SOUTH AUSTRALIA

REPORT

OF THE

ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1956


1957.
Report of the Aborigines Protection Board for the Year ended 30th June, 1956

To His Excellency Air Vice-Marshal Sir Robert Allingham George, Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, and upon whom has been conferred the decoration of the Military Cross, 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, 1956.

The personnel of the Board at the commencement of the year were as follows:—
Hon. Sir Malcolm McIntosh, K.B.E., M.P., Minister of Works, Chairman.
Dr. J. B. Cleland, C.B.E., Deputy Chairman.
Len J. Cook, Esq.
Mrs. Constance M. Cooke.
Mrs. A. M. Johnston.
C. E. Bartlett, Secretary.

After a long period of service as a member of the Board, Mr. Len J. Cook, having retired from his position as Chief Agricultural Advisor, Department of Agriculture, submitted his resignation. The Board desire to express its keen appreciation of the many services rendered by Mr. Cook, particularly with regard to agricultural problems, and of the steady helping effect of his commonsense attitude towards the many difficult problems which have confronted the Board during his term as a member.

On the retirement of Mr. Cook, Mr. A. J. K. Walker of the State Department of Agriculture, was appointed as a member of the Board.

The Board also have pleasure in congratulating its Chairman in being honoured by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, as a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The Board has met fortnightly and owing to still further increase of business, due largely to certain developmental policies and increased social welfare activities, matters have on occasions had to be temporarily deferred. It is most encouraging to report the regular attendance of all members of the Board, indicating their desire to promote the welfare and protect the interests of aborigines, and particularly to assist part aborigines in the settled areas in order that they may lead decent and useful lives as citizens of the State. The Board are of the opinion that with proper housing, some encouragement and assistance from the Department, many part aborigines in the settled areas will thus be enabled to take a full part of the life of the community in which they reside. During the year, the Board visited some of the Government Reserves, Missions and Stations. On such occasions as many natives as possible were interviewed by Board members, this giving the natives an opportunity to express their views and at the same time giving the Board members an opportunity to view the conditions under which the Reserves and Missions are conducted and the natives housed. The Deputy Chairman, Professor J. B. Cleland, and the Secretary of the Board made visits of inspection to many country towns where there are aborigines residing and to ration depots in the pastoral areas, in addition to inspections of Yalata and other Government Reserves and Missions.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Although attempts have been made on several occasions to obtain an accurate census of the number of aborigines in South Australia, it has been found extremely difficult to do so, mainly on account of the nomadic habits of the natives. It is believed that the aboriginal inhabitants of this State number a little over 5,000 and that there are approximately equal proportions of full-bloods and part aborigines, probably a few more part aborigines than full-bloods. Most of the full-bloods are residing on or near Reserves in the far north or on Eyre Peninsula, whereas the greater part of the mixed bloods are situated in the more southern portions of the State.

There is no question of doubt that part aborigines are increasing in numbers. This natural increase of part aborigines is accounted for by the intermarriage of part aborigines, either with full-bloods, mixed bloods or on odd occasions persons other than aborigines. A few part aboriginal women continue to marry new Australians. During the present era of prosperity, the ability of natives to find employment ensures better living conditions for the part aborigine, closer supervision by the Department’s Officers and by Missioners and Police Officers, and enables medical attention to be more readily available. In the circumstances, the aboriginal population both full and mixed bloods, must naturally increase. It is believed that the full-bloods are also slowly increasing in numbers. Although this statement cannot be substantiated for the whole of the State, it is known that on certain Reserves, full-bloods are steadily increasing. In one case where accurate records have been kept, the birth-rate has been double the death-rate over the last seven years.

Being aware of these facts, the Board are anxious to improve the lot of all aborigines, particularly by means of education and better housing in order that these people can eventually be fitted to take their place in the community independent of Government assistance. It should be clearly understood, however, that the Board are opposed to any attempts to assimilate the native population rapidly as it is felt that to hasten such a policy would surely end with tragic results. It is believed that to prepare the aborigines for assimilation it is likely that at least three or four generations must pass before these people could be absorbed. Since the inception of the State, many aborigines and their families, thrust into white communities or entering them at their own desire, have found it impossible to be absorbed, in fact as might be expected, they have been ostracized with frequent tragic results.
EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE ABORIGINES’ ACT.

The Board again considered a large number of applicants for exemption from the provisions of the Act. There is little doubt that many applications are made for the sole purpose of permitting the native to obtain intoxicating liquor and few natives appear to make application for the purpose of improving their status in the community. However, after investigation, the Board has given every application full consideration and where the applicant has the required character and standard of intelligence and development, exemptions have been granted. During the year, 19 adults and 13 children were granted Declarations of Exemption and 40 natives were granted Unconditional Declarations of Exemption, most of the latter having completed from two to three years probationary period. The Board rejected or deferred 24 applications, mainly on the grounds that the natives concerned had not the required character, were living in the poorest of conditions and had not attained the standard of development where the applicant could be absorbed into the white community.

Unfortunately it was found necessary to revoke the Limited Declarations of Exemption in 16 cases, some of these at the request of the natives concerned.

Many exempted persons who reach old age or are widowed naturally desire to return to their families and old friends on Reserves. Where an aborigine marries an exempted person, they too are inclined to gravitate to the nearest Reserve. The Aborigines Act, 1934–39 provides that Unconditional Exemptions cannot be revoked but the Board are of the opinion that an exemption should be revocable, particularly in such cases as above mentioned or where it is proved beyond doubt that the granting of the Exemption has had harmful effects on the native concerned or his family.

CITIZENSHIP.

Any aborigines in any community can enjoy the usual privileges of citizenship, with the exception of partaking of intoxicants, simply by living decent, useful lives. There are many such natives, most of whom have no desire to be exempted, they realize that there is so little to gain in the granting of a Declaration of Exemption in their favour. Where aborigines are exempted, whether limited or unconditional, they enjoy all the rights and privileges of a citizen of the State.

