

1905.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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# ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

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## R E P O R T

FOR

## FINANCIAL YEAR

E N D I N G

30TH JUNE, 1905.

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

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## ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

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*Report for Financial Year ending 30th June, 1905.*

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To THE UNDER SECRETARY,  
SIR,

Perth, 18th August, 1905.

I beg to submit, for the information of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, my report on the working of the Aborigines Department for the year ended 30th June, 1905, and on the general condition of the aborigines throughout the State as far as civilisation exists. Owing to my representations that the carrying out of my duties in a proper manner would entail a larger expenditure, Parliament last session voted me a sum of £9,000, being £1,085 in excess of that of the expenditure of the previous year. This, with the sum of £5,000, statutory vote, gave me £14,000 with which to work. The statement of receipts and expenditure, which will be found at the end of this report, will show how this sum has been expended.

It will be seen that a sum of £821 13s. 7d. has been spent upon the Royal Commission which was appointed in August last; in my estimate I had only provided £500 for this work. It will also be seen that a sum of £155 15s. 10d. has been required for the erection of a new office, the lease of the premises I recently occupied having expired. It will also be seen that an extra allowance of £50 was made to the Sunday Island mission. My expenditure therefore has been £13,895 2s. 11d.

The general health of the aborigines, with the exception of those under relief, has been good, and there appear to be growing a few more outlets for their energies. It is difficult, however, to formulate any schemes by which these can be utilised in any direction by the Government until further powers are given me to concentrate natives or control their movements.

Owing to the report of the Royal Commission, there has been a great controversy, which is not confined even to the State itself. By some it is considered that the prevalent evils which exist have only just been found out, whereas for years past I have represented them, and asked for legal powers to restrain them. The finding of the Commission corroborates my oft-repeated assertion that in those parts of the State where the squatters avail themselves of native labour there is really no cruelty, and, as a general rule, the natives are well treated; but as the Commission did not visit these parts, and only obtained a small quantity of evidence, it may be presumed that my constant inquiries and supervision over the whole State for the last seven years may be the most valuable evidence on which to reply. I am, however, glad to say that the findings of the Commission have been of that assistance to me that it is now allowed on all sides that new legislation is necessary at once.

The Bill, which I had prepared and put forward on several previous occasions, was submitted to the Commissioner, who went very carefully into it with me, and, with a considerable number of additions, it was laid before Parliament for consideration. After a good deal of discussion and reference to Committee, it was finally passed in the Upper House with very little alteration, the principal ones being the reduction of the age of minority and certain conditions in the labour clauses. Its passage to the Lower House, however, was so late in the session that it had to be discharged. The Bill has been again under the consideration of the Law Department, and will, I trust, be at last made into law this session; and, should it become so, I anticipate that within a short time its provisions will be found most beneficial, and will allay any feelings of indignation that may have been aroused by the wild assertions and exaggerations which have appeared from time to time in print. This has been the burning question of the year, and has occupied a very good deal of my time and thought, and added considerably to my correspondence.

In mentioning the new office, I may explain that although rooms were offered to me in the new additions made to the general Government offices, I demurred from accepting them, and represented to you that it would be better to erect a small building in some retired portion of the Government town property, so that the natives who frequently visit me, and whom I have to see, may not create any unusual stir among passers by in the street, and other Government officers in staircases and passages, as would have been the case in the large offices. You assented to this, and in March we entered the new building in a block of land adjoining the Perth Public Hospital, facing Murray Street, which I find to be very suitable for our purpose. At my request, the building was erected in such a manner as to be easily removed should any change take place in the administration of the Department; it could then be taken to a reserve and utilised as a superintendent's residence.

#### CRIME.

The number of convictions this year considerably exceeds that for last year; but of the 156 cases reported, about half are for killing stock in the Kimberley District (*see Table B.*) There is also an increase of stealing, and a slight decrease in the charges of drunkenness. Quite recently, however, reports have been received of the supposed murder by natives of a number of prospectors and travellers on the stock route between Peak Hill and Hamersley Range. Some of the alleged offenders are in custody, and the matter has still to be investigated. These murders (if they are murders) do not appear to be connected in any way with the suspected rising of natives in the North-West District who have possessed themselves of firearms.

#### MISSIONS.

*Anglican Mission, Middle Swan.*—There are now at this mission native and half-caste boys and girls, of which 18 boys and 22 girls, being under the ages of 14 and 16 respectively, are supported by the capitation payment of one shilling per head per day from the department. A few have been added during the year, three children having been sent down from Sturt's Creek Station in April.

*Benedictine Mission, New Norcia.*—A fixed grant of £450 per annum is made to this institution. There are at present 87 boys and girls under 14, and a total of 170 natives and half-castes.

*Beagle Bay Mission.*—A fixed grant of £250 per annum is given to this institution. There are at present 40 boys and girls undergoing tuition, the number of natives at the mission being on an average 100 (*see Appendix II.*).

*Sunday Island Mission.*—A grant of £100 per annum is given to this mission, and £50 has been added to cover the expense of teaching. There are 26 boys and girls in the schools. An interesting report has been received from the chief of the mission, Mr. Hadley, which shows continued progress and unceasing energy on the part of himself and assistants. He is very anxious to make the mission pay by its own efforts, and by any industries which might be found suitable. He has a boat for fishing and for the collection of bêche-de-mer and pearl shell. A considerable portion of the ground is cultivated with bananas and other fruits; and recently I have sent to him some highly recommended cotton seeds supplied to me by my friend, Mr. J. A. Panton, of Melbourne, so that the suitability of the land in the North-West for cotton culture may be tested. Some valuable information has been sent to me with regard to the boundaries between certain dialects of the native language in the vicinity of Sunday Island.

*Ellensbrook Farm House.*—This is in a satisfactory condition. One of the inmates, a girl who has been there for some four years, has lately been married, and comfortably settled down as wife of a half-caste farmer in the neighbourhood. She had been placed at the mission in a completely crippled condition from having been nearly burnt to death; but after a long course of medical treatment in the Geraldton hospital, and special care at Ellensbrook, she became a strong able girl and well fitted to be the housewife of a small farmer. There are now five girls and four boys and one destitute black woman, the mother of three of the children, at the home.

#### THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

In August, Dr. Walter E. Roth arrived from Queensland and was appointed Royal Commissioner to investigate—1. The administration of this Department; 2. The employment of natives under contract; 3. In the pearl shell fishery; 4. The native police system; 5. The treatment of native prisoners; 6. The distribution of relief; 7. Generally into the treatment of aborigines throughout the State; and entered upon his duties at once. His report was handed in on the 29th December, together with 2,093 questions and their replies.

With regard to the first, he set forth the disabilities under which I, as Chief Protector, have hitherto been acting, and makes several valuable suggestions, one of the most important being that in each district there should be an agent directly responsible to head office. This is what I have seen for some time, and the work of Mr. George Olivey in traversing this State from one end to the other, and whose journals were published in my annual reports for the years ending June, 1902, and June, 1903, was, in my mind, only a temporary measure anticipatory to the appointment of district agents. I, myself, have recently approached you on this subject, in which I attempted to show that by this means close investigation can be made into the working of each relieving station, that native offenders would always have a defender in the court, that minor disputes and difficulties could be settled without delay on the spot, and that through these agents and their proposed fortnightly reports the Chief Protector at the head office in Perth would have a complete grasp of the whole native question, and would be able to administer the present incomplete law, and the proposed exhaustive law, with facility, and to the satisfaction not only of the local Government, but also of all outside inquirers.

