THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA.

REPORT

OF

THE ADMINISTRATOR

FOR THE

YEARS 1915-16 AND 1916-17.

Presented by Command; ordered to be printed, 10th January, 1918.

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area of 4 or 5 acres to be cultivated and sown with fodder crops, such as rice, maize, &c., so that hard feed may, if possible, be available for the horses working on the station in the future.

I am very pleased, on the whole, with the appearance of this station. It will be remembered that the area was handed over to us free of charge by the owners of the Elsey Station—Messrs. Lawrie and Co. Prior to that, the land had never been stocked. The fact that the sheep paddock is carrying at the present time, after five months of dry weather, a sheep to 3 acres, shows the benefit of the fencing, and I am satisfied that even better results can accrue with regard to the large paddock when fully stocked with cattle and horses, as there the soil is much richer on the whole, and almost entirely overlying limestone.”

The following letter from a well-known pastoralist, who had previously been pessimistic regarding the sheep experiment, written to me after his visit to Mataranka last June, is interesting and encouraging:—

I have been about here for several days, and during that time I have had occasion to go through the paddocks. In fact, I have made it my business to potter about the paddocks, and I can assure you that I am pleased at the way things are looking and shaping their way here.

The sheep are going to make good, I feel sure. They are all in good condition, especially the dry sheep. The lambs are well grown, and are in tip-top fettle. Of course, the paddocks are the cause of the vast improvement in the sheep.

The money spent here in wire has been well spent. The present manager is a great improvement on the past men that you have had here; he takes a real live interest in the place. Even the homestead is better to look at than before his arrival—good garden, &c.

ABORIGINES.

The great increase in the white population of Darwin has resulted in the demand for aboriginal assistance in households exceeding the supply, though the officers of the Department have done everything possible to assist housewives anxious to obtain this, the only, class of domestic assistance available. Freezing works construction increased the difficulty of preventing illicit intercourse between white and native, but this has in some measure been overcome by the drastic regulations referred to by the Chief Protector, in the enforcement of which the officers have been materially helped by employers as a body.

The usefulness of the Darwin Compound becomes more apparent each year. The natives are happy, and under the thorough control of the Superintendent, for whom, it is evident, the great majority have a high regard. Instead of nomadic natives being camped throughout vacant areas of the town and suburbs, such visitors are now compelled to camp within the compound area, on which unauthorized Europeans are not permitted to enter. Those who require food are found useful work to do, and all are more or less under discipline. The permanent huts in the compound are much prized by their occupants, and all are kept in thorough order. Native customs and games are, so far as possible, encouraged, and the co-operation which exists between “King” George of the Larrakeah Tribe, who exercises no small authority, and the Superintendent is of considerable value in the maintenance of discipline and harmony.

That the aboriginal is not the degraded human being, and of the low order of intelligence that is so commonly asserted, I am more and more convinced. His nomadic habits and social customs, which provide for no real authority, together with the dissimilarity of the languages used by different tribes, militate against that complete understanding of native mind that has proved such a factor in dealing with the indigenes of other parts of the world. Yet the blackfellow who is not demoralized by the European, who comprehends what his employer wishes, and is treated firmly yet sympathetically, displays an intelligence and a loyalty of no mean order. In this connexion, the observations by the Manager of Batchelor (Mr. Love) are especially instructive, as prior to his appointment it was almost impossible to secure aboriginal assistance there, the district not being one naturally favoured by the blackfellow. They are there because of Mr. Love’s personality, and knowledge of how to treat them.

Their value in the penetration and exploration of this vast empty land, waterless for enormous stretches in the interior, has not been sufficiently recognised. To-day it is rare that one meets a white traveller or resident in the bush who has not the assistance of, at least, one aboriginal, and even the small miner working his own claim is almost invariably assisted by aborigines, to whom at times he trusts, in a degree, his life.

Notwithstanding these observations, it is true occasional individual or group actions of lawlessness against whites have to be recorded. The majority are traceable to primary wrongdoing on the part of the white—frequently to interference with females, the native oder egarding
which is strict, and the penalty often death. More rarely, as in the attempted poisoning of the Cahill household, it is attributable to the malign influence of another "semi-civilized" native, and there, it is safe to say, the full consequences of the act were not at first apprehended.

There is an absence of parental discipline when they are young. The sense of responsibility and the European code of morality are not cultivated. The hereditary desire for change of scene and variety of occupation have been engendered by millennia of nomadic life. The aboriginal, therefore, never develops beyond the schoolboy stage, and must be dealt with as an adolescent, not an adult.

Mr. Cahill, than whom no one knows the native more thoroughly (speaking as he does more than one dialect) nor views him more sympathetically, informs me that, in spite of the defection of Romula in attempting to poison him and his family, he would gladly have that aboriginal back at once, trusting him as fully as he did in the past. He is satisfied the aberration manifested was solely due to the bad influence exercised for a time by the other native, "Nipper," and as Romula had been his close companion during 25 years of an adventurous career, it may be assumed that Mr. Cahill thoroughly understands the moral temperament of the man.

I recently visited the Oenpelli Aboriginal Station, East Alligator River, and was very favorably impressed with the general improvements, effected entirely by native labour under supervision, since my previous visit eighteen months ago. The stock yards and dip are the best I have seen in the Territory. The buildings are substantial, and composed entirely of bush timber (with iron roofs), even the walls of the new cottage being of bark. The insulation of the freezing chamber—charcoal, made on the spot—proves effective. The milking yards and bails are kept scrupulously clean, and it was a pleasure to observe each milker, who dons a special suit during milking, carefully wash the udder after bailing up the cow, whether under immediate supervision or not; it has become a routine. The fences are substantial. The garden is well stocked. The natives, whether belonging to the station or casual visitors, are happy and contented. The culinary operations, which are extensive, are under the immediate charge of Mrs. Cahill. The stock are all in excellent condition, and increasing in numbers. As will be seen by Mr. Cahill's report, the influence of the station is extending, and many natives who formerly had never seen a white man are now becoming gradually acquainted with the best side of the white man's supremacy and discipline.

