

1900.
—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

R E P O R T

FOR

FINANCIAL YEAR

ENDING

30TH JUNE, 1900.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

[SECOND SESSION OF 1900.]

PERTH:

BY AUTHORITY: RICHARD PETHER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1900.

No. 15.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Report for Financial Year ending 30th June, 1900.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE PREMIER,

SIR,

I beg to submit my Report on the working of the Aborigines Department for the year ending 30th June, 1900.

Expenditure.—The expenditure of the Department for the said year has been £9,802 16s. 8d. The statutory vote of £5,000 appearing by previous experience to be inadequate for the duties before the Department, you were kind enough to recommend a supplementary £5,000 on the Estimates for the year, which was voted by the Legislature; and I am glad to be able to inform you that, by the exercise of a strict supervision of the expenses, I have been able to confine the expenditure just within that amount. The balance-sheet required by Section 10 of “The Aborigines Act, 1897” (61 Vict., No. 5), which I attach for presentation to the Legislature, will show that £222 9s. 7d. remain unexpended.

I am happy to be able to say that no direct complaints have been made of any distress among the Aborigines which has not been relieved, and that very few complaints of any sort have been made.

By the energetic manner in which the Travelling Inspector appointed last August has carried out his duties, I am now gradually recording a very detailed register of the condition and numbers, sexes, etc., of all the working aboriginal population; and it is owing to the enormous extent of country that he must travel over that it is still incomplete, so I will not attempt this year to put forward in detail the results of his work. At present I merely attach a list of the stations that he has visited, in a tabulated form (Table B). Not only does the Department obtain this close information from this gentleman's service, but it is able to corroborate claims for relief in many places where no other means are available; and the natives themselves, when suffering from ailments and diseases, derive considerable benefit and amelioration from his presence among them. He is also able to leave drugs with settlers, with instructions for their use. The number of deaths during the year do not appear to have been great. What epidemics have occurred have been promptly dealt with, and therefore I do not think there can be much change in the numbers, consequently I do not attach a census in this report. I merely give the numbers of those who have been relieved (*see* Table A.), viz. :—

Blind	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
Aged, crippled, and diseased	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	378
Destitute or otherwise incapable	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
									<hr/> 607 <hr/>

With reference to my promise to report more fully on the number and condition of the half-castes, I find I will have to wait until the inspector has covered more ground; but I have turned my attention more to the subject of their education and improvement. I have also had opportunities of hearing a good deal more about the moral condition of the aborigines, and have been interviewed by many of the squatters holding large interests in the northern parts of the Colony, who almost unanimously urge legislation on such subjects. Accounts reach me of the condition of things on the North coast, where the natives have entirely given up all effort to make their own hunting weapons, or to get their own food in any way, and are sinking into a most demoralised state. The aged are entirely neglected by them, and disease is so

on the increase that, unless proper action is taken, they will become a serious and growing charge on our finances. The new blankets of the red, white, and blue pattern, with crowns (which, by-the-bye, seem so appropriate to the sentiment of the current year), have found great favour, not only among the natives, but in the eyes of the whites also; the great advantage now is that no other blankets are made like them in the world, and I hope to be able to offer a regular supply annually of the same pattern. The cost of them is less than 6s. each delivered here. Everybody allows that they are far stronger and of warmer quality than those hitherto used.

Institutions.—The Native and Half-caste Institution, Middle Swan:—There have been 47 inmates, 19 boys and 28 girls. Of these 15 boys and 23 girls are on the relief list, a shilling a day being paid the boys up to the age of 14, and the girls to 16.

Report from Manager.—The New Norcia Mission, Victoria Plains, supports and educates at present 58 boys and 42 girls. The usual annual sum (£450) has been paid to this institution.

At the Trappist Mission at Beagle Bay a large number of natives are supported and educated, and their labour has been utilised in the shape of reproductive gardens. Pecuniary assistance has been given to this institution, as shown in my accounts.

The half-caste boy is still paid for at the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Perth, at the usual annual sum of £25, and occasional help in the care of children has been given me by the Salvation Army, in whose praise for their readiness to help the Department I cannot speak too highly.

