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1911.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1910.

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

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1910.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit, for your information, the following report on the work undertaken by the Aborigines Department during the year ended the 30th June, 1910.

Detailed statements of receipts and payments under the Aborigines and Public Works Estimates will be found in the appendix.

FINANCIAL.

Apart from the sum of £10,000 provided for by the provisions of the Aborigines Act, 1905, and yearly placed at the disposal of the Department for the welfare of the aborigines, a further sum of £15,208 was provided by Parliament and placed on the Estimates, making a total of £25,208.

The receipts available under the Aborigines Estimates and Departmental revenue for the year were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Grant under Sec. 5 of Aborigines Act				10,000		0 0
Amount provided on Aborigines Estimates, 1909-10 ..	15,208		0 0			
Less Balance on Vote, 30th June, 1910	430	19	0	14,777	1	0
Departmental Revenue				82	18	7
Total under Aborigines Estimates and Departmental Revenue				24,859	19	7
To this must be added:—						
Receipts from Public Works Department under their Revenue Estimates				690	7	9
Grand total of Receipts from all sources				£25,550	7	4

Expenditure.—The total expenditure incurred by the Government for all services in connection with aborigines was £25,550 7s. 4d., being an increase of £2,991 6s. 10d. for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1909.

The above expenditure includes the sum of £690 7s. 9d. spent by the Public Works Department on Buildings and Furniture, etc.

The main increases are:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1. Lock Hospitals, including transport of patients to and from their native country, but exclusive of s.s. "Venus" ..				867	15	7
2. S.s. "Venus":—						
Purchase	1,150	0	0			
Moorings	213	5	3			
Wages	478	1	6			
Upkeep	631	10	0	2,472	16	9
3. Grants to Missions				391	3	0

NATIVE SETTLEMENTS.

The most important work carried out by the Government during the year was the establishment of a native settlement in the vicinity of Hall's Creek, in the East Kimberley district.

Although the scheme has been advocated for years past by those who have taken an interest in the aborigines, no practical steps were taken in the matter until quite recently.

Various reports were made by the Department from returns prepared by the Commissioner of Police and the Comptroller General of Prisons, relative to the yearly expenditure incurred for the upkeep of our native gaols and the expense of arresting, feeding, and escorting native prisoners and their transport to and from gaol, etc. It was pointed out that the establishment of native settlements would tend to largely decrease this annual expenditure and, although in the nature of an experiment, was worth trying as a possible solution of a difficult problem.

All the tribal natives coming within its influence would be under a certain amount of supervision, and being regularly fed would tend to make them more contented with their lot, and the need for depredation among cattle herds—about which so many complaints have been received in the past—would be removed.

Mr. Isdell, Travelling Protector of Aborigines, who has been patrolling the Kimberleys for some considerable time past, has taken a great interest in the question, and strongly recommended the purchase of three small cattle stations adjoining each other, near Hall's Creek, to start the first settlement.

After reports as to the suitability of the locality and the number of natives that would be benefited, it was decided to establish the first native settlement in the State, which now is an accomplished fact.

The three stations bought contain a total area of 860,000 acres, together with 11,357 head of cattle, and 283 head of horses. The above stations will be worked from a central position under one management solely for the welfare of the native race.

It is estimated that there are between 500 and 600 aborigines who will come within the influence of the settlement. Many of these are old offenders, and have frequently been imprisoned for cattle killing, and as this form of punishment has proved a failure as regards a deterrent to crime, it is anticipated that the native settlement will be a factor in reducing the number of cattle killers by making the natives less hostile to the herds of the pastoralists.

Meat and vegetables being under natural conditions the principal diet of the native race, it is proposed to cultivate tropical fruits and vegetables which, together with fresh beef, will be daily supplied to all those natives within touch of the settlement.

As it will be impossible to keep all the natives constantly employed on the station, and it would be foolish to keep the young, able-bodied natives in idleness, it is further proposed to train the children to become useful servants, and the settlement will eventually become a labour-recruiting centre for the adjoining stations.

Should the first experiment prove the success that many anticipate, further settlements should be established in the Kimberleys where depredations by natives in other tribal districts are frequent, and, in consequence, retard that further development of the country which is the earnest desire of the Government to foster.

Not only should efforts be made in this direction, but also generally in the direction of keeping our native gaols less full than they have been in the past. Endeavours should thus be made to bring to a satisfactory issue the present conditions existing between the Government, the native race and those who by their capital and labour are trying to develop the cattle and other industries in the Northern portion of the State.

CATTLE KILLING.

I am pleased to report that the Commissioner of Police, acting under the direction of the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, inaugurated an entirely new system with regard to dealing with this form of crime by natives to that obtaining in the past.

Instructions have been issued to all police officers that only the ringleaders are to be arrested and brought to trial, instead of arresting all and sundry natives who happened to be eating some of the beast killed by their comrades. The whole party were generally convicted on the admission of their guilt; an easy enough matter to obtain from practically un-civilised natives.

A further change in the method of payment to the police has been effected. Instead of a fixed payment per head for each native prisoner and witness brought in, the stores are supplied to the constable and the State merely pays the actual cost of the provisions.

These two important changes in past methods have already materially reduced the number of native prisoners in our gaols, which, when the influence of the native settlement has made itself felt, should still further decrease.

Sub-Inspector Sellenger, now in charge of the Northern portion of the State, was instructed by the Commissioner of Police to carry out the wishes of the Hon. the Minister, and he deserves the thanks of the Department for the humane interest he has taken in the whole question.

From inquiries made, I gather that complaints from settlers of depredations committed among the cattle herds have not increased to any appreciable extent since the new order of things was started, but there is no doubt that this form of crime is still being carried on, and it is to be hoped that by arresting the ringleaders in cattle killing in each tribal districts, and by the establishment of native settlements elsewhere referred to, serious complaints from those

developing our northern territory will be less frequent than they have been in the past.

During the year 10 natives were convicted of cattle killing at Derby, and 12 at Wyndham, being a decrease of 197 on the figures of last year.

INDIGENT NATIVES.

During the year an average of 1,497 (a decrease of 7 over the previous year) have been receiving Government rations and clothing from the relieving stations established throughout the State.

I am pleased to report that the new system of issuing ration orders by the police and other relieving officers to indigent natives on storekeepers who are under contract for supplies, is working very much more satisfactorily than the old system of giving a capitation grant to those authorised to issue rations to the old, sick and indigent; not only is the Department able to keep a better check on expenditure incurred in this direction, but it has the satisfaction of knowing that the service paid for has been more faithfully performed.

Not only in the above direction have efforts been made to reduce expenditure, but steps were taken during the year to decrease the amount paid to pastoralists for feeding indigent natives on those stations employing native labour.

In consequence of some of the settlers feeding the old natives at their own expense while others were charging the Department so much a day, according to the distance from the coast, the following circular letter was sent to the latter:—

Perth,
4th October, 1909.

Sir,—The question of pastoral leaseholders in the North-West who are employers of native labour, charging the Government for the relief of indigent natives residing at the homestead and outstation is now under consideration, and I am writing with a view of obtaining an expression of opinion from you on the subject.

It is extremely gratifying and refreshing for me to be able to state that there are a number of squatters who, after bearing the heat and burden of the early pioneering days, assisted mostly by native labour, realise their obligations to those natives who have grown too old for further service, and who are the parents or relatives of the younger employees, by providing them with the necessities of life at their own expense. These men are to be commended for their actions, and they deserve the thanks of the Government.

To the others who have not accepted their responsibility in the above direction I am now appealing, and I trust that after giving the question that generous consideration which it deserves, you will fall into line with those who do not charge the Government for feeding old natives, who were born in the country from which in many instances large profits are yearly made by pastoralists from flocks and herds depasturing thereon. If you cannot see your way clear to maintain such natives at your expense I shall be pleased if you will advise me stating your reasons for such refusal, as it is my intention, if the settlers will not fall in with my views, to lay the whole question before the Government.

The general permit system is, I am informed, working satisfactorily, and unless I am forced to do so, I have no wish to make any alteration; but I wish to point out to you that under the provisions of the Aborigines Act power is given to Protectors to grant permits to employ native labour under any conditions which they may think fit and proper, and unless I have very sufficient ground for doing otherwise, the renewal of permits may be subject to conditions in the direction of the subject matter of this letter, or certain other conditions which may not be so acceptable as the present system under which natives are employed.

Trusting that you will give this matter the consideration which it deserves, and thanking you in anticipation of an early reply.

I have, etc.,
C. F. GALE,
Chief Protector of Aborigines.

I am very pleased to report that I have received a very liberal response to the above from many quarters, resulting in a saving to the Government of £850 per annum in this direction alone.

During the year the sum of £8,812 18s. 9d. was expended in provisioning indigent men, women and children throughout the State.

BLANKETS AND CLOTHING.

Two thousand four hundred and fifty-nine blankets and clothing have been distributed in all deserving cases reported to the Department. The expenditure during the year in these two directions amounted to the sum of £1,564 6s. 8d., being a decrease of £27 1s. 8d over the previous year.

LOCK HOSPITALS.

