

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

R E P O R T

ON

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY

FOR THE PERIOD

1ST JULY, 1926, TO 28TH FEBRUARY, 1927.

AND ON

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
TERRITORY OF NORTH AUSTRALIA

FROM

1ST MARCH, 1927, TO 30TH JUNE, 1927.

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FISHERIES.

The Inspector of Fisheries, in an encouraging report, states that 63½ tons of pear shell of an estimated value of £11,500, were obtained. This represents an increase of 20 tons over the figures for the previous year and there is every prospect of the pearling industry expanding yearly. The number of boats now operating is nine.

Thirteen tons of trepang, valued at £900, and 7 tons of dried fish, valued at £672 15s. 6d. were shipped from Darwin.

Seventy pounds of tortoise shell, valued at £88, were exported.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The exports from Darwin for the year were £29,786, the value of imports being £36,814.

ABORIGINALS.

The Chief Protector deals with the health of the aboriginals. A monthly inspection of all half-castes and aboriginals in Darwin is insisted upon.

The supply of liquor and opium to aboriginals, although considerably diminished, continues. There were numerous prosecutions for these offences and every effort is being made to suppress the evils.

The estimated aboriginal population in North and Central Australia, as detailed, is given as 20,542.

Appended to the Chief Protector's report is the report of the Superintendent of the Kahlin Compound and the Half-Caste Home, Darwin.

MISSIONS.

The Commissioner of Police, who was Chief Protector of Aboriginals until 28th February, 1927, carried out an inspection of the Mission Stations during the first half of the year, the result of his visits having been reported to you.

POLICE.

The conduct of the force is excellent, all members being keen.

Since the last report six members have been transferred to Central Australia, one constable died, one was dismissed, and two new appointments have been made, the strength at the end of the year being 32.

Regret is expressed at the death of Constable J. J. Lyons at Borroloola on 13th April 1927.

The return furnished gives the number of offences committed as 385, an increase of 148 on last year's figures, breaches of the Aboriginals and Opium Ordinances and drunkenness being the main causes of the increase.

CLERK OF COURTS.

The business in the Local Court has increased, there having been 304 actions, as compared with 213 during the preceding year. The work in the Police Court also has increased, there being 319 actions as against 243 for the previous year.

The Clerk's report deals with the proceedings in the Supreme Court.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

As shown in the analysis of the year's transactions, there were 30 new estates, ten were finalized, and 61, representing a total sum of £4,334 9s. 8d., were still current on 30th June, 1927.

DARWIN GAOL AND LABOUR PRISON.

The alterations in the gaol and the arrangements for the segregation of the prisoners, ferred to by the Gaoler in his report to the Sheriff, were approved.

The number of prisoners received in the gaol during the year was 158. Of these 150 were scharged, and 45 remained at the end of the year.

TABLE III.

Descent of children on Rolls for June, 1927.

School.	European.		Chinese.	Quadroon.	Half-caste.	Malay Half-caste.	Malay Chinese.	Aboriginal.	Total.
	British.	Greek.							
Darwin	42	8	66	2	3	5	2	..	128
Parap	33	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	37
Pine Creek	6	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	13
Alice Springs	4	..	..	..	43	..	..	..	47
Emungalan	17	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	20
Itinerant Schools	7	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	12
Kahlin Compound .. ..	..	..	..	..	27	..	..	..	27
	109	8							
	117		78	9	73	5	2	..	284

V. L. LAMPE, B.A.,
Head Teacher.

REPORT ON ABORIGINALS DEPARTMENT.

The work of the Department during the year under review consisted of the regulation of aboriginal labour, the issue of rations and the distribution of blankets to old and infirm aboriginals; the care and treatment of the sick and diseased and generally in protecting natives from imposition and fraud.

MEDICAL.

Aboriginals in country districts are treated at the various police stations inland by police officers who are *ex-officio* protectors of aboriginals. Any aboriginal infected with a disease that does not respond promptly to local treatment is sent to Darwin for treatment in the Compound Hospital.

Patients were treated at the Compound Hospital during the year as follows:—

Remaining in at 30th June, 1926	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Admitted during year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
								145
Discharged during year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
Died during year	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
								103
Remaining in at 30th June, 1927				..	..	..	..	42

Details of diseases treated are—

Granuloma .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Gonorrhoea .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Yaws .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Mental Disorder .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Tonsilitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Influenza .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gangrene Foot .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fracture .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Minor Maladies .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
puerperal Sepsis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Deaths were due to—								
Gangrene of Foot .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Granuloma .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Sepsis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

MISSIONS.