In addition to these I have established at Ellensbrook, on the South-West coast, a small farmhouse for those who cannot be taken in to the above institutions. This is under the charge of a lady well experienced in the treatment of natives, who undertakes to teach those at the home in all branches of work which will make them able to earn their living, and also to read and write. There are now four inmates—a woman with two young children, and a girl recovering from late injuries.

The private mission on Sunday Island, King Sound, is still in existence. By the quarterly reports which are sent to me, as one of the conditions of their occupation, there appear to be about 60 natives, on an average, cared for and taught throughout the year. Complaint is made of the frequent visits of Asiatic pearl-ers, whose influence is much against the improvement in the habits and lives of the natives, which is the first work of the missionaries in charge.

An arrangement is in contemplation with the Department of Lands for giving employment to natives who cannot get work in the South-Eastern districts, on the Dumbering Area, near Narrogin Station; as it is reported to me that native labour is so unreliable and uncertain in these parts, and that white labour being more readily obtainable, the native labour is not now so much required as formerly. There are many able-bodied natives thus thrown out of employment, even though they are willing to work.

EMPLOYMENT.

Following on my remarks of last year, I instructed the Inspector to obtain, when possible, independent opinions as to the signing of contracts or otherwise from every settler whose station he visited. These opinions have been received from owners and managers of the following stations:—“Moorarie,” “Nookawarra,” and “Jimba Jimba,” in the Murchison district; “Milgun,” “Minilya,” “Boolagooroo,” “Point Cloates,” “Williambury,” and “Middalya,” in the Gascoyne district; “Dairee Creek” and “Clifton Downs” in the Upper Gascoyne district; “Waroo,” “Wogoola,” and “Yannerie,” in the Ashburton district; “Mundrabilla” in the Eucla district, and “Muccan” in the De Grey district. With one exception they are all strongly in favour of the law as it stands with regard to signing contracts for labour by natives, and the exception only dissents as far as it applies to what he calls ignorant and half-wild natives, who do not understand the conditions. I hear from another of these gentlemen that there are very few such, and therefore we may consider that the general opinion so far received is satisfied with the present law on the subject. Taking their opinions together, they are based upon the following facts:—

1. That the present system seems to be the only one under which natives can be employed with benefit to the employer and themselves.
2. The employer is protected from his servants being enticed away from their work by neighbours or travellers.
3. The natives are better fed, clothed, and attended to in sickness if under legal employment, and can secure their rights from their employer.
4. Numbers of natives would be turned adrift altogether and be a burden to the State if masters could not make sure of the services of their employees.

Following on a suggestion made in Parliament, I am taking steps towards the registration of native agreements by the remission to the Head Office of monthly lists; but it will be some time before this can be done with accuracy, from the scattered nature of the contracting agents' offices.

KIMBERLEY DISTRICT.

In the Eastern portion the expenditure has been very much reduced in consequence of the quantity of game, and the number of relatives upon whom the aged and infirm can still rely. I considered it best only to distribute relief at the two centres of Hall's Creek and Wyndham, where any serious cases of destitution or illness might be dealt with. I am glad to say that the settlers throughout this portion of the Colony recognise the claims that their old natives have upon them.

In the West, at the Fitzroy, and at Derby and Broome, a good many destitute natives are still relieved, many being on the coastal country, where the aged and crippled are left for considerable periods in desolate country by the younger members of the tribes, who go elsewhere to obtain labour or food. During the last few months an epidemic has been raging, which is described as whooping cough and fever; about 15 persons are reported as having died near the Fitzroy Telegraph Station. The Medical Officer at Derby states it is the usual annual malarial epidemic to which the Fitzroy natives are liable owing to their mode of life, and he has arranged for quinine to be administered to the sufferers, which he thinks is all that can be done under the circumstances. Illness and some deaths are also reported from the Oscar Range Station and La Grange Bay. A considerable quantity of medicine has been forwarded to the stations in the whole of the Kimberley District throughout the year. The condition of things at Broome is not very satisfactory, owing to the large number of Mongolians and other Asiatics who congregate at this place; but I am considering measures to prevent the natives from being mixed with these people more than is absolutely necessary. A good many prisoners are sent to Rottnest Island from this district, the principal crime being the killing of cattle and sheep.