During the year 57 male and 73 female patients were received on Bernier and Dorre Islands suffering from venereal diseases in all its shapes, and 10 male and 27 female patients were discharged by the medical superintendent as having been cured and sent to their respective homes between Carnarvon and Wyndham; leaving a total of 119 patients at both hospitals receiving treatment on the 30th June last. In all, 189 patients received treatment in the hospitals during the year.

I regret having to report 33 deaths from various causes during the year. Although this is a high death rate it must be remembered that many old and infirm patients were received at the hospitals who have been suffering from disease in its very advanced form for many years past, and many cases were practically incurable.

Although the patients have been allowed to live their own lives in their natural way, it has been found that it is impossible to give the very bad cases the necessary attention required without proper accommodation, and the Government, on the report of the Superintendent Medical Officer, have authorised the expenditure for the erection of an incurable ward containing 20 beds for female patients, and a ward containing 10 beds for the males.

The Minister approved of an expert pathologist and bacteriologist being sent to the islands for some time to endeavour to discover the etiology, treatment, and cure of the venereal diseases from which the natives suffer.

Dr. Steel, pathologist and bacteriologist to the Central Board of Health, proceeded there, and extended his investigations from three to six months. He was not able to arrive at distinct knowledge of the causation. For treatment he instituted the preparation and administration of vaccine, but the results produced no final success on those lines of treatment.

A vacancy arising as Medical Superintendent of the Islands, Dr. Steel applied for and obtained this appointment as he was keenly desirous of prosecuting his enquiries further. In addition to administration, the investigations of the nature and cure of these diseases will continue to be the subject of his original research.

During the year a total expenditure of £5,469 2s. 6d. was incurred on the staffing, maintenance, and general

upkeep of the Lock hospitals, etc., as against £4,123 5s. 9d. for previous year.

The report of the Superintendent Medical Officer on the work of the hospitals for the year appears in the appendix.

SUBSIDISED MISSIONS.

The following Missions are annually subsidised by the Government:—Swan, New Norcia, Beagle Bay, Salvation Army Homes, Sunday Island, Ellensbrook, and the Australian Aborigines Mission.

All these institutions are doing good work, bringing up and educating a number of half-caste and full-blooded native children.

In my last annual report reference was made to the responsibility of those controlling the destinies of Mission institutions, relative to providing for the welfare of those under their charge, not only as boys and girls, but in their future lives. I am pleased to report that efforts are being made by some of the institutions to widen their scope of operation, and a scheme of starting native settlements in portions of our agricultural areas is, I understand, under consideration. A strong and influential board has been appointed on behalf of the Anglican Swan Native and Half-caste Mission, with a view of formulating a scheme whereby operations on a larger scale than those existing at present can be started—to give regular employment to the natives under their charge and make the institutions self-supporting. Any practical scheme in this direction should commend itself to the Government as a probable solution to a difficult problem that must face the State in the future.

As closer settlement advances the half-caste population is bound to increase, the natural result of the intermingling of the white and black races; this has been the experience of the Eastern States, and there is no reason why we should expect any different result here.

EPIDEMICS.

During the months of February and March an epidemic something similar to pneumonia set in, carrying off about 20 natives in the Flora Valley and Turner Stations in the Hall's Creek district. It lasted about a fortnight; natives apparently healthy and well would suddenly sicken, and in many cases death ensued in about 24 hours.

LEPROSY AT ROEBOURNE.

In August last information was received from the Acting District Medical Officer at Roebourne that he had under surveillance an aboriginal male native suspected of leprosy.

The bacteriological examination confirmed the case as one of true leprosy. Since then six other cases have been found, making seven in all—two men and five women.

The two male cases have died.

The patients were segregated at once on a Government reserve of 800 acres situated between Cossack and Mount Wangee, which was set apart for the medical treatment of lepers pending their removal to some island where more complete segregation would be possible.

These cases were found from 70 to 100 miles from Roebourne. The police were instructed to make a thorough search through the natives of the district

as to any further cases, and I am pleased to say that so far no fresh cases have been reported.

Every care and attention are being paid to these unfortunate natives.

EDUCATION.

During the year 260 native full-blood and half-caste children have been receiving education in the different Missions subsidised by the Government, being a slight decrease from the previous year:—

	Boys.	Girls.
Beagle Bay	45	60
Sunday Island	18	26
New Norcia	12	26
Salvation Army	1	17
Ellensbrook Home	2	3
Swan Native and Half-caste Mission	18	19
Australian Aborigines Mission	1	10
Drysdale Mission	11	—
	<u>108</u>	<u>161</u>

The number of half-caste children receiving tuition in country schools is increasing, and from the reports of teachers and others I am glad to state that they are well behaved and cleanly.

Details of Missions are shown in the appendix under the heading of "Mission Reports."

CRIMES.

Details of crimes committed by natives throughout the year appear in the appendix, and are on the decrease.

I am glad to be able to report that the number of convictions for supplying natives with intoxicants is less than last year. The fear of a £20 fine being imposed, or imprisonment, is having a salutary effect.

The nature of the crimes committed by aborigines have not been of so serious a character, and convictions for cattle killing are greatly on the decline.

PROHIBITED AREAS AND RESERVES.

Further prohibited areas have been proclaimed in the Northern portion of the State at Hall's Creek, Derby, and Beagle Bay, on which it is unlawful for aborigines or half-castes not in lawful employment to be or remain.

Additional reserves have been made at Kojonup and Welshpool, and a camping ground at Guildford, on which, under the provisions of the Aborigines Act, persons other than aborigines are prohibited unless with proper authority.

GENERAL.

The thanks of the Department are due to the Commissioner of Police and many of his officers for the general supervision of the welfare of the natives, and the enforcement of the provisions of the Aborigines Act throughout the State.

Reports from the Travelling Protectors of the Department, the Police, and Superintendents of Missions will be found in the appendix.

I have, etc.,

C. F. GALE,

Chief Protector of Aborigines.

1st August, 1910.

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ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year ended 30th June, 1910.

Receipts.				Payments.			
£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
Grant under Section 5 of Aborigines Act, 5 Edward VII., No. 14		10,000	0 0	Salaries Generally:—			
Amount provided on Aborigines Estimates, 1909-10	15,208	0 0		Chief Protector	510	0 0	
Less balance on Vote 30-6-10	430	19 0		Clerk-in-Charge	171	19 3	
				Clerks	379	18 4	
Departmental Revenue			82 18 7	Messenger	25	19 4	
				Travelling Protectors	576	15 0	
				Cleaner	23	9 6	
				Attendant on Lepers at Roebourne	102	10 0	
							1,790 11 5
				Relief to Natives:—			
				Blankets and Clothing	1,564	6 8	
				Provisions	8,812	18 9	
				Medical Fees and Medicines	114	13 0	
				Native Shelter	18	10 4	
							10,510 8 9
				Lock Hospitals:—			
				Salaries—			
				Medical Officer	500	0 0	
				Nurse-in-Charge	130	0 0	
				Nurses and Domestic Staff	672	2 10	
				Shipping Agent	25	0 0	
				Bacteriologist	162	17 1	
				Provisions, etc.	3,501	1 1	
							4,991 1 0
				S.S. "Venus":—			
				Purchase	1,150	0 0	
				Moorings	213	5 3	
				Wages	478	1 6	
				Upkeep	631	10 0	
							2,472 16 9
							7,463 17 9
				Grants to Missions:—			
				Swan Mission, Anglican	484	9 2	
				New Norcia, R.C.	383	15 4	
				Beagle Bay, R.C.	800	0 0	
				Salvation Army Home	315	15 8	
				Sunday Island Mission	402	12 6	
				Ellensbrook	37	15 8	
				Australian Mission	35	6 8	
				Presbyterian Mission	26	16 4	
							2,486 11 4
				Nicholson Plains Station			914 12 10
				General:—			
				Police Protection	226	12 5	
				Legal Defence, Natives	24	7 0	
				Transport	657	3 0	
				Burials	244	18 0	
				Travelling	107	17 9	
				Postage and Telephones	137	14 7	
				Miscellaneous	208	4 3	
				Provisions Discharged Prisoners	87	0 6	
							1,693 17 6
							£24,859 19 7

Statement of Moneys held in Trust by the Chief Protector of Aborigines with the Government Savings Bank on 30th June, 1910, under "The Aborigines Act, 1905."

	£	s.	d.
Condon, Jimmy	10	19	0
Burden, Topsy	2	8	6
Flarty, Flossie	15	16	3
Judy	6	10	4
Nuramurrah	15	0	7
Monger, Jimmy	5	8	0
Peter	10	8	0
Dangin, Johnny	13	17	0
	£80	7	8

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Statement of Public Works Receipts and Payments for Year ended 30th June, 1910.

Receipts.		Payments.					
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Public Works Department—					Buildings—		
Revenue Estimates, as per Statement attached	690 7 9				Bernier Island, Erection of Cottage	36	11 0
					Bernier and Dorre Islands, Hospital Construction ..	621	5 9
					Aborigines Department, Furniture, Repairs, etc ..	33	1 1
							690 7 9
							£690 7 9

Note.—Amount of £19 was credited to Government Property Sales Fund, being proceeds of sale of old buildings at Katanning.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Statement showing Total Expenditure on behalf of Aborigines Department for year ended 30th June, 1910.

