

1937.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF
THE NORTHERN TERRITORY
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1936.

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It affords me much pleasure to be able to report another excellent crop of peanuts, which resulted in approximately 420 tons being exported during the past year. The average price obtained was a slight improvement on that of the preceding year, but is still well below the landed cost of the imported Chinese peanuts.

The peanut crop harvested in 1935 was again wholly handled by local commercial and commission agents with generally satisfactory results. Cash returns to growers were, in some instances, not available until the closing months of the financial year. This state of affairs was caused through the inability of southern agents to sell earlier, owing to the faulty grading of peanuts by quite a number of the growers.

The Primary Producers' Board decided on a continuance of the policy pursued by it during the past four years. A very limited number of new applications for assistance was received, but, as not any of the applicants was in a position to comply with the provisions of the Encouragement of Primary Production Ordinance relating to the possession of capital to the amount of one-third of the advance to be granted, no new advances were made. A considerable quantity of machinery and material (old stock) was disposed of to the entire satisfaction of the settlers concerned. The transfer of one old Central Australia advance was also effected.

The "clearing up" of the old unsatisfactory advances has, with the exception of a few cases now being dealt with, been practically completed. The number of individual payments made during the year compared favorably with those of the previous year.

The *Instruments and Securities Ordinance* 1935, which was promulgated on the 12th December, 1935, considerably strengthens the Board's powers in regard to liens on crops, liens on wool and stock mortgages.

The total receipts during the financial year 1935-1936 were £1,254 14s. 3d., consisting of £580 18s. 1d. repayment of Principal; £429 12s. 11d. payment of Interest charges; £182 17s. 8d. recovery of amounts previously written off and £61 5s. 7d. sales of implements and material.

The total disbursements during 1935-1936 amounted to £1 6s. 4d.

Excess of receipts over expenditure therefore amounted to £1,253 7s. 11d.

COURTS.

Five Supreme Court sittings were held at Darwin under His Honour Judge Wells, there being fifteen trials in the Criminal Jurisdiction.

Actions in the Local Court at Darwin numbered 332 and at Alice Springs 257, whilst in the Darwin Police Court there were 420 cases and at Alice Springs 132 cases.

Arrangements are being made for a Local Court to be established at Tennant Creek.

ABORIGINALS.

The number of aboriginals in the Territory is estimated at 17,730, and, since they are numerically superior to the white population and since the state of their health has a considerable influence on the health of the whites, no efforts are spared to keep the native population as healthy as possible.

Dr. Donald Thomson, B.Sc., is still carrying out anthropological investigations in Arnhem Land.

Good results are anticipated from the important appointment of Mr. T. G. H. Strehlow as a Patrol Officer attached to the Aboriginals' Branch.

The Kahlin Compound's Canteen is justifying its existence, it having a credit balance of almost £600.

Earnings at the half-caste girls' laundry amounted to £352 5s. 10d., the profits being shared by the laundresses.

Action is being taken to select another site for the Aboriginals' Compound, now in Darwin, on which will be erected a school, hospital and other essential buildings.

The test of letting half-castes prove themselves worthy of trust, by removing them from the provisions of the Aboriginals' Ordinance, has been successful with only two exceptions.

Splendid work has been done in the Darwin Half-caste Home by the Reverend and Mrs. L. N. Kentish and Miss M. Buchanan, who are in charge of the Sunday School held there, and also by the provision of a Sewing Circle at the Methodist Church, where the adult girls attend weekly.

PATROL VESSEL.

In May, 1936, the Government purchased a patrol launch equipped with three high-speed petrol engines and stationed it at Darwin. The vessel, the *Larrakia*, is equipped with wireless, is armed, and is manned by a crew of four—the Master, an Engineer, a Wireless Operator and an A.B.

REPORT OF DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, ALICE SPRINGS.

During the year 1935-1936 the southern portion of the Territory has continued to advance, due chiefly to continued and increasing activities in the mining industry. A notable feature, marking this increase, was the opening of a branch of the E.S. & A. Bank at Tennant Creek.

This activity, particularly at Tennant Creek, has received considerable publicity in the Southern Press and an increasing number of people are becoming interested in the Territory.

The delightful winter climate, which is one of the natural advantages of this region, is also becoming more widely known and a growing traffic of visitors is apparent. Quite a large number of people travel through the Territory by motor car, and on pleasure bent, during the winter months. Unfortunately Alice Springs lacks anything approaching first class accommodation for such visitors, and this must seriously retard any rapid growth in tourist traffic and must also prevent the business people from obtaining the advantages which would normally accrue from such traffic.