Any aborigine or part aborigine, whether exempted or not, with a fixed address, enjoys exactly the same electoral privileges as white people.

The present certificate of Exemption now issued in the form of a pocket-sized folder has proved to be much more durable and a great advantage over the previous type of certificate issued. In regard to the partaking of intoxicants, the Board are of the opinion that the Licensing Act should be amended to define clearly the term ‘half-caste aborigine’.

ERCTION OF HOMES.

It is the policy of the Board to erect homes in country districts for occupation by selected native families. During the year, new homes have been occupied as follows:—Barmera, H. J. Goldsmith, wife and family; Swan Reach, Harry Hunter, wife and family; Swan Reach, J. R. Baxter, wife and family; Cobdogla, B. W. Kite, wife and family; Walkerie, Gilbert Kite, wife and family; Naracoorte, Havelock Carter, wife and family; and recently two new homes at Loxton North have been occupied by Geoff Carter and William Webster and their families. At the present time, homes are in the course of construction at Victor Harbour, Millicent and Beltana.

It is pleasing to report that all of the families occupying this type of home are keeping their homes in excellent order and are, at least to some extent, accepted in the district in which they reside. Their children are educated at local schools and are well spoken of by their teachers. Most pleasing feature is the cleanliness of the yards and surrounding areas and the fact that in most cases, accounts have been promptly paid. The Board are of the opinion that there are real opportunities, particularly as regards employment, for this type of native, and are anxious that as many homes as possible be erected in the near future. There appears little doubt that one of the important reasons why aborigines are condemned is the fact that not being provided with reasonable shelter, they are forced to live in deplorable shacks and “camps”. How can it be expected under such circumstances that either they or their children are likely to be accepted?

The Board have also instituted the policy of erecting homes on certain Aboriginal Reserves, usually situated within a reasonable distance of a township, where small groups of natives can be properly housed. During the year, three such homes have been built at Wellington East, one at Wellington West and one at Walkerie. These homes are being built at the expense of Reserves and should not be confused with the type of Trust home being erected for occupation by natives in country towns. It is to be hoped that the natives occupying these homes can be considered as normal citizens not to be pampered, nor to be ostracized but rather to be accepted with a helping hand where necessary as in any other community.

GRANTS TO MISSIONS, ETC.

Special financial provision was made for the undermentioned grants to Missions:—

Ernabella Mission—Towards new buildings, £2,500; towards cost of water supply, £1,100.

United Aborigines Mission—Towards renovations of Tanderra, £1,000.

The grant made during the previous year to the Umeewarra Mission has been well expended in providing an adjoining room, kitchen and laundry for this Children’s Home. During the year the Board also made a substantial grant to this home for the erection of cyclone fencing. As the home was not supplied with electricity, arrangements have been made for the supply of same by the Electricity Trust, the cost of installation to be a charge against the Department.

The grant made last year has enabled the United Aborigines Mission to complete the Children’s Home at Oodnadatta, enabling the Missioners to better care for the children under their control.

Many smaller grants were made to various Missions and Institutions, including hospital equipment, refrigeration, books for school libraries, school and gymnastic equipment, etc. The Board supplied timber, galvanized iron, etc. for the erection of shacks by natives and do not make such grants except in emergencies. In certain cases, however, building materials have been supplied in order to assist the native to improve his home. A number of advances were made to native fishermen in order to procure fishing nets, boats, etc. In these cases the natives are expected to repay the advances in small monthly instalments.

In order to further the policy of assimilation, every endeavour has been made to find employment for aborigines where homes are provided by the employer. Sixteen natives were found employment with the South Australian Railways in various country towns and the Board are most appreciative of the co-operation of the Railway Commissioner and members of his staff in this matter. It appeared obvious to the Board that for such families to be able to take their place in white communities, they should be provided with a reasonable standard of furniture and equipment.
The Board has therefore adopted the policy of advancing sufficient moneys for the purchase of such necessary furniture and equipment. The Board have also made similar advances to others who have found employment and homes for themselves away from reserves. Advances amounting to approximately £1,700 were made for this purpose. Repayments for the most part have been quite regular and the Board are anxious that further native families can be assisted in this manner.

RELIEF TO NECESSITOUS ABORIGINES.

There are two types of relief issued to aborigines by the Board:—

(a) Supplementary rations are supplied to aborigines at many depots throughout the State. These rations are issued to almost all of the natives including able-bodied natives, where they are not employed, and the aborigines are expected to hunt for native game to supply a large portion of their diet. This particularly applies to some detribalized or the near primitive natives and those residing in the pastoral areas.

(b) Relief is issued to the genuinely unemployed, sick, infirm, widowed or aged aborigines or part aborigines, comparable to that available to any person in similar circumstances. Relief is issued in the settled districts by officers of the Department on Reserves, Missioners and Police Officers in county districts. Such relief is issued in settled areas as native game cannot be obtained and in any case, often the native has lost the ability to hunt for food. The scale of relief is similar to that issued by the Children’s Welfare and Public Relief Department for other than aborigines in similar circumstances. The issue of such relief will prevent, to some extent the return to Reserves of natives who may find themselves temporarily unemployed.

During the year, issues of relief throughout the State increased. Employment was not so easily obtainable by the natives, in fact in some districts there was a considerable proportion unemployed for portions of the year. The Board are most appreciative of the co-operation of Missioners and Police Officers throughout the State who issue relief to necessitous natives and are indeed indebted to the Commissioner of Police in allowing the many services performed for the Board by his Officers.

MAINTENANCE OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IN HOMES.

