ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1957

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1958.
Report of the Aborigines Protection Board for the Year ended 30th June, 1957

To His Excellency Air Vice-Marshall 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, 1957.

The personnel of the Board at the commencement of the year were as follows:—

H. Sir Malcolm McIntosh, K.B.E., M.P., Minister of Works, Chairman.
Dr. J. B. Cleland, C.B.E., Deputy Chairman.
Mrs. Constance M. Cooke.
Mr. A. M. Johnston.
Rev. G. O. B. Rowe, O.B.E.
Mr. A. J. K. Walker.
Mr. C. E. Bartlett, Secretary.

During the year Rev. G. O. B. Rowe was honoured by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire. The Aborigines Protection Board desire to congratulate Rev. Rowe in being honoured for so many years service to the aborigines as Secretary of the Aborigines Friends' Association and as a member of the Aborigines Protection Board.

The Board has met on 24 occasions, wherever possible fortnightly, and there have been occasions when matters had to be temporarily deferred owing to a still further increase of business due largely to increased social welfare activities.

It is most encouraging to note the very regular attendance of members of the Board. Two members have attended at every meeting during the year, and two other members have only been absent on two occasions. There is no doubt that such regular attendance indicates the desire of members to conscientiously carry out their duties in promoting the welfare and protecting the interests of aborigines and in improving their conditions in order that they may be induced to lead decent and useful lives as citizens of this State.

To obtain a first hand knowledge of the many problems associated with aborigines, members of the Board visited Point Pearce and Point McLeay Reserves, Nepabunna and Finniss Springs Mission Stations, the Uncewarra Children's Home and Colebrook Home. On such occasions Board members met as many aborigines as possible, as well as officers and missionaries, and were given the opportunity of personally discussing many of the natives' problems. The Deputy Chairman and the Secretary also visited other Reserves and Missions throughout the State, and made visits of inspection to many country towns where aborigines are residing.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The actual number of aborigines in South Australia is not known, as due to their nomadic habits a census is not practicable. From figures available it is considered that there is a total of 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. There are indications that the full-bloods in the pastoral areas in the far north or on Eyre Peninsula are increasing in numbers because of the abolition of the practice of infanticide, improved medical facilities and more rapid hospitalization. It is certain that the part aborigines are increasing. Many of the part aborigines have quite large families, and almost all of this increase is due to the natural mating of aborigines and part aborigines and not with persons of other than aboriginal descent. The ability to obtain employment during the era of prosperity has ensured much better living conditions for the part aborigines, although a noticeable increase of unemployment occurred during the latter half of the year. The increased earnings of the aborigines have undoubtedly made for a better standard of living which must result in better health standards and a natural increase of population.

The Board are most anxious to raise the standard of the aborigines by providing better conditions generally and encouraging and assisting these people to take an established and honoured place in the community. It should be clearly understood that the Board, although doing all in their power to forward the policy of assimilation, are opposed to attempts to force assimilation of the aborigines. To unduly hasten the policy of assimilation would, in the opinion of the Board, surely end with tragic results, as generations must pass before the primitive and near primitive aborigines can truly be prepared for absorption in the community. The history of this State provides many instances where aborigines and their families entering white communities with a poor standard of education and development have found it impossible to be absorbed and rapidly deteriorated with too often tragic results.

EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE ABORIGINES' ACT.

A number of applications for exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Act were considered by the Board. Unfortunately many of these applications are made for the sole purpose of allowing the aborigine to obtain intoxicating liquor. In every case, however, full investigations are made into the circumstances of the applicant and his family and the Board has given every application full consideration, and exemption granted where the native concerned has the required standard of intelligence, character and development required by the Act. During the year, 16 adults and 13 children were granted Limited Declarations of Exemption, and 12 adults and 3 children were granted Unlimited...
ditional Declarations of Exemption, some of the latter having completed from two to three years probationary period. It was found necessary to defer or reject 20 applications. In all cases the natives concerned had not attained a standard of development necessary for the absorption into the community of the applicant and his family.

Limited Declarations of Exemption were revoked in the case of 12 adults and 13 children, several of the adults requesting their removal on the ground of their excessive consumption for various reasons.

In this State there is little or no gain to any aborigine in being exempted other than the fact that he is then permitted to partake of intoxicating liquor. The Aborigines Act, 1934-39 provides that Unconditional Exemptions cannot be revoked. This often provides hardships for exempted aborigines, particularly where the aborigine marries an exempted person, or where an exempted person reaches old age or is widowed and desires to return to his family and friends on a Reserve.

CITIZENSHIP.

There appears to be a great deal of confusion in connection with citizenship rights of aborigines. Generally speaking, aborigines in this State can enjoy the usual privileges of citizenship, with the exception of the partaking of intoxicating liquor. In South Australia, aborigines are eligible to vote; primary education is available; our aborigines can marry whom they like; they are free to choose their work or calling for which they receive the basic wage wherever there is an award; aborigines in South Australia can own property and they are not restricted in moving from place to place. Although there are certain restrictive sections in the provisions of the Aborigines Act, these would not apply to aborigines who are law-abiding and are able to provide for themselves. Many natives have no desire to be exempted, as they realize that there is so little to gain in the granting of a Declaration of Exemption in their favour and in living a useful life in any community they actually enjoy the usual privileges of citizenship simply because there is no need for any official interference.