During the summer months the weather is very hot and dusty and holds no attraction to tourists.

Alice Springs was visited during this year by His Excellency the Governor of South Australia (Sir Winston Dugan), Lady Moulten, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Foy who did a trip by motor over some of the unbroken western country, and many other people of note.

During May, 1936, a party of 35 young ladies from the Methodist Ladies' College, Melbourne, visited Alice Springs, Hermannsburg, Palm Valley and other places of interest and beauty. They had a very pleasant holiday, and will no doubt advertise the trip to their friends. While in Alice Springs they were billeted by local residents.

Amongst the incidents of local interest are recorded the formation of troops of Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Cubs and Brownies. A Rifle Club has been formed and the Rifle Range was opened on 14th June, 1936.

A very sad incident, resulting in death, was an attempt made by Mr. Ellis Bankin to traverse the unoccupied sandhill country in the south-west portion of this Territory by motor-cycle. Mr. Bankin's objective was Ayer's Rock—a high outstanding rock formation—well known by repute but which actually has not been seen by many. Although warned against it by those who were acquainted with the country, Mr. Bankin decided to make the attempt but perished, obviously from thirst accentuated by fatigue and the very hot weather being experienced at the time.

Empire Day was celebrated in the usual manner in schools in this portion of the Territory. The children sang patriotic songs, executed patriotic tableaux and received an address on Empire Day.

During the first six weeks of the year, I accompanied the Minister and party on a tour of the northern portion of the Territory. On the completion of the tour I left the Territory on recreation leave and resumed duty early in December.

In June, 1936, His Honour the Administrator visited Tennant Creek, where I met him and discussed matters affecting the Mining Field.

ABORIGINALS.

The care and protection of aboriginals have been continued during the year. Although no new depots have been established, the existing depots at which rations, blankets, clothing, tobacco and medicines are distributed have been maintained.

As there is no hospital to which aboriginals could be admitted in this district, a medical hut is maintained on the camping ground at Alice Springs. A white caretaker-assistant is stationed there and the Medical Officer visits as required.

Little serious crime occurred amongst aboriginals, but there was the usual number of convictions for minor offences, of which the chief were: "Being unlawfully on a prohibited area" and "Unlawful possession."

Comparatively large numbers of aboriginals, reside in scattered camps, some of which are close to the stock routes. Protests and complaints have been received from pastoralists that fat cattle have been alarmed by dogs owned by the natives in some of these camps, when being brought in for trucking to market. Instances have occurred where cattle have got out of hand due to this cause and considerable loss to the pastoralists has been the result.

To overcome the matter, it is proposed to convert the proclaimed camping ground into a reserve to which aboriginals, who habitually camp on the stock routes, can be ordered.

The Board of Inquiry mentioned in my report for the year 1934-1935 concluded its investigations. The findings and recommendations of the Board have been published.

The Police Patrol into the district south-west of Alice Springs and including the Aboriginal Reserve has been partially dispensed with in favour of a Patrol Officer under the control of the Chief Protector of Aboriginals. His duty will be to travel about the district and educate the natives, amongst other items, as to the seriousness of crime and the punishment that follows. Mr. T. G. H. Strehlow, a trained anthropologist, has been appointed to the new position of Patrol Officer.

The usual keen interest in the natives has been displayed by Missionary and Anthropological bodies.

Miss Pink, who is sponsored by the National Research Council, was engaged in Anthropological field work in the vicinity of the Granites during the last months of the year.

The Finke River Mission has continued its work during the year. The pipe line to convey water from Koprilya Springs to the Mission Station was completed. Garden areas were immediately prepared and with extremely successful results. A continuous supply of green vegetables is now assured and food deficiency troubles should no longer exist. The provision of the pipe line is an undertaking for which the Superintendent (Reverend Albrecht) should receive the highest credit and esteem.

The Roman Catholic Mission has apparently abandoned the idea of establishing a mission in the country owing to the failure to find a suitable location where natives are numerous and where natural water supplies are available.

A school for aboriginal children has, however, been conducted by the Mission on the Church premises at Alice Springs. The clothing for the children has been supplied by the Administration and a request that the Administration supply food at the Mission for these school children is under consideration.

As it is undesirable for many reasons that the school should be in the town, the Mission is endeavouring to obtain a suitable site on the outskirts of the town on which to erect a school and provide a vegetable garden.

