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South



Australia.



REPORT

OF THE

PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1905.



Adelaide :

C. E. KRISTOW, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1905.

REPORT.

Aborigines Office, Adelaide, August 24th, 1905.

The following report with reference to the aborigines for the year ended June 30th, 1905, is respectfully submitted for the information of the Hon. Minister of Education, &c. :—

The number of aborigines in South Australia, exclusive of the Northern Territory, was as per census of 1901—

Blacks	3,386
Half-castes	502
Total	3,888

During the four years, 1901-5, there have been recorded—

	Blacks.	Half-castes.	Total.
Births	86 ..	101 ..	187
Deaths	298 ..	32 ..	330
Excess of deaths			143

The condition of the aborigines generally has been better. The births (47) and deaths (66) during the year are more equal than formerly, and the return from the depôts (42 in number) show that they have been less dependent on the Government relief, owing to their natural food and sources of employment being more plentiful than usual.

MISSION STATIONS.

Name of Station.	Average Number of Aborigines.	Number of Children.	Births.	Deaths.
Point McLeay	264	135	10	8
Point Pierce	130	47	9	4
Kopperamanna	112	15	3	6
Koonibba, Denial Bay	42	24	8	1
Manunka, River Murray	45	20	3	4
Totals	593	241	33	23

The financial returns from these stations for 1904 show—

	£	s.	d.
Voluntary contributions received	1,154	4	9
Proceeds of produce raised	6,643	5	7
Wages paid to aborigines	1,363	17	0

Of these voluntary receipts the German Lutheran mission raised £843.

Efforts are being made to overcome the difficulty experienced at Point McLeay in trying to provide its large number of inmates with remunerative employment by removing some of them to Point Pierce Station, which has a larger and better reserve, with a good prospect of profitably developing its resources by sheep and agricultural farming. Five new cottages have been built there, and arrangements are being made for the transfer of five native families from Point McLeay.

No serious offences have been reported during the year. The convictions of aborigines were for—

Drunkenness	28
Common assault	3
Larceny	4
Total.....	<u>35</u>

Eight persons were fined for supplying natives with intoxicating liquor.

Forty-nine cases of illness were under treatment in the hospitals at Adelaide, Wallaroo, Port Augusta, and Mount Gambier, and received every care and attention from the hospitals' staff.

The announcement by the Premier in his policy speech of the intention to further legislate for the protection of aborigines will, it is hoped, lead to some action in this direction during the present session of Parliament.

The mission stations at present have no legal status. They should be recognised as reformatory and industrial institutions, which would confer necessary powers on their managers, giving them authority to deal with a class of troublesome and refractory natives.

The question of how to manage a new race of educated half-castes and quadroons, who are increasing in number, requires serious consideration, and some system is necessary for boarding them out and apprenticing them to some suitable employment.

The necessity for additional legislation for the better control and management of the aborigines has been for some time felt and admitted.

The late Minister of Education (Mr. Justice Homburg), after visiting the Point McLeay and Point Pierce mission stations, made the following statement :—“The Government will have to consider a policy of dealing with the half-castes, who are increasing at both stations. I anticipate in the course of 25 years their number will be double what it is now. When the children reach the age of from 14 to 16 years they live at the stations in comparatively enforced idleness, and this is a state of things the Government are bound to remedy. It is not the fault of the natives, because I noticed their children were extremely intelligent; their conduct was exemplary, and the progress they made quite exceptional. At Point Pierce they secured an average of 92 per cent. in the school, which is as high as that obtained in other State schools.

“ Nothing can be done without legislation, but I am sanguine that if the condition of the mission stations is brought before Parliament and it is shown that in the interests of the natives and the districts in which they reside such a course is desirable the necessary legislation will be passed.

“ If Parliament does not sanction such a course, or adopt other means to deal with the somewhat rapidly increasing half-caste population, we will have some difficulty if we have to send these people away from the stations without finding employment for them.”

The Aborigines' Friends' Association has also drawn attention to this subject in the following terms:—“ That an Act for the better protection and control of the aborigines should be passed in this State is more apparent every year. At present we are hampered by the failure of European law to deal effectually with aborigines, who suffer injustice in many ways, owing to the circumstances of their position requiring exceptional treatment.”