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

ERECITION OF HOMES.

The Board has continued its policy of erecting homes for aborigines in country districts for occupation by selected native families. Homes erected during the year have been occupied as follows:—Havelock Carter, Naracoorte; William Webster, Loxton North; Geoff Carter Junior, Loxton North; Seth Dool, Naracoorte; Stanley Karpanty, Veto, Nayland, Reserve, two at Beltana which are now occupied by aborigines, three were erected at Marree and others have been erected on Reserves. Several new homes are now in the course of construction throughout the State, and land has been purchased in other towns for the purpose of building homes.

Unfortunately, one home was destroyed and became a total loss during the time the River Murray was in flood. Perhaps one of the most pleasing features of the year’s work is the fact that all of those homes have been kept in really good order by the aborigines occupying them, and in general the yards and surrounding areas have been kept in a clean and tidy manner. Another most pleasing feature is the fact that most of these natives have been accepted in the district in which they reside. Their children are being educated among white children in local schools, and are well spoken of by their teachers. The Board are anxious that as many homes as possible be erected for aborigines in the near future.

The Board are aware of the difficulties which must confront any aboriginal family leaving a Reserve and occupying a home in a white community. Aborigines residing on Reserves are assisted in many ways. Where such aborigines find it necessary to support their families, provide for medical attention, and, in fact, make complete financial provision for themselves and their families, some of them will be disappointed and find it difficult to provide the necessary finance and expend their moneys to the best advantage. In such circumstances in some cases the rents for these homes are not being kept up to date. The contrast between aborigines residing on the Reserves and suddenly thrust into the general community is so great that it seems certain that some form of assistance or incentive will have to be provided before the families can be truly stabilized. The Board are of the opinion that families occupying such homes must have sufficient furniture and household equipment, otherwise they will be placed in an embarrassing position on their entering the community. The Board has therefore made advances totalling nearly £2,000 for the purchase of necessary furniture, and here again repayments of the advances are not always promptly made, although every effort is made to collect the amount due.

Although difficulties such as mentioned are occurring and must occur, the Board are of the opinion that little success can be achieved in promoting the welfare of aborigines of this nature until such time as they are properly housed. An appeal is made to the residents of towns where aborigines have been housed to extend to them neighbourly assistance and co-operation.

GRANTS TO MISSIONS, ETC.

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

Umeewarra Mission—Towards electricity, £27; towards cost of vehicle and erection of garage, £1,250.

Evangelical Lutheran Church—Towards erection of hall at Port Lincoln, £300.

In addition to special grants, the following assistance was granted to Missions (excluding cost of maintenance of children in homes and institutions) as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Erambella Mission</td>
<td>£3,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koornibba Mission</td>
<td>£5,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>CoorabPedy</td>
<td>£1,831</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finniss Springs Mission</td>
<td>£2,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerard Mission</td>
<td>£2,787</td>
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<tr>
<td>Umeewarra Mission</td>
<td>£4,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepabunna Mission</td>
<td>£2,998</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

£23,437

The grants previously made to the Umeewarra Mission have provided a much more satisfactory home, although it is still overcrowded and it will be necessary for a boys’ dormitory to be erected in the near future. The provision of electricity to this home financed by the Board has been of considerable assistance to the staff and of great benefit to the children. Additional grants have been made to this Mission during the year in the way of fencing, sand for
...as a dining hall is well constructed and of great value at Ernabella. The grant towards the cost of water supply at this Mission has also been expended resulting in a much better and more hygienic supply of water throughout the Mission.

Many other grants were made to various Missions and Institutions such as building materials to the value of £500 at Gerard Mission; various equipment and grant towards radio, Finniss Springs; equipment and radio, Nepabunna; faxes and other assistance to enable children to travel from Oodnadatta Children's Home to Adelaide for the Christmas vacation; a grant of £60 towards a library at Ernabella; and a grant of £275 towards the establishment of a library, repairs to tank and subsidy towards sink and cupboards at Koonibba. These special grants are made in addition to the cost of maintaining other than able-bodied aborigines, for whom the Board provide either supplementary rations or relief. In the pastoral areas the Board supplies large quantities of supplementary rations for use at Mission Stations, together with blankets, clothing, etc., and in the more settled areas aborigines residing on Missions and Government Reserves, where necessary, are issued with relief (meat, vegetables, etc.), at the cost of the Board. A number of grants or advances have been made to individual aborigines, such as building materials to improve the natives’ homes, assistance to fishermen in the way of boats and nets, supplies of rabbit traps, etc. Every endeavour has been made to find employment for aborigines where homes are provided by the employer. Thirteen families were placed in employment with the South Australian Railways, and the Board are most appreciative of the co-operation of the Railways Commissioner and members of his staff.

RELIEF TO NECESSITOUS ABORIGINES.

