

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1931.



Adelaide:

HARRISON WEIR, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1932.

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REPORT.

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide, November 2nd, 1931.

To the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

Sir—I have the honor to submit for your information my report on the work of the Aboriginals Department during the year ended June 30th, 1931.

Mr. Francis Garnett, who was appointed to the position of Chief Protector of Aboriginals on July 23rd, 1923, retired on December 11th, 1930, having reached the age of 65 years.

Mr. Garnett, who prior to his appointment as Chief Protector was at different times Superintendent of both Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations, was invited to attend farewell gatherings at both stations, when presentations were made to him by the officers and natives.

The aboriginals, in common with all other sections of the population of this State, have suffered considerably through unemployment; sheep and cattle stations have either closed down altogether, or had stock so depleted that there has been no necessity to employ more than an odd man or two. In the pastoral areas native game has been very scarce owing to the heavy stocking of the country and continuous years of drought, and consequently many additional natives have been forced to draw Government rations.

It is hoped that the splendid rains which have fallen throughout practically the whole of this State will once more put the country in good heart so that at least the able-bodied aboriginals will be able to maintain themselves.

Through the efforts of the United Aborigines' Mission, Mr. Roy L. Thomas, of Balcanoona Station, near Mount Serle, agreed to surrender about 20 square miles of his pastoral lease for the use of the aboriginals of the district. The United Aborigines' Mission have commenced work on this area, but to date have not been able to secure a permanent water supply, although several attempts have been made. Until permanent water is assured, I do not feel inclined to recommend that the land be proclaimed an aboriginal reserve.

Mr. Michael Terry, who led a prospecting party into the aboriginal reserve in the north-west corner of this State, reported to me that he found the natives in that area in good condition and apparently well nourished. He stated that there were quite a large proportion of children amongst the natives seen by his party.

The department has continued its usual activities during the year, supplying old, infirm, and unemployed aboriginals with rations and other necessary services.

Medical attention has been supplied by medical officers, and at the Adelaide Hospital, Queen's Home, and various country hospitals, and rations have been distributed from depots established at police stations and sheep and cattle stations throughout the State.

To all who have assisted in caring for the aboriginals, I offer my sincere thanks.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

The approximate number of aboriginals and half-castes in Australia is 79,531, which includes 17,797 half-castes.

In South Australia the aboriginal population in June, 1931, was 3,349, as against 3,995 in June, 1930. It has been reported to the Government Statist that a number of aboriginals had crossed the border into Queensland and New South Wales, probably accounting to some extent for the decreased total.

The classification of the South Australian aboriginals as in June 1931, supplied by the Statistical Department, is as follows:—

	Full Bloods.		Half-castes.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
Nomadic	608	537	278	287	886	824	1,710
In regular employment ..	184	81	270	48	454	129	583
In supervised camps.....	42	45	264	348	306	393	699
Other	80	80	86	111	166	191	357
Grand total	914	743	898	794	1,812	1,537	3,349
Adults	742	590	581	443	1,323	1,033	2,356
Children	172	153	317	351	489	504	993
Total	914	743	898	794	1,812	1,537	3,349

POINT McLEAY STATION.

Births: 8 half-castes. Deaths: 4 half-castes.
Number on station: 30 full bloods; 327 half-castes; total 357.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

Births: 19 half-castes. Deaths: 6 half-castes.
Number on station: 3 full bloods; 314 half-castes; total 317.

KOONIBBA MISSION.

Births: 1 full blood; 10 half-castes. Deaths: 3 full bloods.
Number on station: 74 full bloods; 130 half-castes; total 204.

POINT McLEAY STATION.

The Superintendent reports that there are 230 acres under crop this year, 200 acres being sown to oats for hay, and 30 acres to barley for pig feed. He has also been planting sand drifts with a suitable sand-binding grass, which has made good growth.

One hundred gum trees have been planted, and it is intended that a progressive tree-planting policy shall be pursued.

Natural feed was not plentiful during the year, and prices for cream and pigs having fallen, the dairy and the pigs have not shown such a good return as previously. The value of cream sold during the 12 months was £271 17s. 5d., and pigs £99 17s. 9d.

The lambing at this Station was only 50 per cent., and considerable losses have been caused through foxes and dogs worrying and killing sheep. About 30 dogs have been destroyed.

