

South



Australia.



REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1928.



Adelaide:

HARRISON WEBB, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1928.

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442

REPORT.

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide, September 18th, 1928.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Sir—I have the honor to submit this, my report on the working of the Aboriginals' Department for the year ended June 30th, 1928.

Rations, clothing, and blankets have been supplied during the year to depots throughout the State, and have been distributed by the issuers of rations to the old, sick, and infirm aboriginals, also to others found in poor circumstances.

Their medical needs have been attended to. The medical officers and hospital officers and attendants have given to aboriginal patients all necessary attention. Supplies of medicines for coughs, colds, and eye troubles have been sent to the depots, and given out by issuers of rations. There are fully-equipped dispensaries at Point Pearce, Point McLeay, and Koonibba Aboriginal Stations.

CENSUS.

The census of aboriginals in the Commonwealth on June 30th, 1927, was as follows:—

| | Full Bloods. | Half-castes. | Total. |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Western Australia | 22,995 | 2,587 | 25,582 |
| North Australia | 20,258 | 782 | 21,040 |
| Queensland | 13,523 | 4,210 | 17,733 |
| New South Wales | 964 | 5,829 | 6,793 |
| South Australia | 2,149 | 1,554 | 3,703 |
| Victoria | 56 | 506 | 562 |
| | <u>59,945</u> | <u>15,468</u> | <u>75,413</u> |

The total number of aboriginals in the Commonwealth recorded in census for the previous year was 74,398, and the number for South Australia was 3,983.

The above figures should be considered reliable estimates only, as it is impossible to get the exact figures for many districts because of the nomadic habits of the race.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

Births : 12 half-castes. Deaths : 3 full bloods ; 5 half-castes.
Number on station : 6 full bloods ; 266 half-castes ; total, 272.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

Births : 1 full blood ; 11 half-castes. Deaths : 1 full blood ;
9 half-castes.
Number on station : 27 full bloods ; 271 half-castes ; total, 298.

KOONIBBA MISSION.

Births : 1 full blood ; 5 half-castes. Deaths : 7 full bloods ,
1 half-caste.

Number on mission : 72 full bloods ; 94 half-castes ; total, 166.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

The Superintendent reports that the harvest results were the worst experienced since 1914. The returns per acre were as follows :—Wheat, 5.44bush. ; barley, 2.9bush. ; oats, nil. The system of farming on shares was continued, and after making allowances for sharefarmers the total station share was—Wheat, 6,549bush. ; barley, 551bush. ; total, 7,100bush. Two hundred acres were sown with oats for hay, but owing to the bad season no hay was cut and, for the first time since the 1914 drought, it was necessary to purchase hay in the neighborhood.

The wool clip totalled 104 bales from 3,400 sheep, 30 rams, and 618 lambs shorn.

The total number of lambs tailed was 666, being not quite 50 per cent. average.

The profit and loss account herewith shows a loss of £6,240 11s. 3d. on the year's operations. The loss last year was £3,338 3s. 11d. The principal cause of these heavy losses is bad seasons ; but it is very evident that the steady yearly increase in the number of natives on the station is also an important factor.

Harvest prospects :—The area under crop is about 3,500 acres. The crop is looking well, and good late rains would give favorable results, especially as the area under crop is larger than usual.

The mainland is now fairly well supplied with water. On Wardang Island two large catchments roofed with galvanized iron have been erected to supply water to the tanks. These are giving good results. It is intended to further improve water conservation on this island, and thus add to its carrying capacity for stock.

The school building has been improved by the addition of two new rooms, one for woodwork and the other for domestic economy. Mr. B. J. Grewar, who for some years has done good work as Missioner at Point McLeay, has recently returned to his old vocation as a teacher, and has succeeded the late Mr. H. J. Franklin as schoolmaster at Point Pearce. Mr. Franklin was the teacher at Point Pearce for over five years, where he did good work. He died in the month of February this year.

There have been changes in the position of book and storekeeper during the year. Mr. A. A. Heusler left on September 30th, 1927, and Mr. J. Armstrong, his successor, resigned on June 30th, 1928. Mr. G. G. Miller has been transferred from Point McLeay to fill the vacancy.

Native builders have been employed in repairing and building additional rooms to some of the cottages, also repairing underground tanks. Two more cottages are needed because of overcrowding.

The Aborigines' Friends Association continue to give financial assistance in maintenance of nurse at hospital, also in support of the religious services conducted by representatives of the Anglican and Methodist Churches.