There appears to be some confusion regarding the method adopted by the Board to provide for relief to necessitous aborigines. Relief is not granted indiscriminately, as is sometimes suggested, but every case is considered on its merits. 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 part of their diet. This particularly applies to 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 country districts. Such relief is only paid 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 later part of the year employment was not so easily obtained by the natives, and issues of relief increased throughout the State.

In view of the increased cost of commodities the Board found it necessary to increase the amount of relief issued at Government Reserves and Missions throughout the State. The amount of relief issued is now again comparable to that issued by the Children’s Welfare and Public Relief Department. The Board are thankful for the co-operation of Police Officers and Missioners throughout the State who issue relief to necessitous aborigines, and desire to place on record their indebtedness to the Commissioner of Police in allowing the many services performed for the Board by his officers.

MAINTENANCE OF ABORIGINAL CHILDREN IN HOMES

There is little doubt that where an aboriginal or part aboriginal child is removed from its parents because it is neglected or for some other reason the child concerned has a much better opportunity when placed in a private home or institution where it can be properly cared for, educated, and eventually placed in gainful employment.

With this in view the Board have made every endeavour to accommodate such children and to provide for their education. A considerable number of children have again been placed in private homes or institutions, the Board in all cases contributing a reasonable amount towards the maintenance of the child concerned.

In their present environment many part aboriginal children appear to have little opportunity to improve their lot, and it is hoped that more private homes will accept these children. In such cases the contribution towards maintenance paid by the Board is a matter of negotiation between the foster parents and officers of the Department. Where children are accommodated in Aboriginal Children’s Homes or similar institutions, the Board contribute £1 10s. per week towards the maintenance of any such child, which, together with endowment payments of 10s. per week, provides considerable financial assistance to the homes in question. This contribution continues until the child attains the age of 16 years. Should it be necessary for the Home to maintain the child after this age the amount of contribution is again a matter of negotiation between the Department and the Home in question. Every opportunity is given to children with ability who desire secondary education, the Board providing for their accommodation, clothing and school books, and in addition, where necessary, a supply of pocket money. Unfortunately, many of the parents do not appear to appreciate the value of a good education and withdraw their children shortly after commencing secondary education. Where youths enter into apprenticeships or are placed in employment and do not receive a sufficient wage to enable them to pay for their accommodation, the Board assist by contributing a reasonable amount towards their accommodation in order that the youths can learn a trade.

At the present time 199 children are being maintained in various homes and institutions subsidized by the Board as follows:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home/Institution</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Koonibba Lutheran Children’s Home</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coober Pedy Children’s Home</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Barker Salvation Army Home</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oodnadatta Home, United Aborigines’ Mission</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Barker Salvation Army Home</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerard Mission Home, United Aborigines’ Mission</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mount Barker Salvation Army Home</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanunda Home, United Aborigines’ Mission (Fed.)</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various Homes and Institutions</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

199
YALATA RESERVE FOR ABORIGINES

Yalata Reserve for Aborigines, which now consists of 1,728 sq. miles, is conducted as a pastoral station for the physical welfare of the aborigines. A flock of over 10,000 sheep is now carried, which, together with the care of improvements on the property, provides employment for the aborigines. The Rev. H. H. Temme continues as Superintendent of Yalata, and during the year Mr. E. R. Dutschke has been appointed as Station Manager. Considerable improvements have been made at this station, and buildings and fences erected for the purpose of accommodating aboriginal children who, in the near future, will be given their first opportunity of receiving education. A home is also to be erected for use as a School Teacher's residence. The shed and tanks supplied by the Board have been erected in suitable positions throughout the Reserve which should ensure sufficient water for human consumption. In this manner the aborigines are now enabled to move from place to place throughout the Reserve and continue in their hunting practices. Sisters Footner and R_IDSOME are to be congratulated in caring for the sick aborigines, as her task is extremely difficult, much of her work being undertaken with near primitive natives at long distances from headquarters. It is not intended that the aborigines of this Reserve should be immediately de-tribalized, and no opposition has been given to their harmless native laws and customs, although Christianity is gradually being introduced.

Following a hydrological survey of the Reserve, certain sites were selected by officers of the Mines Department, and boring operations carried out in the hope of establishing further watering places. Unfortunately, although considerable expense was involved, all attempts at finding supplies of fresh water failed.

It is pleasing to note that a surplus of receipts over expenditure occurred on the year's undertaking. Under agreement, any such surplus is placed in Trust and expended for the benefit of aborigines.

HEALTH OF THE ABORIGINES

The policy of providing medical services for necessitous and sick aborigines has been continued by the Board. Further arrangements have been made by the Department of Health throughout the State, and in most cases medical services are provided free of cost. The Board are of the opinion, however, that where an aborigine is in a financial position to do so he should contribute towards the cost of medical services and hospitalization. In this manner the aborigine must learn to accept his responsibilities. Where an aborigine is admitted to a Government or Government subsidized hospital the present policy is that the charge, however, on account of the native's financial circumstances and dependants the cost to the aborigine is re-assessed, frequently resulting in no charge. The Board again desire to record its appreciation to the medical officers and hospitals for the care and attention given to aborigines, and to the Flying Doctor Service who have again rendered valuable service in the outback areas.