The number of inmates at the Government Home for Half-castes at Alice Springs continues to increase—due to the transfer of children from the northern portion of the Territory, to the admittance of children brought in by protectors and to births in the Institution. The health of the inmates is satisfactory, although periodical epidemics of influenza, sore eyes, &c., occur.

With the exception of the Superintendent and the Matron, the Institution is staffed by female half-castes. Woodcutting is performed by aboriginals employed casually. A limited quantity of vegetables is provided from a garden area on the premises.

Sporting equipment has been provided and some of the boys are making good progress at cricket.

As mentioned elsewhere education is imparted to the inmates by two teachers on loan from the South Australian Education Department and in a school at the Home.

COURTS.

In the various Courts, the number of actions has increased very considerably. The Courts which sit in Alice Springs are the Supreme Court, the Local Court of Full and Limited Jurisdiction, the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and the Licensing Bench. In addition, Wardens' Courts are held when and where required.

No sittings of the Supreme Court were held during the year. In the Local Courts, 257 actions were commenced as against 63 in the previous year, and in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction 132 actions were dealt with as against 79 during the previous year.

With the increased Court activities, including the Supreme Court Sessions, it was decided to extend and remodel the Court Room, and this was done, thus affording added convenience and facilities. Provision has also been made for a Court Library.

In October, 1935, Mr. J. G. B. Castieau, of the Attorney-General's Department, visited Alice Springs and conducted an investigation into the administration of justice in the district.

EDUCATION.

During the year a school was opened at Tennant Creek to serve the children in the township. To date only one teacher has been required. A number of children live in the surrounding mining district, but not sufficiently near to the township to enable them to attend school.

At Alice Springs, two schools staffed with teachers seconded from the South Australian Education Department have been maintained. One serves the town children and the other, which is located at the Half-caste Institution, serves the children who are inmates of the Institution.

The attendance at the Alice Springs School increased from 49 to 59 pupils.

Tuition by correspondence is available to white children who are not able to attend schools.

The annual scholarship provided by the Government, which entitles the winner to two years' secondary education in Adelaide, was won by Miss Mona Johannsen, who is now continuing her studies at the Immanuel College in Adelaide. Reports as to her progress have been highly satisfactory.

GAOL.

The number of prisoners admitted into and maintained in the Alice Springs gaol increased slightly during the year.

As the gaol is considered unsuitable for long-term white prisoners, arrangements have been made for the transference of such prisoners to a gaol in South Australia. During the year one prisoner was transferred to Yatala prison to serve his sentence. Such prisoners are returned to Alice Springs prior to the expiration of sentence to enable them to be released here.

Two mental cases were also removed to South Australia for detention and treatment.

HEALTH.

The good health usually enjoyed by the community has continued, although there was an outbreak of diphtheria in February. This occurred in an isolated place, and although the sufferers were brought to Alice Springs, fortunately the outbreak did not spread. Two deaths occurred in the one family.

The Australian Inland Mission, although now unable to suitably cope with requirements, continues to function as the only hospital or nursing home in the Alice Springs District. The provision of a fully equipped hospital would fulfil a long felt need.

Owing to unsatisfactory sanitation conditions prevailing in Alice Springs, an additional officer was attached to the Health Branch and one of his duties is to regularly inspect premises and inform occupiers as to matters requiring attention. Funds have been made available for the provision of additional facilities at the Sanitary Depot.

At Tennant Creek, a hospital has been provided and a Medical Officer and nursing staff appointed. A sanitation system has been inaugurated and health matters generally are on a sound basis.

Church bodies quickly perceived an opening whereby actual assistance could be given to residents of the Tennant Creek District, by the provision of motor ambulances. The first was provided by the Methodist Inland Mission, and a second by the Roman Catholic Mission. Although the vehicles are not used solely as ambulances, they are suitably built and equipped for the purpose and are available for use at any time.

Two deaths from tuberculosis occurred at Alice Springs during the year. Both sufferers resided for a period at hotels—there being no other accommodation for them available. The prevalence of this disease continues to be a menace to the health of the community in general.

MINING.

The outstanding item of interest in connexion with the mining industry is the progress of the Tennant Creek field, where the production of gold has steadily continued during the year. Although the gold produced only amounted to a little over 9,000 ounces, the existing treatment plants were kept occupied and the facilities available, to a large extent, regulated the gold production. Practically the whole of the gold produced was disposed of through the local branch of the E. S. & A. Bank.

