We are badly in need of a hospital. At present Sister Flower's duties are very arduous and tiresome.

The very best of feeling exists between the staff here, and this can be carried to the Chief Protector.

I have, &c.,

C. RAMSEY.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

LUTHERAN MISSION STATION, KOONIBBA.

August, 1925.

Sir—I have the honor to respectfully submit the following report :—

In consequence of the new policy introduced 18 months ago we had a smaller acreage under crop than for some years past. July of last year being exceptionally dry the crops suffered severely and did not fully recover although later rain fell in abundance. From about 1,500 acres, 3,150 bags of wheat were gathered, averaging between 6bush. and 7bush., at least $1\frac{1}{2}$ bush. more than the average for the district; 70 tons of hay were cut. Again the fallowed land saved the situation.

What we lacked in wheat, however, was made up in wool; 1,400 sheep were shorn and 350 lambs. The wool clip was good and the price high, as we were fortunate enough to sell before the slump set in. This season's lambing was satisfactory, 590 lambs from 700 ewes. We had grass and water in abundance, all our tanks being filled during the winter months. In addition, we have constructed a new tank of reinforced concrete, with a holding capacity of 155,000galls., at a cost of £750.

Judging by last year's result our new departure was a step in the right direction. Our natives still have the wandering instinct strongly developed, and will, at times, leave just when they are mostly needed for farming operations. Especially does the deepsea port Thevenard attract them during the wheat season.

The conduct of the natives generally has been good. The religious training is leaving its mark upon them, although, for a season, some seem to forget that there is something nobler than the base, questionable pleasures of the morally depraved. There always are a few who get supplies of liquor and are inclined to loaf about the towns which are without police stations.

We feel it our duty to express our thankfulness to God that the station was spared the epidemic of whooping cough which raged in the district for months. In fact, we have had very little illness. Only in a few serious cases was it necessary to call in medical aid. Drs. Stevenson and Naylor, of Ceduna and Penong respectively, proved capable and obliging officers.

Our teacher, Mr. Bode, is plodding along with his 54 children with fair success, although his pupils are by nature

better equipped for the extracting of wood grubs (Purdies) from the mallee and sandalwood than extracting the cube root.

Statistics.—At the close of the period covering the report there were 145 natives at the station, viz., 57 full-bloods and 88 half-castes. The births totalled 2 full-bloods and 11 half-castes, and the deaths 2 full-bloods and 1 half-caste. The half-castes are quickly outnumbering the full-bloods.

I have, &c.,

C. HOFF, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta,

July 28th, 1925.

Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my annual report on the condition and general conduct of the aboriginal natives in the Far Northern Division (excepting that portion of the House of Assembly District of Newcastle, which is north of latitude 30) for the year ended June 30th, 1925.

The health of the natives generally has been good, with the exception of colds, for which they have been treated by the nearest police officer.

There are a few natives employed on the stations in the Beltana District, and they receive the usual rate of wages. A small quantity of flour, tea, sugar, and tobacco for the aged natives, and 12 blankets per year are the requirements for this district. There has been no law breaking in the Beltana Police District by the natives during the year, and no births or deaths have come under the notice of the police.

At Farina and district, one full-blooded lubra, aged 30 years, died of consumption. In this district there has been no births during the year, neither has there been a conviction recorded against any of the natives. Three old and infirm natives have rations regularly issued to them. At present there are about twenty aborigines living in this district, and occasionally there are more.

At Tarcoola and Ooldea, and along the East-West railway line, the wants of the natives are attended to by Mounted Constable Ridge and Mr. J. G. Davidson respectively. There are approximately 100 natives in the Tarcoola Police District, consisting of various camps along the railway.

The constable in charge of the Tarcoola Police Station reports that no offences have been recorded against the natives in that district during the year, and on the whole they are very orderly, particularly in regards to liquor; he has not known of one instance of an aboriginal obtaining liquor during the year.

Blankets have been issued from that station during the year, and rations are now being issued from Wilgena Station to the aged and feeble natives. The able-bodied natives are getting a living by catching dingoes, for which they receive 12s. 6d. per head.

Three deaths from influenza—two females and one male—have occurred near Tarcoola, and three births—two full-bloods and one half-blood—are all that are known of for the year.

At Ooldea there are 22 male and 24 female natives, including children and one half-caste boy. Mr. J. G. Davidson, of Ooldea, reports that the health of the natives during the year generally has been good; one old woman has recently become a cripple, and Mr. Davidson has relieved her pains a good deal by treatment with liniment. Colds have been prevalent, and there has been one death there for the year, and one birth (full-blood). To the best of his knowledge, there is no venereal disease there, despite reports to the contrary. The natives go to him with all their troubles and in sickness, and he is in a position to know.

The rations supplied to him for distribution are sufficient, with the exception of blankets, and he states he could distribute 12 blankets now to very deserving cases amongst the natives. There are no natives between Ooldea and the Western Australian boundary, but about 60 miles north of Ooldea there is a wild tribe, but he can give no information regarding them as he has never been to the place.