As the Commissioner said, there are so many chances of abuse that the whole matter required constant, active, and personal supervision; and it is only in this way that I can see any chance of this desideratum. The Commissioner uses the words that the Chief Protector "until quite recently, in his efforts to obtain redress for his representations made on behalf of the natives admittedly under his care,

has not met with that encouragement which he had a right to expect." Now, these words require a little explanation. As long ago as the 29th December, 1898, I represented that it was necessary to amend our laws dealing with natives, and obtained permission to consult with the Law Department; and in January, 1899, was assured that the subject would "receive serious consideration with the view to legislation in the next session of Parliament." I was then asked to put forward propositions in detail upon these subjects. During the whole of 1899 I was frequently in consultation with the Law Officers and engaged in the preparation of a number of clauses for compilation in a Bill to be laid before Parliament. A good deal was then going on as the matter of federation was on the tapis, and I was asked to defer the question until the short session of May, 1900, *re* federation was over. In July, 1900, I again brought the matter up, and the Parliamentary draftsman was instructed to frame an Act, and in consultation with me he prepared it and submitted it to me on the 8th August, 1900, and next day I laid it all before my Minister and took the trouble to make out a series of remarks upon each clause in order to strengthen him in debate. The session, however, went on, and my Bill was not brought forward, and towards the close of it I was told that I ought to move slowly in a difficult matter, and to follow the experience in other colonies. This was disappointing to me in two ways: first, because I thought the delay of two years was quite slow enough; and secondly, because I had followed the experience of the other colonies, which I showed by quoting precedents from the Acts there in vogue. I was, however, instructed to get the Bill ready for the next Parliament, which was a little consolation to me. A change of Ministry took place, and I approached the new Minister, begging him to give the matter close attention, stating that "the necessity for such action grows greater the longer it is delayed." I also stated that the Government would have received great complaints from nearly all the settlers and right-thinking men northward unless they had felt that I was doing my utmost to get legislation, and really had these matters at heart. My then Minister recognised the importance of the matter, and that it merited the early consideration of the Government. Another change of Ministry, however, shortly took place, and the new Minister really went into the subject. In his voluminous remarks he said that, although my draft Bill was not quite to his liking, yet that he did not condemn it, nor was he prepared definitely to say what should be done. I was instructed to send the Bill forward for the information of Cabinet, but, to my regret, it was decided to let it remain in abeyance. This was in October, 1901. The matter, however, was not allowed to rest, and I learnt, but without any previous consultation with me, that a Royal Commission was to be appointed, the result of which was the report which I have referred to. It has been very uphill work, and, to my mind, the matter has been most unfortunately delayed; but I think I may say that my hopes are now really realised, and that I shall be acquitted by all who grasp the matter of any want of energy or interest in this important work.

The Commissioner, in dealing with the subject of native labour, has made a number of recommendations, which are now embodied in the Act. With one of these I am only half in accord; in fact, I think it would be better to omit it, namely, the payment of money wages to working aborigines, except in those districts where there may be aborigines who have become so civilised as to be virtually on a par with labouring white men.

The matter of labour by contract under regulations seems to me so little resorted to that it would be almost better not to make any regulations therefor, but to depend upon the constant inspection of working natives by the district inspectors, whose appointment I have suggested. Such an officer would be of far more use in any case where a native labourer was not receiving proper treatment and food, or due consideration, than if, as now is the case, the initial complaint was required to be made by the labourer himself.

A very great deal of attention was given by the Commissioner to the native police system and the treatment of aboriginal prisoners. This was a matter rather out of my jurisdiction, though of course the police authorities, as they have ever done, would pay all respect to any representations from me.

As to any dereliction of duty by the police, or improper action in carrying out their duties with natives, it has been almost impossible for me, unarmed as I was with a duly authorised agent, to arrive at or even to know of such matters, the police being in most cases the agents through whom I exercised supervision over native matters. I have always relied on their humanity and common sense, and have not met with anything to make me lose my confidence in them generally, often being much impressed by their perseverance in carrying out most difficult duties.

As to the alleged profits made by the police through the rationing of prisoners or witnesses, I could not interfere, as the matter of payment was entirely one for the consideration of the Commissioner of Police, and the payments were made from his vote, and no doubt he had good reasons for the scale of payment.

A great deal of consideration was given to the matter of neck chaining. Now, this has been a matter under my consideration from the first, but there is so much difference of opinion, and there are so many arguments against any alteration, that I have not felt justified in recommending any change. The police are expected to do their duty, to bring in prisoners, to prevent runaways, and with such elusive people as the aborigines some method of chaining seems necessary, and to be effective there seems to me

to be no better plan than the neck chain ; but of course every precaution must be taken against danger therefrom or injury to the victim. If body chains or wrist chains are used, we have every expert telling us that the natives would escape or be injured internally, and to do away with the chain would either lead to the escape of prisoners, the waste of money in having police at all, an immense increase in depredations of stock, or the necessity to expend large sums of money in having numerous gaols ; but I feel sure that the Commissioner of Police and the Comptroller General of Prisons have the matter at heart quite as much as I have, and that they are trying to do the best they can both for the preservation of law and the proper treatment of the natives who break it.

One of the matters which especially hits the administration of my department is the distribution of relief. Now, the first thing to my mind is that it is better to be liberal than parsimonious. Most natives, even though able-bodied, frequently require to be assisted with food, and the exercise of parsimony would lead to that distress among the natives which it is the main intention of the Act to prevent.

Without district inspectors, the Chief Protector is very much at the mercy of the local residents around the relieving stations, and in many cases these are so scarce that it is necessary to rely entirely upon the evidence of the reliever himself. This is not as it should be, I allow, but without a visiting inspector, what other course is there ? The Commissioner recommends a considerable reduction in the number of relieving stations, and that they should be gathered in to central depôts ; but to anyone who knows the character of the aborigines from one end of the State to the other, this is almost an impossible recommendation. Each little tribe of natives so loves its own little district, and this love has been inherent in these races for such a long period that the old and crippled members of the tribe will hardly ever seek relief out of their district. They will die first ; and to prevent such a wholesale cruelty, I see no way but to continue nearly all these relieving stations. The matter of expense would hardly be affected at all. In far-distant places, the amount per day allowed for natives would be the same whether given at half-a-dozen separate places as at one central dépôt, and the cost of employing a superintendent at this central dépôt would not be more than that of an inspector who continually roamed throughout the district ; and by this continual roaming a far better knowledge of the general condition, behaviour, and treatment of the aborigines would be obtained than through the reports of an officer stationed at a central dépôt.

The Commissioner stated that he realised the difficulties in checking irregularities in the distribution of rations, and suggested eight regulations to ensure greater economy.

These regulations I have considered very closely. The first is to induce the relatives of aged and crippled natives to support them. This is already depended on a good deal, but I regret to say that the knowledge among the natives is that their "White Conqueror" in recognising the claim of his nation to charity, is an excuse in very many cases to hand over his feeble relatives to the State, and now they have the idea, it will be difficult to disabuse them of it.

Secondly, he talks of forcing natives to hunt for their natural food, and thus stop the relief at outside distant stations. As a matter of fact, rations are only given to those who are unable to hunt ; they are poor, old, and crippled natives whom it would be absolute cruelty to compel to hunt for their natural food, and I am very critical of all accounts for payment which come in from these places, so as to prevent waste of relief, and I am often afraid my hardness may some day lead to starvation, and there would be more trouble over one native who died of neglect than over ninety and nine who were carefully looked after.

Thirdly, he suggests the collection of indigent natives on the more settled parts of the State on to reserves. I have tried this over and over again, but under the present law I cannot keep them there. They will have their own way and will wander where they like. Under the new law, we may do something of this sort, but I feel sure that for a time the relieved natives, however kind we may be to them, will look upon us as cruel gaolers.

The fourth suggestion, as to the refusal of rations to indigent blacks on stations where able-bodied ones are employed, will raise a very great question. It is impossible to force a free and independent squatter to feed natives against his will, and now that the squats are getting so well fenced and supplied with windmills, tanks, and all necessary buildings, I fear that any attempt to saddle the squatters directly with the duties that they indirectly pay for by taxes would cause such a general dismissal of blacks from the stations that we should have hundreds, perhaps thousands, of unemployed natives to clothe and feed.

As to the fifth suggestion of only employing Government officials to distribute rations, this has been followed as much as possible, but "needs must when the devil drives," and if there is only a miner or a publican where distressed natives want help, we must trust to their rectitude ; and I have found many honest men among both miners and publicans.

His seventh suggestion under heading "G" is a very good one, and has been very often adopted, but it is a little more expensive, in my experience.

The eighth suggestion quite accords with my idea of inspectors. The Commissioner, however, says that there are so many different people supplying relief that no one knows really how they are supplied. Now this may lead to an erroneous idea of my administration. As far as it is possible, separate records are kept of each relieving station, how many natives are relieved week by week, or month by month, what sort of food, and what quantities are given to them in detail, and I insist upon all vouchers with these details upon them being certified to by some reliable person. My previous reports will show the form in which these vouchers are made out, so as to avoid any improper claims being recognised.