The field covers an extremely large area of country, and, as only two crushing plants were available, the distance over which material had to be carted from mine to battery precluded profitable working of the mines in many instances. Crushing charges to the public remained at £2 per ton and cartage at 1s. per ton mile. The crushing charge did not include cyanide treatment of the residue, for which additional charge was made at one plant. At the other plant, the sands were not treated at all. This meant that the material produced had to be particularly rich to return sufficient value to the owner to cover the cost of raising ore and show a profit.

With the object of assisting the field, Government boring plants were operated during the whole of the year in obtaining water supplies. The Government has also decided to provide a crushing plant in the most isolated centre, which is over twenty miles from the nearest existing plant. Other companies desirous of erecting plants on their properties have been assisted by the Government on the condition that ore will be treated for the public at a rate considerably lower than that charged in the past. In addition to cheaper treatment thus obtained, mine owners will materially benefit by the shorter distances over which it is necessary to cart ore as the batteries are located some miles apart.

The inability to locate their boundaries continues to be a source of dissatisfaction with a number of station owners who desire to erect check and boundary fences, and although it may not be a function of the Administration, it would ease the strain considerably if corner posts could be provided in cases where owners could not decide between themselves. There appears also to be a great doubt in their minds as to whether their boundaries when defined will include the country which they have held and used or whether their holdings will be altered to conform with the boundaries as proved by survey.

WORKS AND SERVICES.

The year has been a particularly busy one in respect of works activities which involve the construction and maintenance of roads, water supplies and buildings.

The road through the MacDonnell Ranges has been completed and extensive work has been done on creek Crossings on the main north-south road in an endeavour to make it an all-weather road. Notwithstanding this, Tennant Creek was cut off from all road communication for about two weeks in March, due to wet weather.

Several of the branch roads also have been repaired. In addition to the usual provision and maintenance of water supplies on stock routes, departmental boring plants have been engaged throughout the year at Tennant Creek and several of the bores there have been equipped.

The greatly increased activities have necessitated the provision of additional staff, premises, equipment and transport vehicles.

The 15-ton transport unit has continued to operate and is still giving satisfactory service.

STAFF.

The staff has continued to perform its duties in a very commendable manner.

V. G. CARRINGTON,
Deputy Administrator.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS.

LEGISLATION.

A new section was embodied in the Aboriginals Ordinance authorizing the Chief Protector of Aboriginals to exempt certain half-castes from all, or any of the provisions of the Ordinance; and also to revoke an exemption should he deem it necessary to do so.

Eleven male half-castes and two female half-castes were granted total exemption and nineteen male half-castes were granted partial exemption.

Although these half-castes have been virtually removed from the control of the Aboriginal Branch it is not intended that they should be permitted to abuse the privileges so bestowed on them. At the same time the Department will continue to assist them to attain the status of true citizenship by elevating them to the white standard of living.

This new measure, in effect, offers the individual half-caste an opportunity of proving himself worthy of trust, thereby improving his outlook and stimulating his absorption into the white community.

Two complaints were received concerning the conduct of two of the exempted persons, who were duly warned that a repetition of their offence would cause a cancellation of their exemption.

A further amendment to the principal Ordinance prohibited the employment of aboriginals on premises in respect of which a storekeeper's licence had been granted for the supply of intoxicating liquor.

Important amendments affecting the liquor and consorting sections of the Ordinance were also promulgated. These amendments removed certain difficulties which were encountered under the old legislation.

A new section—64A—refers to procedure in connexion with prosecutions under the Ordinance.

The regulations under the Aboriginals Ordinance were subject to minor amendment by prescribing the Aboriginal Medical Benefit Fund as a fund to which is to be paid the interest accruing from certain trust accounts.

It is considered that the Aboriginal Branch of the Northern Territory has at its disposal complete legislative machinery to cope with the many problems which beset its endeavours.

STAFF.

Approval was obtained to appoint Mr. T. G. H. Strehlow as a Patrol Officer attached to the Aboriginal Branch. No changes were effected in the executive staff during the year.

Dr. W. B. Kirkland acted as Chief Protector of Aboriginals during the absence of Dr. C. E. Cook.

Doctors C. C. Fenton, Medical Officer, Katherine Medical District, and R. Catalano, Medical Officer, Tennant Creek, were appointed Protectors of Aboriginals.

Four other officers were also appointed Protectors of Aboriginals.

ABORIGINAL RESERVES.

Three applications were received from persons for permission to enter aboriginal reserves for the purpose of shooting buffaloes. As no permits to enter aboriginal reserves for commercial pursuits are granted, all three applications were refused.

