

1907.
—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

R E P O R T

FOR

FINANCIAL YEAR

E N D I N G

30TH JUNE, 1907.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

[SIXTH PARLIAMENT—FOURTH SESSION.]

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ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Report for Financial Year ending 30th June, 1907.

To the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Sir,—

I beg to submit, for the information of the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, my report on the working of the Aborigines Department for the year ended 30th June, 1907, and on the general conditions of the Aborigines Department throughout the State, as far as investigations are possible.

The amount voted by Parliament last session was £3,500, the Statutory vote under the Aborigines Act of 1905 was £10,000 and an excess vote of £393 6s. The amount spent in the previous year was £15,125 2s. 1d.; there was, therefore, need to be specially careful in my expenditure, and in order to have a close grip upon it, I recommended that the amount should be kept in my own Department (which had been done for the seven previous years), and as it will be seen the result of this has been beneficial. The expenditure has been £13,964 5s. 9d.

The statement of receipts and expenditure will be found in Appendix.

The general conditions of health of the aborigines, with the exception of those under relief, has been tolerably good. There has been only one epidemic reported (*see* Appendix), and but little fever in the Northern Districts as has sometimes been the case, but the system of supplying drugs here and there to relievers, who understand the use of them, apparently has done much good. But the general prevalence and steady increase of venereal disease has made itself very apparent, and much correspondence has been received on this question.

The menace to the white population, although probably the seeds of evil have been sown by them in the first instance, is becoming so great that strong representations have been made, especially by the Medical Officer at Carnarvon. Some drastic steps should be taken to check the spread of the disease.

I advised the establishment of Lock Hospitals, or to set apart an island in some convenient place where patients could be treated under lock and key, and not permitted to leave the establishment until cured; a temporary cure in such cases being of little or no use. The matter is now under discussion.

On the 11th June, at your request, I attended a Conference of Medical men, presided over by the Principal Medical Officer, to consider the subject of the *treatment in numbers* of natives suffering from venereal diseases.

The subject was well discussed by several Medical men present, assisted by information from me with regard to the provisions of the Act and the powers thereunder, and it was generally agreed that the most effectual means of keeping down, if not entirely stamping out this growing scourge, was to provide an island equipped with buildings and staff, and to make certain regulations by which settlers would have to give every assistance to Police Officials towards sending in any natives whose presence among their fellows, or among the whites, would be likely to help to spread the disease.

The actual comparison of the cost between the proposition, namely, an island or segregating compounds on the mainland was not gone into owing to want of time, but even though the latter system might have been more economic, the members were of opinion that in any case it would not be really effectual. In my opinion the island scheme might in the end turn out to be the more economic after all, as on one of the islands suggested, and what seemed the most favourable spot to me, a considerable number of sheep might be grazed, thus saving cost of food, and returning expenses by sale of wool, and should any contractor be allowed to dig for phosphates, he would in return make communication with land easy and cheap and might give employment to any of the invalids who were able to do some work.

The report of the Conference will be in your hands after my departure, and I trust that, whatever scheme is decided upon, the movement will answer our expectations. (For result see page 25.)

It came out at the meeting by letters which were read that the simple drugs which the Department have been in the habit of sending to Police Stations, managers of sheep farms, to cope with this malady have been of not much use. Here and there, however, I have had letters of commendation, it therefore seems that our action has so far been merely palliative; but it has been forced upon me, as the annual votes hitherto could not have stood the heavy expense of employing medical men to tour the country and personally attend upon the patients.

The Aborigines Act of 1905 has now had more than 12 months' test, and the public are beginning to understand its provisions pretty well. Several more protectors have been appointed.

The sections under which action has chiefly been taken are those relating to cohabitation and wardship.

Many of these cases have resulted in an application from the man to marry the native or half-caste woman. These have each been well considered, and my assent has only been given in cases where the principal official authorities or other reputable residents have recommended. During the twelve months there have been four; such marriages are provided for by Section 42. In those cases I considered that the rights of the woman and the children were better protected by a marriage than in any other way.

Owing to the decrease in the vote, economy had to be exercised, not only with regard to the subsidies hitherto granted to Missions and other such establishments, but also in restriction of my intended efforts to draw in all the half-castes from the wild life to civilisation.

The subsidies now granted to Missions are as follows:—

To the Swan Natives and Half-caste Institution (Anglican) at the rate of 10d. per day for each child in charge, up to the age of 14 for boys and 16 for girls.

To the Salvation Army at the rate of 10d. per day for each child sent by the Department (but not those permitted by magistrates), with the understanding that the children shall obtain situations if possible as soon as they are fit to be sent out.

To the Sunday Island Mission (Anglican) a lump sum of £200 per annum.

To the Beagle Bay Mission a lump sum of £500 per annum, on the understanding that they take in any children from the Kimberley district, which the Department may send to them, and to the New Norcia Mission a lump sum of £350 per annum. The estimated results of these subsidies is put down at about £2,000 per annum, and has resulted in an expenditure of £1,974 16s. 4d.

I have it from the manager of the New Norcia Mission that their establishment is self-supporting at the present time. It seems to me, therefore, that the time has come to withdraw the Government subsidy, as it must be the opinion of everyone that a recourse to pecuniary assistance from the Government should only be sought when the Mission cannot be carried on without it, that is, when it is in its early stages of development, or from special difficulties.