NORTH-WEST DISTRICT.

With the exception of the unsatisfactory state of the native question on the Pilbarra Goldfield, native matters have gone on very smoothly in the past; there is not much change in the numbers relieved at the various stations. Few, if any, convictions have been made, nor have I received any complaints as to the health or turbulence of natives employed or wild. One unfortunate occurrence took place at a far outlying station up the Oakover River, where the manager's life was attempted by some individuals of the "Peedong" native race who inhabit the unexplored wilds to the Eastward. They appear to have had a grudge against the manager, and attacked the station, seriously wounding him, while a stray spear killed the Resident Medical Officer, who happened to be visiting at the house. Three of the seven assailants who were brought to justice suffered the extreme penalty of the law. The Department, as usual, obtained a legal advocate for the accused on their trial, so that they should meet with all justice. I may here state that, whenever it is reported as necessary, counsel is employed by the Department to defend natives charged with crime. During the year, by the courtesy of the Law Department, I have arranged that the depositions in all cases of conviction shall be submitted to me, so that I may call the attention of the Hon. the Attorney General to any sentences which may appear to be too harsh. Some such cases have occurred, and prisoners who have become so, either through their extreme ignorance or youth, have had their sentences remitted, and others transferred to reformatories from prison.

ASHBURTON, GASCOYNE, MURCHISON.

In these districts I have now a tolerably accurate knowledge of the condition of the working natives, and the details of their numbers, sexes, and support at the various stations throughout the districts. This is owing to the activity of the Travelling Inspector, who commenced his work in August, starting from the mouth of the Murchison and travelling up that river across to the Gascoyne, down it to its mouth, and then zig zag Northwards.

He has visited no less than 60 stations, and must have covered 2,000 miles of track or more. He reports that the natives throughout these districts are, as a rule, well fed and well treated by their employers. Many of them are brought up to do intelligent work, and, though several of the stations charge me for relief supplied to a few old and injured natives, a great number must on the other hand be kept going by the able-bodied ones who find work. Some stations do this themselves without charge. The inspector always ascertains and reports what rations per head are given to the working natives, and this is generally on a liberal scale, being, on the average, per week, 14lbs. flour, 12lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, 3 sticks tobacco, and sometimes some tea per man and woman. There are several children, both black and half-caste, but they seem to be taken care of and taught the ordinary work of the stations. When they are old enough, in all necessary cases I have had them forwarded to charitable institutions for care.

VICTORIA, CENTRAL, AND SOUTHERN DISTRICTS.

In these districts things are pretty much in the same condition as they have been for years. The native race here has been decimated for some years past, and the scattered remnants find casual work about the farms. A few hang about the towns, a considerable portion of them being relieved. In this part of the Colony the chief ailments are those arising from their careless exposure to the elements. To

grapple with this evil is difficult, as it is almost impossible to compel natives to take care of their health by inhabiting weather-proof shelters, even if the great cost of erecting could be met. The efforts I have made at Welshpool are an evidence of this; of the three occupants whom I housed there, only one remains in residence, although I hope to hear of others who will be glad to avail themselves of the vacant huts.

EASTERN GOLDFIELDS.

I have reports from the police in these districts. The condition of the natives appears to have been but slightly affected by the civilisation of the country, and I am glad to say that their characters from a moral point of view are pretty good. As may be expected, they do not depend so much upon native game for their food, but they subsist in a large measure by begging, moving about the country in considerable numbers for this purpose. They meet with a good deal of kindness from the whites, but like all natives in contact with them they are careless of their health, and irregular as to their food and clothing. Every effort, however, is made to relieve any suffering. I am considering a request made to me by a leading member of the Kalgoorlie tribe to have all the natives of that district transferred to a reserve somewhere nearer the coast.

GENERAL.