The Mission Stations at Bathurst Island (Roman Catholic), Roper River (Anglican), and Hermannsberg (Lutheran), judging by reports, continue to exercise a good influence on the aborigines. The missionaries at Bathurst Island now exert a beneficial control over the majority of natives on that island and Melville Island, and many are proving of value, assisting in timber felling, saw milling, &c, besides the ordinary routine work. The Roper Mission buildings, seriously damaged by the unprecedented floods of December, 1915, are now rehabilitated, but the question of removing to a more suitable site, probably on Groote Island, where contact with whites could be obviated, is under consideration. Negotiations are under way for the Mission to take charge of a number of half-caste children now scattered between the Roper River and the Macdonnell Ranges, the Government paying a subsidy for maintenance when payment by the white father cannot be enforced.

The Methodist Mission has established a station on the Goulburn Islands, a situation selected by the Rev. Jas. Watson after an exhaustive examination of the country and careful consideration of all the factors. Mr. Watson himself undertook the pioneering work of this station, and already the good effects of his endeavours can be observed. In common with the others, this Mission receives an annual Government grant. In addition to the Mission work, it is found that the principals of these stations, acting as Honorary Protectors, are of considerable value to the Administration.

The Police continue to render good service as Honorary Protectors.

In the interests of economy the office of Chief Inspector was abolished, as already stated, it being considered the results did not warrant the expenditure at the present time.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF LIQUOR.

Pursuant to the Liquor Ordinance, No. 8 of 1915, the Administration took over the sale, both wholesale and retail, of liquor in the northern part of the Territory on the 1st October, 1915. Considerable difficulties were met with at the very inception, in addition to those which might naturally be expected, there being an insistent demand on the part of the A.W.U. for an immediate increase of wages. Owing to my unavoidable detention in the country, this was for the time granted by the Supervisor, but neither the Minister nor myself could concur in the arrangement. The resultant complete dislocation of hotel business, to the great discomfort of boarders and travellers, is described in the Supervisor's report. The rates paid to hotel employees under private enterprise

The Administrator, Darwin,

I have the honour to report on the work of the Education Department for the two years ending 30th June, 1917.

Schools.—At the commencement of the period there were six public schools open in the Territory, two of them—Daly River and Stapleton—being worked by the itinerant teacher, Mr. King, the others full time. Owing to the removal of the children from Stapleton, that school was closed in September, 1916, and in December the school at Daly River was discontinued for a similar reason. Mr. King has since been relieving, first at Pine Creek, and latterly at the Darwin school. Brock’s Creek school was also closed in September, 1916, as there were only three children of school-going age left in the district.

There are a number of children in attendance at the Darwin school who reside at the 2-1/2-Mile and at Para-parap. Formerly these children were conveyed home by an engine with a carriage attached, but, unfortunately, owing to the engine being required by the Railway Department for other duties, this service could not be regularly maintained. As the long walk home in the best of the day is prejudicial to the health of the children, a school will shortly be opened midway between the locomotive workshops and Paraparap, to serve the two districts. It is estimated that there will be a roll number of at least fifty. The Public Works Department already has the building well in hand.

Attendance.—The net number of children instructed at the various schools, and the average attendance for the time they were open during the period, were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Net Number Instructed.</th>
<th>Average Attendance.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darwin</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>72.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Creek</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brock’s Creek</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daly River</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stapleton</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal school</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>164.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The numbers are a considerable increase on the figures of the previous year. The roll-number at the Darwin school is at present 126—the highest it has ever been since opening. Paraparap will probably absorb about 32 of these.

The modified hours of instruction, viz., 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. daily, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on two afternoons a week for upper scholars, have worked more satisfactorily than the Saturday morning school. Still, there are a few parents who appear to be satisfied that their children should receive the minimum—not the maximum—amount of education available. Definite news has at last been received that the Ordinance enforcing compulsory attendance will be gazetted in December next. Arrangements have been completed for the Education Department to act as agent for the International Correspondence Schools, but, owing, doubtless, to the floating nature of the population of the Territory, only one course—a mining metallurgy one—has been allotted.

Inspection of Schools.—Visits of inspection paid to the Pine Creek and Aboriginal schools, and specimens of work received from the other schools, showed that a good standard is being maintained amongst the scholars, and that earnest efforts are being put forth by the teachers. The enforcement of the compulsory Ordinance will most decidedly result in a further improvement in efficiency.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

V. L. Lamp, H.T., Darwin.

Aboriginal Department,
Darwin, 20th September, 1917.

I submit herewith reports from the Protector in charge of Oenpolli Aboriginal Station, the Superintendent of Kahlin Compound, and from the Protector and the matron and teacher of the natives at Alice Springs for the two years ending 30th June, 1917.

It will be seen from these reports that there has been no great development of the work of the Department, due principally to the necessity for economy on account of the war.
The draft ordinance referred to in my last annual report is now under consideration by the Government. In addition to consultations and correspondence with Chief Protectors of other States, I have discussed the terms of this ordinance with the superintendents of the various missions in the Territory, and thanks are due to them for the assistance afforded.

Staff.

I regret to report the death of Mrs. Holze, teacher of the aboriginal school, and matron of the compound at Kahlin. She carried out her duties with patience and discretion, and at all times displayed a keen interest in the welfare of the natives. During Mrs. Holze's last illness the Rev. A. Pratt conducted the school, and the thanks of the Department are due to him for the assistance afforded.

The position of Chief Inspector having been abolished, Mr. J. T. Beckett, who held that position, severed his connexion with the Department in May last.

Mrs. MacDonald, wife of the Superintendent of Kahlin Compound, has succeeded Mrs. Holze as teacher and matron of the compound. Mr. Love has been transferred from Daly River to the Northern Territory, and Constable Bridgland is now Protector there. The Rev. R. Constant has left Bathurst Island, and is succeeded as Honorary Protector there by the Rev. X. Gsell, while the Rev. J. Watson, superintendent in charge of the Methodist Mission at Goulburn Island, has been made Protector for the northern coast from Cape Don to Caledon Island. The Rev. H. E. Warren, Acting Chief Health Officer, and H. A. Jackson, construction engineer for the Lighthouse Department, have also been appointed Honorary Protectors.

Inspections.