Favorable reports were received concerning the two new mission stations which were established last year by the Catholic Church and the Methodist Missionary Society in the Point Keats and East Arnhem Land districts respectively.

Dr. D. F. Thomson, B.Sc., Anthropologist, whose first report was submitted during the year to the Honorable the Minister, returned to the Territory to continue his investigations in the Arnhem Reserve.

Mention was made in the recommendations of the Board of Inquiry that the South-West Aboriginal Reserve should be thoroughly explored, with a view to ascertaining whether such area could be utilized as a Government Aboriginal Station, and whether the derelict detribalized natives at present residing in the vicinity could be gradually absorbed and settled there.

It was decided that action concerning this proposal should be deferred until such time as the new patrol officer has had an opportunity to report on the proposal.

Several requests from private persons and organizations concerning proposals for the extension of existing reserves and the allocating of additional reserves were received and considered by the Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

ABORIGINAL MEDICAL BENEFIT FUND.

Employers' contributions amounted to £796 Os. 7d., as compared with £530 14s. for the previous year. The fund had a credit balance of £1,611 7s. 10d. at 30th June, 1936.

Medicine chests were supplied free to station managements.

Employees of stations requiring hospitalization were treated at the Darwin and Katherine Hospitals. At Alice Springs a number of aboriginals were given medical attention at the Medical Hut.

Sick aboriginals in the Tableland and Lake Nash districts received hospital treatment at Camooweal and Cloncurry Hospitals.

A considerable number of aboriginals suffering from minor ailments received attention at the various medical depots situated at police stations throughout the Territory.

Six medical officers and a trained medical assistant conducted regular examinations and inspections of aboriginals in town and rural centres.

Medical reports of inspections of mission stations were submitted to the Department of the Interior.

A female half-caste patient and her child were transported by mail plane from Alexandria Station for treatment at the Darwin Hospital.

The Aerial Medical Service was sometimes utilized to transport aboriginal patients.

All the members of the medical staff, who are also Protectors of Aboriginals, rendered valuable service to the Branch.

EMPLOYMENT.

During the year 192 town licences and 357 country licences were issued. Two hundred and five agreements were entered into by employers of aboriginals and half-castes in town districts. Two licences were cancelled.

Investigations were made by the Chief Protector into the employment of aboriginals on certain stations in the Northern Territory, with the result that the managements were ordered to pay wages to their employees or account of their non-compliance with the regulations relating to the maintenance of dependants.

TRUST FUND—DARWIN.

	£	s.	d.
Credit balance as at 1st July, 1935	3,960	10	5
Receipts during the year 1935-1936	5,019	9	5
Withdrawals during the year 1935-1936	4,775	13	7
Credit balance as at 30th June, 1936	4,204	6	3

The above statement does not reflect the amount of remuneration paid in kind to aboriginals employed by contract drovers and employers in country districts.

Receipts increased by £497 3s. 6d. and expenditure increased by £1,317 8s. 7d. as compared with the previous year.

Cash orders numbering 2,438 to a total value of £2,472 4s. 9d. were issued. Orders for goods to the number of 1,087 were issued for a total sum of £2,303 8s. 10d.

Separate Commonwealth Savings Bank accounts were opened for individuals whose accumulated deposits in the Trust Account exceeded £20. All such persons enjoy interest as it accrues.

Satisfaction can be expressed at the considerable increase in the amount disbursed to aboriginals.

Every effort, entailing much inquiry and investigation, was exerted by the Branch to locate aboriginals who had credit balances in the Trust Account. This action resulted in a larger number of aboriginals actively operating on their accounts.

At the 30th June, 348 identity discs had been issued to aboriginals employed in Darwin centre—comparatively few aboriginals lost their discs.

This innovation was introduced some two years ago and has proved so successful that it is now proposed to apply it to other centres.

The identification disc minimises the danger of impersonation and is of great assistance to officers when supervising payments to aboriginals.

To facilitate internal accounting in connexion with the Trust Account transactions it was proposed that Friendly Society Accounts be opened in the Commonwealth Savings Bank.

ABORIGINAL TRUST ACCOUNT—ALICE SPRINGS.

	£	s.	d.
Credit balance as at 1st July, 1935	921	8	9
Receipts during the year 1935-36	462	15	2
Withdrawals during the year 1935-36	609	2	0
Balance as at 30th June, 1936	775	1	11

AGED AND INFIRM ABORIGINALS.

