

1917-18.

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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA.

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REPORT

OF

THE ADMINISTRATOR

FOR THE

YEARS 1915-16 AND 1916-17.

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area of 4 or 5 acres to be cultivated and sown with fodder crops, such as rice, maize, &c., so that hard feed may, if possible, be available for the horses working on the station in the future.

I am very pleased, on the whole, with the appearance of this station. It will be remembered that the area was handed over to us free of charge by the owners of the Elsey Station—Messrs. Lawrie and Co. Prior to that, the land had never been stocked. The fact that the sheep paddock is carrying at the present time, after five months of dry weather, a sheep to 3 acres, shows the benefit of the fencing, and I am satisfied that even better results can accrue with regard to the large paddock when fully stocked with cattle and horses, as there the soil is much richer on the whole, and almost entirely overlying limestone.”

The following letter from a well-known pastoralist, who had previously been pessimistic regarding the sheep experiment, written to me after his visit to Mataranka last June, is interesting and encouraging :—

I have been about here for several days, and during that time I have had occasion to go through the paddocks. In fact, I have made it my business to potter about the paddocks, and I can assure you that I am pleased at the way things are looking and shaping their way here.

The sheep are going to make good, I feel sure. They are all in good condition, especially the dry sheep. The lambs are well grown, and are in tip-top fettle. Of course, the paddocks are the cause of the vast improvement in the sheep.

The money spent here in wire has been well spent. The present manager is a great improvement on the past men that you have had here ; he takes a real live interest in the place. Even the homestead is better to look at than before his arrival—good garden, &c.

#### ABORIGINES.

The great increase in the white population of Darwin has resulted in the demand for aboriginal assistance in households exceeding the supply, though the officers of the Department have done everything possible to assist housewives anxious to obtain this, the only, class of domestic assistance available. Freezing works construction increased the difficulty of preventing illicit intercourse between white and native, but this has in some measure been overcome by the drastic regulations referred to by the Chief Protector, in the enforcement of which the officers have been materially helped by employers as a body.

The usefulness of the Darwin Compound becomes more apparent each year. The natives are happy, and under the thorough control of the Superintendent, for whom, it is evident, the great majority have a high regard. Instead of nomadic natives being camped throughout vacant areas of the town and suburbs, such visitors are now compelled to camp within the compound area, on which unauthorized Europeans are not permitted to enter. Those who require food are found useful work to do, and all are more or less under discipline. The permanent huts in the compound are much prized by their occupants, and all are kept in thorough order. Native customs and games are, so far as possible, encouraged, and the co-operation which exists between “ King ” George of the Larrakeah Tribe, who exercises no small authority, and the Superintendent is of considerable value in the maintenance of discipline and harmony.

That the aboriginal is not the degraded human being, and of the low order of intelligence that is so commonly asserted, I am more and more convinced. His nomadic habits and social customs, which provide for no real authority, together with the dissimilarity of the languages used by different tribes, militate against that complete understanding of native mind that has proved such a factor in dealing with the indigenes of other parts of the world. Yet the blackfellow who is not demoralized by the European, who comprehends what his employer wishes, and is treated firmly yet sympathetically, displays an intelligence and a loyalty of no mean order. In this connexion, the observations by the Manager of Batchelor (Mr. Love) are especially instructive, as prior to his appointment it was almost impossible to secure aboriginal assistance there, the district not being one naturally favoured by the blackfellow. They are there because of Mr. Love’s personality, and knowledge of how to treat them.

Their value in the penetration and exploration of this vast empty land, waterless for enormous stretches in the interior, has not been sufficiently recognised. To-day it is rare that one meets a white traveller or resident in the bush who has not the assistance of, at least, one aboriginal, and even the small miner working his own claim is almost invariably assisted by aborigines, to whom at times he trusts, in a degree, his life.

Notwithstanding these observations, it is true occasional individual or group actions of lawlessness against whites have to be recorded. The majority are traceable to primary wrongdoing on the part of the white—frequently to interference with females, the native order regarding

which is strict, and the penalty often death. More rarely, as in the attempted poisoning of the Cahill household, it is attributable to the malign influence of another "semi-civilized" native, and there, it is safe to say, the full consequences of the act were not at first apprehended.

There is an absence of parental discipline when they are young. The sense of responsibility and the European code of morality are not cultivated. The hereditary desire for change of scene and variety of occupation have been engendered by millenia of nomadic life. The aboriginal, therefore, never develops beyond the schoolboy stage, and must be dealt with as an adolescent, not an adult.

Mr. Cahill, than whom no one knows the native more thoroughly (speaking as he does more than one dialect) nor views him more sympathetically, informs me that, in spite of the defection of Romula in attempting to poison him and his family, he would gladly have that aboriginal back at once, trusting him as fully as he did in the past. He is satisfied the aberration manifested was solely due to the bad influence exercised for a time by the other native, "Nipper," and as Romula had been his close companion during 25 years of an adventurous career, it may be assumed that Mr. Cahill thoroughly understands the moral temperament of the man.

I recently visited the Oenpelli Aboriginal Station, East Alligator River, and was very favorably impressed with the general improvements, effected entirely by native labour under supervision, since my previous visit eighteen months ago. The stock yards and dip are the best I have seen in the Territory. The buildings are substantial, and composed entirely of bush timber (with iron roofs), even the walls of the new cottage being of bark. The insulation of the freezing chamber—charcoal, made on the spot—proves effective. The milking yards and bails are kept scrupulously clean, and it was a pleasure to observe each milker, who dons a special suit during milking, carefully wash the udder after bailing up the cow, whether under immediate supervision or not; it has become a routine. The fences are substantial. The garden is well stocked. The natives, whether belonging to the station or casual visitors, are happy and contented. The culinary operations, which are extensive, are under the immediate charge of Mrs. Cahill. The stock are all in excellent condition, and increasing in numbers. As will be seen by Mr. Cahill's report, the influence of the station is extending, and many natives who formerly had never seen a white man are now becoming gradually acquainted with the best side of the white man's supremacy and discipline.

The Mission Stations at Bathurst Island (Roman Catholic), Roper River (Anglican), and Hermannsberg (Lutheran), judging by reports, continue to exercise a good influence on the aborigines. The missionaries at Bathurst Island now exert a beneficial control over the majority of natives on that island and Melville Island, and many are proving of value, assisting in timber felling, saw milling, &c., besides the ordinary routine work. The Roper Mission buildings, seriously damaged by the unprecedented floods of December, 1915, are now rehabilitated, but the question of removing to a more suitable site, probably on Groote Island, where contact with whites could be obviated, is under consideration. Negotiations are under way for the Mission to take charge of a number of half-caste children now scattered between the Roper River and the Macdonnell Ranges, the Government paying a subsidy for maintenance when payment by the white father cannot be enforced.

The Methodist Mission has established a station on the Goulburn Islands, a situation selected by the Rev. Jas. Watson after an exhaustive examination of the country and careful consideration of all the factors. Mr. Watson himself undertook the pioneering work of this station, and already the good effects of his endeavours can be observed. In common with the others, this Mission receives an annual Government grant. In addition to the Mission work, it is found that the principals of these stations, acting as Honorary Protectors, are of considerable value to the Administration.

The Police continue to render good service as Honorary Protectors.

In the interests of economy the office of Chief Inspector was abolished, as already stated, it being considered the results did not warrant the expenditure at the present time.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF LIQUOR.

Pursuant to the Liquor Ordinance, No. 8 of 1915, the Administration took over the sale, both wholesale and retail, of liquor in the northern part of the Territory on the 1st October, 1915. Considerable difficulties were met with at the very inception, in addition to those which might naturally be expected, there being an insistent demand on the part of the A.W.U. for an immediate increase of wages. Owing to my unavoidable detention in the country, this was for the time granted by the Supervisor, but neither the Minister nor myself could concur in the arrangement. The resultant complete dislocation of hotel business, to the great discomfort of boarders and travellers, is described in the Supervisor's report. The rates paid to hotel employees under private enterprise

1st July, 1917.

