ANNUAL REPORT

of the

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD

for Year ended 30th June, 1947.

Presented to Parliament in pursuance of the provisions of Section 19B of the
Aborigines Protection Act, 1909, as amended.

Ordered to be printed, 22 April, 1948.

The Aborigines Welfare Board has the honour to present to the Honourable the Chief Secretary the following report on its work during the year ended 30th June, 1947, together with information on the care and general welfare of the Aborigines resident within the State of New South Wales during that period.

The report also refers to other information concerning Aborigines in this State.

ABORIGINES WELFARE BOARD.

During the year nine meetings of the Aborigines Welfare Board were held. There were not any changes in the personnel of the Board. The attendance of members was as follows:

- Dr. J. Grahame Drew ........................................... 9
- Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb ........................................ 9
- Mr. S. L. Anderson ............................................. 8
- Professor A. P. Elkin ......................................... 8
- Superintendent B. E. Sadler .................................. 7
- Mr. Walter Page .................................................. 7
- The Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C. ............................. 6
- Mr. J. P. Glazebrook ......................................... 5
- Mr. S. L. Anderson, by virtue of his position as Under Secretary of the Chief Secretary's Department, and in accordance with the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act, continued to occupy the position of Chairman of the Board throughout the year.

Professor A. P. Elkin was again elected as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb, as Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare, is Executive Member of the Board. During the year Mr. Lipscomb inspected all the Aboriginal Stations and Children's Homes and a number of Reserves.

During June and July, 1946, Professor A. P. Elkin, the Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C., and Mr. A. W. G. Lipscomb visited Queensland to study Aboriginal welfare and control in that State. Special attention was given to the organisation and management of certain large native settlements, for the purpose of determining whether community settlements of a similar nature could be established with advantage in New South Wales. A full report, with observations and recommendations, was presented to the Board at the conclusion of the tour.

BOARD'S POLICY.

In the last Annual Report, it was pointed out that one of the principal features of the Board's policy is the assimilation of the blood-dazzled aborigines, particularly those of lighter caste, into the general community. Legally, the Board is not responsible for the protection and general welfare of those perverts of mixed caste who do not possess a preponderance of aboriginal blood.

It should be understood that most of the aborigines of New South Wales are far removed from the primitive tribal way of life followed by their forbears. The full-bloods amongst the aboriginal community in this State number only about five per cent., the balance being of various castes. Most of these so-called aborigines have, for many generations, been in close touch with white society.

The Board's task, then, is to build up a sense of responsibility, and, in place of a previous aimless existence, to establish through education and training a desire to become more desirable members of society.

With this objective in view, the first step is to try to get as many as possible of the more advanced people established privately in their own homes. In the second place, in respect of those aborigines in settlements, the aim is to develop an appreciation of better social conditions and a more purposeful way of life.

The continuance of the acute housing shortage has militated against the furtherance of the Board's policy of assimilation. The difficulty of obtaining suitable allotments of land away from Stations for the erection of homes has been the principal obstacle in the Board's scheme of establishing approved aborigines in their own private homes.

The Aborigines Welfare Board is working for a happier and more stable destiny for the aboriginal people in its care, and, in that connection, hopes, by the exercise of wise and careful administration to assist them to become industrious, reliable and intelligent citizens.

VITAL STATISTICS.

When the Commonwealth Government took the general census on the 30th June, 1947, provision was made for gathering information relative to the number of aborigines residing in the various States of the Commonwealth. The information gathered has not yet been fully compiled and it is therefore not possible to provide up-to-date information concerning the number of aborigines residing in New South Wales.

As shown in Annual Reports during the past few years, the latest figures relate to the number of aborigines resident in New South Wales. This information is again set out hereunder:

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CASTE</td>
<td>ADULTS</td>
<td>CHILDREN</td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-blood</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed-blood</td>
<td>5,410</td>
<td>4,612</td>
<td>10,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,888</td>
<td>4,728</td>
<td>10,616</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As at 30th June, 1947, 2,530 persons resided on the eighteen Stations under the control of the Board. This figure represents an increase of ten persons, as compared with the previous year, notwithstanding the fact that it does not include the population of Brungle, which is now classed as a Reserve.