The Board’s policy of contributing towards the maintenance of aboriginal children in homes or institutions has been somewhat extended. Apart from contributing to the regular native Children’s Homes, a considerable number of the children have been placed in private homes, the Board contributing a reasonable amount towards the maintenance of the child concerned.

The action of the Government in providing the necessary finance for this purpose is greatly appreciated and the various organisations and Missions are also most thankful for the assistance which has considerably lightened their burden in providing for the needs of the children in their care.

There are many part aboriginal children who have little opportunity in their present environment and it is hoped that more private homes will accept one or more of these children in their homes. In order that children with ability may have the opportunity of receiving secondary education, the Board also provide, where possible, for their accommodation, clothing, school books, pocket money, etc. At the present time eight young youths and girls are being so cared for by the Board. On occasions youths entering into apprenticeships or placed in employment have not received a sufficient wage to enable them to pay for their accommodation. In a number of cases the Board has willingly contributed towards the cost of their maintenance, according to the earnings of the youths concerned, in order that they could continue in their apprenticeships or employment. Other young men and girls have been placed in employment in pastoral areas and have been provided with all necessary clothing and equipment. A very pleasing feature of the year’s work is the fact that a number of youths who were so placed in employment in the pastoral areas are rapidly becoming efficient stockmen, are well behaved and are giving their employers every satisfaction as well as accumulating a considerable portion of their wages.

At the present time 186 children are being maintained in various institutions subsidized by the Board as follows:—

Koonibba Lutheran Children’s Home ........................................ 33
Umeewarra Children’s Home .................................................... 47
Colebrooke Home, United Aborigines’ Mission ............................ 32
Oodnadatta Home, United Aborigines’ Mission ......................... 19
Gerard Mission Home, United Aborigines’ Mission ..................... 5
Mount Barker Salvation Army Home ........................................... 14
Tanderra Home, United Aborigines’ Mission (Fed) .................... 9
Various Homes and Institutions ............................................... 27

186

YALATA RESERVE FOR ABORIGINES.

With the proclamation of an additional 277 square miles of unoccupied Crown lands as an Aboriginal Reserve, the success of Yalata should be assured. The Reserve is conducted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australian District Inc., under agreement with the Board. The Church provides for the spiritual and educational needs of the natives and conducts the Reserve as a pastoral station, while the Board is responsible for the physical welfare of the Aborigines, that is rations, clothing, medical attention, etc. In addition, the Board make payment of all rates, etc., and maintain children accommodated in the Children’s Home. The flock of sheep carried has been surplus remained after last year’s transactions and it is the Board’s intention to use this surplus for the establishment of further watering places at Yalata.

During the year, at the request of the Board, Mines Department officials carried out a hydrological survey in an effort to establish further watering places. Certain sites have been selected and it is expected that further native families can be assisted in this manner.
The Reverend H. H. Temme has during the year been appointed by the Church as Superintendent of Yalata and it is expected that greater efforts will now be made by the Church in the establishment of the Children's Home, education and the like. In the meantime, the Board has been very active in the repair and renovation of existing improvements and although there is still a great deal of work to be carried out, the Church is to be congratulated on its efforts towards improving the pastoral activities of Yalata.

The Board are of the opinion that a Patrol Officer should be appointed in this district to assist the Church, the Board and the aborigines in establishing a worthy institution. At Yalata the natives are still living a nomadic life and sheds and tanks have recently been erected throughout the Reserve to assure sufficient water for human consumption.

A new home was erected for the Superintendent and accommodation provided for his assistant. As many as 350 natives have been camped at this Reserve, but there is an inclination for them to travel between Yalata and Coober Pedy, mainly for the purpose of conducting ceremonies. Little effort is being made to detribalize them at the present stage, no opposition being given to their harmless native laws and customs, although Christianity is gradually being introduced.

**HEALTH OF THE ABORIGINES.**

The Board continues the policy of providing medical services and hospital accommodation for necessitous and sick aborigines. For this purpose, medical officers are appointed throughout the State and where possible arrangements are made with hospitals for the treatment of natives. In most cases medical services and hospital treatment are provided free of cost, but where an aborigine with few dependants is in constant employment, the Board expect the native to make some contribution in order that he may learn to accept his responsibilities. The Board again desires to record its appreciation to the many medical officers, Missions and Hospitals, (both Government and private), for the care and attention given to aborigines and to the Flying Doctor Services, who have again rendered valuable services in the outback areas. It is unfortunate that the Board's policy in this matter is not always recognized as a privilege by the aborigines but rather as an obligation and the natives are inclined to become demanding.

Further arrangements were made with the Department of Health for a large number of the aborigines to be tested and X-rayed or Tuberculosis. Almost all of the natives in this State, including many semi-nomadic natives, have now been tested or X-rayed for Tuberculosis and it has been found that the percentage of aborigines suffering from active Tuberculosis is no greater than that in the general community. Agreements have been made with dentists for the dental treatment of aborigines, including in some cases the filling of teeth, extractions and supply of dentures.

The Board continues to make a cash payment of £1 per week to aborigines who are confined for long periods in hospitals and they may also receive necessities and other things such as fruit, tobacco, etc., to the value of £1 per week. It is hoped in this manner that the aboriginal patients usually without means, will be encouraged to continue their treatment in hospital rather than leave before their treatment is complete because of their inability to purchase the necessities which their fellow patients enjoy. Although the Board make these provisions, it is expected that the aborigine, and particularly the part aborigine, should gradually learn to accept the normal responsibilities of the ordinary citizens and although no native in any district will ever be deprived of medical treatment and hospital care and attention, he must be encouraged to accept responsibility for the payment of these services.

Reports received from Police Officers and Missioners throughout the State indicate that the natives' health has been particularly good. An outbreak of whooping cough at Finniss Springs occurred and the Board arranged for the appointment of a nursing sister to relieve at this Mission. Mild outbreaks of gastro-enteritis have occurred in children without serious losses. The Board are of the opinion that with the introduction of proper housing, many of the complaints from which the natives suffer at present, such as infectious sores, etc., will be corrected as their living conditions are improved.