The Administrator, Darwin,

I have the honour to report on the work of the Education Department for the two years ending 30th June, 1917.

*Schools.*—At the commencement of the period there were six public schools open in the Territory, two of them—Daly River and Stapleton—being worked by the itinerant teacher, Mr. King, the others full time. Owing to the removal of the children from Stapleton, that school was closed in September, 1916, and in December the school at Daly River was discontinued for a similar reason. Mr. King has since been relieving, first at Pine Creek, and latterly at the Darwin school. Brock's Creek school was also closed in September, 1916, as there were only three children of school-going age left in the district.

There are a number of children in attendance at the Darwin school who reside at the 2½-Mile and at Paraparap. Formerly these children were conveyed home by an engine with a carriage attached, but, unfortunately, owing to the engine being required by the Railway Department for other duties, this service could not be regularly maintained. As the long walk home in the heat of the day is prejudicial to the health of the children, a school will shortly be opened midway between the locomotive workshops and Paraparap, to serve the two districts. It is estimated that there will be a roll number of at least fifty. The Public Works Department already has the building well in hand.

*Attendance.*—The net number of children instructed at the various schools, and the average attendance for the time they were open during the period, were as follows:—

School.	Net Number Instructed.	Average Attendance.
Darwin ...	157	72.7
Pine Creek	47	24
Brock's Creek	6	5.3
Daly River	5	3.7
Stapleton ..	7	6.8
Alice Springs	37	28.8
Aboriginal school	27	23
	286	164.3

The numbers are a considerable increase on the figures of the previous year. The roll-number at the Darwin school is at present 126—the highest it has ever been since opening. Paraparap will probably absorb about 35 of these.

The modified hours of instruction, viz., 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. daily, and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on two afternoons a week for upper scholars, have worked more satisfactorily than the Saturday morning school. Still, there are a few parents who appear to be satisfied that their children should receive the minimum—not the maximum—amount of education available. Definite news has at last been received that the Ordinance enforcing compulsory attendance between the ages of six and fourteen years will shortly be gazetted. This will undoubtedly prove of material advantage to teachers and scholars alike.

Books and instructions for teaching children have, on application, been forwarded to several parents "out-back."

*Foreign Children.*—Of these there are about 25 Chinese, and the position in regard to their efficiency remains the same. Despite a modified curriculum, with extra time allowed for English subjects, they fail to obtain a good grasp of these. In many cases they read fluently, but it is very difficult to get them to understand the ideas contained in the passage read. Spelling, being more mechanical in its nature, does not present so many difficulties to them. Oral and written

composition is always a stumbling block, and, unless carefully supervised, they invariably lapse into "pidgin" English.

With the foreign Europeans—Greek, Spanish, and Russian—the position is similar, though hardly so accentuated. While the different children of these nationalities were few in number, they mixed freely with the other white children, and were rapidly acquiring the English language. Since their numbers have increased, however, they have formed little coteries of their own, and almost invariably use their mother tongue in conversation with one another. This is especially noticeable with the Greek children, who are more numerous than the Russian and Spanish, and are by no means popular with the rest of the scholars. This difficulty with the children of foreign extraction will probably continue until English is spoken in their homes.

*Aboriginal School.*—Though handicapped by unavoidable changes of teachers, good progress has been made by the scholars. Several of the older boys and girls have left and are giving satisfaction as messengers in the Government offices and as nurse girls, respectively.

*Higher Education.*—Preparatory classes have been held for the cadets' entrance examination as occasion demanded. More recently, evening continuation classes have been started in the following subjects, viz.:—

Subject.	Enrolled.	Average Attendance.
Shorthand ..	19	16
Bookkeeping	12	8.4
Arithmetic ..	19	15.2
Spelling ..	14	11
Grammar ..	10	8.4
Algebra ..	12	8.5

In all, 26 students enrolled for various subjects. Of these, some were cadets from Government offices, but the majority were from other spheres of employment. A satisfactory first quarter's work was done, and, provided the interest is maintained, material progress should be made by the end of the year. Four of the above subjects—shorthand, arithmetic, grammar, and algebra—have been made compulsory subjects for a cadets' promotion examination, which will be held in December next. Arrangements have been completed for the Education Department to act as agent for the International Correspondence Schools, but, owing, doubtless, to the floating nature of the population of the Territory, only one course—a mining metallurgy one—has been allotted.

*Inspection of Schools.*—Visits of inspection paid to the Pine Creek and Aboriginal schools, and specimens of work received from the other schools, showed that a good standard is being maintained amongst the scholars, and that earnest efforts are being put forth by the teachers. The enforcement of the compulsory Ordinance will most decidedly result in a further improvement in efficiency.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

V. L. LAMPE,  
H.T., Darwin.

Aboriginal Department,  
Darwin, 20th September, 1917.

I submit herewith reports from the Protector in charge of Oenpelli Aboriginal Station, the Superintendent of Kahlia Compound, and from the Protector and the matron and teacher of the natives at Alice Springs for the two years ending 30th June, 1917.

It will be seen from these reports that there has been no great development of the work of the Department, due principally to the necessity for economy on account of the war.

The draft ordinance referred to in my last annual report is now under consideration by the Government. In addition to consultations and correspondence with Chief Protectors of other States, I have discussed the terms of this ordinance with the superintendents of the various missions in the Territory, and thanks are due to them for the assistance afforded.

#### STAFF.

I regret to report the death of Mrs. Holtze, teacher of the aboriginal school, and matron of the compound at Kahlin. She carried out her duties with patience and discretion, and at all times displayed a keen interest in the welfare of the natives. During Mrs. Holtze's last illness the Rev. A. Pratt conducted the school, and the thanks of the Department are due to him for the assistance he afforded.

The position of Chief Inspector having been abolished, Mr. J. T. Beckett, who held that position, severed his connexion with the Department in May last.

Mrs. MacDonald, wife of the Superintendent of Kahlin Compound, has succeeded Mrs. Holtze as teacher and matron of the compound. Mr. Love has been transferred from Daly River to another Department, and Constable Bridgland is now Protector there. The Rev. R. Courbon has left Bathurst Island, and is succeeded as Honorary Protector there by the Rev. X. Gsell, while the Rev. J. Watson, superintendent in charge of the Methodist Mission at Goulburn Island, has been made an Honorary Protector for the northern coast from Cape Don to Caledon Bay. Dr. Jones, Acting Chief Health Officer, and H. A. Jackson, construction engineer for the Lighthouse Department, have also been appointed Honorary Protectors.

#### INSPECTIONS.

In 1915, Chief Inspector Beckett visited the MacArthur and Roper River districts, and returned overland *viâ* Hodson Downs and Katherine. He also visited Fletcher's Gully and Daly River district, the coast and islands between Darwin and Cape Ford, and made several visits to Bathurst and Melville Islands. Mr. Beckett reported that at Bathurst Island his visit quelled a threatened outbreak among the natives. In August, 1916, Mr. Beckett went on long leave, hence no long distance inspection work was carried out by him during the year 1916-17. During that period, however, the Rev. H. E. Warren (Honorary Protector, Roper River) has visited and reported upon the "Groote Island" group of islands, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, and the Rev. James Watson (Honorary Protector of Goulburn Islands) has patrolled the coast and islands from Cape Don to the Goyder River. Their reports have contained much useful information, and such intercommunication between the Department and the mission is of mutual help, and tends to reduce expenses for both parties. A further inspection of Alice Springs and district was made by Mr. T. E. Day, late Chief Surveyor. His report has already been forwarded to the Minister.

#### OENPELLI STATION.

In February last a most serious attempt to poison Protector Cahill and all white people at the station was made by a native, "Romula," who had been Mr. Cahill's personal servant for over twenty years. Fortunately his attempt did not succeed. In Protector Cahill's report he gives what he thinks the reason for this native's sudden and dastardly attempt to murder people from whom he had received nothing but kindness. Fortunately the trouble at Oenpelli ended as quickly as it began, and the work of the station has proceeded uninterruptedly.