In 1915, Chief Inspector Beckett visited the MacArthur and Roper River districts, and returned overland via Hudson Downs and Katherine. He also visited Fletcher's Gulf and Daly River district, the coast and islands between Darwin and Cape Ford, and made several visits to Bathurst and Melville Islands. Mr. Beckett reported that at Bathurst Island his visit quelled a threatened outbreak among the natives. In August, 1916, Mr. Beckett went on long leave, hence no long distance inspection work was carried out by him during the year 1917. However, the Rev. H. E. Warren (Honorary Protector, Roper River) has visited and reported upon the "Groote Island" group of islands, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, and the Rev. James Watson (Honorary Protector of Goulburn Islands) has patrolled the coast and islands from Cape Don to the Goyder River. Their reports have contained much useful information, and such intercommunication between the Department and the mission is of mutual help, and tends to reduce expenses for both parties. A further inspection of Alice Springs and district was made by Mr. T. E. Day, late Chief Surveyor. His report has already been forwarded to the Minister.

Oenpelli Station.

In February last a most serious attempt to poison Protector Cahill and all white people at the station was made by a native, "Romula," who had been Mr. Cahill's personal servant for over twenty years. Fortunately his attempt did not succeed. In Protector Cahill's report he gives what he thinks the reason for the attempt, and says that he is sure that the plot was made by people from whom he had received nothing but kindness. Fortunately the trouble at Oenpelli ended as quickly as it began, and the work of the station has proceeded uninterrupted.

Mr. Cahill's report gives details of all the work that is being carried out there. The principal experiment, dairying, is progressing hopefully. The herd is in good heart, most of the necessary buildings have been erected. Machinery has been obtained and adapted in the most economical manner; at the present time natives are being instructed as milkers. Next dry season should see manufacture of butter on a fairly large scale. So far, the quality has been excellent. By the courtesy of the Northern Agency Ltd. an analysis was obtained of the last two samples of butter sent in from Oenpelli. It reads as follows:

Large sample.—Moisture, 10.60 per cent.; salt, 2.51 per cent.
Small sample.—Moisture, 12.67 per cent.; salt, 1.91 per cent.

The flavour, texture, and low moisture content of the sample show that dairying can be done in the coastal districts. The samples analyzed had to be brought 180 miles in a launch (with no artificial cooling whatever), in a hold where the temperature would certainly be over 100 deg. Fahrenheit. After at least thirty-six hours in transit, it was put into cool store in Darwin, and proved of good quality.

In other respects Mr. Cahill's report will show what excellent training men should train the natives industrially, and with what result.

I referred in my last report to the export of hides from Woolner Reserve. The financial result has been quite satisfactory, a profit of over £200 being made. As the natives forming the shooting party were drawn from Oenpelli, and supervised by Mr. Cahill, this profit is considered a set-off against some of the cost of that station's upkeep.

Kahlin Compound.

At Kahlin, necessary extension of buildings has been continued. In order to treat sick natives in the compound, the building formerly used as an office has been extended and improved to form a hospital, and the Acting Chief Health Officer visits as frequently as is necessary. In his report will be found details of cases treated at Kahlin, and the results obtained. The Superintendent of the compound reports that natives show much less objection to going to their own hospital than they did to treatment at the general hospital. A good deal of rough land around the compound has been cleared and fenced by the natives (under supervision), and useful paddocks will result in the course of a year or two. Sewing lessons are given to the labras and girls employed by the matron, and it has been possible to draw a staff of messengers for the Government offices from the native and half-caste boys attending the aboriginal school. These boys have been engaged in some of the offices for over twelve months, and, with two exceptions, have proved quite satisfactory. They receive a salary, most of which is banked in trust for them, and those who care to do so are allowed to attend school in the afternoon.

Five youths and girls from the Alice Springs and Kahlin establishments have been sent to situations under agreements approved by the Department. So far, the reports from all of them are good.

The large number of stations in the Territory where men employed in the erection of the meat works near Darwin produced the same difficulties in regard to venereal diseases as I referred to in my last report as being in evidence along the railway construction works between Pine Creek and Katherine. The Protectors and police here did their utmost to check this evil; but so long as natives could visit the site of the meat works, it has been impossible to draw a staff of messengers for the Government offices from the native and half-caste boys attending the aboriginal school. These boys have been engaged in some of the offices for over twelve months, and, with two exceptions, have proved quite satisfactory. They receive a salary, most of which is banked in trust for them, and those who care to do so are allowed to attend school in the afternoon.

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must be back at the compound (or in quarters on the
employer's premises approved by the Department) be­
fore sunset. If natives are found in the town after
dark without a permit from their employer or from a
Protector, they can be arrested. If an employer keeps a
native within the "prohibited" area without a per­
mitt, both native and employer are liable to penalties.
This extension of the prohibited area has undoubtedly
caused a certain amount of inconvenience to reputable
employers of aboriginals. They have recognised the
necessity for coping with the evil referred to, and, on
the whole, have given the Department assistance in
carrying out its work. At the same time, experience
shows that the "permit" system can be easily abused,
especially amongst a population as nomadic as that
here. It may yet be found necessary to require all
natives to sleep at the compound; but if the new ordin­
ance is passed it may be possible to avoid this, and
thus save reputable employers and better-class natives
a considerable amount of inconvenience.

Native trust funds continue to expand, and there are
now 481 accounts, representing a total amount of
£1,448 13s. 5d.

The relations between the Department and the
various mission stations are still most satisfactory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of District</th>
<th>Quarter Ending</th>
<th>Sickness</th>
<th>Offences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthony's Lagoon</td>
<td></td>
<td>Beriberi (very slight)</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.3.16</td>
<td>Health good; 1 death</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.12.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.3.17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Springs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Health good</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.6.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.9.16</td>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.12.16</td>
<td>2 died; natural</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.3.17</td>
<td>Health good</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Well</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.9.16</td>
<td>Health good</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.12.16</td>
<td>Epidemic colds; some deaths</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brock's Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.3.16</td>
<td>sent to Darwin</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bow Hills</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.9.16</td>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.5.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borroloola</td>
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<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.9.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>31.12.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.6.17</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.3.17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.9.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.12.16</td>
<td>Number of deaths</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.12.16</td>
<td>Several deaths</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.3.17</td>
<td>Little fever</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.6.16</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.9.16</td>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.12.16</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle Waters</td>
<td></td>
<td>Very little</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.10.16</td>
<td>Influenza</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.3.17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.6.17</td>
<td>11 deaths from influenza</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.6.17</td>
<td>3 deaths—1, old age; 1, growth on stomach; 1, tuberculosis</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.6.17</td>
<td>2 deaths; no particulars</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.12.16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.9.16</td>
<td>1, aboriginal infant; 2, half-caste died</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.10.16</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31.3.17</td>
<td>Health good</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.6.16</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30.1.17</td>
<td>Health good</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oompelli Aboriginal Station,
30th June, 1917.