On Reserves, excluding Stations, the total was 2,045, representing a decrease of twenty persons, despite the inclusion of Brungle with the Reserves.

Detailed figures for the individual Stations and Reserves are set out in Appendix "A" and Appendix "B", respectively, at the end of this report.

Movement of Population.—Lack of financial security, together with the roving tendency which appears to be inherent in the aboriginal people, have caused an influx of aborigines to certain country towns over the years. In some cases the influx is becoming established more or less permanently, whilst in others the people have displayed a nomadic tendency.

Often, the movement has been made towards centres of employment or towards more congenial surroundings. During the past year a distinct migration towards the following towns was noticeable—Coffs Harbour, Cooranbarrabah, Griffith, Moree, Nowra and Yass.

In the case of Griffith and Coffs Harbour, there is evidence that semi-permanent communities of aborigines are being set up.

STAFF ORGANISATION.

The staff position in the Homes and Stations under the Board's control improved during the period under review, particularly during the last six months. The Board takes the opportunity of expressing its appreciation of the zeal and devotion to duty of the whole staff—both at Head Office and in the field.

During the year the staff arrangements at Head Office became more stabilised, and the strength is now practically back to normal.

About half of the total number of Managers of Stations are still required to combine their duties with that of teaching. In addition to managerial and administrative duties, Managers should be in a position to devote a substantial proportion of their time and energies to the welfare and personal problems of the aboriginal people under their care. Such matters are obviously of vital importance to a proper implementation of the Board's policy of uplift and eventual assimilation. Managers should, therefore, not be required to teach, and, in fairness to the children, their education should be in the hands of trained full-time teachers appointed by the Education Department.
assistance to aborigines to acquire their own homes.

The Board is empowered, by legislation passed in 1943, to acquire land, erect buildings thereon, and sell or lease such land and buildings on terms to the aborigines, to enable them to establish homes for themselves. The Board's policy is to assist approved families to acquire their homes under a scheme somewhat similar to that obtaining with building societies, that is, by way of a mortgage on the property andremittance on the year's Estimates, but great difficulty has been experienced in endeavouring to secure suitable allotments of land for the erection of homes. It is hoped that during the current year that some progress will be made in this regard.

Aborigines who desire to be assisted in the above manner are required to have demonstrated that they are reliable persons who will honour their commitments.

Exemption certificates for aborigines.

The 1945 Amendment to the Aborigines Protection Act authorises the Aborigines Welfare Board to issue to any aborigine, or person apparently having an admixture of aboriginal blood, a Certificate exempting such aborigine or person from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act and Regulations, and was framed to enable the more advanced types of aborigines to free themselves from the restrictive sections of the Act and thus secure full status as citizens of the State.

Ordinarily, Invalid, Old Age and Widows' Pensions, also Maternity Allowances are not payable to persons with a predominant aboriginal blood, a Certificate exempting such aborigine or person from the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act and Regulations, and was framed to enable the more advanced types of aborigines to free themselves from the restrictive sections of the Act and thus secure full status as citizens of the State.

Exemption certificates granted.

During the year ended 30th June, 1947, fifty-six applications were dealt with by the Board, as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate granted</th>
<th>Exemption certificates deferred</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the year, three certificates were cancelled.

It may be added that children of parents who have been granted a Certificate of Exemption are now allowed to attend ordinary State Public Schools without any restriction.
Employment figures for the year under review show an increase over those for the previous year, amounting to 4.7%. So far as the aboriginal Stations are concerned, employment figures are available only for one, Menindee. The following shows the number of men in employment during the last quarter of the years 1945, 1946 and 1947:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Number in Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April-June 1945</td>
<td>543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-June 1946</td>
<td>578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April-June 1947</td>
<td>538</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Juvenile Employment.**

The oversight and general welfare of aboriginal wards in employment has continued to receive the careful attention of the Board's administration. The wards have been regularly visited by the Board's Inspector of Local Aborigines' Welfare and Inspectors of the Child Welfare Department. In some cases, due to the in-accessibility of the place of employment, the visits of inspection were carried out by the local Police Officers, acting as Agents of the Aborigines Welfare Board.

So far, it has not been found possible greatly to develop facilities for the teaching of trades to young aborigines, but the Board hopes to do so as soon as circumstances permit.