**CAMPBELL HOUSE.**

It is regretted that although the Department carried out as far as it is able all of the painting, renovations and additions necessary to this home with the aid of native labour, certain other improvements have not yet been completed. However it is hoped that the home will shortly be ready to accommodate aboriginal boys and youths who, after receiving normal education, will be trained in agricultural, grazing and pastoral activities. In view of the fact that no officers have yet been appointed to this Institution, no further clearing or sowing down of pastures was undertaken. However a number of areas which had previously eroded were levelled and sown down with cereal rye and certain work has been carried out in connection with improving the fencing on this property. The Board are grateful to the Government for the opportunity of establishing a home of this nature, and suitably staffed there should be no reason why this institution should not compare favourably with other institutions of its kind for white children in this State.

**NORTH WEST RESERVE.**

During the year, a considerable number of persons has been permitted to enter this Reserve, thus reversing the original policy of the Board. The South West Mining Company are prospecting, investigating and, to some extent, developing in connection with the nickel-bearing rock in the Mount Davies area. A graded road has been constructed as a necessity in an area least likely to affect the aborigines on the Reserve. This road was later improved by the Weapons Research Establishment, who in turn requested permission to enter the Reserve in order that a meteorological research station should be established in Western Australia in connection with the atomic tests and other matters of vital importance. It thus became necessary for a considerable number of Weapons Research Establishment personnel to enter that portion of the Reserve. Officers and employees of the Mines Department undertaking boring and drilling in the area were also permitted to enter the Reserve.

In all cases, the Board has permitted entry on the following conditions:

(a) Any person entering the Reserve to supply two personal references of character from reputable persons, preferably Justices of the Peace, Government Officers, or Ministers of Religion.

(b) Such persons before entering the Reserve, shall supply to the Aborigines Department a medical certificate to the effect that the person is in good health and that he is not suffering from any contagious disease.

(c) Any person entering the Reserve shall not clash with the aborigines, nor encourage or permit the aborigines to congregate near any camp and shall accept the responsibility of seeing that none of any party is intimate with female aborigines.

(d) No such person entering the Reserve shall remove from the Reserve nor trade with the aborigines for any ethnological specimens and shall not distribute to the natives any goods or chattels by way of barter or exchange.
Daw Toke Gail, Ceylon; Mr. D. Tyson, Student Social Science Diploma, Adelaide.

The Board is again grateful to the Government for its generous attitude and interest in the aborigines. A further Reserve has been proclaimed at Marree and adjacent to Ceduna.

During the year, the following were attached to the Department for varying periods and arrangements were made, where possible, for them to inspect Government Reserves, Mission Stations and Institutions and to give them an opportunity of understanding Board policy:

Mr. Muharem, Indonesia; Miss Salvador, Philippine Islands; Miss Nurse to the Ernabella Mission on its Eastern boundary and the Warburton Mission and other native tribes in Western Australia.

COOBER PEDY AND ANDAMOOKA.

For some time the Department had received reports regarding the exploitation of natives, the supply of intoxicants, the degraded conditions of living and lack of education and medical service to aborigines in the Coober Pedy area. Early in the year, a visit to the area revealed that many of the allegations were correct. The nearest Police Officer being stationed 200 miles away, he had little opportunity of controlling the situation. Negotiations were entered into with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australia District Inc., who eventually agreed to appoint an agent at Coober Pedy and one of the stores at Coober Pedy was purchased by the Church in order that the agent could be housed and supply goods to the aborigines and ensure that they received reasonable compensation for any opal obtained and fair value for cash purchases.

The Board is subsidizing the Church to the extent of £500 per annum and in addition has appointed an agent at Ernabella Mission on its Eastern boundary and the Warburton Mission and other native tribes in Western Australia.

At Andamooka a considerable number of natives were found in somewhat destitute circumstances, particularly the aged and infirm. The Board therefore arranged for the appointment of an agent at Andamooka who is the Headmaster of the Education Department School, and relief is now being issued in necessitous cases. Arrangements are in hand for the supply of certain mining equipment to able-bodied natives in Andamooka in order that they can mine for opal, and it is thought likely that eventually it will be necessary to establish a Reserve in this area.

In general, the conditions and the Board’s policy regarding the aborigines of the Northern Territory are in hand for the supply of certain mining equipment to able-bodied natives in Andamooka in order that they can mine for opal, and it is thought likely that eventually it will be necessary to establish a Reserve in this area.

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The Board are of the opinion that far greater efforts must in the near future be made in regard to welfare work, particularly amongst part aborigines residing in settled districts. Aborigines accommodated in Departmental homes or placed in employment should be regularly visited as should many other families residing throughout the State who seldom, if ever, meet an Officer of the Department. The Board are anxious that additional Welfare Officers and other staff should be appointed as early as possible.

Throughout the State there are many neglected aboriginal children, and with the present staff and lack of Government Institutions, it is impossible for these children to be properly cared for. The Board are of the opinion that such children should either be placed in Institutions under the control of the Children's Welfare and Public Relief Board or that Departmental Institutions be established under the control of the Board.

Managers and Storekeepers from Government Reserves met with Senior Officers of the Head Office staff in conference, the deputy chairman kindly acting as Chairman to the conference. These annual conferences are without doubt of great value to all concerned and will be continued.

The Board are still concerned at the condition of the Aboriginal Women's Home, Sussex Street, North Adelaide and urgently desire financial provision being made to construct a new building in the near future.