Mr. Cahill's report gives details of all the work that is being carried out there. The principal experiment, dairying, is progressing hopefully. The herd is in

good heart, most of the necessary buildings have been erected. Machinery has been obtained and adapted in the most economical manner; at the present time natives are being instructed as milkers. Next dry season should see manufacture of butter on a fairly large scale. So far, the quality has been excellent. By the courtesy of the Northern Agency Ltd. an analysis was obtained of the last two samples of butter sent in from Oenpelli. It reads as follows:—

Large sample.—Moisture, 10.60 per cent.; salt, 2.51 per cent.

Small sample.—Moisture, 12.67 per cent.; salt, 1.91 per cent.

The flavour, texture, and low moisture content of the sample show that dairying can be done in the coastal districts. The samples analyzed had to be brought 180 miles in a launch (with no artificial cooling whatever), in a hold where the temperature would certainly be over 100 deg. Fahrenheit. After at least thirty-six hours in transit, it was put into cool store in Darwin, and proved of good quality.

In other respects Mr. Cahill's report will show what effort is being made to train the natives industrially, and with what result.

I referred in my last report to the export of hides from Woolner Reserve. The financial result has been quite satisfactory, a profit of over £200 being made. As the natives forming the shooting party were drawn from Oenpelli, and supervised by Mr. Cahill, this profit is considered a set-off against some of the cost of that station's upkeep.

#### KAHLIN COMPOUND.

At Kahlin, necessary extension of buildings has been continued. In order to treat sick natives in the compound, the building formerly used as an office has been extended and improved to form a hospital, and the Acting Chief Health Officer visits as frequently as is necessary. In his report will be found details of cases treated at Kahlin, and the results obtained. The Superintendent of the compound reports that natives show much less objection to going to their own hospital than they did to treatment at the general hospital. A good deal of rough land around the compound has been cleared and fenced by the natives (under supervision), and useful paddocks will result in the course of a year or two. Sewing lessons are given to the lubras and girls in the compound by the matron, and it has been possible to draw a staff of messengers for the Government offices from the native and half-caste boys attending the aboriginal school. These boys have been engaged in some of the offices for over twelve months, and, with two exceptions, have proved quite satisfactory. They receive a salary, most of which is banked in trust for them, and those who care to do so are allowed to attend school in the afternoon.

Five youths and girls from the Alice Springs and Kahlin establishments have been sent to situations under agreements approved by the Department. So far, the reports from all of them are good.

The large increase in the number of the men employed in the erection of the meat works near Darwin produced the same difficulties in regard to venereal diseases as I referred to in my last report as being in evidence along the railway construction works between Pine Creek and Katherine. The Protectors and police here did their utmost to check this evil; but so long as natives could visit the site of the meat works, little could be done. It was, therefore, decided to declare the whole of the town and neighbourhood of Darwin a "prohibited area," except an area at Kahlin. It thus became an offence for a native to be anywhere but at the compound; but a system of permits was introduced, which enables natives properly employed by reputable employers to remain in such employment. Even they

must be back at the compound (or in quarters on the employer's premises approved by the Department) before sunset. If natives are found in the town after dark without a permit from their employer or from a Protector, they can be arrested. If an employer keeps a native within the "prohibited" area without a permit, both native and employer are liable to penalties. This extension of the prohibited area has undoubtedly caused a certain amount of inconvenience to reputable employers of aboriginals. They have recognised the necessity for coping with the evil referred to, and, on the whole, have given the Department assistance in carrying out its work. At the same time, experience shows that the "permit" system can be easily abused, especially amongst a population as nomadic as that here. It may yet be found necessary to require all natives to sleep at the compound; but if the new ordinance is passed it may be possible to avoid this, and thus save reputable employers and better-class natives a considerable amount of inconvenience.

Native trust funds continue to expand, and there are now 481 accounts, representing a total amount of £1,448 13s. 5d.

The relations between the Department and the various mission stations are still most satisfactory.

Since my last report the Methodist Church has established a mission at Goulburn Island, under the supervision of the Rev. James Watson. Mr. Watson spent some time in the Territory before deciding upon the location of the mission, and I understand that he is very satisfied with the mission's prospects.

During 1915-16 the crimes amongst natives were none of them serious. The total number was 47, and this shows a decrease of 15 upon the previous year. In 1916-17 the number was 52, and I regret to say these included two charges of murder, one of attempted murder, two of attempted poisoning. In one charge of murder the two natives were acquitted. In another two were sentenced to death, but the sentence was commuted to penal servitude for life. The cases of attempted murder and poisoning were those at Oenpelli already referred to. The other offences were all of a minor character.

I have again to express my thanks to the Inspector of Police and his staff, who in so many parts of the Territory represent this Department.

I append herewith summary of reports received from the various Protectors during the past twelve months.

H. E. CAREY,

Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

Name of District.	Quarter Ending.	Sickness.	Offences.
Anthony's Lagoon ..	30.9.16	Beriberi (very slight) .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	31.12.16	Health good; 1 death .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	31.3.17	" .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.6.17	Health good .. .. .	Nil
Alice Springs ..	30.6.16	Nil .. .. .	7. Various charges; 1 lunatic, Sam, sent to Adelaide
" " ..	30.9.16	Influenza .. .. .	1. Maiming cow
" " ..	31.12.16	2 died; natural .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	31.3.17	Health good .. .. .	1 conviction larceny
Alice Well ..	30.9.16	Nil .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	31.3.17	Health good .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.6.17	Epidemic colds; some deaths .. .. .	Nil
Brock's Creek ..	31.3.16	1 .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.6.16	1, sent to Darwin .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.6.17	Health good .. .. .	Nil
Bow Hills ..	30.9.16	Nil .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	31.12.16	Nil .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.6.17	Very good .. .. .	Nil
Borroolooka ..	30.5.16	Nil .. .. .	1 complaint, Tommy, of threatening to kill; 1, made by aboriginal against European of attempt to steal horse
" ..	30.9.16	Nil .. .. .	2 natives—murder of trepang fisher; natives, for killing cattle, 1
" ..	31.12.16	Fair; 1 case venereal disease .. .. .	Unlawful possession of beef, 2
" ..	31.3.17	2 deaths .. .. .	Nil
Katherine ..	31.3.16	Influenza .. .. .	2, stealing
" ..	30.6.16	Number of deaths .. .. .	1, escape from custody; 1, European fined for assault on native
" ..	31.12.16	Several deaths .. .. .	Nil
" ..	31.3.17	Little fever .. .. .	Nil
Pine Creek ..	31.3.16	Influenza .. .. .	2, entering prohibited area
" " ..	30.6.16	Nil .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.9.16	Influenza .. .. .	3, entering prohibited area; 2, murder
" " ..	31.12.16	Nil .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	31.3.17	Very little .. .. .	Some thieving; offenders removed to Darwin
Newcastle Waters ..	31.10.16	Influenza .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.3.17	" .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.6.17	11 deaths from influenza .. .. .	Nil
Roper River ..	30.6.16	3 deaths—1, old age; 1, growth on stomach; 1, tuberculosis	Nil
" " ..	30.6.17	2 deaths; no particulars	
Rankine River ..	31.6.16	1, aboriginal infant; 2, half-caste died .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.9.16	Nil .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	31.3.17	Health good .. .. .	Nil
Timber Creek ..	31.3.16	Nil .. .. .	Nil
" " ..	30.6.16	Nil .. .. .	Complaint against natives of conspiracy, to murder made by I. and N. Hall
" " ..	31.3.17	Health good .. .. .	Nil

Oenpelli Aboriginal Station,  
30th June, 1917.

H. E. Carey, Esq.,  
Chief Protector of Aborigines,  
Darwin.

Sir,—I have the honour to report to you for the two years ending 30th June, 1917.

Enclosed you will find a list (taken at that date) of permanent hands employed on the station and their dependants, casual hands, young natives who are being instructed in useful work, and old natives who cannot procure food for themselves and who are being fed at the station. Unfortunately I have not kept a record of the outside natives who came to the station for

medical treatment, but at a rough estimate I should say that, each year, about 150 adult natives were given medicine. Some who were too unwell to eat native food were kept at the station, given medicine and food until they were well again. In over a dozen cases men came in for medicine, and, getting what they came for, went back to their camps—in some cases 35 miles from Oenpelli.

