

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

REPORT

OF THE

ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1951

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1952.

Report of the Aborigines Protection Board for the Year ended 30th June, 1951

Aborigines Protection Board, Adelaide,

3rd September, 1951.

To His Excellency, Lieutenant-General SIR CHARLES WILLOUGHBY MORE NORRIE, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,
Governor in and over the State of South Australia, and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency :—

We do ourselves the honour to submit the annual report of the Aborigines Protection Board for the year ended 30th June, 1951.

During the year under review there were a number of interesting and important developments affecting the welfare of the aborigines under the control of the Board. The most important development, and one that will have a beneficial effect on a large group of aborigines, was the acquisition by the South Australian Government of a large pastoral station in the south-western portion of the State from the Yalata Pastoral Company at a cost of approximately £68,000. It will be used as a future home and training centre for 250 aborigines now living at Ooldea and along the Trans-Australian Railway Line.

The property comprises approximately 1,500 sq. miles of pastoral country, with access to the sea for many miles around the head of the Great Australian Bight. All improvements, such as houses, modern wool sheds, water tanks, wells, fences, motor vehicles, shearing plant, and approximately 7,000 sheep in the wool were acquired with the property.

For many years the Board has been seriously concerned with regard to the welfare of 250 aborigines, mostly of the full blood, based on Ooldea, but wandering along the Trans-Australian Railway Line, and also along the south coast, without any specific occupation and little or no prospect of employment. The younger men who had passed through the Ooldea school could not be employed in the district, which comprises very poor land useless for pastoral purposes, and containing very little native game and other foods.

Ooldea was not chosen as a suitable place for a mission, but it has been for many generations a ceremonial ground and gathering place for all aborigines in the western part of the State. As the aborigines were already living at and around Ooldea, the United Aborigines Mission established a mission centre there in 1934, and accepted responsibility, in co-operation with the Board, for the physical, mental, and moral welfare of these people.

It is proposed to remove this group of aborigines from Ooldea to the newly acquired property, and it is expected that the older members of the tribe will revert to their age-old practice of hunting game and collecting other native foods, which abound on a considerable portion of Yalata Station.

The young men will be instructed in sheep husbandry and pastoral pursuits, including shearing, boundary riding, fencing, and general maintenance work. When fully trained, it is expected they will be able to maintain themselves, without further assistance, by working on stations and farms.

It is estimated that the property will carry 17,000 sheep, but it is probable, owing to seasonal conditions varying greatly in this area, that from 10,000 to 12,000 sheep on the average will be kept on the station.

There is an abundance of firewood at Yalata, and ample supplies of water for stock. Water for human consumption is available from wells, artificial catchments, and from soaks along various parts of the coast.

Another historically important and interesting event during the year was the unveiling of a bronze plaque embedded in a stone cairn erected to mark the spot where the late Rev. George Taplin commenced his great work of establishing the Point McLeay Mission.

The cairn was built by the local natives under the supervision of Mr. Bartlett, Manager of the station. The plaque was cast by a firm of brass founders in Adelaide. The embossed lettering on the plaque is—" Under a tree growing here, the Rev. George Taplin founded this Mission in 1859 on behalf of the Aborigines' Friends' Association, and instructed the original inhabitants, resulting in their adoption of the Christian faith."

A large number of natives and white people assembled for the unveiling ceremony, which was performed by the Secretary of the Aborigines' Friends' Association, the Rev. Gordon Rowe. In unveiling the memorial Mr. Rowe said—" The Rev. George Taplin was for twenty-one years the agent and general superintendent of the association, discharging the onerous duties of his office with the utmost intelligence, with unswerving fidelity and indefatigable industry. His work was of the most varied character, and, during the long period of service, he served, as occasion required, as pastor, teacher, medical attendant to both natives and settlers, and, in addition, controlled the general work of the station. Mr. Taplin had acquired a knowledge of the Narrinyeri tribes, both critically, so as to arrange the language grammatically, and practically, so as to conduct the public worship of God in the native tongue. He had also translated portions of the Holy Scripture into the mother language of the people around him."

The Hon. M. McIntosh, Minister of Works and Chairman of the Aborigines Protection Board, and Mr. David Unaipon, representing the native residents, each addressed the gathering.