The Beagle Bay Mission have informed me that they are still in great straits for money, that their large herd of cattle is not yet of much annual value, and that they are entering into great expenses for the importation of several nuns to take care of and teach the girls in the Institution.

To ascertain what prospect there was for the services of these nuns, I wired to the police at Derby and at Hall's Creek, and learned that in the Kimberley Goldfields District there were 36 half-castes (14 girls, 22 boys), and in the West Kimberley 14 (4 girls, 10 boys), and in the Wyndham district 2 boys, 2 girls, half-castes. The total number being 20 girls, 34 boys, besides several full-blooded children, and 4 or 5 half-castes at Cygnet Bay.

As usual the great bulk of the vote has been spent in actual relief of the aged, crippled, and destitute. There have been some changes among the larger distributing stations, but the same policy and system have been carried on. Details will be given in the District Notices.

Before closing this portion of my report, I wish to express my opinion that the immorality among the natives will not be very greatly checked by the law as it now stands. I am advised by the Law Department that an action for cohabitation can only be taken out when the offence is continuous. Now a continuous offence of this sort is not nearly so harmful to the race nor does it lead to such disastrous results as promiscuous sexual intercourse, and I strongly advise an enactment which shall extend the meaning of the word "cohabitation" in Section 43, to include any sexual intercourse between whites and aborigines whatever, even though it may be only on one occasion. I am convinced that the danger of disease which is doing so much harm and creating a sort of mild panic in the district, will never be made effectual unless such action is taken. I have communicated my views to the Crown Law Department.

Another matter has made itself clear to me, viz., that although a would-be employer of natives has failed, for some reason or other to his discredit, to obtain a permit from a protector, as provided by the Act, it is open for him to travel somewhere where he

is not so well known and obtain a permit from another unsuspecting protector. My suggestion to meet this case will be seen by circular in Appendix.

In January last by your consent two travelling Inspectors were appointed, a very much needed step, and I shall be glad to hear that two more have been added, as soon as funds will allow, to keep a proper supervision over the welfare of the native population, such as is contemplated by the Act, and with the voluminous correspondence, which has appeared for years past, I consider that there should be at least five of these travelling inspectors constantly on the go, and reporting as well as taking such minor action as may be permitted them.

From a large number of applicants the names of Mr. James Isdell, of the Pilbarra District, and Mr. Charles Fartiere were selected, the former to undertake the supervision of all the Northern districts, and the latter of all districts South of the Ashburton. It can be seen that the work of these gentlemen is cut out when one considers the immense area they will have to supervise, as set forth in my last year's report with map attached. However, these gentlemen have set to their work with zeal, and I have received from them much information and many suggestions, much of which has been extracted and will be found among the appendices.

That portion of the Act which first made itself felt throughout the country was the restriction as to carrying guns. A number of natives were found in possession of firearms, and in some districts were summoned to appear before the Court, but taking into consideration the absolute inability of natives to read an Act or to grasp its provisions without a great deal of explanation, I requested the Police to go slowly and to give natives warning that they would have to take out licenses, which do not cost anything, before they carried guns in future. By this time this knowledge has spread, and though no doubt there are still numbers of natives who are carrying guns without license, they probably know their liability. I have been told that their natural cunning induces them to hide their guns, but this is a minor difficulty, which no doubt will be got over in time. It is quite understood among the authorities who grant these licenses that guns are not to be used for shooting the natural fauna in the way of trade, but only to secure food for themselves or their employer.

There are parts of the State in which the kangaroos, for instance, are being decimated to such an extent that before long the fact will become apparent that unemployed natives will not be able to gain their sustenance and will be thrown upon the hands of the Government for support, which is a result to be avoided by every means possible.

There has been no possibility of giving the rates of increase or decrease of the aborigines and half-castes, such as I find from the reports in other States, as a census of such a numerous, widespread, and wandering race cannot be made, but from a general knowledge I do not think natives are decreasing in the Northern parts of the State as yet. Nor is the acknowledged decrease in the Southern parts a very rapid one at present. One circumstance is very detrimental to increase as we might hope for in the tropical regions of the North, and that is a fact reported to me by one of the Palatine priests at Beagle Bay Mission. After a tolerably good test of a hundred cases, namely, that a black woman having

given birth to a child by a white father will not again bear to a black father. If this is the case, in order to keep up the splendid supply of labour now available to develop the Northern region, every effort should be made to prevent the intermingling of the races. I have always been against the production of half-castes, who are not a desirable sort of people, and who are themselves born to occupy a pitiable position, contemptible on the sides of their fathers as well as their mothers.

My recommendation for the extension of the meaning of the word "Cohabitation" mentioned above, will help in this direction.

RESERVES.

During the year three actions have been taken under Section 39 of the Aborigines Act, 1905.

- (1.) An area was proclaimed on the recommendation of the local authorities around the town of Northampton (about 6,500 acres).
- (2.) An area was proclaimed on the recommendation of the Police at Broome (about 7,000 acres) at Edgar's Creek, near the Southern entrance of Roebuck Bay.
- (3.) An area was proclaimed at my request, from information received, of the surveyed portion of Broome township. This has recently been increased on the recommendation of Father Walter of Beagle Bay Mission and others, and according to my original opinion of the whole of the area included in the townsite.

No doubt in the near future a good many more of these "anti-native reserves" will have to be proclaimed, but it is not advisable to proceed too fast, as in some cases such as Carnarvon, where such action has been advocated by certain people, it might tend to harass the trade of the district and strict police supervision of the camps is quite possible.