The following comparative statement shows the number of aborigines, and the cost of the departments in the States named:—

	South Australia.	Victoria.	N.S. Wales.
Number of aborigines	3,745	365	6,891
Annual vote	£4,210	£4,406	£17,652
Cost per head ..	£1 2s. 10d.	£12 1s. 1d.	£2 11s. 2d.

The correspondence of this office during the year has been— inwards, 960; outwards, 1,345.

The parliamentary vote for the year was £4,210, and the expenditure was as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Provisions for 42 depôts	1,228	9	10
Transport charges, stores and aborigines	486	6	9
Clothing, blankets, &c.	561	0	3
Medical attendance and medicines	169	13	10
Burial charges, destitute aborigines	39	18	6
Fishing tackle, axes, canoes, &c.	103	10	10
Firewood for old, infirm, and sick	6	19	8
Defending aboriginal prisoners	10	15	0
Petty and travelling expenses	40	9	4
Meals aboriginal prisoners and travellers	44	3	10
Postage stamps O.S. and telegrams	19	7	5
Telephone exchange	10	0	0
Printing and stationery	13	19	2
Adelaide Hospital—Contribution	10	10	0
Clerical assistance, Sub-Protector, Port Augusta	12	0	0
Receiving, storing, and issuing stores at G.P.O. stores	20	0	0
Salary Protector of Aborigines	210	0	0
Grant-in-aid Aborigines' Friends' Association for Point McLeay	1,000	0	0
	<u>£3,987</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>

The usual reports are appended from—Sub-Protector, Far North, and Point McLeay, Point Pierce, and Kopperamanna mission stations.

E. L. HAMILTON, P.A.

FAR NORTHERN DISTRICT.

The Sub-Protector (Mr. Clode, Port Augusta) states:—

The general health and conduct of the aborigines has been fairly good. During the year I have inspected the following depôts:—Oodnadatta, Hergott, Beltana, Blinman, Mungeranie, Yardea, Streaky Bay, Fowler's Bay, Elliston, Port Lincoln, Cowell; and, being able to talk the natives' language, I ascertained from them that they were well cared for and that the Government rations, &c., were fairly distributed, and that they had no complaint to find. I also found that the greatest economy had been exercised in issuing the supplies.

Owing to the prospects of a good season the able-bodied natives can obtain employment on the stations, so that I hope there will not be such a heavy drain on the Government supplies next year. I also visited the mission station at Kopperamanna. There were over 100 natives there at the time of my visit, all of whom appeared to be well cared for, and were very contented; and I can truthfully say that very good work is being done by the missionaries. The native girls are taught to read and write, knit and sew, and I have never seen natives better clothed than those I saw at this mission station.

During the year the Wilmington depôt was closed and the rations transferred to Port Augusta.

The offences committed by aborigines were—Drunkenness, four (all fined); larceny, two (both committed for 12 months imprisonment); and three persons were each fined 20s. and costs for supplying liquor to natives.

Very few deaths have been reported. Several have been treated here by Dr. Chenery, of the Port Augusta Hospital, where only two have died during the year. The doctor and nurses have been very kind to the natives under their charge.

POINT McLEAY MISSION STATION.

Mr. Garnett, superintendent, reports—

The average number of aborigines on the mission during the year has been 264, being an increase of five on last year's average. There have been—Births, 10; deaths, 8; marriages, 1.

We have had eight cases of typhoid fever, but I am pleased to say that all have recovered.

The sanitary arrangements of the mission are excellent. Typhoid was contracted by natives living elsewhere, and thus brought to the mission.

Our farm stock consists of 18 horses, 92 horned cattle, and 1,186 sheep.

Owing to being so very short of money we have not been able to find work and wages for the majority of our able-bodied adults, so that the difficulties of management have been greater. It is imperative that the problem of finding employment for our ever-increasing number of young men should be dealt with in the immediate future. Fourteen of our half-caste young men were given notice by our Committee that the mission could no longer support them and that they must seek their living elsewhere. The success of this new regulation has, however, only been indifferent.