The wool clip was 27 bales, which realised £165 11s. 5d.

The population of the Station has increased through natives from adjacent areas, who have hitherto more or less maintained themselves, being thrown on the department for support owing to the general shortage of employment.

A two and a four-roomed cottage have been erected and additions and renovations have been made to several of the older cottages.

Sanitation has been closely watched, and the general health of the natives has been good. Sister M. M. Lenton, who has had charge of the medical work, has given every satisfaction, and is undoubtedly well suited for the position she holds.

The Aborigines' Friends' Association donated £100 towards the sister's salary for the year 1931.

Mr. W. F. Lyddon Cook, as a representative of the Parkin Mission, is still rendering devoted service as missionary, and, in addition to the religious services, conducts various social activities which give the natives an interest and provide a way in which they may beneficially employ their leisure.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

The harvest was again poor, but averages were slightly better than in 1929-30, being wheat 5.42bush. and barley 8.8bush. The Station share of crops was 7,599bush. of wheat and 5,932bush. of barley, and 222½ tons of hay were cut from 327½ acres.

The seasonal prospects are the best for many years, and better returns from all departments of the Station's activities are anticipated for the coming year.

The wool clip totalled 83 bales, realising £419. A 76 per cent. lambing is reported, and 1,293 lambs have been marked.

The losses of sheep on this Station have been very heavy in past years, and an investigation is being held into the causes. It is

apparent that many sheep have been lost by theft in addition to natural losses, and it is hoped that by closer supervision the percentage of losses will be greatly reduced.

The management of Point Pearce has been severely criticised and changes in the staff are to be made which, it is hoped, will lead to a more satisfactory working of this station. Owing to these changes I have not received a report from the late Superintendent on the year's activities.

The housing problem is still acute. Additional cottages have been erected during the year, and cottages which have fallen into disrepair are being renovated as opportunity offers.

The hospital has been maintained. Sister Ivy Ford resigned as sister-in-charge on February 28th, 1931, and Sister E. K. Bray, wife of the Farm Overseer, filled the position until June 1st, 1931, when she left the station to undergo further training. When this is completed it is hoped that Mrs. Bray will again take charge of the hospital.

Religious and social work has been continued by the Anglican and Methodist churches, and the Salvation Army has also visited the station one night each week and held services. My thanks are due to these bodies for assisting with that side of the work.

KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The present Superintendent, Mr. Albert Mueller, commenced duty as such in June, 1930, and the following is taken from his report for the year 1930-31 :—

The rainfall was 7.88in., sufficient for a fair harvest, but continuous wind and drift sand played havoc with the cultivated land, and 400 of the 1,330 acres sown were completely blown away, and other paddocks severely damaged by drift. The total harvest was 1,240 bags of wheat, none of the crop being high enough to cut for hay.

Crops sown this year are doing exceptionally well, 2,100 acres have been sown by the Mission, and a further 700 by two sharefarmers. There is an abundance of feed, and the stock is looking well.

The most serious difficulties were caused through lack of employment; however, the Mission Board made available funds which made it possible to employ men, not needed for the ordinary farm work, on contract work, clearing and stone picking. This enabled better discipline to be maintained than would have been the case if these men were idle.

The sheep suffered considerably through droughty conditions, and wool was of poorer quality than hitherto, the clip realising only £32. Only a few sheep died, and with the better conditions now prevailing they are in good condition, and gave a satisfactory lambing.

There are 67 children attending school under Mr. Bode, and they are making very good progress.

The church work has proved encouraging; 14 adults were baptised and became members of the church, and the majority of them have proved good members. Another large class is receiving religious instruction. Many of the nomadic camp natives who made Koonibba their home during the winter months were reached by the church and induced to attend short services every day.

Dr. Elkin of the Sydney University visited the station in December 1930, and the Superintendent appreciates the assistance and information he was able to give to the station officers.

Rations and medicines were supplied by the department for those in necessitous circumstances.

VARIOUS.

Inspector P. A. Giles, of the Police Department, Port Augusta, reports that there are approximately 1,100 full-blooded natives and 300 half-castes in the northern and western portions of the State. Their general health has been fairly satisfactory. During the year 34 deaths and 29 births have been reported.