II. E. Carey, Esq.,
Chief Protector of Aborigines,
Darwin.

Sir,—I have the honour to report to you for the two
years ending 30th June, 1917.

Since my last report the Methodist Church has estab­
lished a mission at Goulburn Island, under the super­
vision of the Rev. James Watson. Mr. Watson spent
some time in the Territory before deciding upon the
location of the mission, and I understand that he is
very satisfied with the mission's prospects.

During 1915-16 the crimes amongst natives were
none of them serious. The total number was 47, and
this shows a decrease of 15 upon the previous year.
In 1916-17 the number was 52, and I regret to say
these included two charges of murder, one of attempted
murder, two of attempted poisoning. In one charge
of murder the two natives were acquitted. In another
two were sentenced to death, but the sentence was com­
mited to penal servitude for life. The cases of
attempted murder and poisoning were those at Oompelli
already referred to. The other offences were all of a
minor character.

I have again to express my thanks to the Inspector
of Police and his staff, who in so many parts of the
Territory represent this Department.

I append herewith summary of reports received from
the various Protectors during the past twelve months.

H. E. CAREY,
Chief Protector of Aborigines.
medical treatment, but at a rough estimate I should say that, each year, about 150 adult natives were given medicine. Some who were too unwell to eat native food were kept at the station, given medicine and food until they were well again. In over a dozen cases men came in for medicine, and, getting what they came for, went back to their camps—in some cases 35 miles from Oenpelli. One small boy, who had fallen from a tree, and had a stake driven into his thigh right along the thigh-bone, was brought in by the Koolungoochee tribe for medicine, a distance of 14 miles. The little chap was in a bad state, the stake being in his leg some weeks. I was away at Darwin when the accident happened, and as soon as I arrived back from there the boy was brought to me. I had very little hope of saving him; the pus and stench were very great. I cleaned the wound as well as I could with hot water and corrosive sublimate, injected cocaine, and performed a successful operation. (Took a piece of wood out of his thigh, 4 inches long x 1/2 inch wide.) The boy was kept until all danger was passed, and then taken back to his tribe.

One boy, about 16 years of age, had his thigh broken. I set the leg, bound it up with splints, kept him in bed, and attended to him for thirteen weeks. The boy is now well, and employed on the station.

A small child, about 4 years of age, at a camp named Mianu-nuk, 30 miles from Oenpelli, was badly scalded. The child was fed and attended to daily for three weeks until she was well again.

On another occasion, about 10 p.m., I was called to attend to a child who was in convulsions. I had the child brought to the house, gave him treatment, and by midnight he was asleep and out of pain.

Yaws in children is a very common disease in these parts. In one instance Mungle-mair-er (Charley) walked from the Ban Yan (Ji-eu-Parley) to Oenpelli, a distance of about 50 miles, to have his tooth drawn. I have had numerous cases of natives wanting their teeth drawn, and in every case I inject cocaine and pull out the aching tooth.

Granuloma in its first stages I have treated with sulphate of copper, and have healed the sores up, the advanced or older cases I send to the hospital at Darwin. Yaws in children is a very common disease in these districts. I generally effect a cure by well cleaned wounds, with warm water and corrosive sublimate, and afterwards painting the sores with iodine. Numerous cases of blight are treated, and it is quite common to find a beer bottle full of "eye water" in native camps a long distance away from Oenpelli. As soon as blight appears in a camp, in comes a native for eye medicine. When the cool weather sets in and the south-east winds start to blow, it is then that the natives in this district need attention. Most of the women are in water getting water lillies, &c., for food; the men are in the water fishing with net and spear; in most cases they get a chill—malaria fever and influenza. I have attended to all their wants. In every case of sickness within a fair distance of the station attention is at once given, and if any are reported too sick to come to the station arrangements are made to have them brought in so that medicine can be given them. Dr. Holmes' book, *First Aid to Bushmen,* is always consulted in doubtful cases, and I find it a very great help. The most hopeless case on the station is that of Toby (Kumn-Kurree), who was sent to the Darwin two years ago, and returned here not cured. His chest and thighs are one mass of sores—probably neglected granuloma. One native, Arra-win-gie, was brought in for treatment nearly two years ago. His leg was doubled up and the sinews contracted; the whole of the knee-joint was one large mass of sores, and he was kept clean for some time, and now Yirragarnd is quite a hero, and will give me his car to any one wishing to see where it was mended.

In every case where any native requires medicine or any attention, and can be brought to the station, they get all the relief that we are able to afford them. When I am absent from the station Mrs. Cahill does all in her power for the sick or hurt natives that come for aid. There are lots of other cases that have been attended to, such as ulcerated feet, snake-bite, swollen groins, bubos, skin disease, accidents, one case of poisoning, woman badly hurt with a fighting stick (mor-kin) by her husband, and another case of heart complaint (Nulwayo) was brought by his brothers late at night, almost dead. He was quite cold and clammy; his heart could hardly be felt. I took him into the kitchen, made a large fire, and after about an hour's hard work rubbing and practising artificial respiration, we got him all right again. I intend keeping a record-book of all natives treated, and will be able to give you a more complete report in the future. There are numerous other cases of sickness that have been forgotten for the time being.

As there is little variation in each year's work, I give the following returns for the year 1916-17 only.

**PERMANENT HANDS EMPLOYED.**

1. Mitcherlack (Captain); two wives. Mitcherlack has been taught the use of tools, and instructed by me in building, yard-making, gate-making, and all rough carpentry, also saddlery.

2. Nulwoyo (Buckley); one wife. Nulwoyo has been given the same training as Captain. The above two natives did nearly the whole of the fitting (under instruction) and building of the freezing room and buildings, but were not far enough advanced to do any of the fitting of joints in building.

3. Balalammon (Quilp), single, stockman, horse-breaker, and generally useful. Does most of the buffalo shooting for beef, and always to the fore with stock movements, droving, &c.

4. Romula (Alf); two wives. (Not on pay-sheet since 1st January, 1917.) General hand; could drive a team of horses, and did most of the mail running from Oenpelli to Burrundie. Was a most reliable man until 22nd January, 1917, when he tried to poison all hands at Oenpelli. Romula is now serving a term of imprisonment for attempted murder in Fanny Bay Gaol.