The requirements for the natives for the coming year are the same as for the past year, as the numbers remain practically the same, and taking all things into consideration the natives are well treated there, and they are not dying out as is stated by some people. There are still approximately 150 natives living at the sidings along the East-West railway, and only the aged infirm are supplied with rations.

The usual supplies will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the aboriginals in the Beltana, Blinman, Port Augusta, and Tarcoola Districts.

The offences recorded against aboriginals during the year were:—Larceny, 7; drunkenness, 2; unlawful possession, 1; drinking liquor, 6; escape from gaol, 1.

During the year 22 aborigines have been treated at the Port Augusta Hospital: 20 of them were discharged as cured, and two are still receiving treatment in the institution. Credit is due to Dr. Symons and the hospital staff for the care and treatment of the natives while inmates of the hospital.

Births.—Full-bloods—Male, 2; female, 2. Half-bloods—Male, 1.

Deaths—Full-bloods—Male, 1; female, 5.

I have, &c.,

P. A. GILES, Inspector of Police.

Mulka, *via* Marree, June 30th, 1925.

Sir—I have the honor to submit the following report on the general condition of the aborigines in this district.

Generally speaking, the condition of the old people is all that can be expected. There has been a lot of, in my opinion, unnecessary delay in the forwarding of rations from Marree, and this has led to a certain amount of hardship. The agent at Marree, however, claims that he is unable to get the loading away, and the camel teamsters complain that the agent will not give them the loading. Personally, I am rather inclined to believe the teamsters, as the carting of loading is their only means of a livelihood, and it does not seem creditable that they would leave the loading waiting in Marree while they were paying agistment for their camels.

There are about 150 full-blooded aborigines in the district. Most of the older people have left the district, some to go up into Queensland and a lot to cross over to the Finnis in the Arubunna district, and one fairly large party from here have sent me back word that they are in the Kingoonya district on the East-West line.

Some of the younger aborigines are very dissatisfied with regard to their wages on one of the stations in the district. They state that the manager will neither pay them wages nor give them money with which to pay their debts. I know how impossible it is to keep aborigines out of debt when there is a store on their place of employment, so am not sure whether these people are getting a fair deal or not. The trouble is adjusting itself, as most of them are leaving and are going after wild dogs.

I noticed in the Police Report of last year that it was stated that the younger blacks spent their money foolishly. I took the trouble during the year to note the purchases, and I find that the averages for the year were—Spent on clothes for themselves, 30 per cent.; on clothes for the gins, 40 per cent.; on food, 10 per cent.; on luxuries, spurs, tobacco, mouth organs (these last mostly for the children), and lollies, 20 per cent. I have noticed that the gins spend nearly all of their money on beads, safety pins (which they make up into brooches), and handkerchiefs for their heads. The low average spent on food is caused by the fact that most of them are found in food by their employers, and any of those engaged in dog-poisoning live on the country—they get out into country that has not been spoilt by the stock and so are able to live on their natural food.

I have supplied during the year an average of eight women and two old men, and six children. One invalid has been receiving attention from me for the year, and I am pleased to be able to say that he is recovering. He was very near death when he came back here.

I have supplied the following medicines during the year at my own expense:—300 tabloid hydrarg. perchloride, 1-16 grain (in treating syphilitic sores); six bottles Faulding's Honeybrom, for colds (mostly children); eight bottles eucalyptus; five bottles spirits of hartshorn (1oz.) and five bottles olive oil, for making white liniment for rheumatic pains; four pots boracic ointment, for sore eyes; possibly half a pint of creodol in disinfecting sores. If it was possible to get payment for these things I have made them pay, but most of the things have been supplied to those who will never be able to earn money again.

I am endeavoring to get the aborigines to repose sufficient faith in me to allow them to doctor their ills instead of their own medicine men, and with one of the latter, a rather intelligent half-caste, I have taught a lot of simple rules of cleanliness, and have persuaded him to work them into his ceremonies. This man is rather a queer throwback. He is fairly well educated, but went through the initiation ceremony last year. He knew the folly of the medicine men's methods, but through force of circumstances he took a bone out of his gin's leg when she was suffering. She stated that pain had gone, so he had to practise on others; finally he got such a reputation that he believes that he is really able to suck the pain out of a sick person. He told me the other day that one could not get near his camp for the bones that he had extracted from sufferers.

I would like to see the Queensland system of giving exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Act extended to worthy aborigines. In my opinion this would give the young blacks something to work for. They would need to have a perfectly good record to get exemption, which should be granted by appearing before Justices of the Peace in their own district, where they would be well known. The fear of losing the exemption, once granted, would be an inducement to strive for something better, and would also act as a deterrent to petty crimes. So many of the younger blacks have been educated sufficiently to feel the degradation of being treated as being unworthy to look after themselves that I think something of this sort is very necessary.

I have, &c.,

G. AISTON, Protector of Aborigines,
Newcastle District.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

POINT PEARCE ABORIGINAL STATION.