The various missions have been carried on with the same estimable exertions as hitherto. A serious attempt to murder the Rev. Theodor Webb and his assistant, Mr. J. A. Robertson, was made by aboriginals early in February this year at Milingimbi. The attempt was fortunately unsuccessful. Three aboriginals were arrested and convicted of wounding with intent to murder John Alexander Robertson, and each was sentenced to three years' imprisonment with hard labour. The Missions at Oenpelli, Roper River, Goulbourn Island, and Milingimbi were visited and inspected during the year by the ex-Chief Protector.

OFFENCES BY ABORIGINALS.

For the year ended 30th June, 1927, the convictions recorded against aboriginals were as follow :—

Wounding with intent to murder	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Escaping custody	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Prohibited area	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Possession of opium or articles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Assault	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Drunk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Fighting in aboriginal reserve	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Breach of Aboriginals Ordinance	3
Smoking opium	5
Supplying liquor to aboriginals	2

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The supply of opium and liquor to aboriginals, although considerably diminished, continues. During the year there were numerous prosecutions for this offence, which resulted in heavy fines being inflicted. Every effort is being made to suppress the evil.

LICENCES.

Two hundred and ninety-two Licences and 315 Agreements were issued during the year, and fees amounting to £121 2s. 6d. were paid to revenue.

TRUST FUND.

The amount of money held in trust for various aboriginals is considerable. The particulars thereof are as follows:—

Credit Balance at 1st July, 1926	..	..	..	..	..	1,597	8	3
Collections during year	..	..	..	..	..	1,465	2	1
						3,062	10	4
Withdrawals during year	..	..	..	..	..	2,092	7	9
Balance 1st July, 1927	..	..	..	..	..	970	2	7

STATISTICS.

A Census of the aboriginal and half-caste population has been taken annually for several years past. The figures are in many instances, owing to the nomadic nature of the aboriginals, only an estimate, but is hoped that by correcting the returns annually, a fairly reliable estimate will be obtained. The estimated aboriginal population is detailed hereunder :—

ABORIGINAL CENSUS, YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1927.

Summary.

Districts.	Full-blood.				Half-castes.				Total.
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Alice Springs	920	710	271	245	28	40	42	57	2,313
Alice Wells	455	330	186	170	6	13	12	13	1,185
Arltunga	138	200	24	30	5	9	2	2	410
Anthony's Lagoon	70	58	18	14	..	2	5	6	173
Borrooloola	500	300	250	130	8	4	5	4	1,201
Brock's Creek	400	300	200	200	14	12	2	7	1,135
Daly River	1,800	1,000	270	180	4	2	4	1	3,261
Darwin	935	681	363	193	39	61	26	38	2,336
Katherine	79	70	24	33	9	4	5	5	229
Lake Nash	28	22	5	3	2	4	1	..	65
Marranboy	133	97	19	17	3	..	1	..	270
Newcastle Waters	131	127	41	33	12	10	12	8	374
Pine Creek	220	227	54	62	5	5	..	..	573
Rankine River	68	63	12	10	5	6	4	4	172
Roper River	1,360	1,367	588	582	13	16	15	12	3,953
Timber Creek	777	526	189	140	16	4	7	10	1,669
Wave Hill	440	435	170	160	8	1	4	5	1,223
	8,454	6,513	2,684	2,202	177	193	147	172	20,542

During the year Mounted Constable Reid, Protector at Daly River, came in contact with 70 aboriginals from, the Fitzmaurice River. None of these understood "pidgin" English and communication was effected through an interpreter. All seemed in perfect health and powerfully built, a number standing 6ft. 2in., two were 6ft. 4in. and one 6ft. 6in. in height.

The treatment of aboriginals during the year has been satisfactory. In such an immense area, it is impossible, of course, to supervise the daily action of isolated men and there may be instances of petty tyrannies. The aboriginals however, are now getting wise enough to know that they have a protecting power to whom they can appeal, and as there have been no reports of ill-treatment of aboriginals, it is safe to assume that such ill-treatment does not exist.

CECIL COOK,
Chief Protector.

REPORT OF KAHLIN COMPOUND, AND HALF-CASTE HOME, DARWIN.

I beg to submit my annual report on the Kahlin Beach Aboriginal Compound and Half-caste Home for the period 1st July, 1926, to 30th June, 1927.

The largest number of aboriginals visiting the Compound at any one time during the year was about 600. This was during the wet season, but as soon as the weather changed to dry, they mostly migrated to their respective hunting grounds, and left a considerable shortage of native labour. At present there are approximately 300.