It would be well for me to call attention to the immense area over which the Department has to exercise its supervision, one million square miles, a piece of country extending 1,600 miles one way and 1,300 miles the other way, at least, with numerous patches, some of great size, scattered over it, on which it may be said the feet of natives only tread. The lines of communication are of great length and intricacy, and the means of transport expensive and slow. All these facts must be taken into consideration when investigating the expenditure of such a comparatively small sum as £14,000 over such an area in the distribution of relief to and inquiry as to condition and treatment of the aborigines.

The Commissioner recommends the setting apart of considerable areas entirely for the use of natives. He seems to be aware of the restriction of reserves to 2,000 acres in each magisterial district by the action of the Upper House last session, and I trust that the matter may receive reconsideration.

There are large unoccupied portions of our Northern districts in the mountainous parts which would be suitable hunting grounds for the natives as long as they exist, and the small area of 2,000 acres in such immense magisterial districts as those in the North would in a short time nullify the idea of reservations at all. I have so many suggestions as to the setting apart of the areas for the natives from the resident officials and others that, in my own mind, I feel sure it is the right thing to do, at least in the Northern parts. Further, it seems to me that a Bill should be framed to meet future needs. Before many years such needs can only be met by legal amendments which cause delays, of which the Bill here alluded to is a notable example.

The Commissioner refers to the firearms question. For the last twelve months many letters have been written to me, from which I gather that the possession of guns by natives is becoming rather general, especially on the Pilbara goldfield. The natives there seem to be clever and more organised than in most places. The white men are comparatively few, and at the same time there really is a danger in allowing people who are so little influenced by the fear of murder or its penalties to roam about thus armed. In this part of the State there have been several tragedies, both against the blacks and by them. A very wild, uncivilised portion of the State runs immediately behind it, and there is very little police protection, and, with the Commissioner, I recommend legislation to check the evil. At the same time, I think some provision should be made to allow a limited use of fowling-pieces to be used by those natives who can be trusted to use them, only in procuring food for themselves or their masters.

I quite agree with the Commissioner's remarks as to the burial of the dead. As a medical man his remarks would bear more weight than mine, and I would suggest that the Cemeteries Act should be made subject to invalidation as far as natives are concerned in those parts of the State which may appear to the authorities to be inapplicable to it. I may state before closing my remarks on this subject of the Commission, that I hail with satisfaction the assistance it has given me in pressing the necessity of immediate legislation so long advocated by me, but I consider the Commissioner might have made his report more valuable all round if he had adopted the plan which I had arranged for him to drive inland in various districts; it would have been juster to those many residents of the inland districts and, I think, it would have borne out my contention that, as a rule, the cruelties and indirect ill-treatment of the natives were almost confined to the coast, and to those centres where new comers in large numbers had congregated, and which attracted the natives, for the nefarious purposes which gave them ease and temporary comforts.

I hope the Minister will agree with me that as regards general administration, and the grasp I have of the whole subject, the report of the Royal Commission is favourable.

#### EAST KIMBERLEY.

The relief issued at the various stations in East Kimberley, Hall's Creek, Turkey Creek, Argyle Police Station, and Wyndham, and one or two of the large sheep stations, calls for no special remark during the last year. There appears to have been no epidemic, but a good many solitary cases of illness from various causes, chiefly venereal, around Hall's Creek. On the recommendation of the police I took the relief out of the hands of Mr. Flinders and entrusted it to the police officers; this entailed a good deal of dispute in the place, and I was not altogether satisfied that the change was a good one, but recently some movements in the force have taken place, and the constable now stationed there seems very reliable. Mr. Flinders would have suited me as my agent very well, but unfortunately he was a publican, as well as a storekeeper, and there was a fear that the natives might be attracted to hang about his premises too much. One feature of the relief in these outlying stations in East Kimberley is the number of children

on the lists. On investigating this, I find that it is owing to so many of the fathers being now in prison on account of cattle-killing. Three half-caste children were reported to me by Mr. Stretch, of the Sturt's Creek station, as being without protection, and I have had them sent down to the Anglican Orphanage Institution, Middle Swan, where they arrived on the 12th May.

At Wyndham I have had a long controversy with regard to the necessity of escorting discharged native prisoners back to their own districts in the interior. This has been rather a heavy item, as all expenses after their issue from the prison door fall upon my vote. It seems to me that the main mail route is now such an established highway that there ought to be no fear that natives travelling along it would be molested, especially as they are generally let out in batches of six or more. The Resident Magistrate went into the whole subject, and was a great help to me in reducing expenditure by reporting that he did not see any necessity for police escort so long as natives were supplied at the start with a certain quantity of food for the first part of the journey. After giving my instructions accordingly, I received some great complaints; I was told that the natives *en route* had robbed camps, intimidated people, and became quite a nuisance along the route. In the meantime, however, the Resident Magistrate, Dr. Dodwell Browne, was transferred to Port Hedland, and Dr. Maloney succeeded him, and I have recently had a full report from the last gentleman quite corroborating Dr. Dodwell Browne's opinion, and stating that he had inquired extensively into the reports of the alleged depredations, and that they were filtered down into one instance in which the natives had asked for food at Durack's Station, but had given no trouble at all. I must express my thanks in this matter, and for the great interest which the former gentleman showed in the welfare of the aborigines, and the trouble he took on my behalf while he was at Wyndham. One suggestion of his was, that a camp be formed a short distance away from town in the direction of Bastion Hill; he says this has been much needed for some time, and recommends certain regulations for its management, and said that he had a good deal of material that could be used on it. I was very favourable to this idea, and it quite accords with the principles which I have incorporated in the new Bill, and I requested him to fix upon a site, and describe it, and I would approach the Lands Department with a view of its being reserved. He did not, however, send me any description, and the matter is still in abeyance.

At Derby the Resident Magistrate, Dr. Wace, is also of great assistance; he keeps a close eye on all native matters, has made very valuable suggestions, and does all he can to keep down expense. He has travelled through his district, and is of opinion that some further reserves for natives are required therein. One to include the whole of the islands of the Buccaneer Archipelago, and the islands around as far as Secure Bay, also the whole of the promontory between Cone Bay and Secure Bay; also the country about the upper part of the Gilgally Creek as far as Joanna Springs, and a large reserve, between longitudes 126 and 127, around Drysdale, Woodhouse, and Gibb Rivers. From his knowledge of the country, and his evident interest in the native question, I feel safe in recommending the formation of these reserves most strongly to the Government.

In February, Dr. Wace informed me that a native boy, aged 15, had been sentenced to six months imprisonment as an incorrigible offender, and he recommended that he be placed in a reformatory rather than be imprisoned. I communicated with the Salvation Army settlement at Collie, and on receipt of their assent to take the boy, I represented the matter to the Government, with the result that the approval of His Excellency the Governor in Council was obtained to the boy's transfer, and he is now under the charge of Captain Head, at the Collie Boys' Home, and is reported to be in good health and spirits, and I have every confidence that under Captain Head's treatment he will ultimately become a useful worker.