Drought conditions prevailing in the hinterland caused an increase in the number of aged and infirm aboriginals fed and clothed at rationing depots. Increased supplies of foodstuffs were forwarded to all police stations.

Two new rationing centres were established.

HALF-CASTE EMPLOYMENT.

The number of half-caste inmates in Government institutions at 30th June, 1936, was 117 males and 137 females—a total of 254—as compared with 230 at the 30th June, 1935.

Twenty-nine female half-castes were employed in Government institutions and hospitals.

Thirty female half-castes were employed by approved European employers in town centres and four in country districts.

Two half-caste girls continued their training for the nursing profession; two younger girls commenced their training.

Five incorrigible male adult half-castes, who had come in conflict with the Police Branch for breaches of the Liquor Ordinance, were found profitable employment in industrial enterprises supervised by the Aboriginal Branch.

The fact that their financial affairs were placed under the control of the Chief Protector of Aboriginals prevented them from dissipating their earnings and an immediate improvement was manifest in their demeanor and general behaviour.

Five male adult half-castes were permanently employed in the Aboriginal and Sanitation Branches.

Eleven half-caste youths were apprenticed to the cattle-raising industry.

A number of male adult half-castes, who for some years past have been regularly employed in Darwin and for this reason considered themselves more or less independent of the Chief Protector, approached the Branch to assist them in the matter of obtaining assistance under the Half-caste Housing Scheme. These persons expressed their desire that the Branch manage their financial affairs to enable them to become property owners.

As many of these people had little or no contact with the Branch, their overtures may be taken as an indication that they realize that the Aboriginal Branch is ever ready to render them assistance, should they desire to elevate and rehabilitate themselves.

Gestures such as these are convincing proof that half-castes now appreciate the policy of the Branch, which aims at converting them into useful and thrifty citizens.

HALF-CASTE HOUSING SCHEME.

Three half-castes have now completed the purchase of their houses which were erected for them under the Half-caste Housing Scheme. Five other tenants are paying for their homes by small instalments—

	£	s.	d.
The total cost of the eight houses was	1,200	0	0
The total principal and interest paid by owner-tenants amount to	771	16	7
The balance of principal owing is	501	2	11

It is proposed to build three additional houses during the next financial year, and it is intended to submit that a small grant be made available for the provision of water facilities.

MARRIAGES.

Permission was granted by the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the marriage of ten female half-castes—six with Europeans and four with half-castes. Two applications were refused. One application to marry a female aboriginal was also refused.

ABORIGINAL VOTE—DARWIN.

The gross expenditure as per appropriation was £4,719 15s. 11d.

ABORIGINAL VOTE—ALICE SPRINGS.

The gross expenditure as per appropriation was £3,361 13s. 11d.

Subsidies to missions, salaries of staff, and costs of new works, repairs and maintenance are not included in above figures.

KAHLIN COMPOUND—DARWIN.

The average number of aboriginals and half-castes maintained at the Compound during the year was 166. In addition a number of unemployed aboriginals and some 30 children were rationed and clothed. Lodging was provided for aboriginals lawfully employed in the town of Darwin.

In my report for the previous year, mention was made that the present site is no longer suitable for a Native Compound, not only because it is, being so obsolete in structure, an eyesore, but because the isolation necessary for the efficient control of inmates no longer exists. It was also stated that the Branch was working under difficulties, which would be removed if another site could be procured.

A recommendation was contained in an outline of a suggested policy of reorganization of aboriginal affairs which was submitted for the consideration of the Minister, that the Government should set aside in selected centres, commencing with Darwin, a residential area exclusively for the aboriginal race, where specially designed hygienic barracks and dwellings should be erected for their occupation, and that a school, recreation facilities, and adequate water supply, an efficient sanitary system and scope for horticulture should be provided.

It was also submitted that at such institution the aboriginal should be educated, with a view to his taking his place as an effective economic unit in the Territory's population, and that following this general education, he should be trained in various avenues of employment.

The Minister approved of these suggestions, and in consequence estimates for the forthcoming financial year include provision for the purchase of a new site for the present Compound, and for the erection of a school, hospital and other essential buildings.

HALF-CASTE HOME—DARWIN.

The number of inmates in the Half-caste Home, Darwin, at 30th June, 1936, was as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Half-caste children	23	48	71
Adult half-castes	11	13	24
Nurselings living with aboriginal mothers	1	2	3
Half-castes residing with employers .. .. .	..	18	18
	35	81	116

All children of school age received the statutory public school education.

Canteen.