Work.	Expended from Revenue.				Total.	Expended from Loan.	Grand Total.
	Rent.	Const.	Main.	Furniture.			
Bernier, Lock Hospital, Erection of Cottage	£ s. d. 36 0 11	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. 36 0 11	...	£ s. d. 36 0 11
Bernier and Dorre Islands Hospital, Construction	621 5 9	...	...	621 5 9	...	621 5 9
Perth Aborigines Department...	3 9 6	16 9 7	8 6 5	28 5 6	...	28 5 6
Proportion of Wages of Office Cleaners, 5s. 3d., Main Electric Light £4, Heating and Lighting 10s. 4d.	4 15 7	...	4 15 7	...	4 15 7
	...	660 16 2	21 5 2	8 6 5	685 12 2 4 15 7	Nil	690 7 9

Return of Natives to whom Relief has been issued for year ended 30th June, 1910.

	Blind.		Aged and Decrepit.		Destitute.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
East and West Kimberley	10	16	26	75	45	85	81	176
North-West	9	30	69	126	7	26	85	182
Ashburton and Gascoyne	11	14	71	133	19	27	101	174
Murchison and Victoria	4	7	61	96	19	45	84	148
Central, South-West, and South-Eastern	5	2	63	70	55	90	123	162
Eastern Goldfields	2	...	50	50	21	58	73	108
	41	69	340	550	166	331	547	950
				1,497				1,497

DEATHS.

One hundred and thirty-eight deaths have been officially reported during the year, but of these 33 died at the Lock hospitals, and 20 died in the far North of an epidemic, leaving the death roll from natural causes 85 against 79 the previous year.

Convictions for Supplying Aboriginal Natives with Intoxicants, Year ended 30th June, 1910.

	Fines Collected.	
	£	s. d.
Wyndham	Nil	.. ..
Derby	Nil	.. ..
Broome	41	267 0 0
Marble Bar	3	60 0 0
Port Hedland	2	.. ..
Onslow	Nil	.. ..
Carnarvon (Sharks Bay)	1	.. ..
Geraldton	Nil	.. ..
Cue	Nil	.. ..
Kalgoorlie	Nil	.. ..
Newcastle	4	20 0 0
Northam	1	.. ..
Perth	Nil	.. ..
Busselton	1	.. ..
Albany	Nil	.. ..
Esperance	1	5 0 0
	54	£352 0 0

At Port Hedland one of the offenders was imprisoned for six months, and at Carnarvon another for three months. In all cases if the fines were not paid they underwent periods of imprisonment.

CRIMES.

The following is a list of the crimes committed by aborigines during the period under notice:—

Stealing, petty larceny	14
Cattle killing	22
Killing goats	4
Destroying property	8
Escape from legal custody	4
Unlawfully on premises	1
Loitering, disorderly, and drunkenness	5
	58

Half-Caste and Full-Blooded Children sent by the Department to Missions, Year ending June 30th, 1910.

Beagle Bay	9 males	7 females.
Drysdale	11 "	" "
Swan	3 "	3 "
Salvation Army Homes	" "	1 "
	23	11

Mount Barrett,
1st July, 1910.

To Chief Protector, Perth.

Sir,

I herewith forward annual report for Aborigines Department for year ending 30th June, 1910.

On returning to Hall's Creek after an inspection of portion of East Kimberley, I received telegraphic instructions to proceed to Hunter's Boolgin homestead, on the coast between Pender's Bay and Swan Point.

Leaving Hall's Creek on 30th June, 1910, I reached Meinsen's station on 2nd July. Whilst in camp at this place I was visited by a large number of bush natives—22 females, 29 males, and 13 children. They called to be supplied with blankets, clothes, and meat. The former articles I could not give them, and Mein-

sen informed me he was killing a bullock a week for them, besides the bones and portions of the bullocks he was killing for his own use every fortnight; this supply, with the kangaroos and some of his goats they killed, he thought left them not too badly off. I gave them a stick of tobacco each. Wherever I meet them their cry is for tobacco, and they look to getting it from a "Guv'men" man.

Leaving Meinsen's on the 8th July, I followed the Margaret River through the bush, as I was anxious to inspect the country. I then was considering the feasibility of a fully stocked station for the use of the aborigines in the Hall's Creek district, and wished to see if this country was suitable. I saw about 20 natives at Eaglehawk Gorge on Margaret River. They looked fairly well. I again had to part the usual supply of weed. My native shot some kangaroos, cockatoos, and other birds for them.

Pushing on down the Margaret River, I arrived at Copley's Margaret River station, feeling very ill from inflammation of the lungs. I had to camp until the 20th July. Whilst lying in my camp ill, I received a visit from Stock Inspector Haly, Sir A. Campbell, and Mr. Bannerman, manager Sturt's Creek station.

Before leaving to continue my journey on the 19th July, after a detention of seven days, I saw a very large number of aborigines, about 150; they were having a big corroboree and initiating some of the boys. They looked fairly well; some very old ones, and a few blind and crippled amongst them. My tobacco supply ran short and I had to reduce the allowance for each to small proportions to make it go round. Mr. McCauley, the manager, is pretty good to these natives, killing cattle for them throughout the dry winter months; as soon as the warm weather and rain comes, they leave for various places in the bush. There was no disease amongst them.

Leaving on 19th July, I travelled to Fitzroy Crossing, arriving there on 26th July, distant 190 miles from Hall's Creek. Whilst *en route* to Fitzroy I passed a camp of 50 bush aborigines on Cox's Louisa Downs run, 10 of them very old—wrinkled faces and hair perfectly white, two of them blind and three crippled. They had neither clothes nor blankets, and looked very miserable. Ten young children from two to five years old were amongst them. Cox was killing a beast for them, but he said he could not afford to do so regularly. They had only just come into the river, want of water in the bush forcing them.

I also passed several small lots of natives along the river before reaching the Fitzroy. They were all young and looked well, getting plenty of fish and kangaroos. No disease amongst them.

On arrival at Fitzroy I telegraphed for instructions about the numerous half-caste children on the Fitzroy River, none of whom had been removed since my visit to the district in 1908, as then recommended by me. I received reply to have them removed to Derby for transit to Mission stations. I got an attack of fever, which, with the after effects of my recent cold, laid me up for a while, and I shifted out close to Blythe's Brooking station. The weather now becoming extremely hot, and many of the young half-castes being unable to walk, I had a difficulty in finding a suitable vehicle at a reasonable price. On approaching Mr. Geo. Piper, manager of Emanuel's Gogo

station, he generously placed at my disposal a mule and cart, with a native and his woman to drive and cook for youngsters free of any cost. As it would not be available before the 8th September I had perforce to wait.

During the interval of waiting I removed the old indigents who were receiving relief at police station out to Blythe's, where they would be better looked after and have a good warm camp on the banks of the Fitzroy River and plenty to eat. They numbered 18, including three blind, three cripples, and four young orphans. I arranged with Blythe to feed and attend to them for 9d. a head per day, a reduction of the rate paid to police and post office of 3d. per head. There were several other old natives in the bush whom I expected to come in. When I finally left Brooking they had a nice garden, growing pumpkins, cabbages, and water melons; the station natives having fenced it in, dug the ground, and sowed the seed for them, they watered and looked after it themselves.

Having got everything ready (Constable Campbell having received instructions to accompany and assist me), I started from Fitzroy police station on Friday, the 10th September, for Derby, having five half-caste children, four full-grown women, and one man bad with venereal. Having a good deal of trouble and hard work, with extremely hot days, and water very scarce and bad, I eventually arrived in Derby on Tuesday, 12th October, and handed over to Sub-Inspector McCarthy 19 half-castes and the sick natives, having occupied 33 days travelling 200 miles. I camped seven days out of the 33 at various places, as some of the half-castes had to be brought in long distances from across the Fitzroy. Whilst *en route* I had to send two of the children ahead into Derby by mail coach, as they were ill and could not be properly attended to. This pretty well cleaned the Fitzroy River district, only five grown-up boys, four grown-up women, and three babies remaining, and two girls about 10 years old living with bush natives along the river whom we did not succeed in getting. One of them Constable Campbell brought into the camp late one night, but she had run away before morning, and our horses were too poor to make any further search. As these two girls would soon go to ruin, I left instructions with Sub-Inspector McCarthy to have them brought in and sent on to Beagle Bay Mission. During this trip some of the days the sun was 110 in the shade and I often had to put as many as eight youngsters in the mule cart, which with the rations, swags, and his own feed, was a good load for the mule. I walked on foot the whole of the way from Fitzroy Crossing to Derby, accompanying the children and cart every day. At one place during the trip I got a great fright. On coming into camp on the Fitzroy River two little girls ran down the bank, and about half an hour after complained of pains in the stomach, giddiness, and trying to vomit. I concluded they had eaten some poisonous herb or berries, and forced them to swallow mustard and water, when they vomited pretty freely. As they got better I ascertained that they had pulled some very green leaves from a shrub that is used by the natives to poison the pools to get the fish, and eaten them. They were all right next day but had a narrow escape. When I got them all to Derby and left 22 with the police, I was satisfied that looking after a wild lot

of half-caste kids like young kangaroos is a strenuous undertaking.