Further arrangements were made with the Department of Health for a large number of aborigines to be tested and/or X-rayed for Tuberculosis. A survey was conducted on Kyre Peninsula among the aborigines, including those residing at Koonibba and Yalata, and it is pleasing to report that the percentage of Tuberculosis amongst the aborigines in these areas was negligible. There is no doubt that the percentage of aborigines suffering from active Tuberculosis is no greater, if as great, than that in the general community.

Dentures have been supplied where necessary, and arrangements made with dentists for the dental treatment of aborigines, and spectacles have been supplied in necessitous cases.

Aborigines confined to hospitals for long periods are supplied by the Board with necessaries and other things such as fruit, tobacco, etc. to the value of £1 per week, and in addition a cash payment of up to £1 per week is made to these aboriginal patients. Such aboriginal patients are usually without means, and in this manner are encouraged to continue their treatment in hospital. Previously many such patients left hospital before their treatment was complete because of embarrassment and because of their inability to purchase necessaries which are usually available to their fellow patients. However, it is essential that the aborigine, and particularly the part aborigine, should learn to accept the normal responsibilities for the payment of such services. Reports received from Reserves, Police Officers and Missionaries throughout the State indicate that the natives' health has been particularly good. An outbreak of measles at Ernabella with a rather high mortality rate caused some concern and the Board arranged for two medical scientists to investigate the matter. Outbreaks of smallpox and whooping cough amongst aboriginal children will, in the opinion of the Board, be greatly reduced with the introduction of proper housing.

CAMPBELL HOUSE

The Department has now completed all of the painting, renovations and additions to this Home with the aid of native labour, although certain other improvements have been completed by the Architect-in-Chief's Department. The Home is now ready to accommodate aboriginal boys and youths who, after receiving normal education, will be trained in agricultural, grazing and pastoral activities. It is hoped that officers will soon be appointed to this Institution and that the Home will be officially opened and receive aboriginal children.

NORTH WEST RESERVE

The Board has again found it necessary to permit a considerable number of persons to enter this Reserve. The South West Mining Company are prospecting and investigating in connection with the nickel-bearing rock in the Mount Davies area requiring the services of quite a large staff who either are situated on the Reserve or who must pass through the Reserve in order to enter the area leased by the South West Mining Company. Certain officers of the Weapons Research Establishment have also been permitted to enter this Reserve, particularly in connection with the construction and staffing of the Giles Meteorological Station in Western Australia.

In all cases the Board has only permitted entry on very stringent conditions. It is pleasing to report that all concerned have faithfully carried out the terms of agreement for entry to this Reserve, and the Board are of the opinion that no harm has occurred to the aborigines therein.

The Board are anxious that a cattle industry should be established on this Reserve, particularly to enable more aborigines to be employed and in order that they may be trained as stockmen. Arrangements were therefore made for a hydrological survey to be carried out and sites were selected for boring for underground water supplies. During the year boring operations were commenced, and although there have been a considerable number of failure holes, three good supplies of water have been obtained. The present supplies are not sufficient for the establishment of a cattle industry, but it is hoped that at least two or three further supplies of water will be obtained before the Reserve is available for the establishment of a cattle industry. It is to be commenced in order to make the best possible economic use of the areas of land in this Reserve considered favourable for stock raising purposes. There appears to be almost constant traffic between Ernabella Mission on the
eastern boundary of this Reserve and the Warburton Mission and other native tribes in Western Australia. At certain times of the year some hundreds of natives would be located on this Reserve as it is an ideal hunting ground for aborigines, and large numbers of dingoes are spared by the natives, their scalps providing a form of income to these semi-detribalized aborigines. During the atomic tests held at Maralinga, two Native Patrol Officers from the Weapons Research Establishment and an officer of the Department patrolled this Reserve and other areas, and the Board are appreciative of the close and complete co-operation of officers of the Weapons Research Establishment during these tests. It may be mentioned that officers of the Weapons Research Establishment have been most helpful and obliging at all times and have, on many occasions, made transport and other facilities available in order to assist aborigines, particularly where they are sick or in need of some assistance.

Coober Pedy and Andamooka.

The Board continues to subsidize the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia, South Australian District Inc., for the appointment of an agent at Coober Pedy who cares for the needs of aborigines in this area. The agent is housed in a store purchased by the Church at Coober Pedy and, where necessary, issues supplementary rations to the aborigines, his wife caring for the sick. The agent makes every endeavour to ensure that the natives receive reasonable compensation for any opal obtained and fair value for cash purchases, and, in fact, endeavours to prevent the exploitation of aborigines or the supply of intoxicants to them.

The Board are anxious that a Reserve be proclaimed at Coober Pedy in order that improvements can be erected, and eventually a school erected for the education of the children. Unfortunately, in view of the limited water supply, arrangements could not be concluded for the establishment of such a Reserve.

At Andamooka, Mr. R. J. Billa, the local school teacher, was appointed as representative of the Board and authorized to issue travel warrants and relief orders and to endeavour to prevail on the natives to provide for proper sanitation, hygiene, etc. He has also been supplied with a quantity of drugs and medicines.

Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, many aborigines soon gathered at Andamooka and the issue of relief increased out of all proportion. There is little doubt that some of the aborigines obtain parcels of opal of some value, but on the Field the utmost secrecy is observed in regard to the sale of such opal, and the Board's agent was not in a position to know whether the issue of relief was actually required or not. In any case the issuing of relief under such circumstances was tantamount to "grab-staking" aborigines in their search for opal, which was not considered good policy.

However, as a very large number of aborigines had gathered on the Field, and as the policy of "grab-staking" natives was considered to be wrong, the natives on the Field were informed that only the aged, infirm and genuinely sick natives could be supplied with supplementary rations. At the present moment the issue of supplementary rations at the Field is quite moderate, and there appears to be an excellent understanding between the aborigines and other miners. The Board, with the co-operation of the miners, are providing a form of shelter for the aged aborigines at Andamooka.

General.

During the year two further areas of land have been proclaimed Aboriginal Reserves—Section 197, Hundred of Bonython, consisting of 610 acres, and part Section 4, town of Port Lincoln, 19½ acres.

For some time the housing of aborigines living in sub-standard conditions has caused some anxiety, and the Government provided the necessary finance to purchase part Section 4, town of Port Lincoln, for proclamation as an Aboriginal Reserve.

During the year a number of visitors from interstate and overseas were received and in some cases arrangements were made for them to inspect Government Reserves. Professor Twente, a Fulbright Scholar from the U.S.A., inspected the Reserve for aborigines situated at Point McLeay and was impressed with the progress made at that Institution. Mr. S. G. Middleton, the Commissioner for Native Welfare, Western Australia, visited this State and was conducted to the Point Pearce Reserve. He stated that there was no similar institution for aborigines in Western Australia, and many of the students of the Social Science Course were attached to the Department for small periods.

During the year the staff has been supplemented by the appointment of one additional female Welfare Officer and two male Welfare Officers. Other appointments to the Department made necessary by the increase of work, particularly in regard to the welfare of aborigines, will enable the Board to expand its welfare work.

The Government have now made finance available for the erection of a Matron's home at the Aboriginal Women's Home, Sussex Street, North Adelaide, and intends erecting considerable improvements to this Women's Home. The Board are still concerned with the lack of sufficient homes and in certain cases conditions on Christian Mission Stations. Such conditions cannot raise the standard of aborigines, but it should be clearly understood that the Board does appreciate the services of many Missioners and helpers who devote their lives to the care and welfare of the aborigines.

The Board again found it necessary to take certain disciplinary action in connection with natives residing on Reserves, and during the year four aborigines were expelled from Reserves. Expulsions previously enforced against five natives were revoked as the part aborigines concerned were now considered to be living decently and not likely to cause unnecessary concern on Reserves. One aborigine was confined to a Reserve in order to protect him from the effects of intoxicating liquor. Police reports supplied from throughout the State indicate that generally the aborigine is quite well behaved, except when under the influence of intoxicants. There have been very few serious crimes, but those that have been committed have occurred while a native was under the influence of intoxicating liquor. Where a native is charged with a serious offence a solicitor supplied by the Law Society of South Australia, Inc., protects the interests of the native, and the Secretary or an officer of the Department is present to assist the native, particularly in regard to the penalty imposed.

Many matters not previously mentioned in this report were dealt with by the Board. Although there has been some employment amongst the aborigines, there is still a considerable demand for their employment in seasonal occupations. Many part aborigines are now employed by the State and Commonwealth Railways, usually as packers, although one or two have been appointed as drivers.

Aboriginal children in this State attend Education Department schools, except where there is a special school, such as that provided on certain Reserves and Missions. Generally speaking, the children are accepted by the other children attending the school.

During the exceptionally high level of the River Murray when in flood it was found necessary to remove a considerable number of aboriginal families who resided on the low lying areas on the River Murray. These natives were accommodated in other "camps" and also at depots of the Engineering and Water Supply Department, Glossop, where
they were housed in timber and iron cubicles and provided with electric light, bathing facilities, etc. In other districts aborigines were temporarily accommodated in tents supplied by the Board. As previously mentioned, one home erected by the Board was destroyed by floods, and at the Point McLeay Reserve considerable damage was caused to pastures, growing crops, etc., and a large area of the Coast Line was inundated. The wool shed at Point McLeay, jetty, sheds, etc., were also damaged to such an extent that they had to be demolished.

At Maitland on Yorke Peninsula a number of residents of the district have combined to form the Point Pearce Association. This Association is endeavouring to co-operate with the aborigines and to improve conditions at Point Pearce.

During the year Mr. C. J. Millar, the Superintendent of Reserves attached to the Department, and Mr. R. A. Macaulay, B.A., Native Patrol Officer, Weapons Research Establishment, were appointed Protectors of Aborigines in the State of South Australia.

At the Colebrook and Oodnadatta Children's Homes, Mr. W. L. Scarborough and his wife as Matron, who already have greatly improved the interior of this Home, it is expected that this Home will be constructed.