During the year sales amounted to £651 0s. 11d. The canteen had a credit balance of £593 10s. 6d. at the 30th June, 1936.

Laundry.

Earnings amounted to £352 5s. 10d. The profits derived from this enterprise were shared by the laundresses.

Clothing Section.

The three half-caste seamstresses manufactured all clothing requirements for the Gaol, Leper Hospital, Aged and Infirm Depots, Kahlin Compound and Half-caste Home.

Four girls on leaving school commenced a course of training under the supervision of the matron.

Transport Section.

A new 30-cwt. Chevrolet truck was purchased. Two trucks, staffed by half-caste drivers, are now fully employed performing haulage and cartage work for the various branches of the Administration.

HALF-CASTE HOME—ALICE SPRINGS.

The total number of inmates at 30th June, 1936, was 138, comprising 82 males and 56 females.

Sixteen half-caste youths were found suitable employment with private employers.

Twelve half-caste girls were employed in domestic service by approved private persons.

All girls from nine to twelve years of age received instruction in domestic duties. Girls over twelve years of age were instructed in domestic duties, cooking, laundry, bread-making and dressmaking. One girl commenced training for the nursing profession.

Half-caste boys received training in gardening.

Two qualified school teachers supervised the education of inmates.

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS—ALICE SPRINGS.

Rationing.

Alice Springs—The average number rationed was 120.

Country Districts—The average number rationed was 123.

Twenty-eight Town Licences were granted in the Alice Springs District.

The Deputy Chief Protector stressed the need for the provision of more modern hospitalization facilities for aboriginals, sanitary conveniences, and more conveniently placed camps for working aboriginals.

The Roman Catholic Church opened a mission school at the Catholic Presbytery, Alice Springs, in October, 1936, since when it has functioned as a school for aboriginal children drawn from the surrounding camps. Consideration is at present being given to the removal of the school to a more private site, and it is then intended that the work of teaching will be undertaken by a community of nuns.

ILL-TREATMENT OF ABORIGINALS.

The report and recommendations of the Board of Inquiry, appointed to investigate allegations of ill-treatment of aboriginals in Central Australia, were received on 27th September, 1935.

The Chief Protector was for the most part fully in accord with the principles embodied in the recommendations

The Minister subsequently approved of certain of the recommendations, the more important of which refer to—

The establishment of a Native Constabulary.

The appointment of a Patrol Officer to patrol the back country from Alice Springs, more particularly to the south-west.

Experienced police officers accompanying a new officer on his first patrol into districts where large numbers of natives are congregated.

Police officers undergoing training in Darwin receiving instruction in the treatment of natives and the duties of a Protector of Aboriginals from an officer of the aboriginals section.

Employers of native labour being compelled, under pain of cancellation of their licences, to immediately report to the authorities all offences against aboriginals by whites and also any misdemeanours by aboriginal employees.

No charges being laid against aboriginals by the police where tribal laws only are concerned and where no white person is involved unless after consultation with the Chief Protector of Aboriginals or his representative.

Consideration of recommendations and suggestions of the Board regarding the establishment of certain rationing depots and control of the South-West Reserve, was deferred until such time as the new Patrol Officer has had an opportunity of conducting essential preliminary investigations.

All the other recommendations of the Board are being further considered.

Five cases of ill-treatment of aboriginals were investigated during the year. These complaints involved an allegation of rape and four cases of assault. In all cases the offenders were exonerated—two by pronouncements in the Court and the remaining three after inquiries had been conducted by the Aboriginal Branch.

List of Convictions recorded against Aboriginals for the Year ended 30th June, 1936.

Assault	9
Assault police	1
Unlawful possession	29
Prohibited area	79
Possession firearms	1
Manslaughter	1
Drunk	6
Drinking liquor	11
Dangerous Drugs Ordinance	8
Larceny	3
Fight, &c., in Compound	11
Fight	5
Disturb peace	5
Unlawfully in dwelling	1
Lunacy	1
Resist arrest	1
Unlawfully use stock	1

Police officers were directed to furnish the Chief Protector, in writing, with details of charges laid and proceedings taken against aboriginals at the time action is taken. These returns were required to be despatched by telegram or air mail and to arrive in Darwin in time to enable the Chief Protector to give notice of appeal when considered necessary.

It was further instructed that no prisoner under sentence should be removed to Darwin until the Chief Protector had acknowledged receipt of these returns and intimated that it was not proposed to appeal.

A set of instructions for the treatment and handling of aboriginal prisoners, prepared by the Superintendent of Police, was approved by the Minister.