5. Merra Karra (Nipper); wife and three children. (Not on pay-sheet since 1st January, 1917.) Had been buffalo shooting for F. A. Smith for about five years. On the 30th of December, 1916, Oenpelli suffering from fever. Each time Nipper was made ill by his wife, and returned to Mr. Smith for the shooting season. Last year Nipper said that he wanted to work at Oenpelli. He started as a casual hand, and in October was put on the pay-sheet. He was the instigator of putting native poison in a water-bag, and was bound over to keep the peace for six months. Since his sentence I
found out that he was the leader of a cow-killing case, for which he received another six months. I may point out that Nipper's wife and three children were kept on the station and found in food.

6. Munnierlorko (Billy). (Not on pay-sheet since 1st January, 1917.) Has been on the station since he was a small boy. He was put on the wages-sheet, 1st October, 1916. Under a threat from Nipper, Munnierlorko was induced to put a white powder (native poison) into our water-bag. He was sent to gaol for six months. Knowing that he was only a tool in the hands of Nipper, I found a person to go surety for amount required by Magistrate, viz., £10, and got Munnierlorko released before his time had expired.

7. Yirragaruna (Charley). is on the pay-sheet, and is a generally useful hand.

8. Immilkir (Big Billy) is on the pay-sheet, and is a generally useful hand.

9. Mon-moona was put on the pay-sheet in place of Nipper's wife and three children. Narricoot, 11 years; Narlim, 8 years; and Kuluba, 4 years of age; children of Nipper. Narricoot has been making a stockman out of Paddy. Age, 14 years.

10. Ibbit (Oribbage) took Romula's place on the pay-sheet.


**YOUNG MEN AND BOYS WHO ARE BEING TAUGHT TO BE USEFUL, BUT ARE NOT ON THE PAY-SHEET.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Ah You, a half-caste Chinese and native</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>instructed in dairy work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boocher and Merra-will-ar-will</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>instructed in storekeeping and learned to ride</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SICK AND CRIPPLED, ALWAYS FED AT STATION.**

Toby, sick. Arrawinjie, cripple.

**PATIENTS WHO WERE FED AND MEDICALLY TREATED FROM 30th JUNE, 1916, TO 30th JUNE, 1917.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza &amp; Colds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yaws</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Treatment, hot water and corros-sub-wishing. Painted with iodine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granuloma</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Two cases sent Darwin hospital.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**INFECTIOUS.**

All station hands are at the present time suffering from the above. Nearly every native in district has this during S.E. wind season, and 49 have been treated here since last day. A mixture of Benzoin Honey and Quinine proves very effective in most cases.

**WORKERS' MOTHERS WHO GET FOOD AT STATION.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Ah You, a half-caste Chinese and native</td>
<td>13 years</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boocher and Merra-will-ar-will</td>
<td>13 years</td>
<td>instructed in storekeeping and learned to ride</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HEALTH OF NATIVES—VENEREAL DISEASE.**

The disease was cleared out to the coast, and when he returned he was classified as influenza.

**NUMBER OF NATIVES WHO HAD MEDICINE, FOOD, AND ATTENTION WHILE SICK.**

**Sickness.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Influenza &amp; Colds</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granuloma</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Two cases sent Darwin hospital.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENERAL REMARKS.**

Nearly every native on the station, and about 150 out-side natives. Colds were very numerous, no record was kept, and they were classified as influenza.
NUMBER OF NATIVES WHO HAD MEDICINE, FOOD, AND ATTENTION WHILE SICK—continued.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sickness</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>General Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhoea</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>One case sent hospital.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bubo</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hot water treatment and painted with iodine. Two lanced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teeth extracted</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>In every case food and medicine were given until patient well again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accidents</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>In every case food and medicine were given until patient well again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snake bites</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>One woman was left too long after bite, and died shortly after being brought to me. Other man was saved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Patient was carried to kitchen at midnight almost dead; a large fire was made, artificial respiration, hot blankets, and continuous rubbing were kept up until he was revived.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppurating ear</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Treatment, washed out with boracic acid, wadding saturated in carbolic oil and placed in each ear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swollen stomach</td>
<td></td>
<td>Treatment, calomel, Epsom salts, hot fomentations, light diet of rice and milk, salol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciatica</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hot foment, porous plaster, quinine, iod-potassium.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fostering sores</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Painted with pure carbolic as per doctor's instructions. (Dr. Jones.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulcerated foot</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Treatment, sulphate copper, carbolic oil dressings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulcerated knee</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Under treatment two years, breaks out after healing. Dr. Jones' advice to have leg cut off above knee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin disease</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Goa powder and vaseline, painting with iodine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blight &amp; sore eyes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Eye lotion made up and given to every native to take to his camp. Instructions given how to use the lotion. Judging by frequent applications great faith placed in the lotion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* No record.

ACCIDENTS.

Nulwoyo M, cuts on leg and hand.  
Murravillarwill M, broken thigh.  
Oongra's little girl, badly scalped.  
Kurruinbar M, fall from horse.  
Obiah F, broken scalp and badly knocked about with a stick.  
Yirragarna M, ear nearly cut off, and sewn on again.  
Marmalpa, Old Billy, M, bad foot, cocaine injected, and operated on successfully.  
Nal-er-wit M, snake bite.  
Emonger M, poison (arsenic and caustic soda solution).  
Jimmy Ah You, fall from horse, arm badly hurt.  
Bigpurrow M, foot badly cut with axe.  
Nalumbell M, cut on leg with axe.  
Narngin M, poisoned eating green plums, aged 6 years, died.  
Kup-pul-turr F, snake bite, died; brought too late.  

GENERAL REPORT ON NATIVES—CASUAL HANDS (NATIVE) EMPLOYED.

Paper bark is generally used as roofing for huts, torches for buffalo-fly burning, &c. I generally make a contract with the bush natives to get and stack the bark. I keep them in tobacco while bark-getting, and when word is brought in that enough bark has been stacked, I ride out to their stacks and buy the bark for station use. I pay four, ten, sugar, and tobacco and clay pipes to the amount of what I consider a fair price. Goose egg collecting is also done with outside natives. Generally a man and his wife take a (mitza-para) lug-out, and search in the swamps for eggs. While eggs are being collected, all the collectors are found in food, tobacco, mosquito nets, matches, and are paid off at the end of egg season with tobacco, &c. During 1917 season, 21,579 goose eggs were collected and used on the station; forty-three natives were being fed through the season (including casuals), and each person could easily eat ten or twelve goose eggs per day; so the eggs were a great help to the commissariat department.