In the country north and west of Oodnadatta there have been six complaints of petty larceny from white men's camps and 22 cases of sheep and cattle killing; 12 natives and four white men were convicted for breaches of the Licensing Act. Several other minor offences were brought before the Court.

The present season gives promise of providing more employment for those capable of working and plenty of game for the tribal natives.

Mr. George Aiston, of Mulka, Protector of Aborigines for the Newcastle District, reports that the condition of the aborigines in his district is at present good, and that there is an abundance of food for those who are capable of looking after themselves. Unfortunately the long drought has made some of the aborigines indifferent to their natural foods and they are still demanding rations.

There is only a limited amount of employment available, some of the natives being employed on Kanowana, Clifton Hills, and Murnpeowie Stations.

There has been very little sickness during the year and Mr. Aiston has been able to treat any that has occurred.

As previously mentioned, the United Aborigines' Mission is working among the natives at the Nepabunna Mission in the Mount Serle District. They also have missionaries at Swan Reach and Oodnadatta and continue to conduct the Colebrook Home at Quorn for half-caste children.

The boarding home for aboriginal women and children conducted by the Adelaide City Mission in North Adelaide is doing useful work by providing accommodation, under the supervision of a matron, for women and children visiting the city for medical attendance and other necessary reasons.

During the year the Rev. J. H. Sexton, who for very many years has been Secretary of the Aborigines' Friends' Association and Secretary of the Advisory Council of Aborigines since its inception, was appointed a Protector of Aborigines for the Aboriginal District of Victoria in recognition of the work he had done in the interests of the natives.

The Advisory Council of Aborigines continues to hold its monthly meetings when questions concerning the management and wellbeing of the aboriginals are discussed. During the year Mr. H. B. Crosby resigned his position as a member of the Council and Mr. Walter Hutley, who was a foundation member, died. Their places were taken by Mr. F. Garnett, late Chief Protector of Aborigines, and the Rev. J. Wiltshire, President of the United Aborigines' Mission.

The expenditure and receipts of the department for the year are as follows :—

Head Office—	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries		887	4	5			
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, &c.		5,764	7	4			
Boarding home for aboriginal women		191	2	8			
Advisory Council of Aborigines—							
Printing, stationery, and allowance to secretary.....		25	0	0			
Superannuation fund pensions		278	15	5			
Point Pearce Station—					7,146	9	10
Salaries and wages, &c.		6,259	17	7			
Implements, stock, fertilisers, &c. ..		3,821	2	4			
New cottages		413	2	11			
Purchases for store, &c.		2,999	2	10			
Loan expenditure for improvements on Wardang Island and purchase of stock and implements		41	3	8			
Loan account, interest and depreciation		305	2	8			
					13,839	12	0
Point McLeay Station—		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries and wages.....		3,389	3	11			
Implements, stock, supplies, &c.....		2,761	16	3			
Interest and rent of sections		171	18	3			
Purchases for store, &c.		2,913	13	1			
					9,236	11	6
					£30,222	13	4

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station	2,155	10	7
From store sales, Point Pearce Station	3,574	15	1
From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station . . .	1,545	11	8
From stores sales, Point McLeay Station	2,935	16	8
Refund of advances for fares, &c.	45	6	10
	<hr/>		
	£10,257	0	10

The total expenditure is £2,434 6s. 5d. less than the previous 12 months.

The total receipts show a decrease of £1,182 2s. 11d. on last year.

	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure	30,222	13	4
Less total receipts	10,257	0	10

Cost of aborigines to South Australian Government for 12 months ended June 30th, 1931.	£19,965	12	6
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I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

Balance-sheet of the Point McLeay Station as at June 30th, 1931.

LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government Account	64,044	3	10			
H.M. Government Deposit Account	72	9	3			
				<hr/>		
				64,116	13	1
Sundry creditors	—			644	9	7
Capital Account	—			5,550	6	4
				<hr/>		
				£70,311	9	0

ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	6,756	1	9			
Cottages and hospital transferred from Pompoota	2,080	10	7			
				<hr/>		
				8,836	12	4
Land purchased	—			2,122	15	0
Improvements	—			3,224	15	9
Implements, vehicles, &c.	649	10	0			
Harness	50	0	0			
Furniture	90	11	6			
Hospital furniture	61	15	5			
				<hr/>		
				851	16	11

ASSETS—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Stock on hand—						
Store	509	14	8			
Horses	315	0	0			
Cattle	779	0	0			
Sheep	440	2	0			
Pigs	101	0	0			
Farm tools, fodder, building and fencing material, &c.	364	0	8			
Sheep skins	1	7	6			
				2,510	4	10
Cash on hand	—			42	7	9
Sundry debtors	—			147	12	10
Net loss for year	5,398	13	6			
Add net loss brought forward, 1915-30 ..	47,176	10	1			
				52,575	3	7
				<u>£70,311</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

September 9th, 1931.