One small boy, who had fallen from a tree, and had a stake driven into his thigh right along the thigh-bone, was brought in by the Koolungoochee tribe for medicine, a distance of 14 miles. The little chap was in a bad state, the stake being in his leg some weeks. I was away at Darwin when the accident happened, and as soon as I arrived back from there the boy was brought to me. I had very little hope of saving him; the pus and stench were very great. I cleansed the wound as well as I could with hot water and corrosive sublimate, injected cocaine, and performed a successful operation. (Took a piece of wood out of his thigh, 4 inches long x  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch wide.) The boy was kept until all danger was passed, and was then taken back to his tribe.

One boy, about 16 years of age, had his thigh broken. I set the leg, bound it up with splints, kept him in bed, and attended to him for thirteen weeks. The boy is now well, and employed on the station.

A small child, about 4 years of age, at a camp named Manu-nuk, 30 miles from Oenpelli, was badly scalded with a can of boiling water. Her father, Oongra (Ben Bolt) at once started with the child to Oenpelli. The child was fed and attended to daily for three weeks until she was well again.

On another occasion, about 10 p.m., I was called to attend to a child who was in convulsions. I had the child brought to the house, gave him treatment, and by midnight he was asleep and out of pain.

Toothache is another thing that the natives suffer with in these parts. In one instance Mungle-mair-er (Charley) walked from the Ban Yan (Ji-eu-Parley) to Oenpelli, a distance of about 50 miles, to have his tooth drawn. I have had numerous cases of natives wanting their teeth drawn, and in every case I inject cocaine and pull out the aching tooth.

Granuloma in its first stages I have treated with sulphate of copper, and have healed the sores up, but the advanced or older cases I send to the hospital at Darwin. Yaws in children is a very common disease in these districts. I generally effect a cure by well cleaning the sores with hot water and corrosive sublimate, and afterwards painting the sores with iodine. Numerous cases of blight are treated, and it is quite common to find a beer bottle full of "eye water" in native camps a long distance away from Oenpelli. As soon as blight appears in a camp, in comes a native for eye medicine. When the cool weather sets in and the south-east winds start to blow, it is then that the natives in this district need attention. Most of the women are in the water getting water lillies, &c., for food; the men are in the water fishing with net and spear; in most cases they get a chill—malaria fever and influenza catch them—and as I write nearly the whole of the camp natives and station staff are suffering from one or the other of these complaints. It is now 10.30 p.m., and I have just come back from attending to two small boys that I have in a shed, 15 yards from where I am writing this report. Both boys are very bad with fever and influenza, and must have attention at all times. To-day about forty natives have had either cough cure or quinine, and it is nearly lunch-time before I can attend to all their wants. In every case of sickness within a fair distance of the station attention is at once given, and if any are reported too sick to come to the station arrangements are made to have them brought in so that medicine can be given them. Dr. Holmes' book, *First Aid to Bushmen*, is always consulted in

doubtful cases, and I find it a very great help. The most hopeless case on the station is that of Toby (Kum-or-Kurree), who was sent to the Darwin two years ago, and returned here not cured. His chest and thighs are one mass of sores—probably neglected granuloma. One native, Arra-win-gie, was brought in for treatment nearly two years ago. His leg was doubled up and the sinews contracted; the whole of the knee-joint was one large ulcerated mass. The native was kept at the station, his knee dressed, until he was able to move about on crutches and the sores were healed. This native would undoubtedly have died had he not been brought to the station. A man named Yirragarnd was struck with a womera (spear thrower) and his ear was left hanging by an eighth of an inch of skin. The ear was sewn on again, dressed, and kept clean for some time, and now Yirragarnd is quite a hero, and will show his ear to any one wishing to see where it was mended.

In every case where any native requires medicine or any attention, and can be brought to the station, they get all the relief that we are able to afford them. When I am absent from the station Mrs. Cahill does all in her power for the sick or hurt natives that come for aid. There are lots of other cases that have been attended to, such as ulcerated feet, snake-bite, swollen groins, bubos, skin disease, accidents, one case of poisoning, woman badly hurt with a fighting stick (mor-kin) by her husband, and other hurts. One case of heart complaint (Nulwayo) was brought by his brothers late at night, almost dead. He was quite cold and clammy; his heart could hardly be felt. I took him into the kitchen, made a large fire, and after about an hour's hard work rubbing and practising artificial respiration, we got him all right again. I intend keeping a record-book of all natives treated, and will be able to give you a more complete report in the future. There are numerous other cases of sickness that have been forgotten for the time being.

As there is little variation in each year's work, I give the following returns for the year 1916-17 only.

#### PERMANENT HANDS EMPLOYED.

1. Mitcherlack (Captain); two wives. Mitcherlack has been taught the use of tools, and instructed by me in building, yard-making, gate-making, and all rough bush carpentering, also saddlery.
2. Nulwoyo (Buckley); one wife. Nulwoyo has been given the same training as Captain. The above two natives did nearly the whole of the fitting (under instruction) and building of the freezing room and buildings, but were not far enough advanced to do any of the fitting of joints in building.
3. Balalammon (Quilp), single, stockman, horse-breaker, and generally useful. Does most of the buffalo shooting for beef, and always to the fore with stock movements, droving, &c.
4. Romula (Alf); two wives. (Not on pay-sheet since 1st January, 1917.) General hand; could drive a team of horses, and did most of the mail running from Oenpelli to Burrundie. Was a most reliable man until 22nd January, 1917, when he tried to poison all hands at Oenpelli. Romula is now serving a term of imprisonment for attempted murder in Fanny Bay Gaol.
5. Merrra Karra (Nipper); wife and three children. (Not on pay-sheet since 1st January, 1917.) Had been buffalo shooting for F. A. Smith for about five years. On three occasions came to Oenpelli suffering from fever. Each time Nipper was nursed back to health, and returned to Mr. Smith for the shooting season. Last year Nipper said that he wanted to work at Oenpelli. He started as a casual hand, and in October was put on the pay-sheet. He was the instigator of putting native poison in a water-bag, and was bound over to keep the peace for six months. Since his sentence I

found out that he was the leader of a cow-killing case, for which he received another six months. I may point out that Nipper's wife and three children were kept on the station and found in food.

6. Munnierlorke (Billy). (Not on pay-sheet since 1st January, 1917.) Has been on the station since he was a small boy. He was put on the wages-sheet, 1st October, 1916. Under a threat from Nipper, Munnierlorke was induced to put a white powder (native poison) into our water-bag. He was sent to gaol for six months. Knowing that he was only a tool in the hands of Nipper, I found a person to go surety for amount required by Magistrate, viz., £10, and got Munnierlorke released before his time had expired.

7. Yirra-garna (Charley) is on the pay-sheet, and is a generally useful hand.

8. Immilikur (Big Billy) is on the pay-sheet, and is a generally useful hand.

9. Mon-moona was put on the pay-sheet in place of Munnierlorke.

10. Ibbit (Cribbage) took Romula's place on the pay-sheet.

11. Kopperakey, goat-herd. Has two wives.

YOUNG MEN AND BOYS WHO ARE BEING TAUGHT TO BE USEFUL, BUT ARE NOT ON THE PAY-SHEET. THESE BOYS GET ALL THEY REQUIRE IN FOOD, TOBACCO, CLOTHES, BLANKETS, ETC.

1. Jimmy Ah You, a half-caste Chinese and native, was picked up by me on my way out from Batchelor to Oenpelli with cattle, and brought to Oenpelli. Jimmy is being instructed in dairy work, and being taught to ride, also stock work.

Kurrinbar. Father and mother both dead; he, with his sister (Cadjie-boon-boon) and brother (Mer-ow-ell), have grown up on the station. The two boys are being taught stock work and agricultural work. The sister has been instructed in house work. Ages—18, 16, and 13 years.

Burney-ma-Gorey (Paddy). Both parents dead. Has been here for about two years, with trips out with some of his countrymen, and always comes back very thin. I am making a stockman out of Paddy. Age, 14 years.