Whilst travelling down the Fitzroy rumours reached me, through bush natives, that a boy had been put on the chain at Nookanbat station. On my arrival there I investigated the matter and found it correct. The boy, aged about 17 years, was put on the chain by the manager as a punishment for running away from a team whilst on the road from Derby; he was in no way ill-treated, had his three meals a day, plenty of blankets and tobacco for the five days he was on the chain. Whilst making his statement to me he laughed and looked on it as a great joke, and rather liked it, as he had a good time. I summoned the manager to Derby for assault, but before the case came on I had to leave for Hall's Creek, and passed the case on to Sub-Inspector McCarthy; he was fined £5 and costs and cautioned. I heard another rumour from a white teamster that a half-caste woman had killed her baby shortly after it was born. I found on investigation not a vestige of truth in it. I received complaints from several stations of the deprecations and annoyance of a noted Fitzroy aborigine named Hedley. He had stolen flour and sugar in large quantities from one woolshed, raided the camp of Thomas Chatman on his run whilst absent mustering, stealing everything, including a rifle and ammunition—fortunately they did not fit the rifle. He has a habit of visiting station homesteads during the absence of the whites and taking away the young boys and sometimes the women. I wired to the Aborigines Department last year about this native; he is setting a very bad example to the younger natives.

Whilst at the Fitzroy in July, I strongly recommended that the Government should purchase certain properties in the Hall's Creek district for the benefit of the many wandering bush aborigines, to lessen relief expenses and check cattle killing. Whilst in Derby in October I received a telegram that my recommendation had been favourably entertained, and to immediately return to Hall's Creek to meet Mr. Haly, the Kimberley Stock Inspector, inspect and report in conjunction with him on Messrs. Meinsen, Shepherd and Green's stations, Nicholson Plains, Mount Barrett and Greenvale.

Leaving early on 18th October, I did not reach Meinsen's station (365 miles) until November 15th, where I met Mr. Haly. My horses were very poor and weary with constant travelling, with no feed and little muddy water on the route. I had to leave two horses, with pack and a lot of my gear, at Upper Liveringa station, they being too poor to travel; this left me with only two packs and heavy loads. Owing to these circumstances my return trip to Meinsen's was slow.

Messrs. Haly and Meinsen and self spent 10 days inspecting the properties, and forwarded our joint report in favour of purchase. From end of November until end of March, 1910, I have been camped waiting the decision of the Government, when I received instructions to take delivery of the properties from a bang-tailed muster starting on 1st April, as it was decided to purchase. It is gratifying to be able to report that since I started taking delivery a large number of bush natives have come into the station to reside; included amongst them are two different gangs of noted cattle killers of about 20 in each lot. After interviewing me they were satisfied to stay so

long as the police did not interfere with them. There also come natives from considerably over 100 miles distant from here, from the Lower Margaret and O'Donnell Rivers, under the Leopold Ranges. They stayed a couple of days and told me they were returning to their country to bring in their people. As there are some very bad cattle killers amongst them it will considerably lessen the crime. There are also bush natives from over 100 miles from here about the Turkey Creek district that wish to come to Mount Barrett. At present there are about 250 aborigines camped at the station, a number that will be considerably increased when the station is in a position to attend to them. Although there are natives belonging to several different tribes in camp together they seem to live peaceably; there has been no fighting so far. I am satisfied the station will succeed in answering the purpose for which it is intended, if under proper management. It is most necessary to have a married man as manager; a man with experience and knowledge of Northern natives. Owing to the large number of women and children with their many ailments it requires the tender sympathy of a woman to attend to them.

The first consideration should be the aborigines, and every inducement offered them to settle on the place. It is also necessary, in my opinion, that the manager should not own or breed stock of his own on the station, as if so it will leave an opening for another scandal. There are good working stock-boys on the place; in the past they have done all the mustering and branding of cattle, also all the horse-breaking and horse-shoeing.

Reviewing aborigine affairs for the last twelve months in those portions of Kimberley that I have travelled over, they have been fairly satisfactory. Working natives are awaking to the great advantage of the permit system of the Aborigines Act. They are becoming aware that they are not, under that system, bound to their employer for any stated period; they are also becoming aware that if they are not satisfied where they are employed they can leave at any time without hindrance. This knowledge tends to their better treatment by those employers who do not wish to lose them. Under the old indenture or agreement system, if they left their employment they were liable to arrest and being brought back. It has taken them some time to comprehend the difference between the present permit system and the old agreements. I think the agreement system, which is still in vogue and taken advantage of in some places, should be entirely done away with. Hall's Creek district and a few other portions of East Kimberley are the worst for breaches of the Aborigines Act, all of which are in connection with women; cohabiting has a very restricted meaning and is difficult to prove. Travelling on horseback with aborigine women is still in vogue in some portions of East Kimberley on some stations, and every effort should be made to stop this. Making presents of horses or other stock to young aborigine females is a bad practice that should be un-

lawful. These presents are only for one object; you never hear of aboriginal males or middle-aged native women getting any of these presents. If it is desired to make such a present for valuable service to aborigines of any age it should only be with the approval of the Resident Magistrate of the district, and he should send a report of the circumstance to the Chief Protector.

I have had no complaints from any natives during the year, with the exception of the case of the boy chained up by the manager of Nookanbat, and from a native on the Fitzroy River who wanted me to get him his tribal wife, but as she had been legally married to an Asiatic alien I could not interfere.

There was no perceptible increase in crime. Cattle killing is still prevalent in most places; six months imprisonment in Wyndham is no punishment, and I am glad to see that the Government are beginning to recognise that fact. Deportation of the worst of the ringleaders for a term of years to stations on Gascoyne or other Southern district would have a more deterrent effect. I am satisfied that the opening of the native settlement will provide a check in that portion of East Kimberley.

Venereal diseases have not increased to any extent. Most of those affected that were within reach have been brought in by the police and either treated locally or sent to Wyndham to Resident Medical Officer.

A peculiar epidemic, carrying off about 20 natives of all ages in various portions of Hall's Creek district, broke out shortly after the new year. It lasted only about a fortnight; natives apparently healthy and well would suddenly complain of pains in the stomach, which would swell up; they generally died within 24 hours after attack.

There are a few bad cases of venereal amongst men and women on some of the outside and distant stations, but as they are too bad to either walk or ride they cannot be brought in.

During the 12 months I was travelling for less than five months, from 1st July to middle of November, and covered close on 1,200 miles. I sent 22 half-castes from West Kimberley to Mission stations, and brought five venereal cases to Derby; sent 13 half-castes to Wyndham for transit to Mission stations, and nine venereal cases to same place (Wyndham) for medical treatment. The police have also taken venereal cases to both Derby and Wyndham.

There have been five court cases for breaches of Aborigines Act:—

- 1 Cohabitation—fine £10.
- 1 Working natives without permit—fine £5.
- 1 Harboursing natives on premises—fine £1.
- 1 Afghan having female in his camp—fine £3.
- 1 Travelling in company of aborigine woman—fine £5.

I remain, etc.,

JAMES ISDELL,
Travelling Protector.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LOCK HOSPITALS FOR ABORIGINES AT BERNIER AND DORRE ISLANDS BY THE SUPERINTENDENT MEDICAL OFFICER.

I have the honour to present the second Annual Report on the Lock Hospitals for Aborigines on Bernier and Dorre Islands:—

On 5th July, 1909, Mr. Brodribb, representing the Chief Protector, arrived at Bernier Island. Several days were spent in inspection and stock-taking. A new set of books and a system of periodical returns were inaugurated. On the evening of the 9th the cutter "Genesta" arrived from Carnarvon and reported that fires had been seen on Dorre Island, which might be signals of distress from the two men quartered there. An early start was made on 10th by Mr. Brodribb and the Medical Superintendent for Dorre. Contrary winds, however, made the passage a long one and the White Beach Landing, the site of the settlement, was not reached till the afternoon of the 11th. The fires were found to have no special significance. Work, similar to that done on Bernier, was carried out here, and it was arranged to return to Bernier on 13th, but in the early hours of that morning the cutter snapped her anchor chain and was found at daylight on the rocks, a total wreck. Everything of value was salvaged. Water Constable Delf and R. Denwick who formed the crew of the "Genesta," made a jury mast out of an oar and rigged a sail on the 12th. Dinghy stationed at the island, but strong winds prevailed for a week and it was not till the 20th that it became possible to make a start. The time was well spent, however, in that a well of fresh water was opened up and the wood supply on the island inspected and found to be adequate for the next few years. Lack of information on these two necessary points had been the cause of some anxiety.

The voyage to Bernier was safely accomplished in ten hours, a matter for congratulation, as any mishap to the boat during her twenty-four mile run would have been disastrous, landing places on the rock-bound coast being few and far between. The following morning a relief boat arrived from Carnarvon and Mr. Brodribb returned in her. During the next four weeks routine work was carried out, unvaried by any communication with the mainland.

On 16th August the steamer "Venus" arrived from Fremantle to take up her duties as supply and mail boat to the Islands. She went on to Carnarvon the next day and returned to Bernier on 19th, bringing the accumulated mails of six weeks and some necessary stores. On the next trip, 29th August, Dr. Hickenbotham came over to consult with the Medical Superintendent and gave the anaesthetic while an operation was performed. On his return to Carnarvon he wrote a letter giving his views on what was necessary for the accommodation of the patients. This letter, which was forwarded to the Chief Protector, urged the necessity of a properly equipped hospital at each island.