At Broome and La Grange Bay, in the months of August and September, there was an outbreak of smallpox, which threatened to be a very serious matter unless prompt measures were taken. Isolation camps were formed, and a cordon was established to prevent the mixture of the tribes from the interior with those on the coast. Food in considerable quantities was sent up. The chief direction of affairs, however, was left in the hands of the Medical Department, and I am glad to say that the measures taken were successful. After the dispersion, however, of the isolation camp, the number of natives whom I had to relieve at La Grange station were considerably increased. (See Appendix I.) But the reports I have show that there is a large native population always there, and a great number of indigents among them. I regret to say that from various circumstances during the last few months, the supervision has not been so close and constant as formerly; one reason was that the police horses, from having such an immense deal of work to do, gave out. The season was a hard one, and one horse fell dead in a well. The necessity of calling the constable several times from the locality to take prisoners to Broome, or other matters, gave the natives and the Asiatic pearlers a free hand during his absence, so that I cannot say we have progressed very much towards instilling into the native mind there the fact that the Government are determined to put a stop to the illicit intercourse between the races. Mr. Tuckett, telegraph station-master, who administers relief, has written me long communications on the subject which will be very useful to me as soon as I have power to deal with the difficulties by legal enactment. This gentleman has always shown

a great interest and willingness to help me. He had charge of the concentration camp during the small-pox outbreak, and must have gone to an immense deal of trouble for some time. The delay in supplying fresh horses to the police was caused by a little difference of opinion between the Commissioner of Police and myself as to who should supply them. He considered that as the station had been made specially for native welfare, my vote should be charged not only with all the expenses of pay, maintenance, etc., of the police camp, but should find the horses as well. My objection to this was that a considerable portion of the constable's time was spent over matters quite unconnected with natives, namely, the registration of passing drovers and their herds under the Stock Act; the collection of statistics for the Registrar's Department; the quelling of disturbances among white people, etc., and I considered that the Police Department, who have far more facilities and knowledge in securing horses than I have, might well share that part of the expense. I am glad to say that you took my view, and I hope that we shall not suffer from want of horses in future. I have been told that the pearl fleet are likely to move to other parts in a short time, where the deposits have not been so exhausted. If so, it will give me a chance of making such arrangements as will prevent this trouble from the Asiatics ever getting to such a head again.

At Broome the Rev. Father Nicholas, who has devoted himself many years to the care of the natives and the relief of their sufferings, has been carrying on quite a small private hospital of his own. It was reported to me that he had come to the end of his resources. As he had been originally associated with the Beagle Bay Mission, I had always thought that he received what assistance he required from that institution, but it appears that he has separated from them, and I have therefore done what I could to assist him. He paid a visit to Perth and I had several interviews with him, and I am convinced that he is a true and unselfish friend of the aborigines. It was settled that he should be placed in charge of a small reserve near Broome, and that he should be my agent there. I forwarded to Broome the materials, wood, iron, etc., for the erection of a room with two long open wings from each side, where men and women could be separated, and as soon as I hear that the building is completed, a supply of food, drugs, etc., to last from six to 12 months, and renewable, will be sent to him. Of the distribution of this no doubt he will keep a careful record, and I anticipate that it will be a very economic manner of relief.

With regard to the statement of male children being taken to sea in evasion of the spirit and intention of the Pearl Fishery Act, which I find on page 10 of the Royal Commission's Report, the Resident Magistrate at Broome sent me a wire on the 14th February, stating that not a single child or youth was so working, or had been for some years, and there were never more than seven so indentured. He added, nevertheless, that in his opinion sea service is excellent training for natives.

On the Upper Fitzroy Mr. Annear, telegraph operator, is still my reliever. He tells me that there still is a good deal of cattle and sheep-killing, and a great deal of disease. It is almost impossible for me, however, to keep a strict eye upon this outlying district, where the visit of a policeman is rare, and which is about 200 miles from the seat of Government at Derby.

Near the extreme Western boundary of the Kimberley district, on the coast, for many years, relief has been given by the telegraph-master at Wallal, but I have not been at all satisfied with the reports I have received from this place, and I have had very great difficulties at times in connection with the transport of foodstuffs there. After obtaining a report from the police patrol, I was quite satisfied of the necessity to close business, and I obtained the assistance of the police in removing from it the natives who were proper objects of charity to a place about 70 miles Westward, called Pardoo, where Messrs. Metcalfe and Thompson have a station. The rate of relief is considerably reduced thereby, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that it is within reach of the police patrols, so that a proper supervision can be maintained.

#### NORTH-WEST DISTRICT.

Few occurrences of more than usual note have occurred in this district, but the most correspondence I have is with the Marble Bar and Nullagine section. There is quite a new field of relief opening up in the direction of Mosquito Creek, and the newly occupied country at the back; and it is a little bit difficult making satisfactory arrangements in such a distant part. Of course, here it would be waste of time to talk of bringing the indigents into some central dépôt such as Marble Bar, and all I can do is to send up blankets and to arrange for the distribution of flour and sugar by the best means available, and, as far as I can see, the only permanent resident who really takes an interest in the natives up there is Mr. Bell. Mr. Isdell, from whom I have had much advice, from his knowledge of the place, is not always there, and police rarely penetrate into the parts where my work seems to be required. If I had had a travelling agent, it would have been quite easy for me to have established a proper system, and I look forward to that day. This is one of the instances where the necessity of such is particularly seen.

A good deal of anxiety seems to be prevalent from the possession by the natives of firearms. They earn so much money on the tinfields that they can procure these guns. There is nothing in the law to prevent them; but the apprehension of trouble has grown so much the last few months. I referred to the Police Department a letter received from Woodstock Station,

enclosing a memorandum to the manager from the police at Marble Bar, warning him to be on the lookout for any suspicious moves among the natives, owing to a report that they were contemplating a simultaneous attack on the whites. I was informed that the matter had been placed before the Government, but I was asked at the same time to suggest something that might be done. My opinion is that regulations under "The Gun Licensing Act" should be made limiting the use of firearms by aborigines only to those who can obtain certificates from a Magistrate, and two leading residents; and that nothing but fowling-pieces should be used. I make this recommendation because the employment of trusted natives to find food for their masters, even in the oldest settled parts of the State, is so general, and of such service, that it would be an injury to the white people to prevent them taking advantage of the great sporting talents of their black servants.

I have had a suggestion from Mr. D. Brockman of Corunna Downs, that a small portion of the old Shaw tinfield should be reserved for the exclusive use of natives desirous of working tin. This portion of the Cooglegon tinfield being about worked out, so far as white men are concerned; but he thinks that natives will be well able to earn a good living on them, and would also be able to provide for their own old and indigent relatives. I am representing this matter officially.

From Tableland a distressing circumstance was reported, namely that of a half-caste girl afflicted with blindness, who was unable to follow the wanderings of her relatives, and hung about the Police Station at the mercy, apparently, of anyone who chose to take advantage of her. I had sent her down to Perth, and the authorities of the Victoria Institute for the Blind most kindly consented to take her in on trial. For some months she was there, but neither could they hold out any hopes of restoring her sight, nor could the Manager overcome the girl's natural desire to return to her people. As long as she was amused (and it was a difficult thing to amuse her) she was quiet; but at other times she continually wept or became rather frenzied in her distress. They had to ask me to relieve them of her charge. I then resorted to the aid of that institution, the Salvation Army, which has never failed me in my difficulties. The Rescue Home consented to try their hand with her. At first I thought they would be successful, but I had a letter from the Superintendent that there was no chance of doing anything with the girl, and she feared that if she was not returned to her place the girl would fret herself to death. I was reluctantly driven therefore to the only course of sending her back.

Another case of an alleged lunatic woman at Roebourne has given much trouble. The Resident Medical Officer reported her as a decided lunatic, and obtained my assent to send her to Fremantle. On arrival there, however, I was unable to get a certificate of lunacy. The girl was in charge of the lock-up keeper receiving every kindness, and showed no signs of lunacy at all. I very much fear that, as suggested by the Principal Medical Officer, she must at times have given way to alcoholic frenzy, and as I cannot get her taken into the Lunatic Asylum, I thought my best course was to send her home, and advise those whose vicinity she haunts to take precautions against her obtaining liquor.

Elsewhere in the district the relief has been carried on without difficulty, and very little illness or distress has been reported.

From the Ashburton district I get regular reports. As usual the station owners in this district are very liberal, and do not charge for the relief they give to the natives. A few, however, are supported at the expense of the Department at the Gorge Police Station, in the far interior, and some at Onslow. I still receive the same reports of the great prevalence of venereal disease, up and down the river, but until I obtain the aid of a travelling agent, who, in this district, should be required to have some medical knowledge, I cannot see that anything more can be done than my present system of supplying drugs here and there, with instructions for their use. In one severe case that was reported, I consulted the Medical Department, which is, to some extent, averse to the supply of drugs to be administered by inexperienced persons, and recommends periodical visits by medical men. The case in question was so serious that I authorised a constable to take the first opportunity of sending the patient to Onslow for treatment. This he did on the 5th January. Mr. Locke, the owner of the team, was to supply her with food at 2s. per day *en route*. On arrival at Onslow, she was not allowed in hospital, so he had to leave her in the native camp, attending the hospital daily.