Ne-orke. Both parents dead. Aged about 10 years; and at present under medical treatment at Compound, Darwin.

Narricoot, 11 years; Narlim, 8 years; and Kuluba, 4 years of age; children of Nipper. Narricoot has been taking medicine for about twelve months, and has now improved so that he can help mustering cattle and be taught to ride. Kuluba and her mother are at present at the Kahlin Compound.

Jerri-Karra, aged about 13 years. At present at Darwin, has been on the station nearly since station was formed; was instructed in storekeeping and learned to ride.

Boochee and Merrra-will-ar-will. have been instructed in storekeeping, cattle work, and rough carpentering, and are coming on fairly well, and should be shortly placed on the pay-sheet. Both aged about 18 years.

WIVES AND MOTHERS FED AT STATION, WIVES OF THE WORKING MEN.

Marealmark, Yarrowwak, Muppini-gi, Merrinbial, Cadjie-boon-boon, Indamul, Murra-kum-ul, Muk-erula, Un-munda-jik, Marilla, Al-am-un.

WORKERS' MOTHERS WHO GET FOOD AT STATION.

O-Biah, Kum-bian-burr.

OLD MEN WHO LIVE PERMANENTLY AT STATION, THEY BEING UNABLE TO GET FOOD FOR THEMSELVES.

Kumerower, Mitcheryunger.

SICK AND CRIPPLED, ALWAYS FED AT STATION.

Toby, sick. Arrawinjie, cripple.

PATIENTS WHO WERE FED AND MEDICALLY TREATED FROM 30TH JUNE, 1916, TO 30TH JUNE, 1917.

*Fever.*

Mitcherlack M	Bandicky M
Nulwoyo M	Numunbainbeen
Romula M	Narporko M
Kopperakey M	Kumbiemo F
Belalammon M	Obiah F
Yirragarna M	Chillineroo F
Immilikin M	Barlmo F
Munnierlorke	Murrakorika F
Murrakarra M	Muborn-be F
Kurrinbar M	Cadjie-boon-boon F
Jimmy Ah You M	Pungur-lur M
Bunnamagorey M	Murrinbiyah F
Narricoot	Marealmark F

Numerous other cases have been treated but no record kept.

*Influenza.*

All station hands are at the present time suffering from the above. Nearly every native in district has this during S.E. wind season, and 40 have been treated here same day. A mixture of Benzoin Honey and Quinine proves very effective in most cases.

*Gonorrhoea.*

Romula M	Mowweather
Jirrikarra M*	Jack, Burneymagorey
Alice F	

*Bubos.*

Romula M	Jerrikarra M
Alice F	Arrawinjee
Topsy F	Now-wear-nur M
Yarrowwak F	

*Granuloma.*

Alice F	Yarrowwak
Neorko M	Jack (sent Darwin)
Narricoot*	Romula M

*Teeth Extracted.*

Mitcherlack M	Moorna M
Nulwoyo M	Munglemaria M
Kopperakey M	

*Yaws.*

Allamon F	Neorko M
Indamul F	Narricoot M
Narlim M	Murrakarra M
Mur-row-well M	

Sore eyes were very bad during fly season, and the cases are too numerous to give full names of natives treated. Bottles of eye lotion are made up and given to whoever calls for them.

\* Sent Darwin Hospital.

HEALTH OF NATIVES—VENEREAL DISEASE.

It will be seen that several cases were treated at the station. Natives from other parts, who have become affected, are bringing the cases in. The disease was contracted by one of the permanent hands ("Romula") during his absence—without leave—from the station. He cleared out to the coast, and when he returned he was affected with gonorrhoea.

NUMBER OF NATIVES WHO HAD MEDICINE, FOOD, AND ATTENTION WHILE SICK.

Sickness.	No.	General Remarks.
Fever ..	26	Station natives had fever, some had several attacks.
Influenza & Colds		Nearly every native on the station, and about 150 outside natives. Colds were very numerous, no record was kept, and they were classed as influenza.
Yaws ..	7	Treatment, hot water and corros-sub-wishing. Painted with iodine.
Granuloma ..	5	Two cases sent Darwin hospital.



NUMBER OF NATIVES WHO HAD MEDICINE, FOOD, AND ATTENTION WHILE SICK—*continued*.

Sickness.	No.	General Remarks.
Gonorrhœa ..	5	One case sent hospital.
Bubo	7	Hot water treatment and painted with iodine. Two lanced.
Teeth extracted..	5	
Accidents ..	10	In every case food and medicine were given until patient well again.
Snake bites ..	2	One woman was left too long after bite, and died shortly after being brought to me. Other man was saved.
Heart..	1	Patient was carried to kitchen at midnight almost dead; a large fire was made, artificial respiration, hot blankets, and continuous rubbing were kept up until he was revived.
Suppurating ear	1	Treatment, washed out with boracic acid, wadding saturated in carbolic oil and placed in each ear.
Swollen stomach		Treatment, calomel, Epsom salts, hot fomentations, light diet of rice and milk, salol.
Sciatica ..	1	Hot foment, porous plaster, quinine, iod-potassium.
Festering sores ..	1	Painted with pure carbolic as per doctor's instructions. (Dr. Jones.)
Ulcerated foot ..	2	Treatment, sulphate copper, carbolic oil dressings.
Ulcerated knee ..	1	Under treatment two years, breaks out after healing. Dr. Jones' advice to have leg cut off above knee.
Skin disease ..	20	Goa powder and vaseline, painting with iodine.
Blight & sore eyes *		Eye lotion made up and given to every native to take to his camp. Instructions given how to use the lotion. Judging by frequent applications great faith placed in the lotion.

\* No record.

ACCIDENTS.

- Nulwoyo M, cuts on leg and hand.  
 Murrawillarwill M, broken thigh.  
 Oongra's little girl, badly scalded.  
 Kurrinbar M, fall from horse.  
 Obiah F, broken scalp and badly knocked about with a stick.  
 Yirragarna M, ear nearly cut off, and sewn on again.  
 Mearmalpa, Old Billy, M, bad foot, cocaine injected, and operated on successfully.  
 Nal-er-wit M, small boy, fell from tree and badly staked, operated on and stake taken out.  
 Ni-ol-yol M, snake bite.  
 Emonger M, poison (arsenic and caustic soda solution).  
 Jimmy Ah You, fall from horse, arm badly hurt.  
 Bigpurrow M, foot badly cut with axe.  
 Nulumbell M, cut on leg with axe.  
 Narngin M, poisoned eating green plums, aged 6 years, died.  
 Kup-pul-urr F, snake bite, died; brought too late.

□611.—4

GENERAL REPORT ON NATIVES—CASUAL HANDS (NATIVE) EMPLOYED.

Paper bark is generally used as roofing for huts, torches for buffalo-fly burning, &c. I generally make a contract with the bush natives to get and stack the bark. I keep them in tobacco while bark-getting, and when word is brought in that enough bark has been stacked, I ride out to their stacks and buy the bark for station use. I pay flour, tea, sugar, and tobacco and clay pipes to the amount of what I consider a fair price.

Goose egg collecting is also done with outside natives. Generally a man and his wife take a (mitcha-para) dug-out, and search in the swamps for eggs. While eggs are being collected, all the collectors are found in food, tobacco, mosquito nets, matches, and are paid off at the end of egg season with tobacco, &c. During 1917 season, 21,579 goose eggs were collected and used on the station; forty-three natives were being fed through the season (including casuals), and each person could easily eat ten or twelve goose eggs per day; so the eggs were a great help to the commissariat department.

Casuals are employed to get timber out of difficult places where the cart cannot get to, and also to carry the timber over boggy flats, and carry cargo over swampy plains from landing during January, February, March, April, and May.

