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South



Australia.



REPORT

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OF THE



PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1907.



Adelaide :

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1907.

# REPORT.

Aborigines Office, Adelaide, September 19th, 1907.

I have the honor respectfully to submit for the information of the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, &c., the following report on the condition of the aborigines, together with the reports of the managers of the different mission stations, and also the usual financial statement, showing the expenditure of the sum voted by Parliament for the year ended June 30th, 1907.

According to the census of 1901 the aboriginal population of South Australia, exclusive of the Northern Territory, was—

Blacks .....	3,386
Half-castes .....	502
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>3,888</b>

During the year there have been reported—

	Blacks.	Half-castes.
Births .....	22 ..	20
Deaths .....	60 ..	8

The six years 1901-7 show a decrease recorded of 289 blacks, and an increase of 104 half-castes.

The general health and conduct of the natives have been fairly satisfactory; no special epidemic has appeared among them. Several deaths have been noted of very old aborigines, apparently over 80 years; and a woman, the head of the Kingston tribe, died lately whose age was said to be from 90 to 100 years by old European residents, who remembered her as a middle-aged woman when Kingston was first founded.

## MISSION STATIONS.

Name of Station.	Average Number of Aborigines.	Number of Children.	Births.	Deaths.
Point McLeay .....	243	120	15	19
Point Pierce .....	159	72	9	3
Killalpanina (Kopperamanna) .....	94	16	2	8
Koonibba, Denial Bay .....	50	35	4	4
Manunka, River Murray .....	40	20	2	1
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>

The financial returns from these stations for the year show—

	£	s.	d.
Voluntary contributions received .....	1,537	5	7
Proceeds of produce raised .....	6,326	10	1
Wages paid to aborigines .....	1,509	10	3

The sale of the Narrung Estate for closer settlement, which surrounds the Point McLeay mission on the land side, will probably interfere to some extent with that institution. It will lose its isolated position. A new township in its vicinity will be formed, and perhaps a public-house will appear, tending to create a condition of things not favorable to mission work, and under such adverse circumstances very careful management will be necessary.

The question of firewood for a community of about 300 aborigines is also a serious one for consideration. Formerly the mission had the free run of Narrung Estate to remove as much fuel wood as it needed; now the mission has only a supply estimated to last about twelve months.

Referring to the promised introduction of the much-needed legislation on behalf of the aborigines, this is the only Australian State without an Aborigines Protection Act.

Six years ago this question came before Parliament, and was referred to a Committee of the Legislative Council, who, after examining 21 witnesses and taking 114 pages of evidence, recommended the introduction of a Bill with the following provisions:—

1. Issue of certificates to reputable persons, giving authority to employ aborigines or half-castes, and for prohibiting the illicit intercourse of such persons or their employes with female aborigines or half-castes whilst so employed.
2. For prohibiting removal of aborigines from their own district, unless stringent provisions are made for their return.
3. For increased powers to protectors of aborigines, enabling them, amongst other things, to prosecute offenders against the law.
4. To prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquor and opium to natives and half-castes, and to prevent Chinese and other sellers of such articles from harboring natives and half-castes.
5. For preventing the bartering of goods supplied by the Government to aborigines and half-castes.
6. For the further encouragement of *bond fide* mission stations.
7. For the exemption of certain aborigines and half-castes from the provisions of the Act.

A Draft Bill, including above recommendations, has been in preparation for some time, and it is hoped will soon be advanced a further stage.

#### CRIMINAL RECORDS.

The number of aborigines charged with offences during the year was—

Drunkenness .....	44
Common assault .....	1
Larceny .....	1
Murder of aboriginal (at Milang).....	1
Lunacy.....	2
Total.....	49

resulting in 48 convictions, and in the case of murder a verdict of not guilty.

Twelve white persons were convicted for supplying aborigines with intoxicating liquors.

Fifty-seven cases of sickness were admitted into the hospitals at Adelaide, Mount Gambier, Port Augusta, and Wallaroo, and received kind attention from the hospitals' staffs; 19 were cured, 23 relieved, and 7 died, while 8 remained *in statu quo*.