The lack of sufficient homes and in certain cases their deplorable condition on Mission Stations, together with the condition of staffing of some of the Children's Homes is still causing the Board considerable anxiety. Although the Missions often have difficulty in raising sufficient funds for their needs, poor housing conditions and lack of supervision cannot raise the standard of the natives. It should be clearly understood that the Board do realize the difficulty of controlling Missions and do greatly appreciate the services of many Missioners and helpers who devote their lives to the care and welfare of some of the aborigines.

The Board found it necessary to take certain disciplinary action in connection with natives residing on Reserves and during the year seven part aborigines were expelled from Reserves. Expulsions previously in force against 17 natives were revoked as the part aborigines concerned were now considered to be living decently and not likely to cause unnecessary trouble. Expulsions were proclaimed to the Yalata Reserve and a child to the Colebrook Home. In all such cases, the Board took this action in order to protect the people concerned.

Reports from throughout the State indicate that generally the aborigine is well-behaved except when acting under the influence of intoxicants. In almost every case, any serious crimes that have been committed have occurred while the native was under the influence of intoxicating liquor. Unfortunately a number of natives appeared at the Supreme Court, Adelaide and at Port Augusta, charged with serious offences. A solicitor supplied by the Law Society of South Australia, Inc., protects the interests of the natives in such cases and the Secretary, or an Officer of the Department is present to assist the native, particularly in regard to the penalty imposed. In many of the cases, the Court released the offender on a bond to be of good behaviour and to be employed where and as directed by the Protector of Aborigines. Over a period of years, it has been found that in such cases, the natives for the most part do accept employment as directed and conduct themselves in a proper manner. The Board are of the opinion that this action serves a far better purpose than that of imprisonment.

Many matters not previously mentioned in this report were dealt with by the Board. Assistance has been granted to many aborigines throughout the State where the Board considered it necessary and at the present time, apart from housing, the Board are satisfied that the aborigines in this State are well cared for.

There is still a fairly consistent demand for native labour in the settled districts, although there has been some difficulty in placing single men in employment. Even in the pastoral areas, except where the natives are grouped on pastoral stations in great numbers, there appears to be a considerable demand for native labour. In the upper River districts, employment in seasonal occupations was somewhat less than in previous years. Throughout the State many part aborigines are now employed with the Commonwealth or State Railways Department, usually as packers and for the most part, they give satisfactory services.

Although often the aborigines are living in poor conditions, reports indicate that the natives and their children are reasonably clean and tidy and in good health. There seems no doubt that this problem can never be faced until such time as the natives in this State are properly housed. The Board are well aware of the difficulties confronting in attempting to house people who have previously led a “camp” existence, but it believes that there are many native families who have developed to a stage where they can, with some supervision, properly maintain themselves and their families and live, even if somewhat at a lower standard, in a similar manner to others in the community. Although over indulgence in intoxicants is still prevalent amongst the natives, and natives are known not to be at all thrifty, the Board believe that where a native family is properly housed, there will then be an incentive for them to accept responsibility and raise their standard of living when excessive drinking would not likely be so common.

Aboriginal children in this State attend the Education Department Schools, except where there is a special school, such as that provided on certain Reserves and Missions. It is surprising how easily the native children are apparently accepted by the other children attending schools, but unfortunately many of the parents of native children cannot be made to understand the necessity of a good education, with the result that many of the children are not regular in their attendance.

The Board are grateful to the Commissioner of Police, Senior Officers and Police Officers throughout the State for their co-operation and interest in the natives and for their many kindnesses, often outside of their duties to the sick or unemployed aborigines. Police Officers stationed nearer the larger Reserves and Missions have been of the greatest assistance to the staff concerned and their services and co-operation are most appreciated.

**UNITED ABORIGINES MISSION, INC.**

The United Aborigines Mission continues its work amongst the aborigines at various Missions and Stations and Children's Homes. The President, Mr. W. L. Scarborough, and the Secretary, Pastor L. J. Samuels, in the 31st Annual Report of the Mission expressed their appreciation to the Missioners and workers for their sacrifice, services and devotion for the cause of the aborigines. During the year some transfers were made. Owing to unsatisfactory health condition, Mr. and Mrs. Bateman withdrew from Gerard Mission and Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull were appointed in their stead. Miss Copin continued her work among the children of the Gerard Children's Home and the children from this Mission are now attending the Winkie School.

At Nepabunna Mr. and Mrs. Hathaway continue in charge of the Mission. The pyrites mine still provides a number of men with a good living and other able-bodied natives at this Mission are fully employed at nearby pastoral properties. A new Church, known as the Eaton Memorial Church, was opened at Nepabunna during the year.
At Oodnadatta, the Children’s Home has caused many problems and it is most pleasing to report that at last the children from this home have been admitted to the Public School under the control of the Education Department. An official of the Education Department has stated that the children are giving every satisfaction in cleanliness and conduct.

On the transfer of Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull, Mr. Villa took over the duties of Superintendent at Finniss Springs and with his wife, who is a trained nurse, is carrying on the work at this Mission regardless of the extreme shortage of staff.

At Cobebrook Home there are 32 native boys and girls accommodated. During the year the Superintendent, Mr. Hill, and his wife, Mrs. Hill, resigned and for a short period Mr. and Mrs. Beckinsale took charge. Mr. F. E. Eaton, retired Superintendent from Nepabunna Mission Station then came forward and took over the management of this home. The United Aborigines Mission are anxious that other workers will be offering to relieve Mr. Eaton from such a demanding task at his age in life. Children from this home attend either the Blackwood or Eden Hills Public Schools or Technical Schools in Adelaide. Most of them are advancing satisfactorily. Many organizations and private persons have given valuable help to the home which is appreciated by the Mission.