At times, a large number of natives from all parts of the district come to the station, a kind of social gathering, holding corroborees, and fishing with spears and nets in Oenpelli Lagoon—about 450 natives being here on one occasion. They had come from beyond the Liverpool River and from the headwaters of the East Alligator River. Most of the womenfolk had never seen a white woman. The majority of these were mountain natives, and this was their first visit to the station. A small supply of tobacco was given them, every kindness was shown, and they were given to understand that any sick among them would be given medicine. Judging by the number of natives that came here, and the number they said were left behind, I should say that 1,500 natives would not be far from the number in the district (including South and East Alligator districts, and over to the Liverpool River). A great number of the men were small—not nearly so large as the coastal tribes. Many women were small; a fair number of children were seen.

The conduct of the natives on the station was all that could be desired, with the exception of the attempted poisoning case. There are always one or two discontents or agitators in every gathering, white or black. On this occasion, the conduct of the lubras, or wives, of the men came under discussion; one native said, "We cannot beat our women now, the boss will growl." Another said, "Him all day make us work, won't let us fight with spears or (pure-bay-re-oo) fighting sticks," &c. The facts are, no fighting is allowed in the camps near the station. No natives are allowed to brutally beat their women.

If the woman offends her husband, she is brought to me, and I get the facts of the case, and very often can make peace between them. The men who have their rows also bring their cases to me. This does not suit the flash, or bully, native; he generally likes to have his way in everything, be boss of the camp, knock his wife insensible, or hit another native with whatever he may have in his hand.

In the Romula case, the other natives came to me and told me that they thought that the talk about poisoning me was the usual native skite; they in a body said that, had they thought they intended poisoning any of us, they would at once let me know. They said,

"You know, boss, all blackfellow talk about poisoning other blackfellow, but they all the time gammon," and we thought that the talk of poisoning was just "hot air." Romula was blamed by the outside natives of telling me yarns about pig killing, and things stolen from the station by the outside natives; and, to make himself clear again in their eyes, put poison in our butter-dish, just to show himself a hero among the outside natives; but Nipper was the one that kept the thing going.

All the other natives on the place are quiet, and well behaved; but at their work they must have supervision, otherwise one or two will be working and the others dodging or telling funny yarns. They recognise no head among themselves, so take no orders from any of their crowd. Very often I tell a man to tell another one to go and do a thing; no fear of his being obeyed; the other chap will at once come to me for orders, or the thing is not done.

The natives have been instructed in cultivation on a small scale. Saddlery, yard-building, house-building, concrete work, well sinking, horse-driving, horse-breaking, stock work, gate-making, fencing, timbering wells. The whole of the buildings, yard-building, gate-making, fencing, &c., on Oenpelli have been done by the natives—under instruction, of course—and any person who has seen the natives using adzes and other tools, expresses surprise at the work done by them. A visitor, who has been stockkeeping on the largest stations in the East Kimberley district, said that he had never seen better built stockyards in all his travels than the yards built at Oenpelli.

All cement work for engine foundations, concrete for dip cement, work for wells, braces for wells (before pumps were put on) was done by natives under supervision.

Some time ago, I asked a man who had been doing a lot of work for me clearing ground for a garden (Kopperakey), to start a garden on a nice patch of ground. I told him that I would clear a good patch, dig a well, give him some goats for milking purposes; also that I would send any peanuts, cotton, melons, pumpkins, or anything else that he would grow, to the Chief Protector, who would sell the products and send food, tobacco, &c., in return. His reply was, "Yes, I understand how to make a garden, and would make a garden, but the black man's law in this part of the world is, 'He that has plenty must give to any who wants it.'" This prevents any attempts at individual ownership.

#### EDUCATION.

Another proposition I made to the men was a school. Most of them were in favour of it, at least for the boys; but the idea seems to prevail that once a girl was taken in hand, taught to read and write, and the habits of the white people, she would become useless as a wife to the average black man. My own feeling is that, before we go in for educating any large numbers of boys or girls, we should have some place at which to put them when educated, so that they can earn a living for themselves and family. It would not be fair to the natives to educate them and let them find a living in the bush. This question of education is a matter that has caused me many hours of thought, and is a greater question than the average man comprehends. It is very nice to go to a school, children are lined up, and behave very nicely, sing little songs, and read chapters out of a book. When we get a few thousand of them to this pitch, what are we going to do with them, and where place them?

#### RATIONS.

Breakfast, 7 a.m.—Rice and milk, tea.

Lunch, 12 noon; and Tea, 6 p.m.—Stew in 5-gallon drum, composed of either beef, buffalo beef, pork,

wild geese, goat mutton, wallaby, with vegetables, and thickened with flour. At other times, roast beef or pork, wild geese, &c., fish. There is always meat, either stewed, boiled, or roasted, for lunch and supper, with generally sweet potatoes, cabbage, bread and butter, and tea.

A large earthen oven has been built for bread-baking, &c.; yeast bread is always made. Each person's portion is cut off, put on a plate, and given to him or her. Should they require more food, they ask for it, and get it. A 5-gallon drum of stew takes a deal of digging at.

When the geese eggs are on, each person is served with two eggs, and a large slice of bread, and tin of tea for breakfast. Four eggs, bread, and sometimes butter for dinner, and same for supper. There is always a 5-gallon drum of tea at each meal. A dining-room has been built for the natives, and is only used by a few single men; the married ones prefer to be in little lots in any shady place. There is nearly always plenty of sweet potatoes, English cabbage, beans, carrots, &c., grown on the station for every person. There is always abundance of milk for all, and very often fresh butter for the natives, as well as a little for visitors.

#### VISITS OF MEDICAL MEN AT OENPELLI.

Drs. Breinl and Holmes, August, 1915.

Dr. H. Leighton Jones, February, 1917; June, 1917.

#### VISITS OF PROTECTORS.

Protector Murphy, 1913, 1914.

Protector Rev. Watson, June, 1917.

Inspector Beckett paid two visits, one in 1913, the other 1915.

The following shows the improvements made on the station as at 30th June, 1917:—One paddock,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles fencing, 3 wires, posts 12 feet apart; one paddock,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile fencing, 3 wires; 48 heavy gates, made on station; 18 light gates, made on station.

#### Stockyards—

One stockyard, 70 yards by 40 yards, outside measurement.

Two small inside yards, one horse crush and gate—all drop fence.

One joggled forcing yard, 7 feet high.

One lane and draw-gate leading to dip.

One large bark shed (cow shed), covering calfpens, with four gates, 40 feet by 30 feet (not included above).

One concrete cattle dip, covered with galvanized-iron shed, and galvanized-iron side splash, 5 feet, shed 36 feet by 6 feet.

Two drip yards, concreted floors.

Ironwood posts and five rails alongside of dip.

All necessary belongings.

#### Hut and shed for natives—

Paper-bark top, stringybark sides, 50 feet by 40 feet.

One three-roomed cottage, stringybark, and verandah.

#### Dwellings and outhouses—

One cottage, 30 feet by 42 feet, galvanized roof and gables, stringybark all around.

Two rooms, one 8-ft. passage; and a room (verandah) back and front, 30 feet by 13 feet.

One dwelling house, 30 feet by 18 feet, verandah enclosed all around, four rooms (one mosquito proof), galvanized passage, 30 feet by 8 ft. 6 in., kitchen attached, 30 feet by 16 feet.

One room, with verandah, 28 feet by 18 feet, galvanized roof and gables, stringybark double sides, three-wire gauze windows and door.

## Lumber and saddle room—

Bark all through, size, 40 feet by 40 feet, partitioned off for store room, lumber room, and saddle room.

## Outhouses, &amp;c.—

One bark shed, 30 feet by 18 feet, combined dining room and beef house.

One baker's oven made from ant-beds.

One bathroom and one water closet.

One old blacksmith's shop converted into fowl-house and cart shed.

One small house, all iron, for chicken raising.

One wire netting enclosure, 450 yards fencing; one wire netting enclosure adjoining, with partition, making two enclosures, 700 yards.

Two wells, one 18 feet deep, and one 16 feet.

## Red lilly paddock—

One fence, 1 mile, three wires, posts 14 feet apart.

One fence, 100 yards, six wires (four barb).

One fence, 100 yards, three barb wires, and capped.

The above three fences inclose, with river on one side, about 6,000 acres of good grazing ground in the dry season.