Many of the public seem yet to be unaware of the change in the system of protection and relief to the aborigines. I hear frequent remarks still of the lavish and uncritical way in which Government money is being spent, and even in the Legislative Assembly and the public Press occasional charges of laxity have been made; but these have always been very vague, and, when it has been possible to make investigation, they have been found to be based on information obtained three or four years ago. A glance at the copy of the form in which claims for relief have now to be made will show that each claim is now closely scrutinised, so that there may be no unreasonable or unfounded claims allowed for assistance to the aged and destitute.

Favoured as I am by the advice and assistance of the Stipendiary Magistrates and Police throughout the Colony, I am able to make much closer inquiries than formerly. I must here express my thanks to the Police Force generally for their disinterested efforts in assisting me, and for the many good suggestions made by their members in special cases.

I must note that during the year a society known as the Aborigines' Friends Association has been established, which communicates its transactions to me, and in whose efforts I trust much good may result.

During the year I have visited many stations in the Eastern and Southern portions of the Colony for purposes of inquiry and inspection; among others the Avon Valley, Northam, York, Beverley, and as far East as Kellerberrin, Mount Stirling, and Mount Caroline; also Southwards to Katanning and Wagin. I have visited Rottneest and Ellensbrook; I have also been to Geraldton and Northampton.

I have caused to be distributed 1,987 blankets.

The correspondence of the Department is as follows:—Received, 856; forwarded, 930.

I have, etc.,

HENRY C. PRINSEP,

Chief Protector of Aborigines.

8th August, 1900.

TABLE A.

Details of Relief to Aborigines and Half-castes in Western Australia (not including those in Institutions).

District.	Station and Owner.	Blind.		Aged, infirm, diseased, or crippled.		Destitute, or otherwise prevented from gaining living.		Total Natives.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
KIMBERLEY, EAST...	Kedall, Hall's Creek	1	...	2	5	...	...	3	5
	Buchanan, Gordon Bros.	2	...	3	2	...	...	3	4
	O'Brien, P. C., Argyle Station ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
KIMBERLEY, WEST...	Annear, C. J., Telegraph Station, Fitzroy	2	5	2	5	1	2	7	10
	Spong, P.C., Police Station, Fitzroy ... ..	...	1	...	2	2	2	2	5
	Prideaux, F. J., Telegraph Station, Woolal	1	...	5	7	...	...	6	7
	Tuckett, F. W., La Grange Bay	1	5	3	16	...	...	4	21
	Roe, G. H., Thangoo	1	2	1	2	...	...	2	4
NORTH-WEST	Roebourne and Cossack, N.W. Mercantile Co. ... ..	...	2	...	1	...	...	2	1
	Sergt. Smyth, Marble Bar	1	...	3	1	...	...	2	3
	Meares and Cusack, Tambrey ... ..	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1
	Robinson Bros., Mt. Florence ... ..	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Gillam, A. C., Chiritta	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	1
	McRae & Straker, Croydon	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	1
	James, P.C., Table Land	1	1	...	4	...	...	2	4
	Lockyer, A., Spring Station	2	4	...	...	...	...	2	4
	Padbury & Loton, Millstream	1	1	1	...	...	...	2	1
	Meares, Withnell, Sherlock	3	5	...	...	...	...	3	5
	Brockman Bros., Corunna	1	...	...	...	...	4	1	4
	Mackay Bros., Mundabullonga	2	...	8	3	...	...	10	3
ASHBURTON	Munro, Hogarth ... ..	...	...	...	4	...	4	...	8
	Higham, H., Tanutarra	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	2
GASCOYNE	Harris Bros., Yanerie ... ..	...	1	...	2	...	...	1	2
	Rogers, P.C., Sharks Bay ... ..	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	1
MURCHISON	Sunter, P.C., Junction	1	1	2	8	...	...	3	9
	Brockman, G. J., Minilya ... ..	...	1	6	1	...	...	6	2
	Bunbury, M. C. R., Williambury	2	2	1	3	...	...	3	5
	Thompson, R., Hamelin	1	...	1	10	...	...	2	10
	Burt, E. A., Bangemall ... ..	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	3
	Duffy, P.C., Thomas River ... ..	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	1
	Bush, R. E., Clifton Downs ... ..	...	2	...	6	...	...	...	8
	Baston, G., Carnarvon ... ..	...	...	7	14	...	...	7	14
	Campbell, R., Bullagooroo ... ..	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	...
	Lefroy, G. W., Yangerabiddi	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	3
VICTORIA	Byrne, P. C., Peak Hill	1	...	1	2	...	...	1	3
	Binning, P. C., Mt. Wittenoom	1	...	3	8	...	...	4	8
	Gordon, P. C., Mt. Gould	5	...	8	8	...	...	13	8
	Nairn, J., Byro ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
	Aitken, J., Milly Milly	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Steele Bros., Smythe, Manifred ... ..	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	2
	Dixon, E., Nannine ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Mackay, J., Abbott's ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Ogilvie, A., Murchison H. ... ..	...	1	...	3	...	...	1	3
	Wittenoom, F., Boolardy ... ..	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4
CENTRAL	Davis, G., Yarra Yarra ... ..	...	3	...	1	...	...	3	1
	McPherson, J., Arrino ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Hardy, P.C., Gullewa ... ..	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2
	Long Bros., Cooroo ... ..	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
	McGuiniss, Field's Find ... ..	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Walsh & Son, Mileura	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	1
	Sharpe, J., Wooleen ... ..	...	2	1	2	...	...	1	4
	Broad, R., Wydgee ... ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Wainwright & Co., Geraldton	1	3	...	...	...	3	6	1
	Woolf, T., Northampton	1	13	...	...	1	1	3	13
CENTRAL	White, J., Rothesay ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1
	Pollard, P.C., Yalgoo ... ..	...	...	1	5	1	1	2	6
	Cornwall, W. ... ..	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Dunmall, H., Wandering ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
CENTRAL	Hall, A., Watonning ... ..	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	3
	Chitty, C., Badbatting ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Scott, J., Bridgetown (temporary) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE A.—*continued.*