Johnny Cadell and William Crombie, known as Billy Pepper, have shown outstanding ability in the production of the film “Robbery Under Arms”. The Board permitted the removal of Billy Pepper to New South Wales and of Johnny Cadell to London for certain sequences of the film. The J. Arthur Rank Productions, Ltd., have advised that both of these natives were particularly well behaved, and that Johnny Cadell was an actor of outstanding ability.

A number of children from this Mission are maintained in the Children's Home at Gerard, and all of the children from the Mission are attending the State Education Department School at Winkle. No great damage was caused during the flooding of the River Murray, although this Mission is situated immediately adjacent to the River Murray. Some inconvenience was caused as the flood level was higher than the pumping plant. The Mission are anxious that the homes at Gerard be renovated and improved, and the Aborigines Protection Board have made grants of materials, etc., for this purpose.

For some time the Board have been concerned at conditions existing at the Colebrook Home for aboriginal children conducted by the United Aborigines Mission. During the year there was considerable adverse Press comment in connection with this Home, and the United Aborigines Mission appointed another Superintendent and Matron who, together with voluntary labour, have done much to place this Home in better condition. The Government have carried out very substantial constructional alterations, and it is hoped in this manner that the Home, in future, will be conducted in a more satisfactory manner.

During the year Sister P. E. McKenzie retired from the Department as Senior Welfare Officer. Sister McKenzie was employed in the Department for 17 years and possessed a great knowledge of the aborigines in this State. The Board desire their appreciation of Sister McKenzie's valued and tireless efforts on behalf of the aborigines should be placed on record.

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 and 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.

Johnny Cadell to London for certain sequences of the film. The J. Arthur Rank Productions, Ltd., have advised that both of these natives were particularly well behaved, and that Johnny Cadell was an actor of outstanding ability.

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The United Aborigines Mission has continued its work amongst the aborigines at Gerard, Finniss Springs and Nepabunna Mission Stations, and at the Colebrook and Oodnadatta Children's Homes. Mr. W. L. Scarberough remains as President and Pastor L. J. Samuels as Secretary of the Mission.

At Gerard some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining staff, and Mr. Cron has acted as Superintendent. A number of children from this Mission are maintained in the Children's Home at Gerard, and all of the children from the Mission are attending the State Education Department School at Winkle. No great damage was caused during the flooding of the River Murray, although this Mission is situated immediately adjacent to the River Murray. Some inconvenience was caused as the flood level was higher than the pumping plant. The Mission are anxious that the homes at Gerard be renovated and improved, and the Aborigines Protection Board have made grants of materials, etc., for this purpose.

At Finniss Springs there are on the average about 150 aborigines. Thirty-six children attend school, and it is pleasing to report that two 7th grade students passed their Progress Certificate Examination. A serious loss occurred when the store building was gutted by fire, and a considerable amount of food and clothing was destroyed. Some new homes have been erected, and the aborigines at this Mission are gradually purchasing furniture for their needs. It is most encouraging to see these people becoming home conscious. The serious shortage of water at Finniss Springs is still causing concern. Little improvement can be expected in the way of health and hygiene until a sufficient supply of water for domestic purposes is obtained. At this Mission the able-bodied aborigines are enabled to find employment in the surrounding pastoral areas, and only the aged, infirm, widows, etc., are in receipt of relief.

At Nepabunna Mission Mr. and Mrs. Hathaway continue to work amongst the aborigines. Little work has been done on the pyrites mine, but able-bodied natives can be fully employed at nearby properties. Some of the families from this Mission have removed themselves to Copley where they are camping on the Common. These natives have found employment in the Copley area, particularly on the Railways, and many were employed in transhipping freight from the Murray. The broad gauge. At Nepabunna only the aged, infirm and widows are in receipt of relief, and it is pleasing to note that there has been quite some improvement in the housing conditions. The plentiful supply of water for domestic purposes is essential, and it is hoped that during the year a more satisfactory scheme to supply water will be constructed.

At Colebrook Home there are 27 native girls and boys accommodated. Although some difficulty has been experienced both with the staff and children at this Home, with the appointment of Mr. E. R. Finke as Superintendent and his wife as Matron, who already have greatly improved the interior of this Home, it is expected that this Home will be more successful.

Miss Bulbilt continues as Matron of the Oodnadatta Children's Home where there are 18 children accommodated.

The children from this Home are now attending the Oodnadatta Public School.
There are, at present, 50 children accommodated in the Home, and a considerable number of natives occupying the cottages and camping in the Reserve. At the Reserve there have been 17 births, two marriages and six deaths during the year. The general health of the Home children has been good. The numbers of aborigines residing on the camp vary considerably, but averages about 40 adults and 25-30 children. Forty-eight children are enrolled at the special school at Umeewarra. Three of the older girls are taking correspondence lessons for art work and some are commencing to learn music. It is pleasing to report that another of the Umeewarra girls, Dorothy Lenon, has entered the Singleton Training College. Hilda Murray, who entered Singleton College from Umeewarra, is still studying, and good reports have been received of her progress. The two former students of this College are doing well in Darwin. Installation of electric light in this Home and the use of many electrical appliances has made the work of the staff at least more convenient, if not easier. The motor vehicle provided by the Board to this Mission has proved an asset in many ways, particularly for the transport of sick people to and from hospital.