The average number of aboriginals maintained at the Compound and Half-caste Home was 93, this including old and infirm patients under medical treatment, and those necessary to carry on the usual routine duties. No able-bodied natives receive food at the Compound, unless they are employed by the Institution.

There was a greater demand for native labour this year than during the preceding year, and this I attribute to the sleeper cutters on the railway line employing aboriginal labour.

The average number of inmates in the half-caste home was 29. The present number is 44. All girls over school age have left, either to get married, or do domestic work.

The average cost per head per day for the maintenance of the inmates of the Compound and Half-caste Home was 10d. This figure is estimated from the total expenditure during the year for the efficient running of the Institution, less produce sold to the public. It includes all wages paid but does not include salary paid to the Superintendent, to the Matron of the Home, or to the Clinic Attendant.

The total income from all industries at the Compound and Half-caste Home is £426 7s. 3d., and the expenditure, including wages and material is £1,619 7s. 7d., which leaves a maintenance cost of £1,193 0s. 4d.

All buildings have been lime-washed, and necessary repairs effected by compound labour.

The health of the inmates of the Half-caste Home, has been very good.

Yours faithfully,

HAROLD S. GILES,
Superintendent of Compound.

 REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND CURATOR,
BOTANIC GARDENS, DARWIN.

BOTANIC GARDENS.

Progress has been satisfactory during the year in consonance with the labour allowed, and I am satisfied that a good return has been given for the expenditure incurred.

Improvements effected consist of extra areas levelled, and turned into grass lawn—flower borders resoiled, and the main road gravelled. Drainage has been kept up, and this has minimized the mosquito nuisance.

A good many plants have been labelled in the Gardens, and thus have an added interest to visitors.

In the nursery there are at present 4,000 young plants and seedlings. During the year under review a large number of plants, economic and ornamental, was distributed. A charge of 6d. per plant is made for the plants raised in the gardens except economic plants, which it is desirable to plant as an experiment, and any imported plants, such as citrus trees, are charged for at cost price. 350 citrus trees including orange, lemon, and mandarin were distributed to twenty-one settlers and others. About 100 plants of *taraktogenos kurzii* were given to Mr. Sargent of Stapleton, who undertook to plant them in a favourable spot on the bank of a creek on his property. These trees were planted in the early part of the wet season, and Mr. Sargent now reports that only twenty-five per cent, of his trees are alive. This is the tree that produces the nuts from which *Chaulmoogra* Oil is obtained. Several of these trees have been planted in the Botanic Gardens, but to date have not thrived.

The revenue from trees and plants propagated in the Botanic Gardens amounted to £31 0s. 7d.

THE VEGETABLE GARDEN.

English cabbages and tomatoes were produced, and also some smaller vegetables. Most of the vegetables produced were sent to the Hospital. The young cabbages began to be infested with several kinds of insects including a caterpillar, but a spraying with a solution of about an eighth of an ounce of cyanide dissolved in ten gallons of water effectively destroyed all pests, and no further infection was experienced. This spraying was an experiment, and if used with care this solution appears to be a very valuable remedy. The cyanide being volatile there is no danger of poisoning if used only when the plants are young.

Cassava, which is a plant that thrives in the Territory, and produces a heavy crop, was also grown.

Some imported varieties of sweet potatoes were obtained from Queensland, and were grown in the vegetable garden. The intention is to distribute some of these to the settlers for the next planting.

Amongst donations were two parcels of orchids received from Commander Bennett of the survey vessel *Geranium* which were collected on the islands of the Barrier Reef in the region of Cooktown; a parcel of orchids from the Bishop of Carpentaria, collected on Friday Island; two parcels of tea roses, and some hibiscus (twelve varieties) as well as some dahlia seed, from Mr. D. C. Watts, Darwin; seeds of palms, &c., from the Botanic Gardens, Peradeniya; seeds of vegetables, from the Director of Agriculture, Philippine Islands; grafted plants of Mangoes, from the Director of Agriculture, Philippine Islands; seeds from the Botanic Gardens, Singapore; seeds from the Government Gardens, Perth; plants from the Director, Botanic Gardens, Sydney; and seeds from Mr. C. W. D. Conacher of Darwin.

Correspondence with Botanical and other Institutions abroad was carried on with the purpose of obtaining seeds, &c., for experimental work either by exchange or by purchase. Correspondence has also been exchanged with several Botanical Institutions and Authorities in connexion with the work of plant determination.

The young heifers which were obtained from Mataranka in April, 1926, and were at that time rather wild cattle, have been handled, and, as the calves arrived, milked. These cattle are a mixed breed, more beef strain than anything else; four of them are being milked, and have carried on through the year. The Hospital at the end of June