Amongst those present were Messrs. W. J. Blackwell, N. E. Taplin, and Mrs. Elliot (grandchildren of the Rev. George Taplin), Professor J. B. Cleland, Deputy Chairman of the Aborigines Protection Board, Mr. W. R. Penhall, Secretary of the Board and Head of the Aborigines Department, Mr. C. E. Bartlett, Manager of the Point McLeay Station, and Mr. W. T. Lawrie, Head Teacher of the Point McLeay School.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA—JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

The Secretary of the Aborigines Protection Board was appointed a member of the South Australian Committee, and it was appropriate that the aborigines were invited to play an important part in the Jubilee Celebrations.

The 9th May, 1951, was proclaimed a public holiday in South Australia, and a splendid pageant consisting of a large number of gaily decorated floats representing Government departments, district councils, business houses, sporting organizations, etc., proceeded through the streets of Adelaide.

One float entered by the United Aborigines Mission provided convincing evidence of the great advance in aboriginal welfare work in this State. Many young aborigines from the Colebrook Home at Eden Hills, and older persons who were trained in this institution, illustrated the various trades and professions in which they are engaged. The nursing profession was represented by several nurses, and, in addition, musical, weaving, and other industrial and scholastic phases of the training provided were displayed.

The Jubilee Committee provided a number of cups and medallions for competition by aborigines living at the various mission stations and institutions, and arrangements have been made for suitable competitions and sports meetings to be held before the end of the Jubilee year.

The most spectacular events in which aborigines took part were in connection with the re-enactment of Captain Charles Sturt's journey down the River Murray.

At the United Aborigines Mission at Gerard, near Berri, a great welcome was accorded the voyagers by the local aborigines, particularly the children, who provided splendid entertainment for the visitors.

At Swan Reach the aborigines combined with the members of the white community to welcome members of the expedition.

Possibly the most spectacular events took place at Point McLeay and at Goolwa, where the final ceremony took place on Sunday, the 11th February, 1951. Extracts from reports in the press, and also the Australian Broadcasting Commission are set out hereunder :—

Australian aborigines played a useful role in the success of one of the highlights of the Jubilee Celebrations—the re-enactment of Charles Sturt's famous journey down the Murray one hundred and twenty years ago.

On the 9th February, 1951, the expedition completed the journey along the River Murray, the crew cheering wildly as they left the river and entered into the broad expanse of Lake Alexandrina. More than 300 natives at Point McLeay Mission Station crowded on to the narrow jetty to greet the whaleboat crew and the accompanying army "ducks."

When the whaleboat and "duck" crews went ashore a war party of about 25 aborigines staged a mock attack on them. Some of the men in the war party were descendants of the aborigines who met Charles Sturt near this spot one hundred and twenty years ago. Mrs. Pinkie Mack, an old native woman, sat on a hillock near the warriors beating time and rocking from side to side as she chanted the native war song and urged the young men to drive the white men back into the lake.

The natives later travelled by truck from Point McLeay across the barrages to Hindmarsh Island to perform the corroboree "Big River" in honour of the whaleboat crew. "Big River" corroboree is the native traditional story of the River Murray. Very few of the natives had taken part in this corroboree before, but they were taught the legend and steps of the dance by Mrs. Mack, who is over 80 years of age.

At Goolwa, where the expedition ended, the crew were again greeted by this large group of aborigines. Here the corroboree "Nureeah," a legend of "a man who came down the river," was performed. The leader of the aboriginal party presented his spear to Grant Taylor, the actor portraying Captain Sturt, as a symbol of friendship.

Officials of the Australian Broadcasting Commission who had organized the re-enactment expedition, said that the aborigines had co-operated well, and had played their parts with intelligence and understanding.

AUSTRALIAN FILM "KANGAROO" IN TECHNICOLOR.

During the year under review the first full-scale Australian film in technicolor was produced in the Flinders Ranges, near Port Augusta.

The production of the film was undertaken by the Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. The American producers were greatly impressed by the work of the aborigines from Ooldea in producing the film "Bitter Springs" last year. Consequently they requested the services of these aborigines in connection with the production of "Kangaroo." The Board agreed to make the necessary arrangements for the transport, accommodation, and maintenance of the aborigines, and laid down certain conditions of work and remuneration.

Sixty men and 37 women and children were brought from Ooldea to an ideal camp site established at Spear Creek in the Flinders Ranges on the property of Mr. J. Herde of Port Augusta.