Blocks of land have been set apart as Native farm holdings as follows:—

- (1.) George Long, 100 acres, Margaret River, Sussex district.

Application has been made to the Government by the Roman Catholic Bishop for a large area of land for the establishment of a new Mission, at Napier, Broome Bay, but so far I have not heard of any action having been decided upon. An establishment of this sort would go far towards eradicating the hostility which the Aborigines of this region have always shown to the white man who intrudes upon their hunting grounds, and would help to open up what is believed to be a rich but very little known district.

A number of native and half-caste children are receiving instruction at various Missions, and a list will be found on pages 13, 14, and 15.

I look forward to the time when the State will not have to depend upon Missions, but on our State Children Relief Department, such as exists in South Australia, as at present it is very difficult, with the means at our command, to keep a proper supervision over the children now treated.

As there seems to be a lack of knowledge among the public as to the methods adopted in affording relief, I may here state that rations for the aged, crippled, and otherwise destitute are given wherever

convincing reports are received as to their necessity. The number has approached 996, as will be seen from the tables given in this as well as in my previous reports. Flour, tea, sugar, and meat form the principal items, but where there are any who require it from low physical condition or disease, many other comforts such as milk, sago, potatoes, rice, etc., are ordered, generally on the certificate of the local medical man. Blankets are provided for the aged and the crippled and children, and in many places clothing either made to order or purchased in quantities from old clothes dealers. Hitherto we have made little effort to provide unemployed natives with work, as they have generally been able to find it from farmers and station owners, but during the past few months, when there have been so many unemployed whites, it must be apparent to everyone, as it has been to me, that there are many able-bodied natives who are willing to work for wages, but who are quite unable to get employment. I have, therefore, proposed a tentative scheme, in one case in the first district which you have kindly assented to, viz., to enter into an arrangement pound for pound with certain Roads Boards, to make roads required not only for the use of the Department but also for the use of settlers in the neighbourhood. My proposal is to offer employment under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Reserve, who happens to be a practical and experienced road maker, to any natives who may report that they cannot obtain employment, on this work at a rate slightly below the market rate for such labour. If they refuse and prefer to wander about as vagrants or as poachers upon the supplies issued to natives under relief, as they very often do, there are means of compelling them to undertake the work. This may sound rather autocratic, but circumstances justify the action.

As to the Aborigines travelling on the railroad, to which I referred in my last year's report, the present conditions remain in vogue. Unless the aboriginal pays his own fare, which is unusual, the Department has to pay for his travelling. Every care, however, is exercised that ticket orders are only given when necessary, such as in case of sickness or to go for work, etc.

Employment of natives on licensed premises is only allowed by the assent of the Chief Protector. Several have been given during the year. The question whether it would be advisable to amend the law which allows this action in case of publicans' general licenses, should be extended so as to embrace way-side licenses, has been under consideration. It appeared at first that the need was greatest in the case of the latter, and the Crown Law Department were asked to recommend an enlargement of the section, in the Wine, Beer and Spirits Sales Act, but Dr. Maloney of Wyndham gave his opinion against it, saying that the employment of one or two native horse-boys, for instance, at a way-side inn induces numbers of natives to gather round the spot, which leads to a good deal of iniquity between them and the travelling public, and also made them lazy and unwilling to gain their food by their original means.

The question whether this contention is a good one is worthy of further consideration; I have, therefore, held my hand in the matter at present.

H. C. PRINSEP,
Chief Protector of Aborigines.

BLANKETS AND CLOTHING AND OTHER RELIEF.

Blankets to the number of 2,313 have been distributed this year to the various stations for issue to the aged, crippled, and destitute natives, as shown in the Table at end of report. There are 996 natives on the relief list this year, 1906-07, compared with 837 in 1905-06.

Tables are attached in the Appendix showing how the blankets have been distributed, proportion crime committed, distribution of food, and stating what ailments the natives suffered from, giving them claim for such relief. Also the reported deaths of natives during the year. No births have been reported.

The Department must thank the Commissioner of Police and his officers for the trouble they take in looking after the welfare of the natives generally. Thanks are also due to the gentlemen who have consented to be appointed Protectors, for their readiness in carrying out instructions received from the Department and the independent action they take in enforcing the conditions of the Aborigines Act.

The new Act is reported to be working well, by both inspectors, although it is thought some alterations will have eventually to be made. The condition and treatment of the natives they have come across during their travels are reported as good. Mr. Isdell, the Northern Inspector, and Mr. Fartiere, the Southern Inspector, were appointed on the 1st January last, and it was some little time before they could get their camp equipment together and make a start. The reports of stations visited by them up to the 30th June will be found in the Appendix.

REPORT SENT TO SECRETARY OF STATE.

Neck Chaining of Native Prisoners.

With regard to neck chaining of the native prisoners, it has been conclusively proved by all medical and other evidence, that this method is most humane, and after full consideration the Government has approved of its continuance.

The chains are of the lightest description (the weight of chain carried by each native being 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.), and fastened loosely about four or five inches below the chin so that the hand can be passed with ease on either side of the neck. Four prisoners are generally chained together. It will be seen, I think, how far preferable this method of neck chaining is to that of securing prisoners by the waist, wrist and ankles. If secured by the waist, it would impede the action of the hips, and as the natives have exceedingly small hips, the chains would have to fit very closely with every probability of bruising the skin. The same may be said of hand-cuffing or chaining by the wrist. The natives have also very small hands, and the chains to be of any use would have to fit very tightly to prevent slipping, and the swinging of the arms when marching would most certainly cause chafing. The police inform me that it would be impossible to keep any padding on hand-cuffs or wrist chains, as the natives would be continually picking it out, so as to be able to slip the irons over their hands.