The health of the natives has been fairly good.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

The Superintendent reports that the harvest was disappointing owing to the dry season. The hay yield was only 30 tons from 100 acres sown. The pea crop failed entirely. The lambing resulted in an average of 65 per cent., which was fairly good. Pigs have been in good demand, and 75 have been sold at satisfactory prices. The yield from the dairy has been affected by the dry season, but the cows have given fairly good results, and the herd is being much improved by the introduction of a pedigree Shorthorn bull last year. A further help to the dairy is the plentiful supply of permanent water resulting from the erection of a 20,000gall. Squatter's tank with a new Metter's windmill, supplying same from good well.

The returns for cream sold from the dairy for the 12 months were £512 4s. 10d. In addition, some cattle have been sold, and the natives and officers supplied with milk. Pigs sold realised £308 14s.

Noxious weeds have caused considerable trouble and some expense, "Bathurst Burr" having made its appearance in the district. Boxthorn has also become a menace, but both these pests have been effectively dealt with.

A great deal of fencing has been necessary this year. "Teringie" paddock fence has been renewed for a distance of three miles. The block known as "Bonnies" has now a substantial six-wire fence.

One new cottage of three rooms has been built. An additional room has been added to another cottage and other repairs effected. The school teacher's residence has had extensive repairs and improvements which were much needed.

The general health of the natives has been fairly good. Dr. Cornish of Taillem Bend and the various nurses at the hospital have done splendid work in caring for the sick and infirm native residents.

Mr. Grewar, who resigned as Missioner on April 10th, 1928, has been much appreciated. Mr. W. F. L. Cook has been engaged from England by the Parkin Mission as Mr. Grewar's successor. Mrs. Cook, who is a qualified nurse, also takes charge of the hospital. They arrived at Point McLeay on August 24th, 1928. In the interval the church services and Sunday School have been conducted regularly by the officers of the station, assisted by native helpers.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The Superintendent's report is included herewith.

An average of 9bush. to the acre was reaped from 1,240 acres of wheat sown, 100 acres were cut for hay, giving 120 tons. The returns from the sheep owing to unfavorable weather were disappointing. The wool clip was light and lambing returns only showed 33 per cent.

POLICE OFFICERS.

Reports have been received from Inspector P. A. Giles, Protector of Aborigines, Port Augusta, on the work done by police officers as issuers of rations, &c., in the Far North and West. There has not been anything in the form of epidemic disease amongst the aborigines this year, and their general health is fair. The chief convictions against them are for obtaining liquor. One heavy penalty inflicted at Marree will, no doubt, hinder other offenders from supplying the natives with strong drink. The penalties imposed upon the natives have not much influence in deterring them from participating in similar offences, if the opportunity for doing so presents itself. Seven persons were convicted for supplying aborigines, and 17 aborigines were convicted for having liquor.

During the past few weeks the reports concerning the aborigines near the border of Central Australia and in Central Australia have not been so satisfactory. This country produces little food for man or beast; its average carrying capacity being, say, two bullocks to the square mile. The advance of white settlement on these lands means the destruction of the aborigines already scanty natural food supplies, and makes it urgently necessary that reserves should be proclaimed for them and that they should be gradually taught to make good use of same.

NORTH-SOUTH RAILWAY.

The proclamation made under section 33 of the Aborigines Act when work was commenced on this railway extension to Alice Springs, prohibiting aborigines not in lawful employment from being within 10 miles east and west of the line, has fulfilled a useful purpose and been beneficial to both whites and aborigines. The vigilance of the police officers in making this prohibition effective is much appreciated. The police officer and his assistants in this district have strictly enforced the regulation and he reports to me that not one complaint was received by him of any native other than two or three boys working with camel teams, being on or near the line.

Mr. G. Aiston, Protector of Aborigines for the Newcastle District, reports from Mulka Well that the last year has been very unfavorable for the aborigines in his district. The continual drought and lack of work in consequence has thrown a number of able-bodied natives on to Government rations. The stations held throughout the district are so near to bankruptcy that they are unable to even keep the old pensioners on the various places, and all the natural food seems to have disappeared.

MISSIONARIES.

Religious and educational work is being done by missionaries at Swan Reach, Baroota, Port Augusta, and Oodnadatta.

The home for half-caste children near Quorn conducted by the Australian Aborigines' Mission is doing good work, caring for half-caste children and fitting them for their future life and work.

The home in North Adelaide conducted by the Adelaide City Mission for aboriginal women and children, continues its useful work. The accommodation and necessary oversight are very satisfactory.