On 31st August the "Venus" brought over six female patients and three male natives to Bernier. On 1st September the Medical Superintendent and

C. M. Sherrifs, the brevet orderly-in-charge for Dorre, started for that island. It had been intended to start in the morning, but a heavy surf capsized the dinghy and departure was postponed till the afternoon. After travelling three miles, however, trouble with the engines enforced a return to Bernier. The following day another start was made, but when about midway between the two islands the go-ahead crank broke and the engines became useless. By sailing and towing, an anchorage a mile from the landing place on Bernier was reached and the party put ashore at 10 p.m. The uncertainty of intercommunication between the two islands in the circumstances led to the abandonment for the time being of the attempt to take patients to Dorre, and the three male natives were landed on Bernier and made to camp in an enclosure near the house. The "Venus" managed to reach Carnarvon and temporary repairs were made so that she could steam ahead though she could not go astern. She made several trips in this condition before the missing part was supplied. On October 1st one of the native men was put in a tent near the Medical Superintendent's cottage, and operated upon.

Up to this time the Medical Superintendent had taken part in the daily dressings of the patients, but the prospect of duties at Dorre Island necessitating frequent absences made it necessary to obtain a trained nurse to carry on the work. On 5th October Nurse Pingelly arrived to enter upon her duties. On 7th, one of the male natives died, and on 12th the Medical Superintendent with C. M. Sherrifs and the two remaining male patients sailed for Dorre. The wind was contrary and the anchorage was not reached till after dark. In going ashore the dinghy was swamped, luckily in shallow water. The following morning, the orderly-in-charge having been installed, the Medical Superintendent sailed for Carnarvon to defend an action for damage arising out of the unfortunate voyage of the "Will Watch" in the first attempt to reach Bernier Island in June, 1908. On 24th October nine more female patients arrived at Bernier and on 25th seven male patients were landed at Dorre. On 4th November 18 females and three children arrived at Bernier and 19 males at Dorre on 5th. On 14th November the Chief Protector and a party of pastoralists from the Gascoyne and Ashburton districts visited Bernier Island. The Chief Protector remained till 18th on Bernier, when he and the Medical Superintendent visited Dorre. He left on 22nd for Denham. During his visit a water scheme for the quarters of the staff was outlined—a new well in a convenient situation and giving a good supply having been sunk by the Orderly-in-Charge three weeks previously. The question of the hospital buildings was discussed and the site fixed. The question of obtaining the services of a pathologist to investigate the prevalent disease was re-opened, a letter from the Medical Superintendent on this subject having failed to reach the Chief Protector before he left Perth. A favourable reply was received.

A number of operations were performed on Dorre Island during the month. A small shed had been erected by the Orderly-in-Charge out of spare material, and this acted as operating theatre and out-patient department. After operation the patients had to return to their camps, as there was no other accommodation. Most of them having been station hands and accustomed to some sort of discipline, obeyed instructions, and, in spite of the inconveniences, made excellent recoveries. The old men, less tolerant of control, frequently removed the dressings and soiled themselves in the sand. On Bernier Island a tent was erected near the dressing shed on Windmill Flat and was used as a hospital, a couple of stretchers having been improvised. With the women it was found to be absolutely essential that operation cases should be treated in beds, as it was impossible to keep them clean in their camp. During December and January several operations were performed on Bernier, but as one case had to heal up before the space for another patient became available, the number actually dealt with in this way was small. On 24th January, 1910, ten more females were landed at Bernier. On 1st February the "Venus" landed eight new patients and the Medical Superintendent at Dorre Island. The same evening the "Una," having landed 19 women at Bernier, disembarked further men at Dorre. During the next twenty-four hours all the patients on Dorre were inspected and ten were passed as cured. These embarked with the Medical Superintendent on 3rd for Bernier Island anchorage. On that afternoon a muster of the cured female patients was made, and the following morning they were taken on board the "Venus" and conveyed to Carnarvon. Miss Lenihan accompanied them and travelled to Wyndham in the "Koombana," delivering her charges into responsible hands at the various ports. Nurse Pingelly was promoted to the position of Nurse-in-Charge.

The patients ex "Una" hailed from Pilbara districts and were in urgent need of attention on arrival. The boat had been detained by adverse weather and had taken a week to make the voyage. On 7th February Nurse Batison arrived at Bernier to take up her duties, and the Medical Superintendent proceeded to Dorre on 8th. So far as possible operations were performed on the men, the lack of accommodation necessitating the postponement of several cases requiring more extensive treatment than could be supplied in the camp. During the month some lectures on first-aid were given to the staff on Dorre Island. On 22nd a married couple came over to Dorre to act as cook and orderly. On 23rd the Medical Superintendent returned to Bernier and operated on two more women, thus filling the tent again. Two more operations were done early in March. On 9th March Nurse Callaghan arrived to take up her duties on Bernier. By the same boat Captain Irvine, Chief Harbourmaster, travelled on a visit to Cape Inscription. The Medical Superintendent went to Dorre on 10th. On arrival the Orderly-in-Charge was found to be suffering from a severe whitlow of several days' duration. Chloroform was immediately administered and an incision made. The following day, the Medical Superintendent having to return to Bernier, took Mr. Sherrifs with him. On 12th it was found to be necessary to again administer chloroform and make a further incision. During the next week the inflammation subsided considerably,

though there was no useful return of motion to the finger. The Medical Superintendent and Mr. Sherrifs returned on 18th to Dorre, where the next three weeks were spent. The running of the "Venus" about this time gave cause for complaint. On 8th April a return was made to Bernier; Mr. Sherrifs, whose general condition had improved, but whose finger was doomed, coming up *en route* to Perth.

Dr. Steel, the Government Pathologist, had arrived on 22nd March at Bernier, to investigate the true nature of the disease so prevalent among the natives. On 21st April the "Venus" arrived with the carpenters for erecting hospital accommodation on Bernier and Dorre Islands. Foreman Houton had visited the Islands previously and it needed little explanation from the Medical Superintendent to indicate the site chosen and the general scheme planned for Dorre. Owing to bad weather the "Venus" did not get away till 25th. On 29th she returned, and on 30th the Medical Superintendent and Dr. Steel visited Dorre, returning on 2nd May. During the month three operations were performed. Injections of vaccine, of Soamin, and of Otsuden, were carried out on special patients by Dr. Steel in the course of his work. Photographs were also taken of the local conditions.

On 17th May the Orderly-in-Charge at Dorre Island returned to duty, his finger having been amputated in Perth. It was expected that a transfer of the patients from Bernier to Dorre Island would shortly take place. The Medical Superintendent obtained leave of absence early in June. Dorre was visited *en route* to Carnarvon and progress both of patients and buildings noted. Dr. Steel acted as *locum tenens* during the absence in Perth of the Medical Superintendent. The Hon. the Colonial Secretary and party visited the Islands on 22nd June, Dr. Steel and the Nurse-in-Charge from Bernier accompanying him to Dorre to gain a knowledge of the place where the women will soon be located.

SUMMARY.

Bernier Island.—

Already in hospital, 1/7/09	60
Admitted during year	72
Died	27
Discharged cured	27
Ready for discharge (about)	15
In hospital on June 30, 1910	78

Dorre Island.—

Already in hospital, 1/7/09	Nil
Admitted during year	57
Died	6
Discharged cured	10
Ready for discharge (about)	22
In hospital on June 30, 1910	41

Up to 30th June there were 37 operations performed under anaesthesia on Dorre Island, and 18 under anaesthesia on Bernier, for the prevalent disease.

Conclusion.

The experience of two years has shown:—

- (1.) That few cases will recover without operation.
- (2.) That recurrence takes place in a certain number of cases.

- (3.) That the difficulties of intercommunication between the islands are only modified and not obviated by the employment of a steamer.
- (4.) That the isolation and limited opportunities for recreation tell heavily upon the white staff, and in case of sickness the isolation is a special cause for anxiety.
- (5.) That male nurses competent for the duties required here are difficult to obtain.
- (6.) That in these circumstances the frequent or continuous presence of a medical officer on the men's island is required.
- (7.) That, on the other hand, the women's cases are more complex and require the frequent attention of a medical officer in addition to skilled nursing.
- (8.) That a second medical officer is required.
- (9.) That it is unwise to keep convalescents on the islands for any length of time after their cure.

The work among the men has been very encouraging, and when the new hospitals are available the prospects of a fair percentage of good results are assured. When it is realised that almost every case sent home cured has been rescued from certain death, the State may be congratulated on this practical method of recognising its responsibility for the welfare of these dispossessed heirs of the soil.

FRED. LOVEGROVE, M.B., M.R.C.S.,
Superintendent Medical Officer.