Expenditure on aborigines by different States, 1906 :—

State.	Estimated Native Population.	Expenditure.		
		£	s.	d.
South Australia (excepting N. Territory)	5,745	4,210	0	0
Queensland .....	20,000 (approximate)	9,086	15	0
Victoria .....	365	4,300	0	0
Western Australia .....	30,000 (approximate)	15,099	0	0
New South Wales .....	6,910	18,136	0	0

The correspondence of this office during the year was—inwards, 945; outwards, 1,525.

The amount voted by Parliament for the year was £4,210. The expenditure was as under :—

	£	s.	d.
Provisions for 41 depôts .....	1,167	18	6
Blankets and clothing .....	631	13	8
Transport charges .....	525	18	8
Medical attendance and medicines .....	138	1	5
Boats, fishing tackle, &c. ....	81	16	0
Petty and travelling expenses .....	35	16	11
Firewood for old, infirm, and sick .....	7	5	0
Burial charges .....	42	7	6
Meals, sundry aborigines travelling and prisoners ..	32	9	0
Printing and stationery .....	10	6	10
O.S. postage stamps and telegrams .....	24	0	0
Telephone exchange .....	10	0	0
Law costs, defending aboriginal prisoners .....	21	14	0
Adelaide Hospital—Annual contribution .....	10	10	0
Clerical assistance, office of Sub-Protector, Far North	12	0	0
Receiving, storing, and issuing stores at G.P.O. stores	20	0	0
Protector of Aborigines .....	210	0	0
Grant-in-aid Aborigines' Friends' Association, Point McLeay .....	1,000	0	0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>£3,981</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>

I have to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by the Police Department.

The administration of this office extends to the remote parts of the State, where the police are the only representatives of the Government. They have to be often called upon by different departments of the service for local information and reports, and, when considered in addition to their other multifarious duties, their willing help in looking after the interests of the aborigines deserves special commendation.

Reports are appended from the Sub-Protector, Far North, and the Point McLeay, Point Pierce, Killalpanina (Kopperamanna), and Koonibba mission stations.

E. L. HAMILTON, Acting Protector of Aborigines.

## FAR NORTHERN DISTRICT.

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

I have the honor to submit my annual report on the general conduct and condition of the aborigines in the Far Northern Division for the year ended June 30th, 1907, and I have much pleasure in stating that their conduct on the whole has been fairly good, also their general health.

During the year I have inspected most of the depôts in the settled districts, and from inquiries made from the constables in the outlying parts I find that the aborigines are well cared for, and that the Government rations, &c., have been issued carefully and judiciously. With the present prospects of a good season in the North there should not be such a drain on the Government supplies during the coming year, as there should be plenty of work for the able-bodied and plenty of their natural food and game for those able and willing to hunt for it.

No complaints have reached me of any ill-treatment of the natives.

During the year six were charged with drunkenness, one for riotous conduct, one for larceny, two for indecent language, two for lunacy (one of whom was discharged and the other sent to the lunatic asylum).

Dr. Riddle has attended to a good many aboriginals at the Port Augusta Hospital for colds, consumption, &c. Both the doctor and nurses have been very kind to them.

## POINT McLEAY MISSION STATION.

Mr. A. Redman, superintendent, reports—

The average number of natives at the station during the past year has been 243. The total native population of the district is about 300, all of whom, more or less, come under my supervision.

During the year there have been—Births, 15; deaths, 19; marriages, 2.

The health of the natives is now very satisfactory, very little sickness prevailing; but, taking the year as a whole, the death rate has been high, but includes seven who died in the Adelaide Hospital, sent there from our mission and its surroundings.

Work has been fairly plentiful around the mission this year, and I am pleased to report more of our young men going out and seeking employment, and thus relieving the mission of a burden. We have used every effort in this direction, and have had no trouble with our young people in that respect, and the conduct of the natives generally has been good.

In farm work we have had a successful year, our products, wool, &c., bringing in higher returns than for many years previously; and since the exchange of land with the Narrung Estate, we are placed in a better position as regards stock.

It is a pity the Government could not have seen their way clear to have given us more land at the cutting up of Narrung Estate for closer settlement, as with an increased area we would considerably help to make the mission self-supporting.

The live stock on the station consists of—Sheep, 1,771; horned cattle, 124; horses, 18.