I need not point out how very inconvenient and irksome it would be to the prisoners were they secured by the leg or ankle, and that by this method the chances of chafing would be enormously increased, especially on uneven ground. In my opinion it would be most cruel to secure natives either by the waist, wrists, or ankles when travelling.

The police must also be considered in the matter, as it often happens that a single constable with only a black tracker has to travel with 15 to 20 prisoners hundreds of miles in the bush of this vast State, inhabited only by aborigines, treacherous to a degree, who would be lurking about to help their comrades: therefore every possible means must be adopted to prevent the escape of the prisoners.

I am informed that neck-chaining is a preventative against any combined attack of the native prisoners on the constable, as should they have been able to secure any weapon they would not have the same opportunity of striking as they would were they chained by the waist or leg. It is absolutely necessary that native prisoners should be chained for their security and the safety of the police, and the best method has been adopted, and the one least likely to cause pain and inconvenience.

The natives of the present day are quite intelligent enough to complain of any wrong done to them, and they do not hesitate to complain when there is any cause, but I have never on any occasion heard of any complaint from them *re* neck chaining, neither have the police.

Neck-chaining has not a pleasant sound, and perhaps that is the worst part of it, and the cause of the outcry against this method. However, the people who have raised the outcry do not suggest any better plan, and in my opinion could have troubled themselves very little to find out which was the best method. Anyone with the slightest experience can come to no other conclusion than that under the circumstances, neck-chaining is by far the most humane way of securing the prisoners, and at the same time offers better protection to the police.

Remarks from the President of the Central Board of Health, dated 18th July, 1905.

CHAINING NATIVE PRISONERS BY THE NECK.

This is beyond doubt the one safe way of securing an aboriginal, and if sentiment is left out of the question it must be regarded as the best method.

If both prisoners and jailers prefer this, then sentiment may reasonably be disregarded.

Remarks from the Principal Medical Officer, dated 10th July, 1905.

The present system of securing the chain round the neck though unsightly, is, in my opinion, the best and most humane method that can be adopted.

Remarks from the District Medical Officer, Broome, dated 11th June, 1905.

I will add one or two simple common-sense arguments in favour of the much-abused neck-chaining. The first and foremost, in my opinion, is that the wearers themselves prefer it to other methods, as being most comfortable, and least interfering in their daily task.

Again, the neckband is here, and should be wherever used in tropical climates, an open chain which permits free exit to sweat, and does not hold sand and dirt to chafe the skin.

Again, also, it is out of the way of the said sand and dirt, and the weight is carried, as it should be, where least felt, by the shoulders of the wearer, and does not hamper his limbs as does the waist and ankle chaining.

Remarks from the Jailer, Wyndham, dated 30th May, 1905.

The method of ankle chaining the natives cried against, and frequently stated that they wished them back on the neck.

NECK-CHAINING.

Neck chains cause less inconvenience to prisoners than would be the case if fastened to any other part of the body, and in this, the District Medical Officer at Broome concurs, no ill results have ever followed this mode of wearing the chain, and I am confident if given a choice, the men themselves would prefer it round the neck to anywhere else.

From the Controller General of Prisons, dated 28th April, 1905.

WRIST CUFFS AND CONNECTING LINKS.

It is not possible to work men chained in this way with any degree of comfort to themselves, or without danger to life and limb.

WAIST BELTS AND CONNECTING CHAINS.

You cannot hold aboriginal natives with any degree of certainty, and without risk of injury to themselves from undue pressure on vital parts by waist belts.

Remarks by District Medical Officer, Broome, dated 14th March, 1905.

I have had nearly five years here as District Medical Officer, and so have had ample opportunity of studying the question, and I am absolutely certain that the neck chain is the most humane and least inconvenient of all possible forms for aboriginal prisoners. The prisoners themselves prefer the neck chain uncovered, and from my knowledge as a Surgeon, I think they are right in so doing. The neck chain is ugly, but it is the most humane form.

Remarks by the Resident Magistrate, Broome, dated 30th January, 1902.

After eight years' experience with native prisoners, seeing them almost daily, I have never seen a chafe or sore made by a chain on a native's neck. Chaining by the neck gives a maximum of safety with a minimum of discomfort.

WHOLESALE KANGAROO KILLING.

Several complaints have been made with reference to this, principally from the Lower Murchison and Esperance. People obtained permits to employ natives; the natives obtain gun licenses, in some cases simply for the object of killing kangaroo for their skins alone. One person complaining writes:—

Kangaroo Killing.

Cape Arid, 30th April, 1906.

The Resident Magistrate, Esperance.

Sir,—Allow me to draw your attention to the fact that kangaroo-hunters are becoming a nuisance to the settlers, and a serious menace to the food supply of the natives on the South Coast. They are travelling with a considerable number of natives, who do the hunting for them, and the kangaroos have now become so scarce that natives have to fall back on the settlers to procure food; more, kangaroos being

hunted for their skins only, the carcasses are left in the bush and are attracting wild dogs in large numbers, which even now are playing havoc with our sheep.

There is no doubt that if hunters are permitted to stay much longer on this Coastal district there will be absolutely no food left for the natives.