*Extract from letter received from the Chief Orderly,
Dorre Island, dated the 30th June, 1910.*

Work by Natives.—The natives on the island have worked splendidly, and are a credit to the aboriginal community in general. They have helped to carry and cart all the timber from the shore to the building, and gathered load by load about 400 or 500 loads of coral (and all this coral has to be collected and picked out of the sand on the beach), sand and limestone; they have napped all the stones for concreting, and have mixed all mortar, concrete, etc. They have also got about 50 cement casks of clean water-worn broken shell, and this had to be gathered on the West Coast beach and carried up on their heads to the top of the cliffs and then carted over to the hospital. They have been a saving of hundreds of pounds to the Department, and have done their work faithfully.

*Report of Australian Aborigines Mission, Victoria
Park, for year ending June, 1910.*

During the year we have had nine children in the Home, eight of whom were half-castes and one full-blood. One child has been returned to its friends.

The children are of varying ages, from two to nine years.

The general health has been good, no serious illness beyond slight colds.

The children receive daily instruction, secular and religious, from the Matron.

The Home is regularly visited by the Committee, and is open for the public at any time, but the prescribed visiting days are Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The Mission is non-sectarian, and the Home is supported by public subscriptions. The Government grant a subsidy in support of four of the children, but this does not cover the cost of their maintenance. The support received from the public has been generous and ample; each month has closed with a small balance in hand.

We notice a growing public interest in the work of the Mission and we are hoping as the work extends to establish a settlement in the country to be conducted on industrial lines, with a view to training the children to lead happy and useful lives.

Since June 30th we have received an additional eight children into the Home, so that we now have sixteen altogether.

(Sgd.) A. LOCK,
Matron.

Beagle Bay Mission,
11th August, 1910.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

I have the pleasure to forward the Half-yearly Report of the Beagle Bay Mission Native Institution.

The Mission staff during the last six months included four Fathers, eight Brothers of the "Pious Society of Missions (Pallottini)," and six Sisters from the Order of St. John of God, Subiaco, Western Australia.

The most important part of their work naturally consisted in educating and training the children in school and working shops.

Forty-five boys and 60 girls under the age of 16 years were during this half-year educated and maintained at the institution. By day and night all these children are under the supervision of special attendants. Ample time is granted for amusement and recreation between school and working hours. Roomy dormitories are provided for the children. In school and church the children (boys and girls) are taught and brought up together, but when at work and in their recreation time separation is upheld. We have always found this course best too, and the natives themselves have never opposed it in the past. Very little illness has been amongst our children during the last six months. Progress and behaviour in general have been very satisfactory. Two little girls of about six years, and one girl of about 14 years of age, were sent to the Mission during the half-year in question from East Kimberley by Inspector J. Isdell.

About 30 men and 30 women have been employed regularly in the working shops with the cattle, farming, gardening, etc.

The results of cattle and farm have not been encouraging during the last six months, owing to an exceedingly dry season.

With the garden we had a better result: Cocoanuts, dates, bananas, oranges, and many varieties of vegetables have been flourishing splendidly for the last few months.

Our financial position shows a slight turn to the better but cannot be considered very promising for the near future.

I have, etc.,

JOSEPH BISCHOFFS,
for the Beagle Bay Mission, W.A.

Report of Right Rev. Bishop Torres on Drysdale River Aborigines Mission, 1909-10.

This Mission was founded 12th July, 1908, by the Right Rev. Abbot Torres of New Norcia, and is conducted on the same lines as its parent, New Norcia. A great deal of necessary preliminary work has been already done on this Mission, at a considerable expense, during its two years' existence.

Taking into account the remote region in which this Mission is situated, so far removed from European settlement of any kind, the war-like and treacherous character of the Kimberley natives, I deemed it of first importance to build good houses and erect secure fences around the premises, so that in case of an attack by these savages the lives of the missionaries might not be in danger. We cannot afford to run any risks with these people; for one successful midnight raid would mean the loss of many lives and put an end to all missionary work in those parts.

Until the place was put in good working order, with accommodation for the natives as they came along, and food ready for them to eat, it would have been risky and foolish to bring them into close contact. Hence the Mission, so far, has not done much in the way of civilising.

Now, however, everything is fairly secure; the missionaries are well housed and provisions made for feeding and clothing the natives as they come along; so that from this forward I hope to hear of many of these poor people embracing our civilisation. They are very shy, so far, except on one or two occasions when they gutted and stripped our Mission boat in the night; but everyone was pleased they confined their depredations to the boat.

Lately the Fathers have received an addition to their little flock of eleven half-caste boys.

Statistics.

Hands on the Mission.—Three (3) priests, one lay-brother, eleven (11) half-caste boys, and six (6) natives. Total, 21.

Houses.—One large dwelling house for the priests, brother, and visitors. Large premises for large boys and cottage for smaller boys, one store, large barn for various purposes, cottage for married natives, to be followed by others as required, and a church.

The Mission has now its own breeding sheep, Angora goats, pigs, and fowl and eggs in abundance. One hundred (100) or more acres of land cleared. A large vegetable garden producing splendid vegetables all the year around.

On the whole the Fathers and Brother and boys have done well during their two years' existence in Drysdale, and are now fairly comfortable. It has allayed much of my anxiety and fears to know that they are out of all danger of dying of starvation in that desolate region. Flour, sugar, tea, and whatever else they may require, we send them from New Norcia.

The Fathers are experimenting in growing cotton on the Mission, and have already several kinds growing to select what is most suitable to soil and climate.

(Sgd.) F. TORRES, O.S.B.

10th November, 1910.

Report of Right Rev. Bishop Torres on New Norcia Aborigines Mission, 1909-10.

During the year about 38 children have been in the native orphanages at New Norcia. All these children are in the enjoyment of perfectly good health; indeed, such a thing as sickness is rarely known amongst them.

Since our last report excellent accommodation has been provided for the girls, comprising a square of buildings enclosing a roomy well-kept recreation ground for the girls; taking the place of the old orphanage that had done yeoman service for over fifty (50) years.

We first started with a bakery and laundry, then we completed a refectory and convenient quarters for the nuns in charge, afterwards a school-room, and finished up—in the beginning of this year—with a large dormitory, working rooms, etc. The whole produces a very pleasing effect, and makes a very happy home for these poor girls. We believe the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, on his official visit a few weeks ago, was highly pleased with these appointments. We have ample accommodation now, at New Norcia, for over seventy (70) children—for more than twice our present number.

The boys in charge of Brother Luis are a very happy, healthy, contented little community. All these of fourteen (14) years and over are employed at light work for a few hours during the day. They learn many useful lines here, in managing cattle, sheep, horses, and general farming, so that when they grow to be men they will be well equipped for earning their living amongst the farmers of the State.

Salvation Army Girls' Home,
Kalgoorlie, 30th June, 1910.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

Aborigine Girls at Kalgoorlie: Report for year ended 30th June, 1910.

At the end of June, 1909, we had seventeen girls on our books. None have been admitted during the year. Pauline went to a situation last December, leaving sixteen remaining in the Home.

During the year we have had built a new dormitory, schoolroom, lavatory, etc., and that has made the girls very comfortable. All are in good health and have been so through the year.

There is a good deal of sympathy shown the children. Some ladies and gentlemen gave them a picnic to the Kalgoorlie racecourse last Easter; they enjoyed themselves very much playing games, and are promised the same next year. They have also been to other entertainments, moving pictures, etc.

They are doing very well at school, also at household work, sewing, and fancywork, being most anxious to learn. They attend Sunday-school every Sunday in the Home, and go to a meeting outside. Their general demeanour is good.

Topsy Burden is still in the Home. She did not get on well at her situation and is not anxious to leave the Home, so we think it is wise to let her stay.

We wish to thank Mr. Gale for the nice ribbons that have come from time to time for the girls; they are very pleased to get them.

I am, etc.,

JENNIE WARD,
Matron.

SUNDAY ISLAND MISSION.

Report by Superintendent for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1910.

During the last 12 months we have had from 115 to 112 permanent residents on our Mission, all of which are full-blooded natives, with the exception of two half-caste school children.

We have had no resident schoolmaster during the year, but I have given daily religious instruction to 31 children, and for the month of March we opened the school with an attendance of 30 children, and Mr. Radford has kept the school open this month. I have been able, however, to have the children instructed by some of the ladies that made lengthy visits to the Mission last year; and now we have a permanent matron and schoolmistress with us, Miss Jose, who I am glad to say has taken up the work here.

We have had good health among the natives during the year; no serious sickness at all. We have had four births (two male and two female) during the year, and no deaths, which I think you will allow is considerably above the usual average of White Australia.

During the first five months of the year I had 20 of the adult men out at work as boatmen on the "Fantome" survey vessel; they earned a fair wage, and their services were highly spoken of by Captain Pascoe, R.N. They are out again this year during the time of May until November. All my elder boys will go aboard next month and remain until the end of November.

During the year we have used the adult labour in other ways, such as pearl shell, tortoise shell, also in freight carrying. Our income for the 12 months—July 1st, 1909 to June 30th, 1910—was £700 6s., and our expenditure for that time was £692 6s., thus leaving a credit balance of £8 for the year. The Mission earned for her own support during that time £347 7s. 6d. out of the gross income.

During the year we have built a large new building of iron and cypress pine for a dormitory and shelter for the men, also a large brick oven. We have also built a new cottage for our Matron, who has taken over the instruction of the girls and children.