Children who have been committed to the care of the Board as wards of the State are maintained at the Board's institutions until they reach school-leaving age. The boys are then instructed in rural work and the girls in domestic work, and, after they attain a reasonable standard, they are placed in employment with approved employers under apprenticeship conditions.

As at 30th June, 1947, ten boys and eleven girls between the ages of fifteen and eighteen years, who were under the Board's control as wards, were in employment throughout the State, on conditions and wages established by Regulation.

**Health and Hygiene.**

From a survey of the health conditions amongst the aborig-inal communities throughout the State, during the year under review, it can be said that, generally speaking, the position has been quite satisfactory. Very few cases of serious illness have been recorded, and there were no epidemics. At Kinchela Boys' Home, epidemics of chicken-pox occurred, which were successfully combated.

At Cumeroogunga Station a minor epidemic of measles also occurred. At Kinchela Boys' Home, epidemics of chicken-pox occurred, which were successfully combated. There were skin ailments, such as scabies and dermatitis, but the Board hopes to do so as soon as circumstances permit.

At Cameroongunga Station a minor epidemic of measles also occurred. There were skin ailments, such as scabies and impetigo. On the whole the residents of stations have maintained themselves in a comparatively clean condition.

The closest attention is given by Managers of Stations, together with the Matrons, and the Police in charge of Re-serves, to the health of the aboriginal residents. Constant efforts are maintained on Stations to teach the value of a wholesome diet and personal hygiene. Where possible on Stations a community vegetable garden and dairy herd have continued to be maintained. Residents are encouraged to include vegetables and milk in their diet.

As in former years, all aborigines requiring medical atten­tion and hospital treatment have been given the same facilities as those received by members of the white community. Aborigines as citizens of the State are entitled to attend at local Public Hospitals, and, if necessary, may be admitted for treatment.

In connection with dental treatment for aborigines, the policy of the Board is to arrange for aborigines who can pay to include vegetables and milk in their diet.

**Housing.**

The Board's aim is to provide all aboriginal families under its care with proper homes. Pride and self-respect amongst any class of people can only come when living standards are satisfactory. Whilst aborigines continue to exist under sub-standard aborigine conditions, they generally show very little desire to change their mode of life and to progress to a stage where they will be received into the general community and be able to take their place there with success and satis­faction.

The Board's housing programme for this year was once again handicapped by the general economic difficulties, mainly involving shortage of labour and materials, but it is pleasing to record that contracts were let for the reconstruction of one Aboriginal Station and the establishment of two new settlements.

Taree.—At Taree Aboriginal Station the homes of the aboriginal residents, which were built mainly by the aborigines themselves, during the depression years of the thirties, are distinctly inferior and quite inadequate to meet the demands of those desiring accommodation. The Board has, therefore, undertaken to rebuild practically the whole Station and, apart from a few cottages of recent construction, which will be altered and improved, the remaining cottages will be demolished and replaced by homes possessing ample accommodation and the usual necessary facilities and conveniences.

The reconstruction work will embrace the erection of twenty-four new cottages, a recreation hall, a medical treatment unit, a ration store and the provision of ample water storage from roof-catchment to each new dwelling. When completed, Taree will be a modern community settlement.

Moree.—At Moree the size of the Aborigines Reserve was increased by the acquisition of additional land. Upon this area a modern settlement will be established in order to over­come the unsatisfactory housing conditions which, at present, prevail on the Reserve, due to the ever-increasing influx of aborigines into the district. The Board has now undertaken to establish an Aboriginal Station on the Reserve and to provide resident management. It has let a contract for the erection, of twenty-four two-bedroomed cottages, a detached single men's quarters, a church and a recreation hall, as well as other administrative buildings. Nine existing cottages will be re-designed and re-established on more suitable sites. A bore for water supply has been developed on the site of the new Station and sufficient water will be available from the sub-artesian flow to meet all requirements. The buildings to be erected, for modern housing and resident management, will be designed by the usual necessary facilities and conveniences.