[The Crown Law Department has been consulted on the matter. The Game Act (55 Vict., No. 36) empowers the Governor, by proclamation, to declare any one or more portions of the State or any one or more localities to be respectively defined in any such proclamation a reserve for native game or any particular native game. Kangaroos are native game within the meaning of the Act. The Act 64 Vict., No. 33 makes certain provisions in regard to entering upon reserves and killing kangaroo for food. It is now under consideration to declare one of these reserves for native game in the Murchison and Yalgoo Magisterial Districts. Protectors have already refused some permits, when it has been known that they are to employ natives for the wholesale kangaroo killing. Instructions will also be issued as to more care being exercised on giving gun licenses to natives, for more reasons than one.]

EMPLOYMENT OF NATIVES BY AFGHAN CAMEL DRIVERS.

It has been found necessary to make a new regulation with regard to these permits. It is as follows:—

"It shall be unlawful for any camel owner or driver or any person in charge of camels to employ any aboriginal native under the age of 20 years, and no permit shall be granted for the employment or shall authorise the employment of any aboriginal native under the age of 20 years by any camel owner or driver or person in charge of camels. Any person committing a breach of this regulation shall be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty pounds or to imprisonment not exceeding one month."

It is now being considered whether this regulation shall not be further extended so as to prevent not only Afghans but any Asiatic native from employing any aboriginal native or half-caste. It is the unanimous opinion that they are not fit to employ natives and only supply them with liquor and use their wives for immoral purposes.

HALF-CASTE CHILDREN IN THE EAST AND WEST KIMBERLEY POLICE DISTRICTS.

East Kimberley.—14 half-caste boys and 22 girls.

West Kimberley.—10 boys and four girls; and four or five at Cygnet Bay

There are also several full-blooded native children of each sex in both districts.

Instructions have been given to the Protectors, Police, and Travelling Inspectors to try and collect these children and send them to the Beagle Bay Mission. As will be seen in a letter in this report, there are now 10 sisters at this Mission. There is therefore now no reason why the girls, both half-caste and full-blooded, cannot receive the same care and attention that they do in the institutions South. I do not think there can be any objection to bringing up the half-castes and full-blooded children together at a Mission however objectionable it may be in camp life. The blacks when educated are often the better

mannered of the two, and are likely to set a good example both as regards morals and application to the half-castes. Some little difficulty is experienced in getting the parents to part with these children; they cannot be forced, unless it is proved that the surroundings are likely to bring the children to lead vicious lives. However, every persuasion will be used, and I think it probable by this time next year a great many of these children will be at the Mission, where they are ready to receive any number. The expense of bringing these children South, say, from Hall's Creek and other far outlying stations would be immense, and they have always to be provided with an escort, which is not always procurable.

GUN LICENSES.

District Office, Roebourne.

Re Gun Licenses to six natives on Millstream Station, Roebourne.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

As I previously pointed out, 11/3/07, it is most undesirable to grant gun licenses to natives in such an indiscriminate manner, as six on one station. If these licenses are granted, it will help to undo all the good work done by the police in disarming the natives in this district.

If a native is working on a station it is not necessary for him to shoot kangaroo for food, as he has usually a plentiful supply issued to him by his employer. The real danger in granting licenses in this manner will make itself manifest when the natives are on pinkai and at corroborees, where they will take their guns, and while in the possession of these weapons old feuds may arise, which perhaps have lain dormant for years, with serious results to the natives, and most likely whites. I do not wish to be thought an alarmist, but anyone with experience with natives are aware of their impulsive nature, and may at any time become victims of impulse.

If however, you think these licenses should be granted, will you be good enough to have someone appointed with power to do so, see my previous memo. on subject dated 1/3/07.

W. H. PILMER,
Sergeant 93, Acting D.O.

Roebourne, 2nd April, 1907.

REPORTS ON DIFFERENT DISTRICTS.

East Kimberley.

The police at Hall's Creek report generally that during the year the health of the natives has been good, and very few of them have suffered from sickness with the exception of a few who have suffered from venereal disease. It is very difficult to get them to take any medicine, if the taste is at all disagreeable, or if anything is put on which stings or burns the sores; the consequence is that they clear off into the bush and become in a filthy state.

It is disappointing work trying to cure a native, as he or she when nearly cured will go into the bush and return in a very much worse state than they were at first. There have been two deaths amongst the natives—one from supposed sunstroke, and the other, an orphan girl, accidentally speared by a native.

The offences for cattle killing have been slightly on the increase, twenty-four having been charged within

the last three months. One native was charged with attempted murder. Several discharged native prisoners have called in on their way to Sturt, and were assisted with rations, and were allowed to remain in the station and rest for a few days. One white man was brought before the court and charged with entering a native camp; pleaded guilty and was fined £2 and £1 costs.

There are ten infirm, crippled, and blind natives on the Government relief list and three orphan children. N.B.—Efforts will be made to send these children to Beagle Bay now that the nuns have arrived.

East Kimberley District.

A large amount of our expenditure at Wyndham in relief rations goes to the discharged prisoners, who have principally been in gaol for cattle killing.

The number of blankets distributed in this district during the year will be seen in Appendix.

There is only one crippled native on the permanent relief list at Wyndham; at Turkey Creek eight natives are rationed, the agent being Mr. Rhatigan.

The relief at the Wild Dog Station on the Negri Creek has been discontinued, any natives requiring relief there will be transferred to Turkey Creek.