In the Gascoyne district matters are as usual. There seems to have been a better season far inland, as I have not had so many requests for relief from these parts. Mr. St. Barbe Ayliffe, who seems to be the only resident of a very large district round the old gold diggings at Bangemall, sends me regular reports, and is a valuable help to me in attending to the wants of a considerable number who intermittently turn up at his two stations. It would be as well to bear in mind the suggestions mentioned in my report last year as to the establishment of a reserve and a large native relieving dépôt in this locality, which I have postponed taking action for pending the passing of the proposed Bill.

Constable Buck reported in February on the stations in the Minilya district as follows:—

I found the aborigines in employment on all stations well cared for, as also the old and infirm who are receiving Government relief. I questioned the latter, and found that they were receiving their rations regularly, and found none receiving rations who should not be. So far as I could see and learn there is nothing that could be done to make the natives more comfortable and satisfied than they appear at present.

In February also Constable Buckley reported on the stations on the Upper Gascoyne and Lyons as follows :—

I made the strictest inquiries from the natives that are receiving rations at the expense of the State in order to ascertain from them if they are receiving their rations correctly, and there was not one amongst them who made any complaint; they all appear to be well looked after. At Mt. Augustus there are about 80 natives in one camp, most of them are on holiday; this is owing to the good rainfall, so that there is very little water drawing required amongst the settlers. The natives at Mt. Augustus appear all in good health, and are living principally on native food, which is in abundance around Mt. Augusta.

At Carnarvon a considerable number are relieved, and I have reason to believe there is a good deal of immorality in the camps; but as no disturbances occur, and I am not yet armed with the powers that I seek, little can be done to prevent it. The necessity for relief is increasing in the Southern part of this district, towards Wooramel, and there is a large relieving station under charge of Constable Spry at the Junction Police Station. From this station I receive earnest applications for clothing for the natives, as well as blankets. But I am not yet satisfied thoroughly that there is more need at this particular place than at all the other relieving stations in the northern part of the State. If it is commenced at one spot it will be asked for everywhere, and if it is carried out I shall recommend the supplying of a uniform tunic which may be made cheaply by contract in large quantities, of some warm material, with a belt. This will be more convenient for the natives, and far more suitable than the more expensive trousers, shirts, and jackets, which when given to the natives are very soon too ragged and dirty to wear, and which when wet cling to their bodies, and are more likely to bring on colds and chills than the loose warm folds of a roomy tunic.

Dr. Belgrave is now at Sharks Bay, and keeps a close watch on all native matters, and superintends the relief. He reported in October that every aboriginal in that district appeared to be very usefully employed—the men mainly on the luggers, some in preparing the shell for market, and the women either in domestic occupation or in cleaning shell. The Malays, Arabs, and others are well conducted, even polite, and are as a rule more eager than their prospective parents in law to marry aboriginal girls. Many of the latter here are clean and good-looking, and some have much self-respect. The Sharks Bay mother-of-pearl shell was not very saleable in London market at the time, but the luggers still work regularly. There was almost no drinking among the natives, but when they had been induced to take any the effects were very pronounced; both the Magistrates and the police were quite conscious of the necessity for upholding the law in this connection. There was little or no sickness among the natives, but among the women certain effects of a disabling, if not paralytic, nature occurred from living in their very low-roofed gunyahs which could be relieved with a little inexpensive assistance. The demand for native labour considerably exceeded the supply, and recourse was likely to be had to the Carnarvon labour market to relieve the scarcity. He reported the presence of Father Vindin in the settlement, who was rounding up all the very willing natives to a recognition of their duties in regard to baptisms, marriages, etc. In December he reported the arrival of a patient belonging to the Murchison, suffering from the last stages of beri-beri.

In the Victoria and Murchison districts, a close supervision over native affairs is kept by the Inspector of Police, Mr. Drewry, on my behalf. (See Appendix 4). Most of the natives seem to be in employment. The most considerable relieving station here is at Yalgoo and its vicinity. Very few troubles occur; but recently, in the outlying country beyond Peak Hill, some consternation has been caused by the discovery of the murder of several white men by some disaffected natives. The matter is now under investigation by the police, and the offenders will, as is always the case in serious charges, receive proper legal defence under my instructions, and at the expense of my vote.

At Yalgoo, I have had reason to alter my agent, the distribution now being in the hands of Mr. Frank Wallace, who gets his vouchers certified by the police.

At Northampton, Dr. Moffat is of great assistance to me; he reports a reduction in the list of indigents, having found that they obtain a good deal of money by the sale of kangaroo skins. In March he reported that he had considerable trouble, which was growing greater owing to the fact that some people keep supplying the natives with liquor. He says: "I have done my best to discover them, and so have the police. The charge of unlawful possession of the rum was specially brought by the police in order to try and find out the man who supplied it; but it is quite useless to try to get any information from the natives; they will not inform because they know it will be fatal to further supplies. The police also do their best, but it is almost impossible to get evidence."

In the South-Western and Central districts, Eastward from Perth, there is very little to report. The usual relieving stations are carried on under continual supervision of the police. The numbers fluctuate a little here and there, and, if anything, are on the increase. Few deaths have been reported, and there must be plenty of occupation always at the command of those natives who feel inclined to work. They will have their holidays, and at certain seasons of the year travel about, and they expect me to make such arrangements that their rations have to be sent about after them. This gives a good deal of

trouble, and I frequently make the excuse that if they travel about they must be able to find their own food to some extent. However, there are some cases that I am obliged to attend to, and it would be hard to prevent natives following out their ancient practices as to general corroborees, visiting their relatives, etc.

In July a very troublesome native named Cudgel was brought before the Court at Albany on the charge of stealing rifles, horse feed, etc., on different dates; also on charges of attempted rape and shooting, and also of shooting at a Chinaman at Jerramungup. The accumulative sentence amounted to 15 years' penal servitude.

Matters on the South coast have been quiet. Very little relief is asked for, and although I do hear that kangaroo hunting is on the decline, any diminution in the employment of natives in this industry has not made itself apparent as yet. There is a section of the natives, who have many friends among the white men, still agitating for a native reserve and assisted home in the neighbourhood of Esperance. There seems some difficulty, however, in the selection of a site, and I am still in correspondence on the subject. I am much in favour of the establishment of such a place, but until I have legal powers for its proper government and protection, can do little more than obtain a right to occupy such a locality and relieve indigents thereupon.

On the Eastern Goldfields the native question is getting more serious; relief is increasing, and the nuisance of large numbers of natives infesting mining camps and townships is more often complained of. I anticipate that the expense of supporting natives on the Eastern Goldfields will soon be a very serious matter of consideration.

In September I received information from the Warden of the Mount Margaret Goldfield that the natives about Duketon, although they had plenty of rations, were badly in need of medicine; and he recommended that a supply be sent up, having instructed the police in the matter to find someone who would undertake to administer it regularly to those requiring it. Arrangements were made with Mr. McNeil, of the Lauriston Gold Mine, to do so, he having been recommended by the local police, after conference with the residents of Duketon, his charge for the work being 30s. per week while so engaged. I consulted the principal medical officer on this subject, who did not take the same views as I did. He considered that the administration of medicines by settlers and police to the natives was one of grave responsibility, to say nothing of its being in contravention of the Medical Act. I looked over this Act and found the only section applicable was No. 23, subsection 1, which renders a person liable to a penalty for "practising" medicine or surgery. I stated it as my opinion that the word "practice" here meant "performing for gain or remuneration as a means of livelihood." This certainly is not what I have asked the police or other agents to do. To set the matter at rest, I referred it to the Law Department, and my views were corroborated, and I therefore pursued the course I had determined upon. No evil results have so far been reported.

From the Boulder I was informed by the magistrate that he had been compelled to imprison, as idle and disorderly, a native woman who for four years past has chiefly lived by immorality in the town, and had become so versed in her calling, having resided in houses of ill-fame, that she had become a nuisance. It was difficult to know what to do with her, so I appealed to the Salvation Army, who have a rescue home at the Boulder. I was met most cordially, and the Resident Magistrate, at my request, handed her over to that institution, and, I am led to believe, with the best results so far.