The Matron is thankful for the assistance granted by the Board and officers of the Aborigines Department. Thanks are due to the doctors and Staff of the Port Augusta Hospital for their kind co-operation and treatment of aborigines in this district. Many of the natives from Umeewarra Reserve move about from place to place, often visiting the Opal Fields. Most aborigines on this Reserve are able to find employment in or near the district and relief for the most part is only issued to the aged and infirm.

KOONIBBA LUTHERAN MISSION

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia continues its policy of regarding the spiritual work and education among the natives as its chief object on the Mission. All children on the Mission are given a thorough training in the teachings of the Christian religion, which training is also meant to help them bear their responsibilities more capably as citizens in the community.

At the 30th June, 1957, there were 97 adults and 131 children living in cottages on the Mission, with a further 16 children accommodated in the Children's Home. During the year there were 13 births, 8 deaths and 4 marriages recorded. Because of difficulty experienced in finding sufficient staff for the Children's Home, a far lesser number of children are now accommodated than is usual. The housing provided for the natives at Koombba is inadequate, but the Church is making extensive repairs and improvements to many of the native cottages.

There are 96 children enrolled at the school which engages three full-time teachers and a part-time craft teacher. The school rooms are at present inadequate, but it is likely that with some assistance from the Board a further class room will be constructed next year. The Church has resolved that vocational training must also be established at the Koombba School. This will be done in progressive stages and it is envisaged that eventually the boys will be taught useful trades such as carpentering, plumbing, building, etc., and the girls will be trained in domestic art and various useful crafts. The painting and drawing of the children continues to be an outstanding feature of their school work, although they receive no specialized or professional training.

The Presbyterian Mission, Ernabellia.

The Presbyterian authorities in control of this Mission conduct it in such a manner that the aborigines are gradually prepared for their eventual contact with civilization. The aborigines are permitted to continue with certain tribal customs, but have a better understanding of natural dignity and self-respect. Many of the aborigines are employed as shepherds, and other able-bodied natives who are not employed hunt under natural conditions, for game, although at times some relief is issued. The handicraft industry and training school provides useful employment for many of the aboriginal women, and the enthusiasm of the women for spinning and weaving has not waned. The quality of the work is excellent, and provides a certain income to the Mission. Many of the native girls have been trained in the work of orderlies, particularly in the hospital clinic and dining hall. Most of these girls carry out their work very satisfactorily.

Many dingo scalps have been purchased from the aborigines, and stores and clothing supplied to them in exchange. School attendance varies considerably when families leave the Mission to hunt on the Reserve. The children are taught, among other things, some English, and are also instructed in their own dialect, but it is most noticeable that few of these natives will converse in any other language than their own dialect.

The Board continues to supply rations and clothing for all mothers and infants, pregnant women, 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.

During the year an epidemic of measles occurred at Ernabellia and a large number of natives were affected. There had previously been an epidemic of measles at Ernabellia in 1946 which gave some immunity to many of the aborigines. Following that epidemic a number of deaths occurred, particularly among the children, and the Secretary of the Board accompanied two medical scientists to Ernabellia to investigate the high mortality rate. The result of this investigation should ensure that where an epidemic of this kind occurs among aborigines anywhere in the State the mortality rate should not in future be higher than that expected in other communities.
Over 5,000 sheep, including lambs, are depastured on this Reserve. Six hundred and eleven sheep were slaughtered for use as rations. Sheepskins recovered from sheep butchered or natural losses realized £951 12s. 2d. A very dry spell was experienced between October, 1956 and June of this year, and it was fortunate that a large supply of baled hay and oats was conserved, otherwise it would have been necessary to dispose of a percentage of all stock. Four thousand bales of hay and approximately 2,400 bags of oats were used in hand feeding to avoid losses. The greatest difficulty has again been experienced in supplying sufficient water for livestock and the residents of the Reserve. Thousands of gallons of water were carted from the Station wells and 50,000 gallons were carted from the pipeline at Maitland.

Cattle were kept in good condition, 58 calves being born; 52 cattle were sold realizing £1,037 5s. 1d. During the year sufficient cows have been milked to supply milk to the natives and school children free of cost. The line of cattle at Point Pearce is readily sought after, both for slaughtering and milking purposes. Total cattle on hand at the 30th June, 1957, amounted to 137.

Pigs sold during the year realized £1,178 6s. 7d. There were 80 pigs on hand at the 30th June.