West Kimberley.

King's Sound.—The Rev. Father Nicholas Emo has established a Mission at Cygnet Bay, King George's Sound. He has 20 to 25 natives on his list, and receives 9d. per day each from this Department for their maintenance.

The Resident Magistrate, Derby, says:—

Father Nicholas seems most attentive to the welfare of the natives under his charge. An old native woman died from natural causes. A native, blind with cancer on the face, has greatly improved.

Father Nicholas has also taken charge of three little girls, who were rescued from their mother, a notorious prostitute. Steps will be taken to remove these children to the Beagle Bay Mission when opportunity offers.

Casual visitors often call in. The natives get two good rations of rice morning and evening, and at midday a ration of flour besides tea, sugar and milk.

Fitzroy.—Now under charge of Mr. D. W. Green, having taken over charge from Mr. H. H. Trigwell. There are 25 natives under relief here, mostly aged and decrepit. Scale of rations here: 14 lbs. damper per week and 7 lbs. meat per week.

One native died from the effects of syphilis. He had been ailing for a considerable time, and had been carefully looked after, fed with cornflour, rice and milk. A native named Duncan had been cured from syphilis and struck off the relief list.

A native woman with two half-caste children had arrived at the station in a starving condition and were placed on the relief list and are now doing well.

A large amount of medicine has been sent to this station at different times, principally to treat colds and venereal diseases.

Number of blankets sent to this station will be found in the Appendix.

LaGrange Bay.—About 37 adults and four children under relief here, sometimes more. They are mostly old and decrepit. 14lbs. flour, 3½lbs. sugar per week scale allowed. The half-caste girl Polly who was reported to be at this station last year has now

been removed to the Salvation Home at the Collie, where she is progressing satisfactorily.

The natives during part of January suffered somewhat from a severe form of influenza, but as there was a good supply of various medicines, relief was given. However, a further supply of influenza medicine, dysentery mixture, embrocation, etc., and blankets were immediately despatched.

Mr. Annear says:—

"The new stations around LaGrange are in their infancy, and there is at present very little employment for natives. There appears to be abundance of fish at certain times, but not very much bush food. Generally the health of the natives has been good."

At Derby an average of 4 to 8 aboriginal natives are relieved. They receive their rations through the Hospital authorities, this Department paying the vouchers for such relief. We have found this plan answer very well, and it ensured the natives getting food of good quality, and of proper weight. It also works out more economically for the Aborigines Department than if supplied by a store.

Three native men were arrested for causing the death of an aboriginal woman, during a trivial quarrel; they were tried at Broome, the result being that they were sentenced to long imprisonment.

At Broome, owing to representations made, it has been found necessary to increase the anti-native reserve, owing to the number of Asiatics visiting the townsite and the adjoining creeks. It is now illegal for any unemployed native or half-caste to be within the townsite boundaries of Broome; also on the land south of Roebuck Bay there are certain restrictions whereby it is unlawful for any native or half-caste not in lawful employment to be or remain.

Blankets distributed to this district will be found in the Appendix.

Ashburton and Gascoyne.

Reports have been received on the following Stations:—Ashburton Downs (owned by Messrs. Hancock Bros.). There are ten natives on relief there, and all appeared to be well clothed and fed and no complaints. One case of venereal disease at this station. At the Uthanana Station (owned by Mr. Watts), there are 8 natives employed, all appeared to be well clothed and fed, and no complaints. At the Glenferrie Station (owned by Mr. G. W. Hale), there are 16 natives employed; all appeared to be well and in good condition and happy.

At the Hardy Junction Station, owned by Forrest Brothers, managed by F. Hicks, there are 20 natives employed. All were in good condition, and had no complaints.

At the Peak Station there were 8 natives employed. All were in good condition.

The 17-mile Cattle Station was also visited, and the natives there appeared to be well treated and happy.

Natives under relief in the Ashburton are as follows:—Onslow, 10; Gorge Police Station, 11; Yannreaddy Station, 6; Bangemall G.F., 15.

In the Upper Gascoyne the number of natives relieved are:—At Denny Creek, 14; Junction Police Station, 14; Clifton Downs Station, 8.

Good reports have been received from all these Stations as to the treatment and conditions of the natives who are under employment. At Onslow and Carnarvon Districts syphilitic diseases are most prevalent; great difficulty is experienced in treating the natives, as they will not remain long enough in the

Stations for the medicines to have any beneficial effect. I fear there is little chance of stamping out this disease until all sufferers are isolated on the islands which are to be set aside for the purpose. A native woman named Susie at the Torvera Station is reported to be in a very bad condition. An arrangement will be made to get this woman into Carnarvon for treatment. The Travelling Inspector is looking into this matter.

Blankets distributed to this district will be found in the Appendix.

A fuller report by the Travelling Inspector *re* this district will be found in the Appendix.

North-West.

The Inspector of Police, Roebourne, reports that he visited the farming homesteads when on tour of inspection through the Roebourne district, namely:—Sherlock, Mallina, Wanalong, and Mundabullanganna, and Corunna Downs, and while there he saw all the natives employed by the owners.

They appeared to be well fed and clothed and quite happy with their lot, and from inquiry find no venereal disease existed.

At the Cooyapooya Station there are 4 natives lately placed on the relief list, and one recommended by the Police as deserving of Government relief. The number of blankets and relief given in this district will be found in their respective tables. Mr. Bates, Manager of this Station, states that he is himself supplying food to about 40 natives all the year round.