At Wiluna, Lake Way, a very unfortunate accident occurred. A native named Jacky was shot in the camp by another who had stolen an old revolver. An inquiry was made, and it appeared that there was no malice; that it was purely accidental, but the wound was so bad that the doctor had to remove Jacky's arm, rendering him, therefore, a cripple for life. His character is a good one, and the police endeavour to get him light work when possible, but he will no doubt be a burden on the State for many years to come.

#### SOUTHERN DISTRICTS.

In October, 1904, I went down to inspect the Salvation Army homes for boys and girls at the Collie, as the authorities had consented to receive any whom, for various reasons, I was unable to place at other institutions. The management here seems to be most practical, and everything is taught which will give the children facility in making their own way in the world, and at the same time the moral influence cannot be surpassed. So much do I think of the suitability of these homes for the training of half-caste and intelligent aboriginal children, whose first hopes must be to obtain their living in the lower ranks of labour, that I look forward to a great assistance from them when the time comes for the gathering in of half-castes under the new Bill. While I was there the first child whom I decided to send there arrived, a good-sized native girl named Topsy, who had been for some years in the service of a gentleman from the North, but who had developed certain phases of character which prevented his keeping her in the same house with his children. I thought it best to take her over and place her in this institution, where I was satisfied every precaution would be taken to cure her of her propensities.

In November I paid a visit to the Toodyay Valley, where a considerable number of natives were engaged in shearing. Some of them had gone away before I arrived, but I saw several, heard their wants, and found that there was very little distress among them, that they were getting good wages, and generally prosperous.

In December I paid a visit to Kendenup, where shearing was going on. A large number of natives were employed at that time of year at that place. I found a good many indigents, some of them very old; they were receiving very kind treatment on the station, many of them being well paid, and others receiving relief both here and at neighbouring places; did not seem to require anything more than a certain quantity of warm clothing and the blankets which I annually distribute. Some of the old women were treated to an unusual gift of tobacco, and clothing has been sent down for them.

In November I also paid a visit to the Southern districts, and interviewed the relievers of a considerable number of old natives.

The police in Bunbury reported to me that objections had been raised by the inhabitants to the locality of the native camps near the town. I visited the place, and found it to be a quarry reserve about two miles out on the Blackwood Road, and a good many natives and half-castes were assembled there. I left the matter in the hands of the Resident Magistrate, who has recently pointed out that there is a very considerable piece of land on the edge of the hills at the back of the racecourse, about two miles from the town, which, not being adjacent to any main road, would be more suitable. The land is in the commonage, but I am told the municipality do not raise any objection, and, as the land will not be fenced, I can see none myself, and it is intended to shift the camp immediately. All consents required are obtained

I have, etc.

HENRY C. PRINSEP,  
Chief Protector of Aborigines.

**Appendix 1.*****Letters, re Smallpox Concentration Camp, La Grange Bay.*****SIR,****La Grange Bay, 20th August, 1904.**

Since my report of 8th inst., matters have progressed fairly well in connection with keeping natives away from Asiatics. There have been no cases of contact between the two races. All natives were gathered up and carefully kept together by the police during the boats' stay in creek at spring tides between 11th and 16th inst.

Since 8th inst. I have supplied the concentration camp with 17 bags flour and rice and 3lbs. tobacco. As per my wire to you to-day, I had to cease this supply owing to delay to our supply boat. I regret having to do this. It is extremely annoying to me, and, I think, should have been avoided had contractor shown any energy in getting away from Port Hedland. Schooner left there 18th inst.; am hopeful of her arriving here before 25th, but winds are very light during this month. August is always conspicuous for calms and dense fogs.

I will communicate with Dr. Blick on Monday, if there is any delay to our supply boat at Condon, as to the advisability of sending supplies out from Broome if natives are to be held much longer. No doubt we will have to keep them together until after the "Penguin's" arrival, as no doubt it will be considered necessary to vaccinate all natives. They are becoming very restless, and, now all the novelty is worn off, desire to have their liberty unrestricted; having to reduce the supply of food will make matters worse.

Constable Kuhlmann is borrowing five or six bags of rice from one of the stations, to be returned when supplies come to hand from Broome. I visited the concentration camp on the 12th inst.; there were then over 230 natives in camp. Constable Kuhlmann distributed 72 sticks of tobacco on this date. They appeared to be getting a good supply of kangaroos and other natural food daily, with a little exertion on the male aborigines certainly; but, to make them in any way contented with their lot, we would require to distribute about 300lbs. of flour daily at this one camp alone. One young native died at the concentration camp, apparently from natural causes; he had been very delicate for the last three or four years, and caught a severe cold and went off very quickly. Of course it is reported throughout the district he died of smallpox. All sorts of absurd rumours get about. I communicated all the symptoms to Dr. Blick. He informed us there was nothing suspicious. Constable Kuhlmann reports another native seriously ill, apparently with pneumonia. He has to-day taken down remedies for him. I trust his illness will not prove fatal. The health of the natives along here has, all things considered, been very good lately. I am very pleased to say that venereal diseases are almost conspicuous by their absence—a great contrast to the year 1902, which was about the worst year ever experienced along here, to our knowledge, for disease and death.

I remain, etc.,

**F. W. TUCKETT.****H. C. Prinsep, Esq., Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.****SIR,****La Grange Bay, 6th September, 1904.**

I beg to inform you that the concentration of natives here on account of smallpox has now ended. The "Penguin" arrived here on Saturday last. Dr. Thompson vaccinated 79 natives at my camp. On Saturday we drove over to the police camp, where he vaccinated 210, making a total of 289. He left the same afternoon for the pearl grounds, and we were unable to get all the natives from the adjacent stations as we did not know when to expect the "Penguin." She came direct from Beagle Bay, and had no time to spare, and there are about 70 more coastal natives who should be vaccinated. I have asked Dr. Blick for some vaccine to do this. Dr. Thompson has none to spare. He will have them done as soon as possible after receipt of the vaccine. The natives mentioned in my last report as being very ill, died at the concentration camp, unfortunately. The supply of food there was very low, so over 60 natives vanished into the bush. Great difficulty was then experienced by the police in getting them together again for the purpose of vaccination, but we have all those likely to have contact with Asiatics vaccinated. It will be fairly complete when I vaccinate the 70 above-mentioned. It is not worth getting the bush natives in. Rather let us hope that they will remain back in the bush where they are, I should say, without a shadow of a doubt, much better off than going into the coast and having contact with Asiatics. I am pleased to say the work of keeping the two races apart has been carried out in a highly creditable and efficient manner. Constable Kuhlmann and Special Constable James were the native assistants, and spare no effort day or night—often under great difficulties and hardships—in carrying out their duties, and we can honestly say, no matter what may be advanced to the contrary, the results are highly satisfactory.

I have never yet collectively seen the natives in this vicinity look so well and healthy as they did last Sunday.

I remain, etc.,

**F. W. TUCKETT.****H. C. Prinsep, Esq., Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.**

***From Constable Kuhlmann, re Relief, La Grange Bay.******The Chief Protector of Aborigines.***

I have to report that there are a considerable number of old and decrepit natives unable to obtain their food. On the 9th instant I visited La Grange Bay relieving station, and saw 46 natives fed, and am perfectly assured that they cannot hunt for themselves, more especially now after vaccination; their arms are very sore, and the majority of them are in a state of senile decay, and some of them blind and partially blind.

I have just had a muster of the natives together (at one time over 400) and saw (I am in a position to state positively that there are even more) I should say 30 at the least, fit to be placed on relief rations. At the chain of mangroves there are 10 that cannot walk, and I was unable to bring them to concentration camp to be vaccinated, and I respectfully state that it will be necessary to do something for these.

La Grange Bay,  
10th September, 1904.

B. H. KUHLMANN,  
Constable No. 550.

***Appendix 2.******Reports on Sunday Island Mission.******To the Chief Protector of Aborigines.***

SIR,

Sunday Island, 1st July, 1905.

Please find, herein, the half-yearly report of our work here. In the first place, our numbers have increased this last six months, and we have now about 110 natives at our Mission. There has been no sickness this half-year, no deaths, and no births. The behaviour of the natives has been good, and there has been a marked decrease of tribal fights these last six months. Since we have opened our new building for service there has been an increased attendance and greater attention shown to the service, which I think is greatly due to the music.