A school for aboriginal children is to be provided in the new Station. The Board has, therefore, undertaken to build the school and to provide the necessary accommodation and facilities for the reception of twenty pupils.
It is encouraging to note that the earlier antagonistic attitude of many white people towards Aboriginal children attending the same schools as white children is being modified. At Lismore, for instance, the headmaster of the North Lismore Public School has reported that his Aboriginal pupils are always clean and well dressed, and that therefore greater interest could be displayed by some in the matter of the spiritual welfare amongst the Aborigines. Furthermore, the process of preparation for full citizenship and assimilation could be more generally encouraged by white congregations showing a greater personal interest in and sympathy for the Aborigines. The Church could form the spiritual force, and Aborigines breaking away from their old traditions to a new way of life would have something on which to rely.

For many years the United Aborigines Mission and the Aborigines Inland Mission have operated on certain stations and reserves and their missionaries are endeavouring to implant a simple faith amongst the people. Furthermore, the process of preparation for full citizenship and assimilation could be more generally encouraged by white congregations showing a greater personal interest in and sympathy for the Aborigines. The Church could form the spiritual force, and Aborigines breaking away from their old traditions to a new way of life would have something on which to rely.

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BELIEF AND BENEFITS TO ABORIGINES FROM THE BOARD.

It has been pointed out in previous reports that one of the Board’s important duties is the care and relief of all aged, infirm, indigent and incapable aborigines. Every aborigine who is unable to care for himself or herself is provided with housing, sustenance and medical care, free of cost. Able-bodied families, however, are expected to provide for themselves from the proceeds of their employment.

It is of interest to note that the number of persons resident on Stations who are dependent on the Board for sustenance decreased throughout the year, although the total number of aborigines in residence increased slightly.

A brief summary of the benefits issued to aborigines requiring sustenance is set out hereunder:

Housing.—So far as housing conditions permit, every family living on a Station or Reserve is provided with a small home, free of rent. Every effort is made by the Board, not only to maintain existing dwellings in a suitable condition for habitation, but also to extend its programme of new housing, year by year.

The difficulty in obtaining material and labour has prevented the Board from giving full effect to its policy in this direction.

Rations.—Every aged, infirm and indigent aborigine receives a full-scale ration, the food items in which are planned in accordance with recommendations by the Department of Public Health. In addition to the saree provided issue, aborigines on a number of Stations are also provided with milk and a variety of fresh vegetables produced on the Station.

The under-mentioned scale of food rations issued weekly includes the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Adult</th>
<th>Children, Ages 9 to 15</th>
<th>Children, Ages 1 to 9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>10 lbs</td>
<td>3 lbs</td>
<td>5 lbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea</td>
<td>2 oz</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee or Cocoa</td>
<td>2 oz</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jam, Syruped Honey</td>
<td>6 oz</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dripping</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
<td>8 oz</td>
<td>8 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>2 lbs</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oils or other Vegetables</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baking Powder</td>
<td>2 oz</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>1 lb</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oatmeal</td>
<td>8 oz</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Powdered Milk</td>
<td>12 oz</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>12 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Fresh Milk</td>
<td>}</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soap</td>
<td>4 oz</td>
<td>2 oz</td>
<td>2 oz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>4 lbs</td>
<td>2 lbs</td>
<td>2 lbs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In accordance with ration limitations.

The number of rations issued on the various Stations at the beginning and at the end of the year is shown in Appendix "A." Fourteen per cent. of the total population on Stations received rations during the year 1946-47, as compared with sixteen per cent. in the year 1945-46.

A return of the rations issued to aborigines residing on Reserves at the beginning and end of the year is set out in Appendix "B." This return reveals that there was a slight decrease in the number of recipients over the twelve months in question, but a small decrease in the number of residents will also be observed.

Clothing.—In accordance with the usual procedure, aged, indigent and other dependent aborigines benefited by clothes issued, on the basis of two outfits per annum—one for summer and one for winter.

The following table shows the number of recipients during 1946-47, compared with the previous two years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945-46</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1946-47</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figures for 1944-45 are not useful for purposes of comparison as they included extra issues to overcome deficiencies in supply during the war years.