Mrs. W. Owen, who has been matron of the home since it was opened, has just resigned to join her husband in Western Australia where he has gone for health reasons. Mrs. Owen was also a Protector of Aborigines for Adelaide and neighborhood, and acted as honorary inspector of half-caste girls from Alice Springs who are in situations in Adelaide and suburbs. I have much appreciated her splendid work in both these capacities.

The Aborigines' Friends Association continues to help financially in maintenance of nurses at Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations, also in conjunction with the Parkin Mission, in the religious work on these stations.

The Advisory Council of Aborigines continues to meet monthly. All members take a keen interest in matters affecting the interest and welfare of our native race.

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

Head office—

| | EXPENDITURE. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
|--|--------------|----|----|----|----|---------|----|----|
| Salaries | 1,048 | 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, &c. | 5,126 | 11 | 11 | | | | | |
| Boarding home for aboriginal women | 198 | 17 | 1 | | | | | |
| Advisory Council of Aborigines— Printing, stationery, and allow- ance to secretary | 55 | 0 | 5 | | | | | |
| Superannuation Fund pensions.... | 104 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 6,532 | 10 | 7 |
| Point Pearce Station— | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and wages, &c. | 6,138 | 18 | 4 | | | | | |
| Implements, stock, fertilisers, &c... | 3,620 | 10 | 10 | | | | | |
| New cottages | 259 | 3 | 5 | | | | | |
| Additions to school | 274 | 5 | 4 | | | | | |
| Material for catchments, Wardang Island | 199 | 8 | 6 | | | | | |
| Purchases for store | 3,027 | 14 | 3 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 13,520 | 0 | 8 |
| Point McLeay Station— | | | | | | | | |
| Salaries and wages | 2,957 | 15 | 1 | | | | | |
| Implements, stock, supplies, &c... | 2,468 | 14 | 9 | | | | | |
| Interest and rent of sections | 102 | 15 | 9 | | | | | |
| Cottages transferred from Pom- poota | 426 | 2 | 9 | | | | | |
| Purchases for store | 2,857 | 18 | 11 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 8,813 | 7 | 3 |
| | | | | | | £28,865 | 18 | 6 |

| RECEIPTS. | £ | s. d. |
|--|-------------|-------|
| From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station.... | 4,479 | 4 11 |
| From store sales, Point Pearce Station | 3,060 | 7 3 |
| From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station.... | 2,737 | 18 7 |
| From store sales, Point McLeay Station | 2,514 | 11 10 |
| Refund of advances for fares, &c. | 255 | 7 6 |
| | <hr/> | |
| | £13,047 | 10 1 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> | |

The total expenditure is £2,586 7s. 4d. less than the previous 12 months.

The total receipts show a decrease of £2,024 17s. 11d. on last year.

| | £ | s. d. |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|
| Total expenditure | 28,865 | 18 6 |
| Less total receipts | 13,047 | 10 1 |
| | <hr/> | |

Cost of aborigines to South Australian Government
for 12 months ended June 30th, 1928..... £15,818 8 5

I have, &c.,

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector Aborigines.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

LUTHERAN MISSION STATION.

Koonibba, July, 1928.

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

Farming.—Although we did not have a bountiful harvest, yet we may be satisfied with the results; 600 acres fallow and 180 acres grass land were brought under crop with station teams and labor. The winter rains were sufficient to give the wheat a good start, and when the dry weather set in in early spring our crops were well advanced and able to hold their own. A good rain in the early part of September would have made all the difference. However, we averaged 9bush.; 100 acres of the above-mentioned crop were cut for hay, cutting 120 tons. In addition to the above, 100 acres of new land and 460 of second year's were let on shares. There also we had an average of 9bush. Directly after seeding 500 acres were fallowed. This was worked frequently, and consequently the dry summer winds caused it to drift considerably.

Sheep.—The returns from our sheep were disappointing. The clip was light in consequence of the long dry summer. About 1,700 sheep were shorn. The best wool realised 16½d. This season's lambing was not up to expectations. A week of severe frost during the most critical period killed a number of lambs. Our farm manager, Mr. H. Braunack, reports 33 per cent. lambing.

Crops.—This season we sowed 500 acres of fallow, 780 of stubble, and 330 of new land. This makes a total of 1,610 acres worked by our natives. Our sharefarmer sowed again his 560 acres. This brings our total under crop up to 2,170 acres.

All were sown before the rain set in ; the germination was good, and the outlook is bright in spite of the lateness of the season. Over 100 acres on the fallow drifted badly and will be almost a complete failure. We use super. on all land sown.