*Profit and Loss Account of the Point McLeay Station for the year
ended June 30th, 1931.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Farm account, dairy and other pro- duce	—			975	3	9
Meat	—			26	16	4
Rations for aborigines	1,165	13	6			
School books for aboriginal children .	19	0	4			
Hospital rations and expenses	15	11	1			
				1,200	4	11
Salary of Superintendent and farm overseer	435	10	5			
Wages of aborigines and white laborers	2,757	14	2			
				3,193	4	7
Accident insurance	—			23	6	9
Depreciation—						
Implements	25	2	5			
Harness	85	7	3			
Furniture	17	14	11			
				128	4	7
Rent	—			41	15	9
Interest on land under purchase	—			130	2	6
Head office salaries and expenses ...	—			97	18	7
Net loss from 1915-30	—			47,176	10	1
				<u>£52,993</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>

<i>Profit and Loss A/c—contd.</i>		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cattle		39	12	10			
Horses		0	8	1			
Sheep		87	1	0			
Pigs		34	17	9			
					161	19	8
Store		—			256	4	7
Net loss for year		5,398	13	6			
Add net loss brought forward, 1915-30		47,176	10	1			
					52,575	3	7
					£52,993	7	10

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

September 9th, 1931.

Balance-sheet of the Point Pearce Station as at June 30th, 1931.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account.....		49,161	19	8			
H.M. Government deposit account		387	3	1			
H.M. Government loan account		1,651	14	6			
					51,200	17	3
Capital account		—			11,362	9	5
Sundry creditors		—			476	15	6
					£63,040	2	2
ASSETS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings		10,548	15	10			
New cottages		2,580	7	10			
					13,129	3	8
Improvements		—			7,634	19	2
Implements, vehicles, &c.		1,640	19	7			
Harness		143	6	0			
Furniture		111	18	10			
Hospital furniture		38	1	8			
					1,934	6	1
Cash on hand		—			13	10	6
Sundry debtors		—			769	5	8
Stock on hand— Horses		356	0	0			
Cattle		402	0	0			
Sheep		2,887	2	6			
Pigs		103	5	0			
Farm stores, seed, super, timber, fencing material, &c.		985	6	2			
Sheepskins		11	12	6			
Hospital equipment.....		24	4	6			
Store		615	5	7			
					5,384	16	3
Net loss for year		8,163	18	4			
Add net loss, 1915-30, brought forward..		26,010	2	6			
					34,174	0	10
					£63,040	2	2

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

September 9th, 1931.

*Profit and Loss Account of the Point Pearce Station for the Year ended
June 30th, 1931.*

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Farm and general expenses, wheat, barley, &c.	—		1,224	4 10
Horses	—		105	0 0
Salaries of Officers	784	16 8		
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	5,336	0 4		
			<u>6,120</u>	<u>17 0</u>
Rations for aboriginals	936	7 11		
School books for aboriginal children..	28	7 8		
Hospital account	4	4 8		
			<u>969</u>	<u>0 3</u>
Depreciation	—		24	0 0
Accident insurance	—		56	3 4
Head office salaries and expenses...	—		97	18 7
Interest on loan account	—		94	19 8
Balance net loss brought forward...	—		26,010	2 6
			<u>£34,702</u>	<u>6 2</u>

	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
By Store account	—		213	12 3
Pigs	23	16 6		
Cattle	97	8 11		
Sheep	104	6 2		
			<u>225</u>	<u>11 7</u>
Meat	—		69	11 6
Rent	—		19	10 0
Balance net loss for year 1930-31 ...	8,163	18 4		
Add net loss 1915-1930 brought forward	26,010	2 6		
			<u>34,174</u>	<u>0 10</u>
			<u>£34,702</u>	<u>6 2</u>

M. T. McLEAN, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

September 9th, 1931.