Blanks.—It has been the practice for many years to supply blankets to all aborigines in need. During the period under review free issues to aboriginal people on Stations have been maintained on practically the same basis as during 1944-46; whilst on Reserves, although the number issued dropped, all requirements were met. The following are the comparative figures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>1944-45</th>
<th>1945-46</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stations</td>
<td>699</td>
<td>618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>848</td>
<td>735</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Medical Attention.—It has already been indicated, under the heading of Health and Hygiene, that free medical attention, together with free medicine and drugs, is given to all aged and incapable aborigines throughout the State. There is a Treatment Room and Dispensary at every Aboriginal Station, whilst a member of the staff is either a trained nurse or has had some experience in rural care. All cases of illness which are considered to be of a more serious nature are conveyed to the nearest Public Hospital for attention on the same basis as white people.

Medical Assistance.—It is customary to supply every expectant mother with an outfit of baby clothing. Indigent families are supplied gratuitously, but a nominal contribution of 25s. towards the cost is expected when the husband is earning reasonable wages. During the year ninety baby outfits were supplied to aborigines by the Board.

Christmas Cheer.—In accordance with its usual practice the Board provided aboriginal residents on Stations and Reserves with extra food luxuries to enable them to enjoy the festive season. As in former years, special food items at Christmas time included the necessary ingredients for the making of a Christmas pudding. Every dependent family participated and was therefore able to enjoy the Christmas season in an appropriate manner. Every child up to school-leaving age received a small toy or gift. On many Stations the Manager and Teacher arranged a Christmas party for the children.

SOCIAL BENEFITS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT.

Child Endowment.—At the continued wish of the Commonwealth Government the Board administered for another year the Child Endowment payable to those persons of aboriginal blood, where it is considered that reliance could not be placed on the mother to expend the Endowment wholly in the interest of the children.

The following table gives details of the cases administered by the Board during the year ended 30th June, 1947, and during the two previous years:
Qualification is their residence on an Aboriginal Station or "preponderants" who are exempted by law from the provisions of State legislation. In New South Wales, however, there are many authorities do not pay pensions to aborigines of any caste, whilst such aborigines are resident upon the Board's Stations or Reserve. If otherwise were the case, these people who are living under unsatisfactory conditions, which fact alone would mitigate against their exemption from the State law. The Board considers that the position could be met by the payment of the pension to the Board, who would administer it on the pensioner's behalf, after deducting a reasonable weekly amount to cover the cost of the pensioner's accommodation and maintenance. Although representations have been made to the Commonwealth Authorities in connection with the above suggestion, the Board's efforts have, so far, proved to be unavailing.

Two War Pensions are administered by the Board, but the two Old Age Pensioners whose pensions were administered both died during the year.

Maturity Allowance.—During the period under review, the Maturity Allowance in respect of mothers of aboriginal blood was paid by the Commonwealth Authorities to the Board for administration. The funds from the above grants. In addition, the Commonwealth Pensions are payable by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services to those aborigines who satisfy the requirements of the pre-school age group from the Board's institutions and if the parents are found to be unable to exercise proper guardianship. These applications are considered on their merits, and if the Board is of the opinion that additional Homes should be established to house the children in proper groups. It is obvious that children of tender years need much individual attention and that the placement of the children to the best advantage would be facilitated if satisfactory facilities were available for their accommodation.

CHILDREN'S HOMES.

An important duty of the Board, as laid down in the Aborigines Protection Act, is that it shall provide for the custody and maintenance of the children of aborigines. In practice, the Board assumes control of aborigines children after they have been committed by the Children's Court as neglected or uncared for. Frequently children are admitted to the control of the Board at the request of the parent or guardian. These applications are considered on their merits, and if the Board is of the opinion that additional Homes should be provided for this purpose, the Board assumes control of the care of their children. The Board at present maintains two Children's Homes for the care and maintenance of the children, and if the Board is of the opinion that additional Homes should be provided for the care of the aboriginal children admitted to its control. These two Homes, namely, the Kinchela Boys' Training Home and the Cootamundra Girls' Training Home, have continued to function satisfactorily.

The Board annually accommodates children from five to fifteen years of age, but these institutions are not sufficient for the numbers requiring care or for a proper division of the children into age and behaviour groups. The Board is of the opinion that additional Homes should be established to house the children in proper groups. It is obvious that children of tender years need much individual attention and that their segregation from children of adolescent years, particularly those presenting psychological problems, is highly desirable.