The camp was under the control of Mr. H. E. Green and Mr. H. E. Reichenbach of the United Aborigines Mission. Regular visits were made to the camp by officers of the Aborigines Department. Contracts for food supplies and other amenities for the aborigines were arranged by the Board.

The parts played by the aborigines included the "Rain Dance" and a corroboree.

When not engaged in film producing work, the aborigines were busily engaged making spears and other weapons and curios, which they sold to local residents and visitors to the camp.

When their work was completed, the aborigines returned to Ooldea under the care of Mr. Green, who stated—"All had a wonderful time in camp, putting on weight and feeling remarkably well and happy." It was a pleasant paid holiday for the aborigines.

The Board expresses its sincere thanks to Mr. L. G. Riches, M.P., Mayor of Port Augusta, for assistance rendered in arranging for a satisfactory camp site, and also food contracts with local business houses; also to Mr. Herde for the use of his property, and to Messrs. Green and Reichenbach for their services in supervising the camp.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE ABORIGINES ACT.

In pursuance of its policy to provide all aborigines of character and ability with an opportunity to become useful citizens, the Board during the year released a number of such persons from control.

An unconditional declaration of exemption was made in respect of two persons, and also of 45 others who had completed satisfactorily a term of exemption on probation.

A limited declaration of exemption was made in respect of 27 persons.

Applications for exemption from 11 other aborigines were not granted, as it was considered they had not reached the standard of life and conduct required in exempted persons.

It was found necessary to revoke the limited declaration of exemption previously made in respect of seven aborigines. Of this number three were again brought under control of the Board at their own request.

In 1939 the Aborigines Act was amended to provide—In any case where the Aborigines Protection Board is of opinion that any aborigine by reason of his character and standard of intelligence and development should be exempted from the provisions of this Act, the Board may, by notice in writing, declare that “the aborigine shall cease to be an aborigine.”

It is interesting to record that, during the interim period, the Board has pursued an active policy with regard to the principle of exemption, as revealed in the following statistics :—

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Exempted unconditionally..... | 179 |
| 2. Exempted on probation and subsequently exempted unconditionally | 202 |
| 3. Removed entirely from the control of the Board | 381 |
| 4. Exempted persons brought again under the control of the Board | 93 |
| 5. Remaining on probationary exemption | 81 |
| 6. Total number of persons exempted. | 555 |

While it cannot be claimed that all of the 381 aborigines released entirely from control are maintaining a satisfactory standard of life and conduct, the majority are undoubtedly making a praiseworthy effort to live independent and useful lives. Their families are maintained without assistance from the Board, and they are accepting the responsibilities and enjoying the privileges of full citizenship. The progress of the remaining members of this group is retarded by several factors, particularly their inability to break finally with old associations, due, in some measure, to feeling they are not accepted on the basis of equality in the general community. Another factor seriously retarding their progress is excessive indulgence in intoxicating liquor, to which all exempted persons have access.

The principle of exemption provides for a complete change of environment, and must necessarily impose a severe strain on the mental and moral resources of the individual concerned. It is expected that, given favourable conditions, the second generation of exempted persons will demonstrate their ability to achieve a satisfactory standard of life, and to take their full share of responsibility as citizens of this country.

With regard to the 93 aborigines brought again under the control of the Board, it should be stated that, of this number, declarations of exemption were revoked in respect of 40 persons for excessive drinking, 39 as wives and children of men whose exemptions were revoked, and 14 at their own request for personal or family reasons.

FORWARD PROGRAMME.

In view of the increasing public interest in aboriginal welfare, the Board deems it advisable to set out clearly some of the special projects which, it is hoped, will be implemented during the next few years, viz. :—

1. *Home for Aboriginal Women, North Adelaide.*

New residence for the matron and dormitory building, lounge, etc., for the native women.

2. *Point Pearce Station.*

(a) Installation of electric lighting for houses, public buildings, farm buildings, and streets. This work will be put in hand when light and power mains are erected on Yorke Peninsula.

(b) Improved water supply to permit greater developments in farming and grazing, also the establishment of vegetable and flower gardens. It is hoped that tree planting may be successfully carried out with an improved water supply.

(c) Erection of a hospital for the treatment of maternity cases and minor ailments.

(d) Extension of vocational training.

(e) Additions to the school building.

(f) Improved housing conditions on the station.

3. *Point McLeay Station.*

(a) Installation of electric lighting. This project will probably necessitate the establishment of a generating plant on the station.