## DAIRYING.

List of buildings, yard, fences, wells, and dip, &c., erected on Oenpelli. Nearly the whole of this work was done by natives under my supervision. Machinery was erected by engineers, who had native assistance whenever required:—

One building, 76 feet by 27 feet, galvanized iron and round timber.

Cement floor, 45 feet by 18 feet.

Engine house attached, 18 feet by 12 feet.

Cement foundations for engine, 6 ft. 7 in. by 4 ft. 1 in. by 5 feet.

Cement foundations for compressor, 2 ft. 6 in. by 3 ft. 2 in. by 4 ft. 9 in.

One boiler and engine.

Complete half-ton Linde freezing plant.

One freezing room complete, 11 feet by 13 feet by 10 ft. 6 in. Walls, 2 feet, double lining of malthoid, double lining of boards, rammed tight with fine charcoal.

One cream vat, with ammonia coils and fitting.

One steam pump, Worthington, and all fittings, and connected with boiler.

One Smith's blower, forge, anvil, vice, iron rack, benches, &c., fitted in end of building.

One well sunk in building, 24 feet deep.

Cement crown work, 7 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft. 3 in. by 3 ft. 2 in. by 1 foot—could get no deeper with small pump.

Milking yard in connexion with freezing and butter-making experiment, 72 feet by 72 feet, six rails in each panel, joggled and fastened with wire, all corner posts mortised, partition in centre mortised; nine gates, wing 66 feet.

One receiving yard with five wires (three barb and two plain). Strong cap fitted on top of posts and strongly wired down.

## EXPERIMENTAL AGRICULTURE WITH NATIVE LABOUR ONLY.

*Cotton*.—Planted 3rd January, 1917. Heavy rain washed out portion of seed, and about 75 per cent. of seed germinated; some of the bolls burst and ripened on 3rd May, four months after planting. The cotton was badly attacked by the boll weevil. The whole of the crop is not ripe yet, and will be reported on fully as soon as it is harvested.

*Sugar Cane*.—The small bag of sugar cane that you forwarded had fallen overboard at Darwin, and only

five pieces were alive when it reached here. These were planted, and are thriving splendidly. As soon as the plants are old enough, a small experimental patch will be planted.

*Peanuts* were experimented on during the wet season of 1915. Five 3-bushel bags were taken off a patch of 25 yards by 7 yards. The nuts were large and sound; some were pierced by small insects, probably white ants; not 3 per cent. were so attacked.

*Rubber*.—Some seeds of the Ceara rubber trees were planted in 1911, and the young trees were planted out. The position chosen was a bad one, the soil was too shallow, and most of the older trees were blown down. The trees started seeding the second year. Some of the seeds germinated, and are now about 18 feet high. No attempt has been made by me to cultivate the trees; my idea was to see if the white ants would kill them. On 30th March we had a hurricane, and the two old trees were blown down. They were quite free of white ants or any other pests. I do not hesitate to recommend the planting of Ceara rubber on suitable soil; the soil must have a good depth, so that the roots can take hold.

*Hungarian Millet*.—Some years back, 1911, I think it was, I had an order for some live birds (seed-eaters). I planted the seed about 30 yards by 30 yards, and took off about 1,000 lbs. of seeds and husks, and fed the birds on the seed. I estimated that the seed saved me £15. The seed was planted during the wet season.

*Maize*.—I have planted three kinds (Ninety Days, Golden Dent, and Hickory King), and got equal results from each kind. This year I planted about an acre, and got about 35 bushels of maize. I am now experimenting with three small patches under irrigation. The first plot, planted 11th May, is now about 6 feet high, and giving promise of a good return. On 26th May another small patch was put in, also another on 24th June, which is showing well above ground. A report will be sent in as soon as the maize is harvested and weighed.

*Sisal Hemp*.—On any place where there was sufficient soil or sand to take hold, this plant thrived. The natives use the fibre for making fishing nets, lines, and all kinds of things. About 2 acres grow here.

*Lemons*.—In the year 1911 some lemon seeds (Messina grown) were planted, and the young trees transplanted. We have had our second crop off one tree; the lemons were as large as the original lemons, and more juice in them. Estimated crop on one tree, sixty dozen. I am planting some of the seeds of the lemons, and will know results. Not troubled with white ants.

*Kumquats*.—Half-a-dozen trees were planted in 1911, and have been bearing for three years. The plants were got from the Darwin Government gardens. No white ants yet.

*Citrons*.—This fruit does not do as well as the lemons or kumquats.

*Almonds* were tried. They grew rapidly, and bore fruit in two years. The white ants killed them off in four years.

*Oranges* were grown from seed, and have attained a height of 10 feet in five years, but no fruit yet.

*Annato*, a dye plant, was tried here. Planted in 1910, the bushes grew to a height of 7 feet, bearing a good crop of berries, and seemed white ant proof. Not being considered a paying proposition, it was dug out and thrown away.

*Kitchen Garden*.—A good supply of vegetables is grown for station requirements. We have a deal of trouble with seeds during the wet months. If any seeds are exposed to the damp air they become mouldy, and will not germinate. Tomatoes are grown all the year. The best way to grow them is from cuttings. During the dry season we grew the following vegetables, viz.:—English cabbage, lettuce, celery, beetroot,

eschalotts, carrots, turnips, radish, cucumber, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, beans (snake, french, and epicure do remarkably well). English potatoes do not do very well; at times I have had good returns, but, taken on the whole, they have not been a success. I am now trying them on a different plan, and will report when they are dug out. Onions I have had no success with, and cannot even get the seeds to germinate.

*Tobacco.*—Tobacco leaf grows like weeds; once planted, it is hard to get rid of. During 1910 and 1911 a small patch was experimented with. The leaf was dried, put in bags, and given away to bush natives. Being engaged in buffalo shooting at the time, I could not spare the time necessary to go on with the cultivation. Havana seed was used, and the plants grew to a height of 7 feet.

#### Stock.

*Cattle.*—In 1914-15 there were 335 head of cattle brought to the station. There are now 600. I anticipate improving on this return in future, now that proper paddocks have been fenced in, and when the locally-born breeders will come in profit.

*Horses.*—On hand, 1st July, 1916, 88; on hand, 1st July, 1917, 93. Twenty foals born during year, ten horses handed over to Survey Department, eight deaths.

*Goats.*—On hand, 1st July, 1916, 500; on hand, 1st July, 1917, 550; 24 sold during the year, besides those used for food.

*Pigs.*—On hand, 1st July, 1917, 400.

#### Aboriginal Compound, Kahlin Beach, 30th July, 1917.

To the Chief Protector.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit my report for the years 1915-17.

#### A.—KAHLIN COMPOUND.

*Alterations and Work carried out by Native Staff.*—During the two years several alterations have been made. A windmill, with reserve tanks, was erected; a large iron building, 40 feet by 16 feet, was erected on the beach for the use of the old and infirm natives, also a bathroom and washhouse (with water connexion) 30 feet by 12 feet. Two additional galvanized iron buildings, 40 feet by 12 feet, were erected on the beach for "casual" natives.

All the buildings were repaired and painted, and the office enlarged and made into a hospital for natives. A new stove was built in the kitchen.

The old camp on the Emery Point side, which was a harbor for native loafers, was demolished, the building material removed into the compound proper, and erected. This saved me considerable trouble, especially at night time. A verandah was erected around the blacksmith shop, and a number of trees planted. A yard with a trough inside was erected for horses at the rear of the harness-room.

Four acres adjoining the compound were grubbed and a cyprus pine fence with wire netting was erected, making a useful paddock, which, during 1916, was cleared of stones and grassed. On the Government reserve at Myilly Point a cyprus pine fence, with cyclone wire and double gate. Two acres of the accommodation paddock opposite the compound (comprising 12 acres) has been grubbed, and a cyprus pine fence with wire netting erected. This grubbing is carried out with casual native labour as it offers. About 100 yards of metalling on Myilly Point-road was done, and a metal road made into the compound. I might mention also that the staff, horses, and vehicles during the year assisted several of the Departments on numerous occasions.