District.	Station and Owner.	Blind.		Aged, infirm, diseased, or crippled.		Destitute, or otherwise prevented from gaining living.		Total Natives.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
CENTRAL— <i>continued.</i>	Maddock, G., Wilgoyne ...	...	1	1	2	...	...	1	3
	Clinch, A., Moora ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Piesse, A. E., Katanning ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Giblett, M., Dingup ...	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	3
	Davies, C., Tibradden ...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...
	Walton, G., Wogola ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
SOUTH-WEST ...	Brockman & Holtzmann, Bunbury ...	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	1
	Bussell, E., Ellensbrook ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	4
	Harris, —, Katanning ...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	4
	Jones, W., jun., Williams ...	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	1
	Lockhart, R., Busselton ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
	Moore, J. W., Blackwood ...	1	...	1	2	...	...	2	2
	Muir, T., Deeside ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Smith, C. C., Beverley ...	...	...	4	5	...	...	4	5
	Parker, J. T., Greenhills ...	...	...	3	3	...	2	3	5
	Smith, H., Beverley ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Heal, C. & J., Carolin ...	...	...	3	3	...	...	3	3
	Edwards, C., York ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2
	Spratt, M. A., Arthur R. ...	...	...	3	6	3	3	6	9
	Hamersley, E., Williams ...	...	1	2	1	...	...	2	2
	Meares, R. G. M., Northam ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Leake, R. B., York ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	New Norcia, Newcastle D. ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Adams, J. Mangowine ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Tuckey, C., Mandurah ...	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	4
	Drummond, J., Yatheroo ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
	Wells, E., Bindoon, Guildford ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...
	Swan ...	...	...	2	6	2	8	4	14
	Brockman, F. L., Vasse ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Brown, C. F., Vasse ...	...	...	2	1	...	3	2	4
	Cowcher, G. S. F., Williams ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Wall, P. C., Mt. Barker ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Parker, J. and W., York ...	...	...	...	...	3	8	3	8
Clarkson, B. D., Newcastle ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Bevell, J., Mullalyup ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	
Tyler, P. C., Perth ...	...	...	...	...	8	6	8	6	
Beverley ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	
Horley, A. G., Arthur ...	...	...	2	3	...	...	2	3	
SOUTH-EASTERN ...	Barnett, E., Albany ...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	1
	Daw, F., Esperance ...	...	...	6	3	...	...	6	3
	Gorman, G., Bremer Bay ...	...	...	...	...	5	5	5	5
	McGill, Kennedy, Mandra Bella, Eucla ...	...	...	6	2	1	4	7	6
	Taylor, Campbell, Lynburne ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Hassell, A. Y., Janamonyup ...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5
	Moir, J., Cape Riche ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3
	Ponton Bros. & Sharp, Israelite Bay ...	...	...	...	3	2	4	2	7
	Brooks, S. P., Eucla ...	...	...	1	2	1	...	2	2
	Dimes, H., Israelite Bay ...	1	...	2	2	...	3	3	5
Total ...	43	78	153	225	33	75	229	378	