We opened our new building in the beginning of May for our School, and we have had 26 children in constant attendance since then. We have added to the building a very nice organ that we purchased from Nicholson & Son. I have not included it in our financial statement as I supplied it from my private means, and it has proved a great addition to our school and public services. The behaviour at school has been good and the progress fair, more especially in geography, as we have now a large map of the World, about 10ft. x 7ft., and they show a very great interest in learning about other countries. We are now keeping the boys and girls together at school, dividing the sexes with a curtain. There are three more children that will be old enough for instruction next term. We have employed the adults in getting M.O.P. shell and in trepang, but owing to the smallness of our cutter we have not been able to employ the whole of them sufficiently, as we find that idleness is very deteriorating to them; so I am now making a visit to Broome to try and procure another and a larger vessel, so that we shall be able to find constant, and I hope at the same time profitable employment for them all. I have engaged another man, who at present is a volunteer working here with us, to work the larger vessel, as he is well acquainted with the coast to the Eastward, and is also very interested in the welfare of the natives. He is a native of the Seychelles, a Frenchman, by the name of D'Antoine, and I have great hopes that he will be a worthy addition to our staff here. I append Mr. Bird's report on our success with the cotton, and also, in another letter to yourself, I have sketched the outlines of a scheme that we have in view in connection with the cotton for your approval. You will see by reference to our financial statement what success we have had this half-year in our various ways of employment. We have also killed and sold one beast to the pearlbers, and have killed and salted one down for ourselves. Owing to the severe drought that we are experiencing, we have not been able to do much with our garden, as our wells will not stand it, and unless we get rain shortly on my return from Broome I shall have to both deepen and enlarge both of our wells. Mr. Bird is in correspondence with Mr. Chaplin, of the Agricultural Department, relative to a new fodder plant that he has found on the island, also relative to a very fine rattan that grows all over the island, of which we have made verandah screens that, both in appearance and durability, are quite equal to the imported ones. We have not yet received any definite reply from the Wesleyans, and I note your request that I shall keep the control of the Mission in my hands, which was one of my stipulations in my offer to their church. Thanks to the grant in aid of education that the Government is making to our Mission, I am now able to give Mr. Bird a salary of £70 per annum, and he is now settled permanently down in the position of Schoolmaster. We have received a request from a young Scotchman, volunteering to join in our work here directly he is free of his present engagement. He is a very earnest Christian young man, and I sincerely hope that he will be led to join us, as, from the views I have at present, I think that we should try to widen our area of usefulness further along the coast to the eastward, and that will need an increased staff.

If I am successful in getting a larger vessel in Broome, I shall sell our cutter (which has been a very staunch servant to us), as we cannot afford to keep up two boats.

Please find enclosed with this our quarterly vouchers, and, thanking both the Department and yourself for the interest and assistance given to our work here,

I am, etc.,

SYDNEY HADLEY.

*Financial Statement of Sunday Island Mission, from 1st January, 1905, to 30th June, 1905.*

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Grant-in-aid	50 0 0	Flour and meal	58 13 6
Education	50 0 0	Rice	35 19 0
Relief for aged natives	66 18 0	Clothing	37 11 0
Sale of M.O.P. Shell	55 0 0	Building material	11 4 4
" Trepang	35 0 0	Freights	14 13 0
Garden produce, etc.	25 19 6	Tobacco	24 18 0
Carried forward from 1904	0 7 3	General stores, etc.	67 0 2
	<hr/> <b>£283 4 9</b>	Salary to Mr. Bird (School)	35 0 0
Subscription	1 0 0		<hr/> <b>£284 19 0</b>
	<hr/> <b>£284 4 9</b>		
Expenditure		<hr/> <b>£ s. d.</b>	
Receipts		284 18 9	
Debit Balance		<hr/> 284 4 9	
		<hr/> <b>£0 14 3</b>	

SYDNEY HADLEY,  
Superintendent Sunday Island Mission.

**Appendix 3.****Report on Cotton Cultivation at Sunday Island Mission.**

We planted the seed in boxes on the 13th March, and it came up on the 18th (less than five days). Anticipating a drought, or rather owing to the existing very dry season, I placed the plants in the heaviest soil in the garden, contrary to instructions, and they have done very well, considering the climatic conditions, which have been unusually severe. Soon after being transplanted they were attacked by a grub, which bored into the stem and retarded the growth for some time; but in spite of that they are now (25th June) about 4ft. high and blossoming freely, and looking very healthy. We are very pleased with them, and have large hopes of a useful industry being built up. Mr. Prinsep sent us four seeds, and we have now 21 plants, which is a very good start. Please accept warm thanks for your valued gift and thoughtfulness.

W. H. BIRD.

Sunday Island, 25th June, 1905.

**Appendix 4.****The Chief Protector of Aborigines.**

Police Department, Inspector's Office,  
Geraldton, 18th October, 1904.

As regards the aborigines in the Western police district, their conduct, speaking generally, has been good; there has been little crime, and that not of a serious nature.

Their health generally is good, but there is considerable venereal disease on the Ashburton and some on the Gascoyne.

And in many of the inland posts, where aged and feeble natives receive relief, I suggest that clothes should be issued to them, as in the cold frosty mornings the blanket issued is not sufficient, especially as many are hardly able to move at all, and therefore cannot get, or keep, warm, more especially in places where there is a shortage of firewood.

As regards employment throughout this large district, any native who can make himself or herself useful, in the slightest degree, can get employment.

The police, in their constant patrols, have instructions to, and do to the best of their ability, assist you in your efforts for the benefit of the aborigines by seeing they are treated in a reasonable manner, and reports, which are a check on the accounts sent in for rationing natives.

As regards supplying natives with intoxicating liquors, this offence shows no sign of decreasing, but if the magistrates gave imprisonment without the option of the fine, a rapid decrease in the offence would follow.

O. DREWRY,  
Superintendent of Police,  
Western Police District.

## ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

*Statement of Receipts and Expenditure during Year ending 30th June, 1905.*

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
1904-5.	£ s. d.	1904-5.	£ s. d.
To Vote, 1904-5, under 61 Vict., No. 5, Sec. 6	5,000 0 0	By SALARY—	
" Vote, Parliamentary	9,000 0 0	Chief Protector	550 0 0
" Rent, Reserve 297a, for 1905	22 0 0	Clerk, Accountant	220 0 0
" Firewood, sale of (Welshpool)	11 0 0	Temporary Reporter	5 0 0
" Blankets, Tender Board	4 0 0	Working Superintendent,	
" Rent, Reserve 607, 1905	5 0 0	Welshpool	100 0 0
" " " 297a, 1906	22 0 0		875 0 0
		" RELIEF TO NATIVES—	
		Blankets and Clothing	1,090 0 5
		Provisions	8,133 6 1
		Medical Fees and Medicines	117 8 11
		Native Shelters	37 19 8
			9,378 15 1
		" MISSIONS, ETC.—	
		Swan Native and H. C. Mission (Ang.)	726 2 0
		New Norcia Benedictine, R.C.	412 10 0
		Beagle Bay Benedictine R.C.	250 0 0
		Deaf and Dumb Institute	25 0 0
		Sunday Island Mission	150 0 0
		Salvation Army	17 10 0
		Blind Institution	25 9 2
		Ellensbrook Home	121 2 4
			1,727 13 6
		" Police Protection, La Grange	236 18 9
		" Legal Defence, Natives	31 10 0
		" Transport	354 8 6
		" Burial Expenses	141 0 0
		" Travelling	27 7 10
		" Postage	41 12 5
		" Telephones	17 12 8
		" Government Printer	5 15 1
		" Miscellaneous	80 0 1
		" New Offices	155 15 10
		" Dr. Roth's Commission	821 13 7
		" Balance unexpended	168 17 1
	£14,064 0 0		£14,064 0 0

## ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

TABLE A.