Another essential Institution, for which it has been hoped provision would have been possible, is a Cottage Home for young aboriginal girls of pre-school age, capable of accommodating upwards of thirty children. This Home could be located either in the Metropolitan area or in a country area, wherever the placement of the children to the best advantage would be facilitated. It would have the effect of withdrawing children of the pre-school age group from the Board's institutions and from the London Board of Guardians. The girls are to be housed in a Cottage Home, conducted by the United Aborigines Mission.

An average of five or six children of this age grouping are brought under the Board's care and control each year, and it is highly probable that this number could be increased if satisfactory facilities were available for their accommodation.

Kinchela Boys' Training Home.—This Institution is the only one of its kind in the State, and is located on the Macleay River, sixteen miles from Kempsey. It has an area of thirty-two acres, twenty-five acres of which are used for the training of the senior boys in practical farm work, principally dairying and vegetable production.

As at 30th June, 1947, the enrolment was forty-two boys. During the year, these boys, under the care of the Board, received ten promotions and sixteen discharges. Eight of the latter proceeded to employment under the Board's apprenticeship system and the balance were transferred to Aboriginal National Training Scheme. The average age of the boys in the Home was twelve years three months.

The general health of the boys throughout the year was exceptionally good. There was a mild outbreak of chickenpox. Two boys were discharged to the Sydney Eye Hospital for operations on their eyes and eventually returned to the Home virtually cured. One led died at the Maitland District Hospital from peritonitis. All inmates were inoculated during the year with anti-tetanus serum. The Board's local dentist surgeon paid two visits to the Home and all boys requiring dental treatment were attended to. The local Government Medical Officer visited the Home twice, when all boys were examined.

Every effort is made at the Home to organise recreation for the boys. A swimming pool is nearing completion. During the year a 10 millimetre talkie equipment was installed at the Home and regular weekly feature-programmes are now provided by arrangement with the Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Pty. Ltd.

All boys attend school until they reach the age of fifteen years. Teachers have reported satisfactory progress. As mentioned previously in this report, William Dixon and Andrew McKenzie, who were enrolled at the Kempsey High School, have continued to progress very well in their studies.

Divine Service is conducted every Sunday at the Home by the various Christian denominations and the Roman Catholic Priest visits the Home at intervals.

A dairy herd of twenty-one cows enabled the Home to be provided with milk, butter and cream throughout the year. An average of seventeen cows were in milk for the year and production was as follows:

- Total milk produced: 5,478 gallons
- Milk consumed (by inmates and staff): 3,216 gallons
- Milk separated: 2,262 gallons
- Butter: 982 pounds
- Cheese: 400 pounds
- Sugar: 200 pounds
- Stock feed produced and used for winter stock feed was as follows:
  - Potatoes: 40 tons
  - Cabbages: 800 bushels
  - Lettuce: 800
  - Peas and Beans: 2,200 lbs.
  - Carrots and Parsnips: 10 cwt.
  - Squash, pumpkins, etc.: 1000 lbs.
  - Tomatoes: 1,200 lbs.
  - Silver Beet: 5,000 lbs.
  - Onions: 200 lbs.

Stock fodder produced and used for winter stock feed was as follows:
- Lucerne Hay: 90 tons
- Saccharine: 50 tons
- Maize: 60 bushels
- Cow Peas: 10 tons

Cootamundra Girls' Training Home.—The Cootamundra Home is located two miles from the town and has accommodation for fifty inmates. At the beginning of the year forty girls were in residence, and forty-three at the close of the year. Seven girls were admitted to the Home, of whom five were from the Children's Home, Boundary. Four girls were discharged, all being placed in employment under apprenticeship conditions.

The health of the girls has been, generally, very satisfactory. The only illnesses were only of a minor nature. The Government Medical Officer visited the Home at regular intervals and examined every girl. Necessary dental attention was given by the local dentists.

A dairy herd was maintained at the Home, thus ensuring a considerable saving in the cost of milk.

The girls continued to attend either the Central Public or High School in Cootamundra. Those attending the High School are progressing very well, whilst the younger girls are maintaining their positions in class. The older girls are at the present time attending the High School and are displaying commendable interest in their studies.
The children participate in various kinds of sport at the Board's schools and often travel with the residents to other schools in the district. Swimming is popular and tennis is played at the Home and at School.