TABLE B.
ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Stations visited by Travelling Inspector Olivey, August, 1899—30th June, 1900.

Station.	Owner, Manager, or Police Officer in Charge.	Station.	Owner, Manager, or Police Officer in Charge.
Murchison House	A. Ogilvie.	Horseshoe	Mining Camp.
Mt. View	Wrage Bros.	Milgan	C. Smith.
Yallongie	Mrs. Mitchell.	Erivella	A. G. Shaw.
New Forest	W.A. Mortgage Agency—E. R. Grey.	Mt. Clere	R. E. Bush.
Wooleen	Jas. Sharpe.	Dairree Creek	J. Fitzpatrick.
Mt. Wittenoom	P.C. Binning.	Clifton Downs	R. E. Bush.
Mulya	T. & P. Ryan.	Junction Station	P. C. Sunter.
Billabalong	Dempster Bros.	Bangemall	G. Fields.
Mt. Aubrey	Dalgety & Co.	Mt. Augustus	S. Phillips & Ryan.
Murgoo	H. M. Malony.	Mungera	Forrest & Burt.
Boolarly	F. Wittenoom.	Mindie	W. Hotch.
Manifred	— Smythe.	Yangeriddy	G. & W. Lefroy.
Yarra Yarra	Dalgety & Co.	Williambury	M. C. R. Bunbury.
Byro Station	J. Nairn.	Middelaya	Minilya Squatters.
Milly Milly	J. Aitken.	Wandagee	G. J. Gooch.
Mt. Gould	P.C. Gordon.	Minilya	G. J. Brockman.
Moorarrie	Dalgety & Co.	Yalobia	M. J. Musk.
Beringarra	Darlôt Bros.	Boologoora	M. Campbell.
Mileura	Walsh & Sons.	Carnarvon	G. Baston.
Annean	Darlôt Bros.	Boolatharra	T. & C. Buliber.
Nannine	E. M. Dickson.	Pt. Cloates	Burill & Carter.
Belele	H. Lee Steere.	Winning Pool	— Powell.
Abbott's	— McKay.	Sandalwood	H. T. Knight.
Peak Hill	Corpl. Byrne.	Mogrie	R. Newman.
		Worbagjie	H. Mansfield.

[Form N.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

Dr. to.....

(Name of Public Creditor.)

Treasury Sched. No.

--

Treasury } No.
Voucher }

Estimates, 190

Item No..... Head of Service.....
Sub-head do.

Expenditure Authorised by.

Date.*	Particulars.							Amount.		
*Not of rendering Account, but of performing Service.	At Relieving Station.....							£	s.	d.
	Period. From | To	Name of Native.	Age.	Sex.	Condition.	Rate each day.	No. of days.			

We certify, in terms of section 14 of the Audit Act, that the amount charged in this Voucher as to computations, castings, and rates is correct; that the Service has been faithfully performed; and that the Expenditure is duly authorised.

Accountant or other Officer.

I hereby authorise the amount of the above Certificate in my favour to be paid on my behalf to *.....

* Here insert name of Party or Branch of Bank to which payable.

Signature of Public Creditor.

RECEIVED from the Colonial Treasurer the sum of.....pounds.....shillings and
.....pence, in payment of above Account.

Witness.....

Signature,