(b) Completion of the water scheme being installed by the Engineering and Water Supply Department. The completion of this scheme will permit an extension of the vegetable garden, and also further development of pastures. It will also be possible to reticulate water to every cottage on the station.

(c) Further tree planting for stock shelters, and the beautification of the residential area.

(d) Erection of a new hospital building to replace the present structure, which is unsuitable for the purpose.

(e) Improvement in housing conditions on the station.

4. General.

(a) The continuation of the policy of developing the various missions by grants in aid of approved projects calculated to assist in the development and progress of the aborigines.

(b) The Board is conferring with the South Australian Housing Trust regarding the erection of houses for selected natives in country areas. If satisfactory arrangements can be made, the Board hopes that it will be possible to provide homes for aboriginal families able to live successfully in the general community.

REPORTS FROM POLICE OFFICERS, MISSIONARIES, AND STATION MANAGERS.

Police reports indicate that practically all able-bodied aborigines are in profitable employment, and that, apart from breaches of the Licensing Act, their conduct has been very satisfactory.

It is again desired to stress the value of, and to express sincere thanks for the excellent service rendered by departmental officers, missionaries, pastoralists, and police officers throughout the State in exercising a friendly supervision of the aborigines, and also in distributing rations on behalf of the Board to those in need.

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION—ERNABELLA.

The superintendent of the mission, the Rev. R. M. Trudinger, reports—As we are dealing with a people who are often reputed to be dying out, it is interesting to report a record attendance at the mission during the year. Over 500 names were recorded, and 400 attended at one time during the Christmas season. There were 18 births, thus indicating that our people are definitely on the increase.

More than 1,200 wild dogs were destroyed during the year, and the money derived from the sale of dog scalps was a welcome addition to the income of the native families.

All women desiring work were employed in the spinning and weaving industry, at one period 120 women were at work.

School attendances varied from 40 to 50 children daily, and fine work was done by the white and native teaching staff. Quite a few older girls will soon be leaving school, and participating in craft work under the supervision of Mrs. Trudinger.

The sheep flock continues to increase, and this year's wool cheque was quite phenomenal. Mr. Bennett has this work well in hand, and also the well sinking teams, eight new wells having been dug and equipped during the year.

Wages of native workers are being progressively increased as circumstances permit.

A masonry swimming pool was also completed, and there is ample water available for use in the pool, the outflow being used to irrigate the vegetable gardens. This is a great boon to members of the staff, as well as the natives.

A dining room and kitchen for the old and infirm, and also the children, is nearing completion.

Women with young babies attend a clinic each morning for special feeding and general attention.

A cattle-proof boundary fence, 20 miles long, is being erected between Ernabella and Kenmore Park, eight men being employed on this work.

A new church building of cement brick is in course of erection, and, when completed, will greatly facilitate the spiritual aspect of the mission work, particularly amongst the young people, many of whom expressed a desire to be baptised during the year.

An extension of the existing hospital building is planned to include a maternity ward, and also a ward for male patients.

UNITED ABORIGINES MISSION.

The work of the United Aborigines Mission at the various mission centres has been maintained as usual during the year.

In his annual report on the work of the mission, the general secretary, Pastor L. J. Samuels, states—"At Colebrook Home, Eden Hills, Matron Hyde and Sister Rutter have experienced a very busy year in caring for and supervising 50 boys and girls. A number of young women from this institution are maintaining themselves by working in hospitals, schools, business houses, and as domestic helps. The young men are employed in industrial undertakings, on farms, and on pastoral stations.

A special school for the younger children is provided at Colebrook, with Mrs. Friebe in charge.

Friends of the mission presented an electric washing machine for use at the home during the year.

Work has proceeded as usual at the Finnis Springs Mission.

There was a considerable amount of sickness at the mission, but prompt action under the direction of the Flying Doctor resulted in all patients recovering their health.

Four senior girls trained in the mission school are rendering good community service at Finnis Springs under the direction of the superintendent, Mr. A. J. Pearce.

There is work available for all able-bodied people on the stations surrounding the mission.

Rations were issued as usual to the old and infirm aborigines.

At the Gerard Mission there were some changes in the staff. Mr. and Mrs. Bateman are now in charge of the station, and Miss Ruth Bulpitt has taken charge of the school. Miss Rita Lovibond continues to do a great work amongst the children in the dormitory.