The number of dogs kept by the natives are found to be a considerable nuisance in this district.

Nor'-West and Pilbarra District.

Several of the natives have suffered a great deal from colds and rheumatism. Eucalyptus and Painkiller seem the only medicines which appear to give them relief, and they have been well supplied with these; 100 blankets have been distributed here, and several have been sent to different parts of the neighbourhood, wherever the old natives are located. A great deal of venereal disease exists amongst the natives; the District Medical Officer, Marble Bar, has supplied a quantity of medicines for the treatment of the disease; 34 natives are receiving relief at Nullagine, 4 at Bamboo Springs, and 4 at Sandy Creek. The amount allowed per day for each natives has been reduced from 1s. to 9d. per day each; owing to the reduction in the cost of cartage from Hedland, the scale issued has been maintained. They get 13lbs. flour, 4lbs. sugar, 4ozs. tea, and sufficient baking powder per week. Game is scarce East of Nullagine, and the Oakover natives have found it difficult to obtain sufficient food. However, good rains have come, and native food will soon be in abundance. Mr. Sieveking, a Protector, has regularly witnessed the distribution of rations. The Police have visited all the native camps 40 miles round—no signs of whites about. The Act has been strictly enforced, and there is not a single native living with a white man in the district, the result being that many women have been thrown on the Department—since they have been so long away from native food they become sick. The natives in the district appear to be happy and contented, and there has been no crime.

Reports from Nullagine are satisfactory as to the treatment and condition of the natives under employment at different Stations.

The local Protector reports:—Efforts have been made to centralise relief as much as possible, but there is the usual difficulty in getting natives to leave their own district. Some of them would rather starve than be removed. However, some natives who are found to be decrepit and old, were brought from the 20-mile Sandy, and are now being looked after by the Protector at Nullagine. At Mulga Dam, which Station was visited by the Protector in the early part of the year, there were 12 decrepit natives, males and females, hardly able to move about, and Mr. Miller, the Manager, treated these natives well, giving them all they required in the way of food, clothes, and tobacco, and asked for no remuneration for their up-keep, he considering it part of the Station-owner's duty to feed and look after these old natives until they die. I have seen from time to time, while visiting various Stations in the district, a number of old and indigent natives on the Stations being fed by the owners. It would be well for the Department if more of the settlers were to recognise their duty to the natives who have become old and decrepit in their service. The natives under relief at Nullagine are located on the reserve set aside for their use.

Blankets distributed to this district will be found in the Appendix.

Late Epidemic at Whim Creek.

Sergeant Pilmer reports, the natives in this district were suffering from influenza, or severe colds. It first started in a native camp at Pilbarra about the middle of June: there were 9 natives in the camp, they all appeared to have this cold from the 15th to the 20th of June. I visited Pilbarra on the 24th June, and was informed that two native women had died, one on the 19th and one on the 20th June. I visited the camp and found all the natives had colds, but nothing serious. I procured two bottles of Linseed Compound, and two bottles of Painkiller at the local store, and gave it to the sick natives. I told the storekeeper that if they required any more medicine to give it to them and send in his account, but the natives got better in a few days through this treatment.

One boy, aged 14, died at Mallina Station; he was sick for a few days, and was treated with medicine by his employer, Mr. Murray, who did all he could for him without avail. There were 4 others sick on Mallina Station, but were cured through the attention of Mr. Murray.

There was also a native woman died at BallaBalla. She was also treated by Mr. Ray without success. There were 7 or 8 other natives at Balla-Balla sick, but they are now all well. I have instructed Mr. Ray that should they again become ill, he is to give them medicine and charge to the Aborigines Department. There were about a dozen natives at Whim Creek suffering from colds, these I sent to Mr. Tuck, who supplied them with medicine with beneficial results.

About 25 natives were sick with, in my opinion, "influenza." Some had slight attacks and some severe, four deaths occurring during the epidemic. Everything that was possible to be done was done to alleviate the suffering of these natives. The greatest difficulty is experienced in making these natives keep themselves well wrapped up during sickness, thus causing the heavy mortality.

Your obedient servant,

W. H. PILMER, Sergeant 93,

15/8/07.

Acting D.O.

Victoria-Murchison District.

We have to thank the Resident Magistrate, Northampton, and Inspector Drewery for the attention they show to the natives generally in this district. The condition of the natives here requires no special remarks. The number of natives relieved will be found in Appendix.

At Peak Hill several natives are receiving Government relief. It has also been found necessary to supply them with a good deal of clothing, the Resident Magistrate representing that there were fully 20 aboriginal natives, mostly women, who were practically naked. A native woman from Day Dawn was found by the police in the bush in a very bad condition. She had been left by her relatives to die. She was brought into Cue, and treated at the Hospital, and is now doing well. A native named Piper, at Nannine, was found to be of insane mind, and he has been sent to the Fremantle Lunatic Asylum. Two children of the deceased woman "Minnie," Mt. Magnet, have been sent to the New Norcia mission.

The police reported that a number of natives in and around Nannine were in want of some assistance. The police were directed to do whatever was necessary.

Eastern Goldfields.

The Police report that there are no aboriginal natives permanently resident in the Coolgardie Police Sub-district.

At the present time there are no natives at all in this locality.

Small parties of from 6 to 12, including women and children, visit the town of Coolgardie at intervals. Their last visit was from 7 to 8 weeks ago, when they remained about the township for a few days only.