**Umewarra Mission, Port Augusta.**

At the end of the year there were 47 accommodated in the home and a considerable number of natives occupying the cottages on the Reserve, in fact there are at present approximately 80 adults and nearly 100 children on the Reserve, including those in the home. Some difficulty has been experienced in disciplining the natives at the camp, but generally speaking the children have been well-behaved and the general health of all the natives has been good, except for a mild outbreak of measles early in the year. More than the usual number of cases of sickness have this year come to Umewarra from outlying districts. From here they attend at the Port Augusta Hospital for out-patient’s treatment, or are admitted to the Hospital and thanks are due to the doctors and staff of this hospital for their kind co-operation.

Matron K. M. Simmons reports that school attendances have been much better this year as children are doing well with their school work, even if somewhat a little slow. Their drawings and paintings were on exhibition at the Port Augusta Primary School Show and received much favourable comment. Boys and girls who had previously been cared for at this home and have been placed in employment, are for the most part doing well. Many of the natives from the Umewarra Reserve move about from place to place, particularly to the opal fields where they stay for weeks at a time and evidently obtain sufficient opal for their needs. There appears to be considerable employment available in or near the district and relief for the most part is only issued to the aged and infirm.

**Koonibba Lutheran Mission.**

An excellent season has been experienced for farming activities and maintaining livestock. Harvest results and the sale of wool were very satisfactory. At this Mission the farming activities are conducted by a farmer on a share-basis. Water shortage for livestock is still a real problem and to make matters worse, during the year two underground tanks burst beyond repair. Although a considerable sum of money was spent on boring for water, no suitable supplies were obtained. During the year there was a continual shortage of staff. At the Children’s Home from January to May, no staff could be obtained while the hospital was closed for a short period for the same reason.

For the greatest part of the year, a high standard of health was maintained and a survey for Tuberculosis was recently carried out. Natives seriously ill who could not be treated at the Koonibba Hospital have received hospital treatment at Ceduna or Adelaide.

The Children’s Home was closed from January to May, 1956, and for that period the children were maintained by the parents or relatives who received the Child Endowment. At present there are 33 children in the home. Two boys from Koonibba who received a higher education at Concordia College last year did not continue in 1956. A girl however has continued her studies at the same college and if successful in the Intermediate Examination at the end of this year, intends entering the nursing profession.

There are approximately 100 pupils attending the special school, three teachers being employed for this purpose, and the Superintendent reports that the school is the bright spot at the Mission. The attendance of the natives has been better than in previous years, although the consumption of liquor and gambling remain the two major problems. A number of white people were also prosecuted for supplying intoxicants. Most of the natives are constantly employed and last year proved a very good year as there was an exceptional demand from neighbouring farms and for the natives to be employed as wharf labourers at Thevenard.

Although four prefabricated Todson cottages were recently erected, the housing situation is still very acute.

**Presbyterian Mission, Ernabella.**

Ernabella, situated adjacent to the North-West Reserve, continues to care for some hundreds of natives and to act as a buffer between the primitive or near primitive natives and civilization. The Presbyterian authorities in control of this Mission have conducted it in such a manner that the aborigines are gradually prepared for their eventual contact with civilization. The natives are encouraged to retain their natural dignity and self-respect and with this end in view, are permitted to continue with certain tribal customs. The natives are not housed and able-bodied natives who are not employed must hunt under natural conditions for game, although some relief is at times issued. The Superintendent with his wife, who is a trained nurse, is carrying on the work at this Mission regardless of the extreme shortage of staff.

The establishment of saw-milling has proved to have definite limitations. Red gum, the wood used, is suitable for the rougher outside buildings, also benches, gates, etc. and is invaluable for use in the maintenance of the Station. The handicraft industry and training school was initiated in 1949, largely to provide some useful avocation instead of having to rely on free rations. Although it was predicted that the original enthusiasm of the women for spinning and weaving would quickly wane, the contrary has been the case. The numbers employed this year and the quality of the work surpassed all previous years. The new hospital building and clinic has now been in use for a period of two years and is serving its purpose very well.

Various native girls have been trained by the Sister-in-Charge in the work of orderlies in the clinic and the dispensary. It has been pleasing to see the way these various departments have carried on with cleanliness and efficiency during the absence of the sister.

The industrial training school was opened during the year, between six and eight young men attending fairly regularly. It is hoped that more young men will be taken into this work in the future but some difficulty is likely to be experienced in getting youths to attend for the period necessary to receive full training.
It is interesting to note that over a period of some years, the birth rate at this Mission is approximately double the death-rate. There seems little doubt that through special infant care and feeding, proper medical attention to the adults, pre-natal treatment, etc., the aborigines on this Reserve must increase in numbers.

The turnover at the trading store was not so great as for the previous year, largely due to the diminution in the numbers of dingo scalps treated. Many of the natives did not make their usual excursion to the Mann and Tomkinson Ranges for the purpose of obtaining dog scalps as they have in previous years. The Mission garden still produces large quantities of vegetables which are in great demand for use at the communal kitchen. Approximately 5,000 sheep are carried at this Mission, the sheep being shepherded by groups of aborigines. One new well has been equipped and brought into use. The wool clip for the year was a record. About 50 children attend the Primary school where they are taught, amongst other things, some English, and are also instructed in their own dialect but few of the natives on this Mission converse in other than their own language.

A three-roomed "visitor's cottage" has been erected and a residence for an Officer almost completed. A new shower room was also constructed for the use of the school children. This Mission, in caring for so many aborigines and protecting them from contact with civilization, and in training them in useful industries, is carrying on a valuable service to the State. The Aborigines Protection Board supply sufficient rations and clothing for all pregnant women, mothers and infants, school children, indigents, widows, aged and infirm, together with all the necessary school requisites, materials, furniture and hospital supplies, including drugs, bandages, instruments, disinfectants, etc.

**POINT McLEAY STATION.**

The population at Point McLeay on 30th June, 1956, was 304, representing a decrease of 36 on last year. There were 24 births and 5 deaths, a natural increase of 19. The population consisted of 55 married men, 62 married women, 30 single persons over 21 years, 19 between 14 and 21 years and 198 under 14 years.