The fruit trees in the orchard are developing satisfactorily, and the returns from wool sold were very satisfactory.

The irrigation scheme has not been completed, but it is expected that there will be plenty of water for the community garden shortly.

Building activities have also been curtailed, due to the scarcity of skilled workmen.

There is plenty of work available in the district, and the aborigines are all gainfully employed.

The Nepabunna Mission in the Flinders Ranges, under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Eaton, is chiefly a place of residence for the wives and children of men who work at the Leigh Creek coal mine, and on the surrounding pastoral stations.

A school for the children is conducted by Mr. Hathaway.

The superintendent, Mr. Eaton, is greatly interested in mining, and is endeavouring to interest the aborigines in a barytes mine he has started in the hills near the mission.

Mr. and Mrs. Eaton distribute rations to the old people, and care for the sick under the direction of the Flying Doctor.

The children's dormitory at Oodnadatta is under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull, who are assisted by two native helpers, the Misses Lester and Abdulla. There are 15 children in residence, chiefly neglected and orphan children gathered from camps in the surrounding district. There is a special school at the mission conducted by the superintendent.

Funds have been provided for a new and larger dormitory building, which will be erected when materials and labour are available.

The Ooldea Mission will soon be closed, and the native people removed to the newly acquired Yalata pastoral station.

During the year under review routine work in the children's dormitories and the school has proceeded as usual. There are 52 children in the dormitories, and a similar number attend the special school conducted by Mr. Barrett.

The superintendent, Mr. Green, has undertaken a considerable amount of medical work under the direction of the "Flying Doctor." Several epidemics of influenza and pneumonia, persisting for several months, and resulting in a number of deaths, imposed a great strain on the mission staff.

Rations were provided by the department for both adults and children at Ooldea on account of the great scarcity of game and native foods.

Some of the young men were employed on surrounding stations, and a large number were at Port Augusta for several weeks helping to produce the film 'Kangaroo.'

UMEEWARRA MISSION—PORT AUGUSTA.

Matron K. M. Simmons reports a very successful year.

An event of great educational value to the children living in the mission home was a brief holiday at Mylor during the summer vacation. Many of the children had not previously visited Adelaide. The holiday was made possible by the co-operative efforts of the mission and the Board. Picnics and other entertainments arranged by the mission staff, and friends of the mission at Port Augusta, were greatly appreciated by the children.

Lena Lang, one of the girls in residence at the home, completed her training in the home and proceeded to the Training College for Native Workers at Singleton, New South Wales, and very favourable reports have been received regarding her work. Another girl is preparing to enter the college early next year.

Sister Morton, a fully trained nurse, joined the staff during the year, and her services are of inestimable value at the mission.

The Board provides transport to the Port Augusta hospital when necessary. The services of Dr. Thompson and the matron and staff of the hospital are freely given and greatly appreciated.

There were six births, four deaths, and three marriages during the year.

Provision has been made for a grant of £750 this year towards the cost of additions to this excellent institution.

LUTHERAN MISSION—KOONIBBA.

The superintendent, Pastor Eckermann, in his report states—"The Koonibba Mission has again experienced a successful year.

The most important development has undoubtedly been the launching of the mission building programme after many delays due to the scarcity of labour and materials. Almost £2,000 has been expended on renovations to existing buildings, and work on the erection of a new hall is well under way. Materials needed for the erection of a new dormitory for the boys, new cottages for the native families, and for the extension of the hospital building, have been acquired.

At a convention of the Lutheran Church it was decided to establish an outstation on southern Eyre Peninsula, to provide better housing and conditions for the considerable number of natives settled in this area.

The children's home has 41 inmates, who are cared for by a competent staff. Several girls trained in the home have taken positions in various parts of the State. One boy, Lindsay Benbolt, after completing the course in the local primary school, was transferred to Concordia College for further study.

The mission school under Mr. Bruggemann has a roll strength of 68 children, and special attention is paid to handicraft work. A power-driven combination saw and plane has been added to the wood-working equipment at the school. The school has also been provided with first-class playground equipment.

The medical work is in the capable hands of Dr. Gibson and Dr. Mueller of Ceduna, and Sister Jericho is doing a great work in charge of the hospital.

The native women under the supervision of Mrs. Bruggemann and Miss Mibus continue to show great interest in arts and craft work, and the sales of articles made realized over £100. In addition instruction in dressmaking and machine knitting is provided.