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT JUNE 30TH, 1925.

LIABILITIES.				ASSETS.								
£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.				
H.M. Government account	—	—	12,585	15	10	Station buildings	9,320	0	0			
Capital account	—	—	11,362	9	5	Improvements	5,982	12	11			
Sundry creditors	—	—	422	12	4				15,302	12	11	
Net profit for year	198	18	2			Implements, vehicles, &c.	1,818	13	2			
Add net profit, brought forward	4,607	1	7			Furniture	110	2	8			
			4,805	19	9	Harness	207	19	3			
						Hospital furniture	34	5	0			
										2,171	0	1
						Sundry debtors	—	—	—	29	11	9
						Stocks on hand—						
						Store	803	12	11			
						Hay	1,225	0	0			
						Barley	25	0	0			
						Oats	38	0	0			
						Cornsacks	220	13	9			
						Woolpacks	3	17	0			
						Binder twine	21	2	6			
						Bricks	1	0	0			
						Lime	1	10	0			
						Fencing posts and standards	10	0	0			
						Rope	7	0	0			
						Share-farmers' seed and super	651	5	5			
						Livestock—						
						Horses	1,134	0	0			
						Cattle	1,074	0	0			
						Sheep	6,328	11	0			
						Pigs	129	0	0			
										11,673	12	7
										£29,176	17	4
										£29,176	17	4

These statements do not include any charge for interest on capital expenditure or rent for land comprising the station.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1925.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
To Salary of superintendent and bookkeeper	366	18	11					By Store	—		636 8 7	
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	4,424	18	6					Farm account, wheat, wool and other produce	—	4,102	16 1	
	<u>4,424</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>					Rent	—	104	18 7	
				4,791	17	5		Cattle	123	18	3	
Rations for aboriginals	626	14	10					Pigs	111	7	6	
School books for aboriginal children	5	14	7					Sheep	876	4	1	
Hospital rations	34	11	11						<u>1,111</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	
				667	1	4		Meat	—	151	8 9	
Horses	—			105	0	0		Sundry debtors, amount collected in excess of anticipation	—	12	4 0	
Accident insurance	—			26	0	9		Net profit from 1915-1924, brought forward	—	4,607	1 7	
Head office salaries and expenses	—			99	8	9						
Depreciation—												
Furniture	5	15	11									
Harness	23	2	1									
Implements, &c.	202	1	5									
				230	19	5						
Net profit, brought forward	4,607	1	7									
Add net profit for year	198	18	2									
	<u>4,607</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>									
				4,805	19	9						
				<u>£10,726</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>				<u>£10,726</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>

POINT McLEAY ABORIGINAL STATION.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1925.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Farm account—Dairy and other produce	—			1,761	16	8	By Store	—			250	11	10
Horse	28	12	0				Meat	—			90	13	2
Cattle	449	10	3				Sheep	100	0	0			
				478	2	3	Pigs	289	16	8			
Rations for aboriginals	454	0	0								389	16	8
School books for aboriginal children	8	9	0				Net loss for year	5,123	15	11			
				462	9	0	Add net loss brought forward ...	26,260	18	0	31,384	13	11
Salary of Superintendent	277	1	4										
Wages of white laborers and aboriginals	2,627	10	6	2,904	11	10							
Accident insurance	—			14	7	1							
Depreciation—													
Furniture	7	9	1	85	14	3							
Implements, vehicles, &c.	65	12	10	6	0	0							
Harness	12	12	4										
Boot shop materials, &c.	—												
Mats and baskets	—			0	12	0							
Head office—Salaries and expenses	—			99	8	9							
Rent	—			41	15	9							
Net loss from 1915-1924 brought forward	—			26,260	18	0							
				£32,115	15	7					£32,115	15	7

BALANCE-SHEET AS AT JUNE 30TH, 1925.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
H.M. Government account	35,624	3 0	Station buildings	4,499	1 3
Sundry creditors	381	12 8	Improvements	2,109	1 11
Capital account	5,550	6 4			6,608 3 2
			Implements, vehicles, &c.	590	15 4
			Furniture	141	11 11
			Hospital furniture	31	11 7
			Harness	113	11 0
					877 9 10
			Stocks on hand—		
			Store	425	2 5
			Sheep skins	8	15 0
			Seed oats	9	0 0
			Hay	5	0 0
			Bran	4	0 0
			Pollard	12	0 0
			Lime	1	10 0
			Cement	6	0 0
			Galvanized iron	26	0 0
			Timber	25	0 0
			Fencing wire	73	10 0
			Farm tools	21	16 0
			Livestock—		
			Horses	501	0 0
			Cattle	1,005	0 0
			Sheep	340	0 0
			Pigs	203	0 0
					2,666 13 58
			Sundry debtors	—	19 1
			Net loss for year	5,123	15 11
			Add net loss brought forward	26,260	18 0
					31,384 13 11
					£41,556 2 0

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These statements do not include any charge for interest on capital expenditure, or rent for land comprising the station.