Generally the health of the natives has been very satisfactory. There has been the usual minor outbreaks of measles, colds and gastro-enteritis, and often the sickness could have been less serious if medical attention had been sought earlier. A medical officer visits the Station once a month and a resident nurse cares for the needs of the natives and conducts the hospital. A dentist has also been regularly visiting the Station. It is discouraging to learn that although Nurse still performs her duties efficiently, her services are often received thankfully by the natives and often with severe criticism. It is, however, pleasing to note that during Nurse's absence on leave, her duties were taken over by Mrs. Casie Carter, a part aborigine.

There has been a marked improvement in the behaviour of the inhabitants and the average resident of the Reserve gives no trouble whatever. There are, however, natives who periodically come to the Reserve with supplies of intoxicants, causing worry and anxiety to Officers and natives alike.

School attendance is not as satisfactory as it could be. A little over 100 pupils are enrolled. Every credit should be given to the Head teacher and his assistants, together with the native school committee for their many efforts in raising money and in other ways improving conditions at this school. It is particularly pleasing to note the confidence of these children and usually they are quite well mannered. There is little doubt that the two pleasing features of this Station, the Reserve for 210 half times from Army Missioners and the Public School. Both, assisted greatly of course by our own Departmental Staff, have contributed largely to the improved type of native living at Point McLeay.

During the year, Mr. R. Swalling, who had managed the Reserve for five and a half years was transferred to the Tourist Bureau and Mr. E. T. Earle was appointed Acting Manager for some time. Mr. J. A. Hayward has now been appointed as Manager of this Reserve.

The Salvation Army not only care for the spiritual welfare of the natives at Point McLeay but are also interested in all matters in connection with social welfare and conduct numerous services and functions which are of great benefit to the natives.

Milk is supplied free to the natives from the dairy which is kept in a clean condition. Milk is also issued at the school while the balance of milk is separated and sold as cream.

The sheep have been kept in good condition and total receipts for wool sales amounted to £4,209 2s. 11d. Seventy-five and twenty-nine lambs were marked and pigs sold amounted to £544 4s. A considerable area was broadcast with superphosphate and a number of paddocks sown down to pasture. The pastures at Primrose Farm still provide the greater part of the feed necessary for the sheep and firewood is cut and carted from this portion of the Reserve. During the year, the produce from the irrigated vegetable garden, which was very satisfactorily conducted, was sold through the store at reasonable prices.

It is pleasing to note that the natives are gradually becoming more self-dependent. Many of the homes at Point McLeay are well furnished and the natives appear, at least in some cases, to be making provision for the future. It is also noticeable that many of the natives from this Reserve now continue in their employment for much longer periods.

At 30th June, the Manager visited every home at Point McLeay in order to conduct a census and reported on the condition of each home. It is to the credit of the natives concerned that he reports that with the exception of 10 of the homes which are below standard, the balance are highly satisfactory and in many cases a credit to their occupants. This is of particular interest when it is considered that many of the homes are very old and indicates that the people of this Reserve have already developed to a fairly high standard.

**POINT PEARCE STATION.**

On 30th June, 1956, there were 401 natives resident at this Reserve, a decrease of 10 from last year's population. There were 33 births and 5 deaths, a natural increase of 28. Of this number, 110 are below the age of 7 years, 113 between the ages of 7 years and 16 years, 43 between the ages of 17 and 21 years and 125 adults. There are 58 married couples, 5 widowers and 1 widow. These figures represent the actual population on 30th June, 1956, but there are those who visit the Reserve only from time to time, thus building up the population from time to time.

A Salvation Army Officer was appointed to this Reserve as resident Missioner on 13th January, 1956. Previous to this, the Lutheran, Methodist and Anglican Churches had conducted religious services, the attendances being generally very poor. The Salvation Army Officer is finding progress difficult and it is to be expected that there will be many disappointments before any success is likely to be achieved. Various services and social activities are conducted every night of the week with the exception of Fridays, including Christian Endeavour, Young People's Legion, Toastmasters, Ladies Guild, Boy's Club, Bible Class, Girl's Craft Class, Sunday School and Divine Service at 11 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. each Sunday.
The general health of the natives during the year has not been particularly good. Some of the children's ailments can be attributed to the parents' neglect, and in some cases the natives refuse to carry out the Medical Officer's or the Nurse's advice but demand that their children be admitted to the Children's Hospital. During the year Dr. Meldrum was appointed as Medical Officer to this Reserve, Drs. Sheedy and Shappell having resigned. The Medical Officer visits the Station fortnightly. Only one marriage was solemnised at Point Pearce during the year. As there is no hospital at Point Pearce, 31 women were confined at the Wallaroo Hospital having been transported there in the Departmental ambulance. A dentist visited the Station on four occasions during the year for the purpose of extractions and other dental care of the natives.

There are 114 children at present enrolled at the School, which is staffed by a Head Teacher and three assistants. During the year the new school building was officially opened by the Hon. C. S. Hincks, M.P., Minister of Lands. The Attorney-General, Hon. C. D. Rowe, M.I.C., was also present. The old school building has now been renovated and painted for the purpose of setting up manual training for the boys and sewing classes for the girls. Psychological tests have been made of the school children during the year with varying results. The percentage of attendance is extremely poor, reflecting the lack of responsibility of the parents.

The conduct of the natives has been far from satisfactory, drunken natives comprising the greater number of offenders. The liquor position at this Reserve is gradually becoming intolerable, and there appears to be no difficulty for the natives to purchase wine and other intoxicants either from exempted natives or from despicable white people.