We fallowed 920 acres for next year, 250 of which was ploughed in February and may be classed as summer fallow.

Our men are busily engaged in scrub cutting. We hope to clear 375 acres.

Water.—A constant worry is still the water question. In the latter part of the summer we were again obliged to cart water. We are as confident as ever that water can be found by boring if only we had a power boring plant.

Labor.—On account of general unemployment we have more natives here than usual. So far we were able to supply them with work, but the position will be more serious as soon as we cease scrub-cutting. We shall endeavor to refrain from dealing out rations to able-bodied men.

Health.—An epidemic of whooping cough and measles gave us a very anxious and strenuous time. To care for scores of sufferers is not an easy matter. A number of natives also had a peculiar skin disease which covered them with sores from head to foot. A thorough study of this malady should prove very interesting to a studious specialist. There was more illness among the natives during this year than is usually the case. In consequence, we had to call for medical aid more frequently. At present the state of health is normal. We feel much obliged to you, sir, for always supplying us promptly with drugs and medicines.

Discipline.—The general body of natives is well behaved. The undesirable type, a minority, is like the poor, always with us. It seems a pity that no conviction was effected in cases where it was only too evident that the accused white men supplied liquor to the natives. We hear so much about a native state ; but what is now urgently required is a law to prevent the degraded native, who habitually loafs about the towns, from camping near any township. This would be humanitarian.

General.—The spiritual work, which to us is the most important, is continued in church and school. Besides, devotions are held with the natives, and Bible study is carried on regularly. There is a spirit of goodwill between staff and natives, and all minor differences are easily smoothed out.

I have, &c.,

C. HOFF, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1928.

| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--------|-------|
| To Farm and general expenses, wheat, wool, and other produce | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
| Horses | — | | 194 | 15 4 |
| Salary of Superintendent and book-keeper | 479 | 11 10 | 176 | 0 0 |
| Wages of aboriginals and white laborers | 5,519 | 10 2 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 5,999 | 2 0 |
| Rations for aboriginals | 541 | 16 0 | | |
| School books for aboriginal children | 20 | 13 10 | | |
| Hospital rations and expenses..... | 152 | 5 5 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 714 | 15 3 |
| Accident insurance | — | | 67 | 3 1 |
| Head office, salaries and expenses.. | — | | 115 | 16 1 |
| Depreciation— | | | | |
| Implements, vehicles, &c. | 153 | 2 4 | | |
| Harness | 22 | 7 11 | | |
| Furniture | 4 | 19 5 | | |
| Hospital furniture | 2 | 1 0 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 182 | 10 8 |
| Net loss brought forward, 1915-1927 | — | | 1,635 | 2 3 |
| | | | <hr/> | |
| | | | £9,085 | 4 8 |
| | | | <hr/> | |
| By Rent | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
| Cattle | 153 | 0 0 | 71 | 7 0 |
| Sheep | 940 | 6 0 | | |
| Pigs | 33 | 3 0 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 1,126 | 9 0 |
| Store | — | | 10 | 4 7 |
| Meat | — | | 1 | 10 7 |
| Balance net loss for year..... | 6,240 | 11 3 | | |
| Add net loss brought forward 1915- 1927..... | 1,635 | 2 3 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 7,875 | 13 6 |
| | | | <hr/> | |
| | | | £9,085 | 4 8 |
| | | | <hr/> | |

**BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS
AT JUNE 30TH, 1928.**

| | LIABILITIES. | | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
|---|--------------|----|---|-------|---------|-------|
| H.M. Government account | 25,440 | 19 | 9 | | | |
| H.M. Government deposit account ... | 738 | 9 | 5 | | | |
| | | | | | 26,179 | 9 2 |
| Capital account | — | | | | 11,362 | 9 5 |
| Sundry creditors | — | | | | 762 | 18 11 |
| | | | | | £38,304 | 17 6 |
| | ASSETS. | | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
| Station buildings | 10,124 | 5 | 4 | | | |
| New cottages | 1,235 | 18 | 5 | | | |
| | | | | | 11,360 | 3 9 |
| Improvements | — | | | | 6,631 | 17 1 |
| Implements, vehicles, &c. | 1,378 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Harness | 201 | 11 | 8 | | | |
| Furniture | 94 | 8 | 5 | | | |
| Hospital furniture | 38 | 18 | 2 | | | |
| | | | | | 1,712 | 19 5 |
| Sundry debtors | — | | | | 214 | 16 0 |
| Stocks on hand— | | | | | | |
| Horses | 826 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Cattle | 778 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Sheep | 6,747 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| Pigs | 122 | 15 | 0 | | | |
| Farm, seed, super, building and fencing material, &c. | 1,120 | 18 | 0 | | | |
| Store | 899 | 14 | 9 | | | |
| Meat account, sheepskins | 14 | 10 | 0 | | | |
| | | | | | 10,509 | 7 9 |
| Net loss for year | 6,240 | 11 | 3 | | | |
| Add net loss, 1915-27, brought for- ward..... | 1,635 | 2 | 3 | | | |
| | | | | | 7,875 | 13 6 |
| | | | | | £38,304 | 17 6 |

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector Aboriginals.