There has been no interference between the pearling labour and our natives this season, as none of that fleet came to lay up in Cygnet Bay this year.

I was able to sell all our surplus and available cattle to H.M.S. "Fantome" at a very fair price; this was very opportune, as otherwise I do not know how I should have been able to dispose of them.

Mr. Telfer, the representative of the Australian Mission, has approached our Mission as to whether it will be possible to open up a branch Mission on the east side of King Sound, somewhere in the neighbourhood of Cone Bay, where we may be able to work in conjunction and mutually assist one another in carrying on some work amongst the natives there that shall be self-supporting, having as its support tropical cultivation, mainly rubber, but I replied that I was in no position to make any definite arrangement until the Department finally acceded to my request for a block of land that I had applied for in that vicinity, which was now awaiting Mr. Despeissis's inspection.

During the last few months we have had visits from various representatives of the Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and Australian Aborigines Missions, who

seemed to be interested in our system of work amongst the natives, and the first and last were seeking a place to start work amongst the natives for their respective bodies.

I think you have now a fair summary of our work here during the past year.

And with thanks to your Department for the interest they are manifesting in our work here,

I am, etc.,

SYDNEY HADLEY,
Superintendent.

SWAN NATIVE AND HALF-CASTE MISSION.

Manager's Report for the year ended 30th June, 1910.

We began the year with 30 children—20 girls and 10 small boys. During the year six new children have been admitted (three boys and three girls), and six boys have been brought back to the Mission from the Orphanage. Four girls have been sent to service, and one of the elder boys has been sent to the Coolgardie Sanatorium for Consumptives. The number now in the institution is 37—18 boys and 19 girls.

Health.—There have been no serious cases of sickness during the year. Though several children are not robust in constitution, some have to be carefully watched for any intimation of chest troubles. The general state of health has been good. One boy, however, who has shown slight phthisical indications for years past, has been sent to Coolgardie Sanatorium where he appears to be progressing well.

Conduct.—The children are well behaved and happy, and under good discipline. The elder girls are most helpful with the younger children, and they all exhibit a fondness for one another which is pleasing to notice. Two of the elder boys absconded recently, and were brought back from an aboriginal camp where the relations of one of them lived, but since their return, having learnt a salutary lesson, their conduct has been most exemplary.

Education.—At the time of the annual examination there were 26 children on the roll; of these 25 were present. The inspector's report concluded as follows:—

It is very evident that the Staff has been patient and careful in the teaching of the children; they are well behaved and generally are making satisfactory progress. The elder girls are receiving specially good training in "house-wifery."

There were twelve passes and eight certificates gained.

The Staff.—We regret to have to report the resignation in May last of both superintendent and matron. Both Miss Price and Mrs. Sweetapple have done excellent work and shown the greatest interest in the welfare and training of the children, but their stay with us was all too short. These resignations, however, gave us the opportunity of trying a new experiment. The Colonial Secretary, having made request that the half-caste boys should be removed from the orphanage, we had been obliged to build a new dormitory, and engage a married couple to look after only six boys. These six elder half-caste boys have now been replaced in the Mission, and Mr. and Mrs. Coulston appointed Superintendent and Matron. This plan of having a man as superintendent seems to work well, and under his direction these elder boys

are doing much useful work. Miss Ott has been appointed assistant, and is doing excellent work in the school.

To the retiring members of the staff and those who have taken up their work, the Committee desire to give their hearty thanks for cordial co-operation and much self-denying labours, but it is felt that the best reward they can have is the evidence of the happiness and contentedness of these native and half-caste boys and girls.

During the year the Archdeacon of Perth resigned the management and was succeeded by the Rector of Midland Junction, the Rev. F. J. Price, who, in turn, will be succeeded by our old friend and former manager, the Rev. A. Burton.

(Sgd.) FRED. J. PRICE,
Manager.

Midland Junction, 1st July, 1910.

*Summary of Police Reports on the condition of
Aboriginal Natives for the Twelve Months ended
30th June, 1910.*

Albany.—Generally well provided for. The old and infirm in receipt of rations and blankets sufficient to meet their requirements. Deaths 1, disease nil, their general appearance being strong and healthy. Cruelty to natives—none reported. Drunkenness by natives—none reported. Indigent rations—Every care is taken to see that there is no shortage in the supplies issued by the storekeepers. The conditions of the natives generally are very favourable.

Beverley.—There are about 50 natives, including children, in the district. Condition good. No complaints. The natives are mostly employed on farms.

Bridgetown.—Treatment and general welfare good. All the old and infirm are in receipt of Government rations whilst the young and strong work for their living.

Broad Arrow.—There are about 20 natives in this district. They are well clothed, in a healthy condition, and well looked after.

Broome Hill.—Behaviour good. Complaints against natives, nil. Deaths, 2; births, nil.

Bulong.—No natives resident in the district. Those passing through appear healthy, with no sign of disease amongst them.

Bunbury.—Births, nil; deaths, 1. Complaints against natives—a few only of a minor nature. Conviction of natives—four full-bloods and two half-castes were convicted of minor offences. Conduct of natives exceptionally good. Half-castes—There are a number of these in the district; they are all making a good living and give very little trouble to the police.

Burbanks.—No native residents in this district. Those passing through between Norseman and Coolgardie appear to be in good health.

Busselton.—General welfare good. Complaints as to ill-treatment to the natives, nil. Deaths, 1; births, 3 (half-castes). Charges against natives and half-castes 22, chiefly for drunkenness. Convictions for supplying liquor to aboriginal natives, 1; fined £20 or 14 days.

Carnarvon.—Number of natives in the district about 100; mostly employed by settlers, who, on the

whole, treat them well. General behaviour good. Several have died from old age.

Coolgardie.—There are no natives residing permanently in the district. Those passing through appear healthy and well fed.

Derby.—Special notice has been taken of the treatment of the natives in the district, and from interviews and reports received they appear to be well fed and humanely treated by their employers and other European inhabitants; suitable clothing and medical treatment being supplied when required. On two stations in particular, some 20 or 30 natives at each station were suffering from an epidemic of malarial fever. These received personal medical treatment from their employers. Three natives, suffering from venereal disease were driven at their employer's expense over 80 miles for treatment at the local hospital. Deaths—Seven have been reported. Venereal disease—Thirty cases have been treated in the local hospital.

Dongarra.—Only two natives in the district, both old; regularly provided with rations and clothing.

Donnybrook.—There is only one native in this district now. He is in employment and well looked after.

Gascoyne Junction.—All natives have been visited at stations where they were employed, and with one exception were contented and well treated. Most of the natives employed in this district are under agreement, which so far has proved highly satisfactory to all concerned. Many applications for permits have been received, but it has been found necessary to discriminate. Much good work has been done by the removal of a large number of natives suffering from venereal disease in this district to the Lock hospitals. Much still remains, however, to be done in this direction.

Geraldton.—There are about 30 natives in this district. Of these seven are old and infirm and in receipt of Government relief. The able-bodied are employed by the settlers. Health good. There is a good demand for their work and they appear to be doing fairly well.

Goomalling.—There are only four full-blooded aboriginals in this district; three are employed by farmers. They are well treated, and no complaints have been received from either the residents or the natives.

Hall's Creek.—Health and general condition fairly good. During the months of February and March last an epidemic, similar to pneumonia, carried off about 20 natives, chiefly on the Flora Valley and Turner stations. Crimes—With the exception of cattle killing which is still frequent, no serious crimes have been committed. Venereal disease—Twenty cases have come under the notice of the police during their patrols. These were conveyed to Hall's Creek and either treated by the police or transferred to Wyndham; no obstinate cases were discovered. Breaches of the Aborigines Act—Five: (1) Working a native woman without a permit, fined £3 and 9s. 10d. costs; (2) Working a native woman without a permit, fined 10s. and costs £3 18s. 4d.; (3) Harbouring a native woman on his premises, fined £1 and costs 4s. 6d.; (4) Cohabiting with a native woman not his wife, fined £10 and costs £1 2s. 6d.; (5) Travelling in company with a native woman and thereby deemed to be cohabiting with her, fined £2 and £4 costs.

Fines and costs paid. Native population about 600; not increasing.

Kalgoorlie.—There are no aboriginal natives permanently around Kalgoorlie. Those passing through appeared healthy and were well clothed.

Kanowna.—There are very few natives around Kanowna. They appear to be in good health, and are well clothed. Venereal disease—two cases were received at the local hospital from Kurnalpi; they were in a very bad state when admitted. Employment of natives—two natives are employed by Europeans, one shepherding and the other attending to stock. Both are well treated.

Katanning.—The young and able-bodied natives have been able to earn very good livelihoods through the opossum skin industry. Six very old natives and one or two children have been in receipt of Government relief. Births, 2; deaths, 2. Complaints, nil.

Kellerberrin.—The able-bodied are in a healthy condition and mostly working throughout the district at shepherding, clearing land, and ringbarking. The old natives who are indigent are in receipt of Government relief.

Kojonup.—The general welfare of the aborigines has been good owing to the high price obtained for opossum skins. No births or deaths have been reported. Complaints, nil. There are only ten aboriginal natives in the district now.

Kurnalpi.—The natives in this district are in a healthy condition and are well treated by the European residents.