On 30th June, there were a little over 5,000 sheep departed on the Reserve. Twelve rams were purchased during the year at a cost of £315 and although losses in sheep have been extremely heavy, the following are the results of shearing:

- Lambs shorn—1,376.
- Average cut wool per head—2-84 lb.
- Rams shorn—56.
- Average fleece wool—12.2 lb. per head.
- Adult sheep, average wool including crutching—12.36 lb. per head.
- Gross value of wool per head—£3 4s. 10½d.

One thousand six hundred and eight ewes were mated for lamb drop in May, 1957. During the year the total lambs dropped amounted to 1,302, that is 81 per cent. Eight hundred and eight sheep were slaughtered for use as rations. Hand feeding has been increased on a much larger scale than usual and in this manner it is hoped that losses will decrease considerably. As far as possible, sheep have not been depastured on sea frontages as it is considered that many sheep are drowned on the flats with the incoming tide. If finance is made available it is intended to fence the greater portion of the sea frontages, where possible, and to subdivide many of the larger paddocks into smaller acreages.

Net income from sales of wool amounted to £7,458 12s. 3d. and £775 2s. 2d. from the sale of sheepkins.

Cattle have been maintained in excellent condition. Two bulls were purchased at a total cost of £174 10s. There were 68 births and 2 deaths while 78 cattle were sold returning in value £1,594 5s. 11d. The line of cattle at Point Pearce is readily sought after, both for milking and slaughtering purposes. Total cattle on hand at 30th June amounted to 138. The whole of the herd was tested for Tuberculosis and proved 100 per cent clear. Milk was again supplied free to the natives and regularly issued to school children.

Pigs sold during the year realised £1,286 0s. 2d. One pure bred boar was purchased at a cost of 35 guineas. Agricultural activities were carried out with the aid of native share-farmers, a total area of 1,880 acres being cropped for the season, which produced 7,770 bags of wheat, 6,900 bags of barley, 1,130 bags of oats, 70 tons of shaven hay and 4,500 bales of meadow hay. The wheat cropped averaged 27 bushels, 35½ lb. per acre, while the barley cropped averaged 24½ bushels per acre. The programme of weed hormone spraying was carried out on horehound and turnip to avoid the spread to neighbours and over the Station and also to eradicate same from the crop. Nine hundred and thirty acres of oats, 2,360 acres of barley are at present under crop for the forthcoming harvest and in addition, 300 acres of oats were sown in stubble. All crops are looking exceptionally well. A large area of grassland was topdressed with superphosphate and a smaller area sown to lucerne, rye grass and barley clover.

The water position at Point Pearce during the summer months is still acute. Thousands of gallons were carried last year to stock in various paddocks and at one stage there was doubt whether the wells could keep up the supply. It is hoped that within 12 months the water will be connected to the Station by the Engineering and Water Supply Department.

There has been a keen demand for native labour and any with reasonable ability can obtain employment away from the Station. Seven families have been established in permanent positions with the South Australian Railways and a number of families has been established in new homes provided by the Aborigines Protection Board in country towns. Much work remains to be carried out on the Officers' and natives' homes at this Reserve but with the appointment of a Building Overseer, it is hoped that sufficient native labour will be available to carry out all necessary repairs and renovations.

A State of Departmental Receipts and Payments for this year ended 30th June, 1956, is appended.

We have the honour to be, Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

M. McIntosh, Chairman  
J. R. Cleland, Deputy Chairman  
Constance M. Cook  
A. M. Johnston  
Gordon Rowe  
A. J. Walker  
C. E. Bartlett, Secretary  

Aborigines' Protection Board.

Amounts received and payments made in carrying out the functions of the Department are shown hereunder:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>£</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1954-55</td>
<td>47,185</td>
<td>11,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21,894</td>
<td>5,610</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>419</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23</td>
<td>223</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2,423</td>
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<td>9,383</td>
<td>14,315</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18,250</td>
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CAMPBELL HOUSE.

Expenditure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Wages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implements, Stores, etc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Truck</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovations, additions, engineering services, etc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of houses for aborigines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of land for training home</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to Dependants and Officers retiring or resigning—Long Service and Recreation Leave</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of motor vehicle</td>
<td>1,367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowance to Evangelical Lutheran Church towards Missionary Depot at Coober Pedy</td>
<td>254</td>
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Grants—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ernabella Mission—Towards cost of new buildings</td>
<td>2,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernabella Mission—Towards cost of water supply</td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsewman Mission—Towards cost of additional accommodation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Aborigines Mission—Towards cost of erection of Children's Home at Oodnadatta</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Aborigines Mission—Towards renovations and extensions of Tanderra</td>
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Receipts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part proceeds Voluntary Liquidation Yalata Ltd</td>
<td>5,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund rail fares, etc., and half share Yalata earnings</td>
<td>8,229</td>
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POINT PEARCE STATION.

Expenditure.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, Wages and allowances, etc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Stores, Implements and Rations, etc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Motor Vehicles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Tractor</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent of Section, Hundred of Baker</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading Store, Purchases and Expenses</td>
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</table>

Receipts.

<table>
<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Sales Produce, etc</td>
<td>21,537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stores Sales</td>
<td>8,810</td>
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POINT MCLEAY STATION.

Expenditure.

<table>
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<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries, Wages and allowances, etc</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Stores, Implements and Rations, etc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Motor Vehicle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of Motor Vehicle</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent of Section, Hundred of Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trading Store, Purchases and Expenses</td>
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</table>

Receipts.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales, Produce, etc</td>
<td>9,034</td>
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<tr>
<td>Store sales</td>
<td>9,894</td>
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CAMPBELL HOUSE.

Expenditure.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Salaries and Wages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implements, Stores, etc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Purchase of Truck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Renovations, additions, engineering services, etc</td>
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</table>

Receipts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sales, Produce, etc</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YALATA STATION.

Salary of Nurse                       | 643   |

Cost of Aborigines to South Australian Government for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1956. £135,113

C. BARTLETT, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.