NATIVE CONSTABULARY.

The establishment of a Native Constabulary is but part of an extensive plan to improve the status of the Territory aboriginal, not only in his own regard but in that of the white community.

It was decided that some twenty recruits be trained, training to be undertaken on the Darwin aboriginal settlement under a competent officer.

In the first instance the Native Constabulary will be Aboriginal Branch Police, with power to arrest aboriginals only, and will be utilized—

(a) For policing Aboriginal Compounds and controlled reserves where they will be subordinate to the Superintendent of the institution.

(b) As Aboriginal Police patrols in the South-West Reserve, in charge of the Patrol officer.

Later, when they have proved their value, they will undertake such duties as the patrol of prohibited areas; they will also be made available to inland police, under the control of the Police Officer, for use on special patrols in uncontrolled areas.

CECIL E. COOK,

Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

ABORIGINAL CENSUS. YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1936. Summary.

District.	Full Bloods.				Half-castes.				Total.
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Alice Springs	161	189	30	28	8	15	4	2	437
Alice Springs Home .. .. .	..	..	..	..	10	22	69	32	133
Arltunga	231	285	55	42	7	6	..	1	627
Anthony Lagoon	70	51	13	17	..	3	4	3	164
Barrow Creek	189	149	39	53	8	5	6	7	456
Borrooloola	304	288	90	82	10	7	14	10	805
Brocks Creek	94	48	22	20	11	7	..	..	202
Charlotte Waters	268	320	98	98	15	14	7	11	831
Daly River	640	306	120	85	5	2	1	3	1,162
Darwin	1,530	1,085	300	310	58	109	52	79	3,523
Hermansburg Mission Station	83	70	45	51	3	8	1	3	264
Katherine	119	92	45	31	10	9	2	8	316
Lake Nash	49	23	15	14	4	..	..	..	105
Maranboy	230	211	34	42	8	3	..	..	528
North-West Patrol	588	614	251	281	9	1	1	..	1,745
Newcastle Waters	138	146	47	32	11	8	3	6	391
Pine Creek	70	55	16	9	4	6	4	2	166
Rankine River	80	40	14	17	12	6	5	5	179
Roper River	685	648	300	300	13	9	16	12	1,983
South-West Patrol	348	352	221	243	12	9	7	4	1,196
Timber Creek	799	339	225	206	21	1	4	..	1,595
Wave Hill	460	350	55	50	2	1	4	..	922
	7,136	5,664	2,035	2,011	241	251	204	188	17,730

District.	Nomadic.		In Regular Employment in Supervised Camps.		In Regular Employment not in Supervised Camps.		In Supervised Camps.		Others.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Alice Springs .. .. .	..	..	93	50	..	..	74	142	36	42	203	234
Alice Springs Home .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	54	..	..	79	54
Arltunga	223	321	2	..	68	9	..	3	..	1	293	334
Anthony Lagoon	20	26	48	15	..	..	19	36	..	..	87	77
Barrow Creek	83	74	75	12	12	..	72	121	..	7	242	214
Borrooloola	200	180	98	16	..	..	120	191	..	..	418	387
Brocks Creek	73	50	54	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	127	75
Charlotte Waters	205	268	36	25	32	29	51	57	64	64	388	443
Daly River	600	320	96	11	..	..	70	65	..	..	766	396
Darwin	800	530	510	323	178	81	428	587	24	62	1,940	1,583
Hermansburg Mission Station	2	3	71	34	..	..	59	95	..	..	132	132
Katherine	50	41	..	..	75	55	..	..	51	44	176	140
Lake Nash	27	28	8	4	30	..	..	..	3	5	68	37
Maranboy	100	122	58	13	20	..	79	102	15	19	272	256
North-West Patrol	793	874	46	14	..	..	10	8	..	..	849	896
Newcastle Waters	4	4	46	10	11	8	135	164	3	6	199	192
Pine Creek	40	34	16	13	28	19	10	6	..	..	94	72
Rankine River .. .. .	..	..	70	25	..	..	41	43	..	..	111	68
Roper River	803	793	85	44	..	..	126	132	..	..	1,014	969
South-West Patrol	291	313	102	62	..	..	101	183	94	50	588	608
Timber Creek	730	396	276	121	..	..	43	29	..	..	1,049	546
Wave Hill	265	220	137	50	..	..	119	131	..	..	521	401
	5,309	4,597	1,927	867	454	201	1,636	2,149	290	300	9,616	8,114