Laverton (including Burtville).—Three hundred and fifty natives are estimated to be in the district; of these four are employed, under permit, looking after stock, and 32 in receipt of relief. Conditions of life are only fair. Game is plentiful in the wet season but very scarce in the summer. Water is also scarce in summer, causing the natives to come in and loiter around the town and mining camps. Disease not prevalent. Deaths 10, from pneumonia and old age. Cruelty to natives, nil. Offences by natives—Thirty cases have been reported of petty stealing of beer, clothes, and food from camps; four cases also have been reported of stealing from stores and railway station; arrests, 12; convictions, 10. Drunkenness, practically none. Supplying liquor to natives, nil.

Leonora.—With the exception of about 12 natives employed on stations, who are well cared for, there are no aboriginal natives residing in this district. A good number pass through the district from time to time. Their condition of life is fair, and food is plentiful. No disease has been reported, and they all appear to be in a healthy condition. Deaths, 1 (consumption). Cruelty to natives by Europeans—none reported. Crime not prevalent. Petty larceny (mostly after corroborries)—six cases reported; four convictions. Drunkenness—only a few cases reported. Supplying liquor to natives, nil.

Marble Bar.—The natives in this district are well clothed and fed. Those natives willing to work at obtaining tin can make more than Europeans with their native system of "yandy"; this is a peculiar way they have adopted of shaking with their hands, extracting the tin as clean as possible. Complaints, nil.

Meekatharra.—There are about 50 natives around here, some of whom are employed at different stations. Employment is by permit and not by agreement. At the last issue of blankets the local doctor examined each one, and found no disease. On visit-

ing their camp at different times they appear to have plenty of food and made no complaints.

Menzies - North Coolgardie District.—Estimated number of natives in the district, approximate only, 864. They cannot be said to be on the increase. Employment—24 are employed under permit, principally as stockmen. Indigent relief—84 old and infirm natives are receiving Government relief. Conditions of life generally may be said to be fairly good. In most places food is fairly plentiful. Disease—very little exists other than ordinary minor ailments. Deaths—19 have been recorded. Cruelty by Europeans—none recorded. Crimes—23 convictions have been recorded, principally stealing from camps. This is generally caused by whites who entice them round for immoral purposes. Drunkenness—very little now occurs.

Mingenew.—There are about 20 natives in this district. They are all perfectly healthy.

Mt. Magnet.—There are about 40 aboriginal natives within this district—30 adults and 10 children. Indigent relief—seven are in receipt of Government rations. Employment—all the able-bodied natives are employed on stations, with exception of three who are in the employ of local butchers. All employment is by permit. Wages from 15s. to 20s. per week. Behaviour very good. Not one case of stealing has been preferred against the natives the last three years.

Mt. Wittenoom.—Native population 222. Under employment or kept at expense of various employers, 189, including 35 children under 14 years of age. Bush natives, 26. Indigent natives receiving relief from Government, 4. Receiving relief from station owners, 3. Deaths, 7. Crimes, nil. Complaints, nil.

Murrin Murrin.—The approximate number of natives in this district is 25. General condition fairly good. Native food and game plentiful. Disease—none reported. Deaths—none reported. Cruelty—none reported. Three cases of stealing have been reported. No convictions. Drunkenness—incidents are rare.

Newcastle.—There are 37 aboriginal natives in this district, including four children, and 13 half-castes, including four children. Employment is by permit and agreement. The natives are in good condition and there is not any disease.

Norseman.—There are 100 aboriginal natives in this district. Deaths, 5, all from natural causes. Venereal disease—There is none so far as is known. Convictions—Stealing 3, drunkenness 1. Indigent relief—Six male natives are in receipt of Government rations. Complaints, nil.

Northam.—Only about half a dozen are resident in this district, a large number having gone away to other districts. Convictions against natives—Drunkenness, 3. Convictions for supplying liquor to natives, 1 (fined £20 or three months' imprisonment). The natives in this district are a very quiet, hard-working lot.

Onslow.—Approximate number of natives in district 284, exclusive of 39 sent to the Lock hospital suffering from venereal disease. Health—39 natives have been sent to the Lock hospital suffering from venereal disease, but, generally speaking, the health of the natives in the district is fairly good. In the Upper Ashburton there is, I believe, a certain amount of venereal disease, and the collection of the natives suffering from this disease in this part is being undertaken at the present time. Food and clothing—As a rule the natives appear to be fairly treated both as

regards food and clothing. Births—Only two have been recorded. Deaths—eight (six of supposed natural causes, one by murder, and one by accident). Destitute natives—11 are in receipt of Government rations. Crime—One case of wilful murder was recorded. Offences by Europeans against aboriginals, nil. General—The natives in this district, with one or two exceptions, are inoffensive and law abiding, and the white settler as a rule treats the natives with justice and humanity.

Paddington.—Native population 30, all of whom appear healthy and free from disease.

Peak Hill.—Aboriginal population, approximately, 80. Indigent relief—31 are receiving Government rations. Employment—Very few are employed, and these are under permit. Disease—Several are suffering from venereal disease and have been receiving treatment from the local doctor. It is very difficult to get natives to come in for regular treatment. Use of intoxicating liquors by natives—All the natives here appear to be of temperate habits, and no case of natives using intoxicating liquors has been reported. Half-caste children—Three: one a lad about 15, who is well cared for, two girls, three and five years of age, who are camped with the other natives. Complaints, nil. The majority of natives are all well clothed and appear to be a contented and law abiding class.

Pingelly.—Native population about 40; chiefly employed on farms, and appear to be well clothed and fed.

Port Hedland.—There are not a great many natives in this district, and those that are are mostly employed on stations. All the natives appear to be well treated. Complaints, nil. Venereal disease—Two gins died from this disease. In December last 23 were collected and sent to the Lock hospitals. Two are being treated by the local doctor. Indigent natives—Most of the stations in the district are now willing to look after the old indigent employees. They are beginning to realise it is a duty they owe to the natives. There are practically no indigents in the vicinity of Port Hedland.

Roebourne.—The natives appear to be well cared for by the station owners. Complaints, nil. Indigent relief—Those receiving Government rations are supplied regularly. Leprosy—The lepers who are quarantined at Cossack are visited by the Medical Officer and police, and rations are being supplied every fortnight.

Sharks Bay.—Native population 60—fifty-four adults, six children. Half-castes—two girls under the age of 16 years. Both are being cared for. Deaths, 2. Employment—They are largely employed by the pearlers, and are well treated. Average wage, £4 per month and found. The agreement system does not appear to be very satisfactory, as the natives have little protection against unscrupulous employers. Venereal disease—Only one case has been reported. Crimes—One case of drunkenness. Supplying liquor to aboriginals—One conviction, fine £20.

Southern Cross.—Native population 13. Condition good. Men occasionally employed cutting firewood and clearing land.

Turkey Creek.—Food is scarce, owing to so much of the country being taken up by the cattle industry. The natives have had to leave their river frontages and go into the hills, where little game is to be found. Cattle killing—This is somewhat prevalent in the district, and is mostly taking place on the Bedford Down station. This station is partly surrounded by the Durack Range, and the natives are mostly hostile and troublesome. Venereal disease—This is somewhat prevalent, nine cases having been sent during the last three months to Wyndham for medical treatment. Moola-Bulla Government Station—This native cattle reserve scheme has been explained to the natives, and they all seem anxious to go there, and should stay if supplied with plenty of food.

Williams.—Native population about 30, five of whom are full-bloods, the remainder being half-castes. Births, four. Deaths, one (consumption). Employment—The natives make a good living by clearing, shepherding, opossum hunting, and shearing. Health good. General—The natives are well treated and able to hold their own with the white population. Complaints of cruelty, nil.

Wiluna.—Condition good. Behaviour fair. Crimes—Petty larceny of provisions, etc., from camps. If the natives are not encouraged about the camps by the occupants, offences of this nature would be less. Venereal disease—None reported. Indigent relief—11 natives are receiving Government rations.

Wyndham.—Food is plentiful, there being an abundance of game and fish throughout the district. Deaths—Several deaths are reported. Venereal disease—The condition of the natives throughout the whole of the district is bad in this respect, but if anything, I consider it better than it was during the previous 12 months, a good number having been treated locally, making quick recoveries with care and attention. In several instances, however, the women have been taken away by the natives before they were cured. Several women who had been taken away came back of their own accord and asked to be treated, which clearly shows that they are beginning to realise the benefit of this treatment. Health—With the exception of venereal disease the health of the natives has been good. Supplying liquor to natives—None reported. Ill treatment of natives—None reported. The general treatment of the natives by the settlers has been very good.

Yalgoo.—Native population 120, including 20 half-castes. Employment by permit. Most of the natives are employed on sheep stations. They are well treated, and generally remain on one station for many years.

York.—Indigent natives—None. Employment—Mostly employed on farms. One native has a farm of his own near Greenhills. The natives in this district appear to be more frugal than the white labourer and certainly more comfortable. This is, of course, owing solely to their own efforts, brought about probably by the previous training received at the New Norcia Mission, where most of these natives were brought up.

Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the year ending 30th June 1910

Corporate Author: Western Australia. Chief Protector of Aborigines

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