The girls attend the local Picture Show from time to time, and are admitted free through the courtesy of the Manager.

During the year under review, a new radio set, with gramophone pick-up, was provided for the Home.

The children attend their own churches in the town of Cooma. Most of those residing in the Tabulam district, but not under the control of a resident Manager, are provided for by the local Officers-in-Charge of Police, but in a few instances, the Teacher-in-Charge of the local Aboriginal School acts as the Board's non-resident Manager.

The amenities and improvements with which the Stations are provided are not found on the Reserves. Aborigines living on Reserves are, normally, more independent and prefer to fend for themselves. Unfortunately, however, the standard of living in many such cases is not comparable to that amongst the aborigines who live on Stations.

During the later part of the year under review, the Board acquired a new Reserve of 32 acres at Gulargambone. This area is for more satisfactory than the previous one, and is recognised as being a favourite camping place for the local aborigines. Provision has been made for the establishment of homes and other facilities on this new area in the 1947-48 Loan Estimates.

ACCOUNTS AND GENERAL EXPENDITURE.

Appendix "C" indicates that a total amount of £51,491 was expended on the welfare and relief of Aborigines during the year ended 30th June, 1947. Of this amount, £57,399 was expended directly by the Board and £5,092 was incurred by other Government Departments on behalf of the Board. The total expenditure for the year ended 30th June, 1947, represents an increase of £11,697 on the expenditure for the previous year.

CONCLUSION.

The Board desires again to place on record the valuable assistance and co-operation rendered by other Government Departments throughout the year. The assistance given by the Police Department, Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Health, Department of Lands, Department of Education, Department of Public Works, Department of the Chief Secretary and Child Welfare Department is gratefully acknowledged.

In conclusion, the Board wishes to express its appreciation and thanks to all those who rendered loyal and willing service throughout the year under review.

Dated this sixteenth day of March, one thousand nine hundred and forty-eight.

S. L. ANDERSON, Chairman.
Aborigines Welfare
Board.
APPENDIX "A."

List of Aboriginal Stations.
Vital Statistics and Ration Recipients.

• See Appendix "B". Brungle now classed as Reserve.

APPENDIX "B."

List of Aboriginal Reserves.
Particulars of Ration Recipients.

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**APPENDIX "A."**

List of Aboriginal Stations.
Vital Statistics and Ration Recipients.

- See Appendix "B". Brungle now classed as a Reserve.

**APPENDIX "B."**

List of Aboriginal Reserves.
Particulars of Ration Recipients.

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* See Appendix "A". Brungle now classed as a Reserve.

† Signifies Aboriginal School on Reserve.

‡ Name changed to Cubawee as from 6th August, 1947.

* See Appendix "B". Brungle now classed as a Reserve.

† Signifies Aboriginal School on Reserve.

‡ Name changed to Cubawee as from 6th August, 1947.

...
APPENDIX "C."

STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE,
for Year ended 30th June, 1947.

ACCOUNTS AND GENERAL EXPENDITURE—

The total amount expended on the welfare and relief of aborigines during the year ended 30th June, 1947, was £63,491.

Details of Expenditure are as set out hereunder—

Direct Expenditure incurred by Board—

| Description                                      | Amount  
|--------------------------------------------------|---------
| Buildings and Repairs, etc.                      | £7,535  
| Salaries and Wages                              | £21,478 
| Maintenance of, and assistance to, Aborigines   | £17,478 
| Freight, Cartage, Travelling Expenses, Purchase of Machinery and Plant, and other expenditure of a miscellaneous nature | £10,910 
| Total                                            | £57,399 |

Expenditure incurred by other Departments on behalf of the Board—

Government Stores Department, for purchase of clothing, stores, stationery, and other supplies | £3,207 
Department of Public Health, for medical fees, etc. | £635 
Department of Public Works, for telephone services | £745 
Resumed Properties Department, for sanitary services | £1,426 
Government Printer, for Printing and Bookbinding | £79 

Total £63,491

Note: The total does not include an amount of £15,271 expended by the Department of Education for the education of aboriginal children in native schools.