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

District.	Reliever and Station.	Blind.		Aged, Crippled, Diseased.		Destitute.		Total Natives. Station.		Total Natives. District.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
EAST KIMBERLEY ...	Thomson, J. C., Argyle Station ... Buchanan, Gordon Bros., Flora Valley ... Brown, D., Wyndham ... Topliss, J., Hall's Creek ... Green, D. W., Turkey Creek ...	1	2	3	5	1	2	5	9		
WEST KIMBERLEY ...	Park, Chas., Broome ... Tuckett, F. W., La Grange Bay ... Metcalf & Thompson, Pardoo ... Annear, C. J., Fitroy Tel. Station ... Hadley, F. S., Sunday Island ... Edgar & Biddle, Yurdagurra ... McCreery, Derby ... Beagle Bay Mission ... Roe, G. H., Thangoo ... Father Nicholas Emo, Broome ...	... 10	2 15	2 5	1 7	2 11	2 17	6 26		15	38
NORTH-WEST ...	Byron, F. W., Balla-balla ... McRae & Straker, Croydon ... Padbury & Loton, Millstream ... Blythe (P.C.), Tableland ... Meares, J. G., Sherlock ... Gillam, A. C., Chiritta ... Church, J. H., Mt. Florence ... Pead, W. J., Woodstock ... N.W. Mercantile Co., Cossack ... Edwardes (P.C.), Port Hedland ... Anderson, R., Marble Bar ... Hall, H. A., Roebourne ... Walsh, R. J., Mosquito Creek ... Wilding & Anderson, Hillside ... Peacock, W., Whim Creek ...	... 3	3 2	4 4	... 2	... 1	... 8	7 12		78	89
ASHBURTON AND GAS-COYNE	Ogilvie & Logue, Tahmalee ... Watts, A. E., Ullawarra ... Henshaw, A. E., Upper Wooramal ... Edgar, A. W., De Grey ... Hulme (P.C.), Gorge Police Station ... Radley (P.C.), Onslow ... Ayliffe, St. B., Bangemall ... Masters, D., Wooramal ... Lefroy, G. & W., Yanyeareddie ... Martin, J. H., Hamelin Pool Telegraph Station ... Hearman, J., Middalya ... McLeod, D. N., Minilya ... Campbell, R., Booloogooreo ... Munro & Hogarth, Doorawarra ... Binning, Thos., Mooka ... Spry (P.C.), Junction Police Station ... Hatch, W., Onslow Creek ... Fitzpatrick, R. E., Dairee Creek ... Bush, R. E., Clifton Downs ... Stanley, Francis, Sharks Bay ... Baston, G., Carnarvon ... Gooch, G., Wandagee ... Phillips, S. J. & Co., Mt. Augustus ...	... 25	1 25	2 25	... 1	... 1	... 8	2 7	3 11	36	68
MURCHISON AND VICTORIA	Wittenoom, F., Boolardie ... Nairn Bros., Byro ... Turner (P.C.), Mt. Wittenoom ... Sharpe, J., Woolseon ... Ogilvie, A. J., Murchison House ... Anderson, H., Meka ... Dixon, E. M., Nannine ... Bell, W., Namorotharra ... Cordell, (P.C.) Peak Hill ... Carlyon, R. J., Yuin ... Wallace, R., Yalgoo ... Walsh & Sons, Mileura ...	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	1

TABLE A—*continued.*

District.	Reliever and Station.	Blind.		Aged, Crippled, Diseased.		Destitute.		Total Natives. Station.		Total Natives. District.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
MURCHISON AND VICTORIA— <i>continued.</i>	McCarthy, J., Pindar Shiel, (P.C.) Gullewa Mitchell, S., Geraldine McGuiness, (P.C.) Field's Find Woolf, J., Northampton Stone, H. E., Geraldton Clinch, G., Field's Find Broad, R., Wydgee Mitchell, S., Yallong... Brand, A., Lynton	...	...	...	1	2	5	...	...	2	6
						2	2	...	...	2	2
						2	2	...	...	2	2
				4	5	4	3	8	8		
				3	2	1	...	4	2		
					2	...	...	...	2		
					1	...	...	...	1		
					1	...	...	...	1		
					2	...	...	...	2		
										37	74
EASTERN GOLDFIELD	Kennedy Bros., Kookynie Transport Trading Co., Coolgardie Child, W. M., Mulline McAlpine, D., Mulwarrie Cadby Bros., Mulwarrie Walker W., Wiluna	...	...	...	...	...	10	10	10	10	
						...	4	...	4	...	4
						2	2	2	2	2	2
				5	5	...	...	5	5	5	5
						6	14	6	14	6	14
				2	4	4	...	4	6		
								4	6		
										27	41
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Walton, A. G., Wogalin Drummond, J., Yeri-Yeri Smith, C. C., Beambine Edwards, C. York Chitty, C., Badbatting Leake Bros., Mooranoppin Head Office, Perth New Norcia Mission Tuckey, C., Mandurah Adams, J., Mangowine Gill, P., Guildford Clarkson, B. D., Newcastle Sewell, C. M., Mt. Caroline Molyneux, C., Northam Moore, S. F., Mingenew Parker, W. B., Mt. Stirling Hinckley, M. L., Badjetoppin	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	2	3	
					1	1	1	1	2	1	
					2	2	3	...	3	4	
						2	...	...	...	2	
					1	...	...	1	...		
						2	3	2	3		
						9	8	9	8		
							7	...	7		
								4	3		
				4	3	...	...	2	3		
					2	3	...	2	3		
				2	1	...	...	2	1		
					1	1	...	1	1		
				1	1	...	...	3	2		
				3	2	...	...	3	2		
					2	4	...	4	4		
						1	1	1	1		
								46	51		
SOUTH-WESTERN ...	Barnett, E. D., Albany Horley, A. G., Moodiarrup Lockhart, R., Busselton Jones, W. T., jun., Kojonup Muir, T., Deeside Brown, C. F., Arthur River Spratt, M. A., Arthur Bridge Rogers, W. T., Katanning Adams, J. E., Mt. Kokeby Cowcher, G. S. F., Williams River Milne, J., Bunbury Giblett, M. A., Dingup Lowe, S., Capel River Guerin, E., Busselton	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	3	3	
					1	3	...	1	3	...	
					3	1	...	3	1		
				1	3	2	...	1	5		
					1	3	...	1	3		
					3	2	...	3	2		
					5	5	...	5	5		
				1	3	10	...	4	10		
							1	1	1	1	
							1	1	1	1	
							2	3	2	3	
				2	1	...	2	2	1		
						1	...	1	...		
						1	...	1	...		
										28	38
SOUTH-EASTERN ...	Ponton Bros. & Sharpe, Balladonia Gordon, P., Bremer Bay Dimer, H., Israelite Bay Moir, J., Cape Riche Dempster Bros., Esperance Talbot & Co., Mundrabilla... Dunn Bros, Cocanærup Hassell, J., Jerramungup McNamara, J., Mt. Barker Hassell, A. Y., Pallinup	...	...	3	5	...	...	3	5		
					1	3	...	9	5	9	5
							...	1	3		
							1	1	1		
					1	1	3	4	4	4	5
						4	5	4	5		
							5	5	5		
							2	2	2		
					2	2	...	2	2	2	2
							1	1	1		
								1	1		
										24	38
		31	90	289	350	79	117	399	557		
		121		639		196					
						956			956		

TABLE B.  
*Convictions of Aborigines, 1904-5.*

Offences.	No. of Cases.	No. in 1903-4.
Killing cattle and taking flesh	53	34
Sheep stealing...	20	...
Stealing, larceny, etc.	31	20
Assault, threatening, etc.	12	7
Manslaughter ...	...	...
Absconding from custody	6	7
Absconding from service	4	7
Drunkenness ...	18	23
Killing horses and injuring property	1	3
Supplying liquor to other aborigines	4	2
Murder ...	...	1
Attempt at rape ...	1	...
Firing grass ...	4	...
Driving without lights at night	1	...
Evil fame ...	1	...
Total ...	156	104

TABLE C.  
*Distribution of Blankets.*

District.	Quantity.
Kimberley, East	50
West	240
North-West	220
Ashburton	70
Gascoyne ...	198
Victoria (including Murchison)	291
Eastern Goldfields	560
South-East	162
Central	166
Southern ...	243
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,200</b>

**Aborigines Department - Report for Financial Year ending 30th June 1905**  
Corporate Author: Western Australia Aborigines Department

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