September 19th, 1928.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1928.

| | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. |
|--|--------|-------|---------|-------|
| To Farm account, dairy, and other produce | — | | 295 | 8 10 |
| Rations for aboriginals | 552 | 7 6 | | |
| School books for aboriginal children | 12 | 7 4 | | |
| Hospital rations and expenses.... | 27 | 0 8 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 591 | 15 6 |
| Salary of Superintendent and book- keeper | 460 | 8 6 | | |
| Wages of aboriginals and white laborers | 2,428 | 7 7 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 2,888 | 16 1 |
| Horses | 175 | 0 0 | | |
| Sheep | 359 | 2 0 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 534 | 2 0 |
| Accident insurance | — | | 34 | 3 11 |
| Depreciation— | | | | |
| Implements | 81 | 15 8 | | |
| Harness..... | 17 | 2 0 | | |
| Furniture | 6 | 5 9 | | |
| Hospital furniture | 2 | 19 9 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 108 | 3 2 |
| Rent | 41 | 15 9 | | |
| Interest, &c., on lands under pur- chase | 64 | 14 2 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 106 | 9 11 |
| Head office salaries and expenses.. | — | | 115 | 16 1 |
| Net loss from 1915-27 | — | | 37,956 | 4 1 |
| | | | <hr/> | |
| | | | £42,630 | 19 7 |
| | | | <hr/> | |
| By Cattle | 20 | 4 0 | | |
| Pigs | 326 | 14 0 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 346 | 18 0 |
| Meat | — | | 92 | 12 1 |
| Store (revenue account)..... | — | | 1 | 0 0 |
| Store | — | | 206 | 10 7 |
| Net loss for year | 4,027 | 14 10 | | |
| Add net loss brought forward.. | 37,956 | 4 1 | | |
| | <hr/> | | 41,983 | 18 11 |
| | | | <hr/> | |
| | | | 42,630 | 19 7 |
| | | | <hr/> | |

**BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS
AT JUNE 30TH, 1928.**

| | LIABILITIES. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|--------------|----|----|----|----|---------|----|----|
| H.M. Government account | 51,409 | 18 | 10 | | | | | |
| H.M. Government deposit account ... | 288 | 17 | 1 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 51,698 | 15 | 11 |
| Sundry creditors | — | | | | | 499 | 2 | 0 |
| Capital account | — | | | | | 5,550 | 6 | 4 |
| | | | | | | £57,748 | 4 | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | ASSETS. | | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| Station buildings | 5,024 | 1 | 3 | | | | | |
| Cottages and hospital transferred from Pompoota | 2,080 | 10 | 7 | | | 7,104 | 11 | 10 |
| Land purchased | — | | | | | 2,122 | 15 | 0 |
| Improvements | — | | | | | 2,776 | 15 | 9 |
| Implements, vehicles, &c. | 736 | 1 | 0 | | | | | |
| Harness | 153 | 18 | 3 | | | | | |
| Furniture | 119 | 9 | 11 | | | | | |
| Hospital furniture | 56 | 15 | 7 | | | 1,066 | 4 | 9 |
| Stock on hand— | | | | | | | | |
| Store | 507 | 8 | 9 | | | | | |
| Horses | 380 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Cattle | 529 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Sheep | 599 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Pigs | 147 | 0 | 0 | | | | | |
| Farm, fodder, fencing, and building material, seed, &c. | 313 | 12 | 6 | | | | | |
| Sheepskins | 17 | 10 | 0 | | | 2,493 | 11 | 3 |
| Cash on hand | — | | | | | 84 | 9 | 6 |
| Sundry debtors | — | | | | | 115 | 16 | 3 |
| Adjustment account | — | | | | | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Net loss for year | 4,027 | 14 | 10 | | | | | |
| Add net loss brought forward | 37,956 | 4 | 1 | | | 41,983 | 18 | 11 |
| | | | | | | £57,748 | 4 | 3 |

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector Aborigines.

September 19th, 1928.