The rainfall last year was lighter than usual; consequently the barley crop on the Needles Reserve was of little value except for stock. Of course our Needles soil is of the poorest quality. We stacked about 45 tons of hay on land adjoining the mission, and the pea crop gave 80bush. We have also under cultivation five acres vines, five acres fruit and vegetable garden, 27 acres lucern, and 40 acres forestry.

Our woolwashing industry will altogether leave us owing to continued saltness of Lake Alexandrina unless the proposed barrage at the mouth of the Murray is soon erected.

The loss of this industry means a loss of £250 annually to the mission.

Our school was well reported on at last examination by Inspector Smyth, the percentage of passes being 78·9. Three native boys are doing fifth class work, the number of scholars being—Boys, 37; girls, 30—with an average attendance of 66.

Temperance and other meetings have been successfully held and entertainments given.

We have had no trouble with intoxicants on or about the mission.

Religious services, including Sunday school, have been regularly held and well attended.

The stores, blankets, &c., supplied by your department continue to be a great help, and have been of good quality, and we heartily thank you for the same.

POINT PIERCE MISSION STATION.

Mr. B. Lathern, superintendent, states—

The usual lines of mission work have been steadily pursued during the past 12 months, continued progress having been made in the direction of improving the conditions of the institution generally.

Although the past season was not up to the previous year's standard, yet we did fairly well, chiefly owing to the fact that 1,000 acres, yielding 7bush. per acre, were put under crop (wheat and oats), as against 350 acres, yielding 16bush., in 1903-4. Next year we expect to cultivate a still larger area, with the main object of

breaking up the black grass land, in order to increase its sheep-carrying capacity. About 40 tons of hay were cut, and at present we have about 80 tons on hand.

Live-stock statistics are as follows :—Sheep, 6,400 ; horses, 24 ; cattle, 50 ; pigs, 20—all in fair condition. Some idea may be formed of the tax on our resources when it is noted that over 1,000 sheep are killed annually for ration purposes, which necessitates careful attention being given to the advantageous working of the flocks.

Our wool clip totalled 100 bales.

The general equipment in the matter of agricultural implements and appliances is steadily undergoing improvement, and no less than 18 stone rooms have been built lately to accommodate our increasing population. It has also been found necessary to effect extensive alterations to the superintendent's house, in consequence of its dilapidation.

The number of natives on the mission is 130—a net increase of 14 for the year.

The general health is good, and the discipline and conduct generally is quite up to the average.

During the year the usual Sunday and other services have been held, and fairly well attended. Much attention is paid to cleanliness, and in this respect the station is the subject of much favorable comment from visitors.

The institution is entirely self-supporting, and in consequence of a visit by the late Attorney-General (Mr. Justice Homburg) arrangements are being completed for the reception of several families from the Point McLeay mission.

There are 22 children in the day school, which is under the Education Department. The attendance is good, and the results highly creditable ; but it does seem an anomaly that the Government should provide a teacher to educate the native children up to a fifth class standard and then do nothing further with them. Bearing this in mind, it is to be hoped that the Government will endeavor to do something towards a board of control, which might take the children—or at any rate the boys—when they leave school and place them in a position to learn some trade or occupation whereby they might improve and maintain themselves and become useful members of the community.

KOPPERAMANNA MISSION STATION, KILLALPANINNA.

The Rev. L. Kaibel, chairman of the Lutheran mission, reports—

The number of aborigines on the station, including its out-stations, according to the last returns, is 116, all told. Of these 69 are old and infirm, 29 able-bodied, and the rest children. Our income for mission work in 1904 was £2,914 19s. 9d. This in-

cluded £400 we received from our friends in Germany; £432, raised by our congregations; £700, the result of sale of wool; and the rest from sales of stock. We had to raise a loan of £500, and we also paid off nearly £500. Although we experienced a rather adverse season at Killalpaninna, the stock did not suffer to any great extent, and we hope for a fair return from it for the year commenced. We thank our friends for the help they gave us last year, and commend our work again to their sympathy.

The stock on the station consists of—Sheep, 4,700; horses, 160; cattle, 250; goats, 460.



PORTION OF POINT McLEAY MISSION STATION.



SOME OF THE WILSON FAMILY, POINT McLEAY MISSION.



ANNUAL PICNIC OF POINT MCLEAY NATIVES AND OFFICERS' FAMILIES ON THE COORONG.