Old iron and timber for the buildings mentioned above were obtained through the Public Works and Hotel Departments, and their cost reduced to a minimum.

*Population.*—The average population for the year 1915-16 was 195, including old and infirm natives, 21 half-caste children, and 4 office messengers. The average floating population was 80 for the year. The largest number in the compound was 230 for the months December, January, February.

The average population for the year 1916-17 was 230, including 30 old and infirm natives, 25 half-caste children, and 4 office messengers. The average floating population for the year was 50. The largest number in the compound was 250 for the months January, February. I attribute the increase to the breaking up of the native camps in and around Darwin.

During the year 1915-16 the average cost per meal was 3½d. per head, including rations for old and infirm natives and half-caste children.

During the year 1916-17 the average cost per meal was 3¼d. per head, including rations to old and infirm natives and half-caste children. The increase of ½d. per head on last year was caused through the increased cost of provisions.

*Health.*—Except in regard to venereal patients, the health of the inhabitants during the two years has been good, very little sickness having occurred during the years, the principal complaint being dysentery. The natives are rapidly overcoming their objection to being treated at the compound hospital.

*Deaths.*—During the year 1915-16 there were eight deaths, three males and five females, the cause of death in all cases being senile decay.

In 1916-17 there were ten deaths, including "King" Solomon, who died from heart failure. He was a very well-behaved old native, who always exerted a good influence over the young men in his tribe. The cause of the deaths in the other cases were venereal disease and tuberculosis.

*Behaviour.*—The behaviour of the natives within the compound has been very good. Troublesome natives from other districts are still being sent to the compound, so far with good results. A considerable amount of trouble is experienced with those who reside outside the compound. These are employed by residents of Darwin, and are supposed to be living on their employers' premises, but are often found wandering about at night. Recommendations in regard to this will be submitted.

*Dogs.*—The dog nuisance is still troublesome. The experiment was tried of appointing two natives to take charge of all dogs, and take them to Tale Head. For a month or two things worked well, but when the news came through that the dogs were dying at Tale Head, the natives lost no time in bringing them back, mostly at night time. Everything was done to prevent this. Some were even shot.

#### B.—DARWIN DISTRICT.

During the year 1916-17 there was an increase of natives in Darwin, mostly from Daly River. Owing to the increase of the European population during the past years native labour has been scarce, and natives required for domestic purposes were in great demand.

*Natives on Prohibited Areas.*—During the year I arrested several natives for being in the police paddock, which is a prohibited area. I find they go there principally for opium. I would also point out that one of the most important measures, that is, dealing with liquor to aboriginals, is not adequately provided for in the Aboriginal Act 1910 or Ordinance 1911.

*Employment.*—During the year there has been no difficulty in obtaining employment for the natives, but I would point out that the amending Aboriginal Ordinance now under consideration would, if passed, greatly

facilitate the work of the Protector for the Darwin District.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,

R. MACDONALD,  
Protector of Aborigines.

REPORT FROM MRS. STANDLEY, THE BUNGALOW, ALICE SPRINGS, FOR THE YEAR 1916-17.

At the Bungalow there are eight boys and twenty-two girls, comprising half, quarter, and octoroon caste. Their ages ranging from three to fifteen years. The health of the children is exceptionally good. They are happy and contented. The school roll totals sixty—thirty-four white children and twenty-six coloured. The advanced coloured attend morning school with the white children, and the remainder of the coloured attend afternoon school. The annual examination report is good.

REPORT FROM SERGEANT STOTT, ALICE SPRINGS.

During the year 1916-17 the behaviour and health (with the exception of an epidemic of eye trouble early in the year) of the natives throughout the district has been good.

The vegetable garden at the Bungalow has been successful. During the period January to June the value of the vegetables consumed amounted to £27. There is a noticeable reduction in the consumption of flour.

The goats purchased during the year are thriving.

Police Inspector's Office,  
Darwin, 20th August, 1917.

H. E. Carey, Esq.,  
Government Secretary,  
Darwin.

Sir,—I have the honour to submit my report and crime return for the two years ended 30th June, 1917.

The return shows that 816 offences were committed (an increase of 308 on the previous two years), that the apprehensions were 617 (an increase of 197), and that 154 persons were brought to Court on summons (an increase of 71).

The principal increases are in the offences of drunkenness, common assault, disorderly conduct, indecent language, breaches of the War Precautions Act, unlawful possession, and murder, and there is a decrease in the supplying of liquor and opium to natives.

The increases in drunkenness, assault, disorderly conduct, and indecent language, have been caused by the influx of Europeans (the population being about doubled) to work on the construction of the Pine Creek to Katherine railway, and in the erection of the freezing works at Darwin, and the high rate of wages they receive; and that of unlawful possession to natives being charged with that offence instead of cattle killing, which would entail a committal to the Supreme Court, which would create considerable expense, without any corresponding deterring effect.

The murders reported were:—A Malay at Darwin. A countryman was convicted of manslaughter, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

A European at Marranboy. Two natives were arrested and committed for trial, but found not guilty at Supreme Court.

A Chinaman at Wandi. Two natives were found guilty, and sentenced to death, which penalty was commuted to life imprisonment.

Two coloured men at Port Bradshaw. These were trepang fishing for Captain Luff, of Thursday Island, who had been warned of the risk on account of the hostility of the natives on this coast, and where little police protection could be afforded, the nearest constables being at Roper River, and the country between swampy.

Two Malays at or near Crocodile Islands. These men were also trepanging, and, it is alleged, ill-used the natives, who retaliated and murdered them.

An aged Greek, at Paraparap, Darwin. This man was found dead in his tent (which was close to others occupied by his countrymen) with wounds on his head, &c. A considerable sum of money, which, it is alleged, he had on his person, was missing, and his trousers pockets cut out. Suspicion points to his countrymen camped near, but nothing to warrant action.

A Chinaman at Wolfram Camp, Pine Creek. A European, charged with the offence was committed for trial, and found not guilty at the Supreme Court.

An attempt to murder by poisoning was committed by a native, who was found guilty and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

I regret that, so far, none of the offenders in the Port Bradshaw and Crocodile Islands murders have been brought to justice, and it will require a strong party of police, by land as well as by sea, to succeed. The police at Borrooloola and Roper River are doing their best, and an attempt is being made from Darwin, which I hope will be successful. The natives on this coast have ever been treacherous, and within my recollection have committed about twenty murders. None of the offenders have been brought to account, and I fear murders will continue till police are stationed somewhere in the neighbourhood of Arnhem Bay, which will mean heavy expense. Trepangers, &c., going there are usually warned to be careful.

The following constables enlisted for active service with the Expeditionary Forces:—

Hanson, Richard Davies.  
Higgs, Horace.  
Hunt, John Alfred Paul.  
Kelly, James Harcourt.  
Taylor, Frederick William Murray.

Mr. Hanson died of wounds on 8th June, 1917, whilst on active service in France. He was a vigorous, intelligent, and brave police officer, and I very much regret his decease.

Constable Keating died at Bow Hills on 5th November last. He was a returned soldier, and had been appointed to the Northern Territory police in June, 1916. A doctor was not available, and death was attributed to a general break-up of his system.

Seven constables resigned, two were dismissed, two were retransferred to South Australia, and seventeen were appointed to fill the vacancies caused by enlistments, resignations, &c.

The total number of police in the Northern Territory on 30th June ult. was—one inspector, one senior sergeant, two sergeants, twenty-two constables, and twenty-three native constables, or trackers.

Twenty-nine horses died during the two years, and the police mares produced nineteen foals. Eight horses were purchased for remounts, and five were transferred from the railway construction to police.

The police station at Roper River was damaged by flood in December, 1915. The old buildings and cells were destroyed, but the angle iron part withstood the inundation. The constables have effected repairs.

The police station at Horseshoe Creek has been removed to Marranboy, where the services of the constable are more required, and the police station has been re-opened at Daly River.

The police stations (except Katherine, which requires rebuilding) are reported to be in fair order, with the exception of some repairs, which the constables must attend to.

I have the honour to be, sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
N. WATERS,

Inspector of police.