Casuals are employed to get timber out of difficult places where the cart cannot get to, and also to carry the timber over boggy flats, and carry cargo over swampy plains from landing during January, February, March, April, and May. At times, a large number of natives from all parts of the district come to the station, a kind of social gathering, holding corroborees, and fishing with spears and nets in Oenpelli Lagoon—about 450 natives being here on one occasion. They had come from beyond the Liverpool River and from the headwaters of the East Alligator River. Most of the womenfolk had never seen a white woman. The majority of these were mountain natives, and this was their first visit to the station. A small supply of tobacco was given them, every kindness was shown, and they were given to understand that any sick among them would be given medicine. Judging by the number of natives that came here, and the number they said were left behind, I should say that 1,500 natives would not be far from the number in the district (including South and East Alligator districts, and over to the Liverpool River). A great number of the men were small—not nearly so large as the coastal tribes. Many women were small; a fair number of children were seen.

The conduct of the natives on the station was all that could be desired, with the exception of the attempted poisoning case. There are always one or two discontented or agitators in every gathering, white or black. On this occasion, the conduct of the labras, or wives, of the men came under discussion; one native said, "We cannot beat our women now, the boss will growl." Another said, "Him all day make us work, won't let us fight with spears or (pure-bay-reo) fighting sticks." &c. The facts are, no fighting is allowed in the camps near the station. No natives are allowed to brutalize their women. If the woman offends her husband, she is brought to me, and I get the facts of the case, and very often can make peace between them. The men who have their rows also bring their cases to me. This does not suit the flash, or bully, native; he generally likes to have his way in everything, be boss of the camp, knock his wife insensible, or hit another native with whatever he may have in his hand.

In the Romula case, the other natives came to me and told me that they thought that the talk about poisoning me was the usual native skit; they in a body growl." Another said, "We cannot beat our women now, the boss will growl." &c. The facts are, no fighting is allowed in the camps near the station. No natives are allowed to brutalize their women.
“You know, boss, all blackfellow talk about poisoning other blackfellow, but they all the time gammon,” and we thought that the talk of poisoning was just “hot air.” Romula was blamed by the outside natives of telling me yarns about pig killing, and things stolen from the station by the outside natives; and, to make himself clear again in their eyes, put poison in our butter-dish, just to show himself a hero among the outside natives; but Nipper was the one that kept the thing going.

The other natives on the place are quiet, and well behaved; but at their work they must have supervision, otherwise one or two will be working and the others dodging or telling funny yarns. They recognise no head among themselves, so take no orders from any of their crowd. Very often I tell a man to tell another one to go and do a thing; no fear of his being obeyed; the other chap will at once come to me for orders, or the thing is not done.

The natives have been instructed in cultivation on a small scale. Suddering, yard-building, house-building, concrete work, well sinking, horse-driving, horse-breaking, stock work, gate-making, fencing, timbering wells. The whole of building a yard, well—fencing, &c., on Oenpelli have been done by the natives—under instruction, of course—and any person who has seen the natives using adzes and other tools, expresses surprise at the work done by them. A visitor, who has been stockkeeping on the largest stations in the East Kimberley district, said that he had never seen better built stockyards in all his travels than the yards built at Oenpelli.

All cement work for engine foundations, concrete for dip cement, work for wells, braces for wells (before pumps were put on) was done by natives under supervision.

Some time ago, I asked a man who had been doing a lot of work for me clearing ground for a garden (Kopperakey), to start a garden on a nice patch of ground. I told him that I would clear a good patch, dig a well, give him some goats for milking purposes; also that I would send any peanuts, cotton, melons, pumpkins, or anything else that he would grow, to the boys or girls, we should have some place at which to put the produce, and where place them?
Lumber and saddle room—
Bark all through, size, 40 feet by 40 feet, partitioned off for store room, lumber room, and saddle room.

Outhouses, &c.—
One bark shed, 50 feet by 18 feet, combined dining room and beef house.
One baker's oven made from ant-beds.
One bathroom and one water closet.
One old blacksmith's shop converted into fowl-house and cart shed.
One small house, all iron, for chicken raising.
One wire netting enclosure, 450 yards fencing; one wire netting enclosure adjoining, with partition, making two enclosures, 700 yards.
Two wells, one 18 feet deep, and one 16 feet.

Redilly paddock—
One fence, 1 mile, three wires, posts 14 feet apart.
One fence, 100 yards, six wires (four barb).

Dairying.
List of buildings, yard, fences, wells, and dip, &c, erected on Oenpelli. Nearly the whole of this work was done by natives under my supervision. Machinery was erected by engineers, who had native assistance whenever required:

One building, 76 feet by 27 feet, galvanized iron and round timber.
Cement floor, 45 feet by 18 feet.
Engine house attached, 18 feet by 12 feet.
Cement foundations for engine, 6 ft. 7 in. by 4 ft. 1 in. by 5 feet.
Cement foundations for compressor, 2 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. 2 in. by 9 in.
One boiler and engine.
Complete half-ton Linde freezing plant.
One freezing room complete, 11 feet by 13 feet by 8 ft. 6 in. Walls, 2 feet, double lining of malthoid, double lining of boards, rammed tight and strongly wired down.
One cream vat, with ammonia coils and fittings.
One steam pump, Worthington, and all fittings, connected with boiler.
One Smith's blower, forge, anvil, iron rack, benches, &c, fitted in end of building.
One well sunk in building, 24 feet deep.
Cement crown work, 7 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 2 in. by 1 foot—could get no deeper with small pump.

Milling yard in connexion with freezing and butter-making experiment, 72 feet by 72 feet, six rails in each panel, jogged and fastened with wire, all corner posts mortised, partition in centre mortised; nine gates, wing 66 feet.
One receiving yard with five wires (three barb and two plain). Strong cap fitted on top of posts and strongly wired down.

Experimental Agriculture with Native Labour only.