The harvest was almost a total failure, but returns from the flock of 1,600 sheep were very good.

The spiritual, social, and recreational activities of the mission have been maintained throughout the year.

It is intended to erect additional cottages during next year, a grant of £750 toward the cost having been made by the Aborigines Protection Board."

POINT McLEAY STATION.

The population at Point McLeay on the 30th June, 1951, was 340, comprising 180 males and 160 females. During the year there were 29 births and 10 deaths.

Three native families left the station, and were provided with houses by the Railways Commissioner. In each case the head of the family is employed in the Railways Department.

Owing to an almost complete change of staff the operation of this station during the year under review has proved rather difficult. It requires a considerable amount of time for newly appointed officers to acquire a knowledge of the station work and the customs of the people.

The health of the aborigines living on the station has been fairly good, there having been no serious epidemics of sickness. The nurse in charge, Sister Crowell, has endeavoured to establish a baby clinic, but some of the mothers are not very co-operative in this matter. They do not appear to realize the importance of adequate and regular meals for the children. Dr. Coates, who is in charge of the medical work, visited the station each month, and, in addition, interviewed a considerable number of patients at his surgery in Tailem Bend. A number of patients were conveyed to the various hospitals in Adelaide by ambulance, a new motor ambulance having been purchased and put into commission during the year.

While the conduct of the majority of the native residents has been quite satisfactory, there is a small section, chiefly young men employed elsewhere, who obtain intoxicating liquor from unscrupulous white people and frequently disturb the peace by arriving on the station under the influence of liquor. A police officer stationed at Narrung would undoubtedly have a deterrent effect, and would help materially in maintaining discipline on the station.

A new stone room was added to each of three native cottages, and a sleepout was built at another house. A fine shelter shed was erected at the school by native workmen under the supervision of the Architect-in-Chief. A room is also under construction at the school for heating and distributing milk to the school children. Some of the cottages are very old, and, although kept in a reasonable state of repair, will have to be replaced in the near future.

The return from the sale of wool, viz., £3,740, was very satisfactory, the top price being 129 pence per lb.

The lambing this year was also very good.

Owing to the high price of wool, some difficulty was experienced in obtaining sheep for the meat supply.

The harvest returns were somewhat disappointing, due to the lack of finishing rains, but the pastures showed considerable improvement.

The spiritual work on the station is carried on by officers of the Salvation Army, who are doing good work, particularly amongst the children and young people.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrie, who were in charge of the local school for many years, retired during the year. The Board desires to express its sincere thanks to them for many years of effective and conscientious service. Unfortunately Mr. Lawrie passed away soon after his retirement, and the Board tenders its sincere sympathy to Mrs. Lawrie and members of the family.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

A census of the native population taken on the 30th June, 1951, revealed a total of 394 persons, 204 males and 190 females. There were 18 births and six deaths during the year.

The health of the natives was reasonably good. Mild epidemics of influenza and pneumonia occasioned plenty of work for the medical officer, Dr. Wallmann, who visited the station regularly, and also for Mrs. D. Goodhand, who is assisting with the medical work. Despite continuous advertising, it has not been possible to secure a double certificated nurse for the station. Twenty-seven patients, chiefly midwifery cases, were conveyed to hospital at Wallaroo per ambulance, while 16 patients were X-rayed at Maitland.

Mr. H. Trenorden is in charge of the local school, the average attendance being approximately 100 children. Plans have been prepared for the enlargement of the school building to permit an extension of technical training. A piano and a duplicating machine are on order, and will be of great benefit when actually in use in the school.

Miss Lea and Miss Coutts, assistant teachers at the school, have introduced folk dancing and basketball, and the children and young people are greatly interested in the new venture. Next year it is expected that a team from the station will be playing other teams in the district. Uniforms for the girls were purchased from funds raised at social gatherings on the station.

The conduct of some of the natives on the station has not been very good, chiefly on account of breaches of the Licensing Act. Aborigines here, as elsewhere, appear to be able to obtain supplies of liquor quite freely from unscrupulous white people.

Religious services were conducted regularly by the Methodist and Lutheran churches, and it is particularly pleasing to report that the Anglican church services, discontinued several years ago, have been revived at Point Pearce.

The cottages occupied by the natives have been maintained in good order in spite of the scarcity of building materials. Some of the farm buildings in need of repairs will be put in order when the timber and iron required becomes available.