Agricultural activities were carried out with the aid of both native and white share-farmers; 21,587 bags of barley were produced from 2,030 acres, and 686 bags of barley were produced off 120 acres sown as a cover crop to louse, clover, and ryegrass. Ten thousand, eight hundred and twenty bags of wheat were produced from 900 acres, average per acre, 35 bush., 41-03 lb. Two thousand, six hundred and seventy-two bags of oats were produced off 120 acres sown as a cover crop to lucerne, clover, and ryegrass. The harvest return for 1956-57 has been an all time record at the Point Pearce Reserve and there appears little doubt that with improved pastures and the use of additional superphosphate, production can be increased, and there is less likelihood of failures in dry areas. Eight hundred and twenty acres of wheat and 1,639 acres of barley have been sown this season on shares with both natives and white share-farmers, and 180 acres of oats have also been seeded. As the season opened very late, it is likely that the harvest will be very low in return.

The appointment of a Building Overseer has been made to this Reserve. A new home was erected for occupation by the Building Overseer. Repairs were carried out to many roofs of the native cottages, and 12 of the homes have been painted and kalsomined. New floors were constructed in native homes, and water has been laid on to a number of houses. One house is in the course of construction and many lavatories have been constructed and erected and cement floors laid. A new shed, 60ft. x 30ft., has been erected for use of preserving hay.

Aborigines on this Reserve are developing progressively. At the present time there are between 30 and 40 privately owned cars on the Reserve. Many of the natives are earning money comparable with that of white workmen, and there are others who earn even more with shearing and other activities outside. The native share-farmers last year had an average income of about £1,300. Unfortunately, here again the natives are not thrifty, and often their earnings are spent unwisely. It is, however, difficult to persuade such people to take their place in the outside community, although the Board are prepared to support and assist them in doing so.

A Co-operative Store was commenced during the year and has already proved of considerable benefit to the aborigines, particularly in regard to them accepting some responsibility of their own in directing others, which applies to the executive officers of the Society, Committee members, etc. The establishment of such a Co-operative could result in at least some of the natives realizing the benefit of co-operative movements, and, as previously stated, the officers of such a movement will benefit from the responsibility of conducting a Co-operative Store.

A Statement of Departmental receipts and payments for this year ended 30th June, 1957, is appended.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

M. McINTOSH, Chairman  
J. B. CLELAND, Deputy Chairman  
GORDON ROWE  
CONSTANCE M. COOKE  
A. J. WALKER  
A. M. JOHNSTON  
C. E. BARTLETT, Secretary

Aborigines’ Protection Board.
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1957

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

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>£</th>
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Grants—

- Ernabella Mission—Towards cost of new buildings
- Ernabella Mission—Towards cost of water supply
- Umeewarra Mission—Towards electricity
- Umeewarra Mission—Towards cost of vehicle and erection of garage
- Evangelical Lutheran Church—Towards erection of hall at Port Lincoln

Payments were:

- Administrative Officers
- Pay Roll Tax for Child Endowment
- Portion of Superannuation Pensions met by the Government
- Provisions, Blankets, Clothing, Medicines, Transport, Allowances and Office Expenses
- Aboriginal Women’s Home, North Adelaide
- Development of Reserves for Aborigines
- Training half-cast girls for domestic service
- Assistance to Fishermen and Rabblers, etc.
- Maintenance of aboriginal children at Institutions and Homes
- Payments to sick aborigines in hospitals
- Purchase and erection of sheds and tanks at Yalata Station
- Purchase of houses for aborigines
- Payments to Dependants and Officers retiring or resigning—Long Service and Recreation Leave
- Purchase of motor vehicle
- Development of North West Reserve
- Allowance to Evangelical Lutheran Church towards Missionary Depot at Coober Pedy

Receipts:

- Part proceeds voluntary liquidation Yalata Ltd. and Dividends on Inscribed Stock
- Refund rail fares, etc. and half share Yalata earnings

POINT PEACE STATION

Expenditure

- Salaries, Wages and allowances, etc.
- Pay Roll Tax for Child Endowment
- Farm Stores, Implements and Rations, etc.
- Purchase of Motor Vehicles
- Purchase of Tractor
- Purchase of Agricultural Equipment
- Purchase of Fire Fighting Equipment
- Construction of Hay Shed and Silos
- Part Cost of Funeral of Exempted Aborigines
- Materials for erection of fencing
- Materials for new bathrooms on cottages
- Purchase of Agricultural Equipment
- Erection of new wool shed
- Trading store, purchases and Expenses

Receipts

- Sales, Produce, etc.
- Store Sales

POINT McLEAY STATION

Expenditure

- Salaries, Wages and Allowances, etc.
- Pay Roll Tax for Child Endowment
- Farm Stores, Implements and Rations, etc.
- Purchase of Motor Vehicle
- Rent of Section, Hundred of Baker
- Materials for erection of fencing
- Materials for new bathrooms on cottages
- Purchase of Agricultural Equipment
- Erection of new wool shed
- Trading store, purchases and Expenses

Receipts

- Sales, Produce, etc.
- Store Sales

CAMPBELL HOUSE

Expenditure

- Salaries and Wages
- Pay Roll Tax for Child Endowment
- Implements, Stores, etc.
- Renovations, additions, engineering services

Receipts

- Sales, Produce, etc.

YALATA STATION

Salaries of Nurse

Operating Surplus

Cost of Aborigines to the South Australian Government for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1957 £161,762

C. BARTLETT, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board