Cotton.—Planted 3rd January, 1917. Heavy rain washed out portion of seed, and about 75 per cent. of seed germinated, some of the holls burst and ripened on 3rd May, about 4 months after planting. The cotton was badly attacked by the boll weevil. The whole of the crop is not ripe yet, and will be reported on fully as soon as it is harvested.

Sugar Cane.—The small bag of sugar cane that you forwarded had fallen overboard at Darwin, and only five pieces were left when it reached here. These were planted, and are thriving splendidly. As soon as the plants are of good enough size, a small experimental patch will be planted.

Peanuts were experimented on during the wet season of 1915. Five 3-bushel bags were taken off a patch of 25 yards by 7 yards. The nuts were large and sound; some were pierced by small insects, probably white ants; not 5 per cent. were so attacked. The trees started seeding the second year. Some of the seeds germinated, and are now about 15 feet high. No attempt at additional trees were so attacked. The trees; my idea was to see if the white ants would kill them. On 30th March we had a hurricane, and the two old trees were blown down. They were quite free of white ants or any other pests. I do not hesitate to recommend the planting of Ceara rubber on suitable soil; the soil must have a good depth, so that the roots can take hold.

Hungarian Millet.—Some years back, 1911, I think it was, I had an order for some live birds (seed-eaters). I planted the seed about 30 yards by 30 yards, and took off about 1,000 lbs. of seeds and husks, and fed the birds on the seed. I estimated that the seed saved me £15. The seed was planted during the wet season.

Stalk Hemp.—On any place where there was sufficient soil or sand to take hold, this plant thrived. The natives use the fibre for making fishing nets, lines, and all kinds of things. About 2 acres grow here.

Lemons.—In the year 1911 some lemon seeds (Messina grown) were planted, and the young trees transplanted. We have had our second crop off one tree; the lemons were as large as the original lemons, and more juice in them. Estimated crop on one tree, £11. The trees were transplanted in 1911, and the young trees were planted out. We have had our second crop off one tree; the lemons were as large as the original lemons, and more juice in them. Estimated crop on one tree, £11.

Kumquats.—Half-a-dozen trees were planted in 1911, and have been bearing for three years. The plants were got from the Darwin Government gardens. No white ants yet.

Citrons.—This fruit does not do as well as the lemons or kumquats.

Almonds were tried. They grew rapidly, and bore fruit in two years. The white ants killed them off in four years.

Sisal Hemp.—On any place where there was sufficient soil or sand to take hold, this plant thrived. The natives use the fibre for making fishing nets, lines, and all kinds of things. About 2 acres grow here.

Annatto, a dye plant, was tried here. Planted in 1910, the bushes grew to a height of 7 feet, bearing a good crop of berries, and seemed white ant proof. Not being considered a paying proposition, it was dug out and thrown away.

Kitchener Garden.—A good supply of vegetables is grown for station requirements. We have a deal of trouble with seeds during the wet months. If any seeds are exposed to the damp air they become mouldy, and will not germinate. Tomatoes are grown all the year. The best way to grow them is from cuttings.

During the dry season we grew the following vegetables, viz.:—English cabbage, lettuce, celery, beetroot,
eschalotts, carrots, turnips, radish, cucumber, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, beans (snake, french, and epicure do remarkably well). English potatoes do not do very well; at times I have had good returns, but, taken on the whole, they have not been a success. I am now trying them on a different plan, and will report when they are dug out. Onions I have had no success with, and cannot even get the seeds to germinate.

Tobacco.—Tobacco leaf grows like weeds; once planted, it is hard to get rid of. During 1910 and 1911 a small patch was experimented with. The leaf was dried, put in bags, and given away to bush natives. Being engaged in buffalo shooting at the time, I could not spare the time necessary to go on with the cultivation. Havana seed was used, and the plants grew to a height of 7 feet.

Stock.

Cattle.—In 1914-15 there were 335 head of cattle brought to the station. There are now 600. I anticipate improving on this return in future, now that proper paddocks have been fenced in, and when the locally-bred breeders will come in profit.

Horses.—On hand, 1st July, 1916, 88; on hand, 1st July, 1917, 93. Twenty foals born during year, ten horses handed over to Survey Department, eight blacksmith shop, and a number of trees planted. A harbour for native loafers, was demolished, the building, 40 feet by 16 feet, was erected on the beach for the use of the old and infirm natives, also a bathroom and washhouse (with water connexion) 30 feet by 12 feet. Two additional galvanized iron buildings, 40 feet by 16 feet, were erected. This grubbing is carried out with casual native labour as it offers. About 100 yards of metalling on Myilly Point-road was done, and a metal road made into the compound on numerous occasions.

A.—KAHLIN COMPOUND.

Alterations and Work carried out by Native Staff.—During the two years several alterations have been made. A windmill, with reserve tanks, was erected; a large iron building, 40 feet by 16 feet, was erected on the beach for the use of the old and infirm natives, also a bathroom and washhouse (with water connexion) 30 feet by 12 feet. Two additional galvanized iron buildings, 40 feet by 12 feet, were erected on the beach for "casual" natives.

All the buildings were repaired and painted, and the office enlarged and made into a hospital for natives. A new stove was built in the kitchen.

The old camp on the Emery Point side, which was a harbor for native loafers, was demolished, the building material removed into the compound proper, and erected. This saved me considerable trouble, especially at night time. A verandah was erected around the blacksmith shop, and a number of trees planted. A yard with a trow outside was erected for horses at the rear of the harness-room.

Four acres adjoining the compound were grubbed and a cyrus pine fence with wire netting was erected, making a useful paddock, which, during 1916, was cleared of stones and grassed. On the Government reserve at Myilly Point a Cyprus pine fence, with cyclone wire and double gate. Two acres of the accommodation paddock opposite the compound (comprising 12 acres) has been grubbed, and a cyrus pine fence with wire netting erected. This grubbing is carried out with casual native labour as it offers. About 100 yards of metalling on Myilly Point-road was done, and a metal road made into the compound. I might mention also that the staff, horses, and vehicles during the year assisted several of the Department on numerous occasions.

Old iron and timber for the buildings mentioned above were obtained through the Public Works and Hotel Departments, and their cost reduced to a minimum.