It is pleasing to report a successful year on the farm.

In connection with the sharefarming scheme, in which the native sharefarmers do the work on the farm at a fixed wage, plus a share in the grain produced, the results were satisfactory to all concerned.

Under the scheme 820 acres of wheat sown yielded 2,144 bags of grain, and 150 tons of hay. The sharefarmers received 600 bags of grain as their share of this crop.

Ninety acres of wheat sown as a station enterprise returned 301 bags of grain, and 130 acres sown to barley produced 780 bags of grain.

Two thousand five hundred and ninety-seven sheep shorn, including 533 lambs, produced 25,738 lb. of wool, yielding £9,105. The highest price obtained was 122 pence per lb. The sheep produced an average fleece of 11·84 lb. of wool, valued at £4 13s. 11d. Six hundred and seven sheep skins sold returned £1,674.

Returns from cattle and pigs sold were also very satisfactory.

A large herd of milking cows is maintained to provide free milk for all local residents.

A statement of departmental receipts and payments for the year ended 30th June, 1951, is appended.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

M. McINTOSH, Chairman,
 J. B. CLELAND, Deputy Chairman,
 CONSTANCE M. COOKE,
 A. M. JOHNSTON,
 GORDON ROWE,
 LEN J. COOK,
 W. R. PENHALL, Secretary,

} Aborigines
 } Protection
 } Board.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1951.

| RECEIPTS. | | | EXPENDITURE. | | | | | |
|---|---------|-------|---|--------|-------|----------|-------|--|
| Point Pearce Station— | £ | s. d. | Head Office— | £ | s. d. | £ | s. d. | |
| Sales of produce, etc. | 15,490 | 14 7 | Salaries | 5,878 | 10 0 | | | |
| Store sales | 5,899 | 7 9 | Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical, dental, and optical expenses, transport, etc. | 12,569 | 16 7 | | | |
| Point McLeay Station— | | | Aborigines Home, North Adelaide. | 128 | 11 4 | | | |
| Sales of produce, etc. | 7,528 | 7 4 | Development of reserves for abori- gines | 329 | 15 6 | | | |
| Store sales | 6,918 | 10 0 | Assistance to fishermen..... | 74 | 5 0 | | | |
| Refund of advances for fares, etc. | 283 | 6 9 | Training half-caste girls for domestic service | 273 | 0 0 | | | |
| Net cost of aborigines to the South Australian Government for the year ended 30th June, 1951 | 100,445 | 10 7 | Superannuation fund pensions.... | 57 | 16 0 | | | |
| | | | Pay roll tax for child endowment. | 640 | 17 6 | | | |
| | | | Purchase of Yalata pastoral prop- erty for use as a reserve for aborigines | 64,957 | 11 4 | 84,910 | 3 3 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Grants to Missions— | | | | | |
| | | | Finniss Springs Mission—Toward cost of new cottages | 500 | 0 0 | | | |
| | | | Gerard Mission—Toward cost of new cottages | 500 | 0 0 | | | |
| | | | Oodnadatta Mission—Toward cost of additions to school building.. | 300 | 0 0 | | | |
| | | | Koonibba Mission—Toward cost of boys' dormitory | 750 | 0 0 | | | |
| | | | Nepabunna Mission—Toward cost of new cottages | 500 | 0 0 | 2,550 | 0 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Point Pearce Station— | | | | | |
| | | | Salaries and wages | 8,557 | 5 8 | | | |
| | | | Implements, stock, fertilizers, etc. | 8,109 | 18 2 | | | |
| | | | Trading Store—Purchases and expenses | 5,647 | 18 5 | | | |
| | | | Purchase of new motor vehicle ... | 744 | 11 0 | 23,059 | 13 3 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Point McLeay Station— | | | | | |
| | | | Salaries and wages | 10,440 | 2 3 | | | |
| | | | Implements, stock, fertilizers, etc.. | 7,556 | 6 9 | | | |
| | | | Rent of section, Hundred of Baker | 41 | 15 9 | | | |
| | | | Purchase of ambulance | 946 | 15 6 | | | |
| | | | Trading Store—Purchases and expenses | 7,061 | 0 3 | 26,046 | 0 6 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | £136,565 | 17 0 | |
| | | | | | | £136,565 | 17 0 | |

3rd September, 1951.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.