Population.—The average population for the year 1915-16 was 195, including old and infirm natives, 21 half-caste children, and 4 office messengers. The average floating population was 80 for the year. The largest number in the compound was 335 for the months December, January, February. The average population for the year 1916-17 was 320, including 30 old and infirm natives, 25 half-caste children, and 4 office messengers. The average floating population for the year was 50. The largest number in the compound was 290 for the months January, February. I attribute the increase to the breaking up of the native camps in and around Darwin.

During the year 1915-16 the average cost per meal was 3d. per head, including rations for old and infirm natives and half-caste children.

During the year 1916-17 the average cost per meal was 3½d. per head, including rations to old and infirm natives and half-caste children. The increase of 3d. per head on last year was caused through the increased cost of provisions.

Health.—Except in regard to venereal patients, the health of the inhabitants during the two years has been good, very little sickness having occurred during the year. Of the 2 cases of dysentery, one was caused by eating unsuitable food, the other by drinking cold water. The natives are rapidly overcoming their objection to being treated at the compound hospital.

Deaths.—During the year 1915-16 there were eight deaths, three males and five females, the cause of death in all cases being senile decay.

In 1916-17 there were ten deaths, including "King" Solomon, who died from heart failure. He was a very well-behaved old native, who always exerted a good influence over the young men in his tribe. The cause of the deaths in the other cases were venereal disease and tuberculosis.

Behavior.—The behaviour of the natives within the compound has been very good. Troublesome natives from other districts are still being sent to the compound, so far with good results. A considerable amount of trouble is experienced with those who reside outside the compound. These are employed by residents of Darwin, and are supposed to be living on their employers' premises, but are often found wandering about at night. The natives are being watched very closely.

Recommendations in regard to this will be submitted.

Dogs.—The dog nuisance is still troublesome. The experiment was tried of appointing two natives to take charge of all dogs, and take them to Tale Head. For a month or two things worked well, but when the news came through that the dogs were dying at Tale Head, the natives lost no time in bringing them back, mostly at night time. Everything was done to prevent this. Some were even shot.

B.—DARWIN DISTRICT.

During the year 1916-17 there was an increase of natives in Darwin, mostly from Daly River. Owing to the increase of the European population during the past years native labour has been scarce, and natives required for domestic purposes were in great demand. At present they are employed at Government reserve at Nightcliff. During the year I arrested several natives for being in the police paddock, which is a prohibited area. I find they go there principally for opium. I would also point out that one of the most important measures, that is, dealing with liquor to aboriginals, is not adequately provided for in the Aboriginal Act 1910 or Ordinance 1911.

Employment of natives.—During the year there has been no difficulty in obtaining employment for the natives, but I would point out that the amending Aboriginal Ordinance now under consideration would, if passed, greatly...
facilitate the work of the Protector for the Darwin District.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
R. Macdonald,
Protector of Aboriginals.


At the Bungalow there are eight boys and twenty-two girls, comprising half, quarter, and octoeroon caste. Their ages ranging from three to fifteen years. The health of the children is exceptionally good. They are happy and contented. The school roll totals sixty—thirty-four white children and twenty-six coloured. The advanced coloured attend morning school with the white children, and the remainder of the coloured attend afternoon school. The annual examination report is good.

REPORT FROM SERGEANT STOTT, ALICE SPRINGS.

During the year 1916-17 the behaviour and health (with the exception of an epidemic of eye trouble early in the year) of the natives throughout the district has been good.

The vegetable garden at the Bungalow has been successful. During the period January to June the value of the vegetables consumed amounted to £27. There is a noticeable reduction in the consumption of flour.

The goats purchased during the year are thriving.

The principal increases are in the offences of drunkenness, common assault, disorderly conduct, indecent language, breaches of the War Precautions Act, unlawful possession, and murder, and there is a decrease in the supplying of liquor and opium to natives.

The increases in drunkenness, assault, disorderly conduct, and indecent language, have been caused by the influx of Europeans (the population being about sixty-nine) with wounds on his head, his trousers pockets cut out. Suspicion points to his countrymen who retaliated and murdered them.

A Malay at Darwin. This man was found dead in his tent (which was close to others occupied by his countrymen) with wounds on his head, &c. A considerable sum of money, which, it is alleged, he had on his person, was missing, and his trousers pockets cut out. Suspicion points to his countrymen who retaliated and murdered them.

A Chinaman at Wolfram Camp, Pine Creek. An attempt to murder by poisoning was committed by a native, who was found guilty and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

I regret that, so far, none of the offenders in the Port Bradshaw and Crocodile Islands murders have been brought to justice, and it will require a strong party of police, by land as well as by sea, to succeed.

The police at Borroloola and Roper River are doing their best, and an attempt is being made from Darwin, which I hope will be successful. The natives on this coast have ever been treacherous, and within my recollection have committed about twenty murders. None of the offenders have been brought to account, and I fear murders will continue till police are stationed somewhere in the neighbourhood of Arnhem Bay, which will mean heavy expense. Trepangers, &c, going there will be usually warned to be careful.

The following constables enlisted for active service with the Expeditionary Forces:

Hanson, Richard Davies.
Higgins, Horace.
Hunt, John Alfred Paul.
Kelly, James Harcourt.
Taylor, Frederick William Murray.

Mr. Hanson died of wounds on 8th June, 1917, whilst on active service in France. He was a vigorous, intelligent, and brave police officer, and I very much regret his decease.

Constable Keating died at Bow Hills on 5th November last. He was a returned soldier, and had been appointed to the Northern Territory police in June, 1916. A doctor was not available, and death was attributed to a general break-up of his system.

Seven constables resigned, two were dismissed, two were retransferred to South Australia, and seventeen were retransferred because of the vacancies caused by enlistments, resignations, &c.

The total number of police in the Northern Territory on 30th June ult. was—one inspector, one senior sergeant, two sergeants, twenty-two constables, and twenty-three native constables, or trackers.

Twenty-nine horses died during the two years, and the police mares produced nineteen foals. Eight horses were purchased for remounts, and five were transferred from the railway construction to police.

The police station at Roper River was damaged by flood in December, 1915. The old buildings and cells were destroyed, but the angle iron part withstood the inundation. The constables have effectec repairs.

The police station at Horseshoe Creek has been removed to Marranboy, where the services of the constables are more required, and the police station has been re-opened at Daly River.

The police stations (except Katherine, which requires rebuilding) are reported to be in fair order, with the exception of some repairs, which the constables must attend to.

I have the honour to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,
N. Waters,
Inspector of police.