The natives who come in here are mostly from Kalgoorlie, Kanowna, and Kurnalpi. They seem well fed and in good condition and sufficiently clothed.

From Laverton three deaths were reported, all from natural causes.

The Police report that at present there are about 10 natives, men, women, and three children at Kurnalpi, but that they are able to hunt for food, one old native having been seen with a dozen rabbits at one time.

The native camps have been visited at irregular times, and on no occasion has food been scarce.

The natives travel between Kurnalpi, Mulgabbie, Pingin, Edjudina, Kalgoorlie, Boulder, and Kanowna, staying a week or two in one place. The natives in the Kurnalpi district are not in need of relief, as there are a few kangaroo and a great number of rabbits.

At Mulga Queen, it was reported by the Warden of the Mount Margaret Gold Field, that two male aboriginal natives had been knocking about in the vicinity of Mulga Queen in a totally helpless condition—one is completely blind and the other suffering from cancer. Arrangements were made by the Department with Messrs. Monday & Co., of Lancefield, to look after the blind native, and they have very kindly consented to do it free of charge. The one suffering from cancer has been brought to Laverton, and is being attended to by the District Medical Officer. A small camp at the expense of the Department has been erected on the Hospital Reserve. It is now thought that the native is suffering from Lupus, and he is on a fair way to recovery.

The camp will be used for any sick natives which may be sent in to Laverton for treatment.

Police, Menzies, report :—"As to the condition of the aborigines in the Police District," which includes the Menzies, Mt. Margaret, and part of the East Murchison Magisterial Districts.

1. The condition of the aborigines in the North Coolgardie Police District during the past six months have been very satisfactory. They have received from the Aborigines Department, through the Police and Native Protectors, rations, when and where required, blankets, and also medicine and medical attendance at all times, when and where required.

2. Owing to the present good season, game, and other native foods have been plentiful throughout the country districts, and the only complaints received by the police from settlers and prospectors in the country and people in towns, were about petty camp robberies, soliciting for money, tucker, tobacco, and liquor, etc., the latter being the cause of so much trouble amongst the natives as well as the white population.

The police throughout the whole district have been duly instructed, and have done, and are doing, all they possibly can to keep the natives out of towns, and so prevent complaints, which have had a marked effect for good to the natives themselves and beneficial to the public at large.

3. The natives invariably come to the police (whom they look upon as their best friends and protectors) to make any complaints they have ; which are always inquired into, and they—the natives—duly informed of the result, which fully satisfies them. I am very pleased to have to report that very few reports or complaints have been made by the aborigines to the police in this district of any consequence during the past six months.

In conclusion, I may say that the necessity for keeping natives out of towns and from mixing with a certain class of white people and Afghans, etc., is quite apparent, and from personal knowledge of both aborigines and Afghans in the Nor'-West and on the Goldfields for many years, I would strongly recommend that Afghans should not be permitted to employ aborigines in any capacity whatever, as such has a great tendency to create immorality, disease, and crime amongst both, and discontent and jealousies amongst the natives generally.

Duketon and Lake Darlot.

The Superintendent of the State Battery, Lake Darlot, has been kind enough to undertake the distribution of flour, tea, sugar, medicines, and blankets sent up by the Department for the relief of any natives who may require it. The Mines Department has also been kind enough to facilitate the passage of these stores through their agents at Leonora.

Norseman.

A large amount of medicine has been sent to the Hospital here for the treatment of sick natives. The District Medical Officer reports that they come at all hours of the day, sometimes in large numbers, with bad eyes, coughs, sores, and broken bones, wounds, etc. At times there are very few in the district, at others hundreds. The matron dispenses the medicines, etc., and attends to sore eyes, scabies—slight wounds, and so on—and every native receives any attention that he or she may require.

South-Western District.

There are a few natives at Busselton. A reserve, as in the case of Bunbury, has been set aside for the use of the natives by the Lands Department.

South-Eastern, Eucla.

Mr. Davey, Postmaster, is the Protector, and is most attentive in looking after the welfare of his *proteges*. He reports the natives are a quiet lot, who have so far caused no trouble. They are also obedient. Some of those, however, who ought to work, do not care about it. A native woman, "Polly," has been sent to Albany for treatment at the Hospital there, she was in a bad way, but has now been returned cured.

Bremer Bay.—Mr Cornish is the Protector here, and has a few natives on the relief list, who are all old and decrepit—the only trouble is that some of the able-bodied natives hang about and try to live on the old natives getting relief.

At Mount Barker a half-caste was deserted by her husband, a full-blooded native ; temporary relief was given her until she could find work.

Balladonia.—Nine natives arrived on one occasion destitute. They were afforded temporary relief.

Southern Districts.

There are a number of relieving stations, which will be found in Appendix. Little change has taken place. Several cases have been brought into the Perth Public Hospital—natives principally suffering from senile decay. Three of these came from the Native Reserve, Welshpool—and all died. The number of natives at Welshpool remains about the same. There are a few males collected there who are unable to get work, and the Department is temporarily relieving their families. However, as the road is to be put into a state of repair leading to the Reserve, the services of these natives who are able to work, will be utilised, so that they will be earning their rations.

At Bunbury some trouble had been going on in connection with the native and half-caste camp, situated a mile or so outside of the town, on the main road. Sailors and other white men used to visit the camp and supply the natives with liquor. This has, however, been stopped. A fresh Reserve, some two miles to the right of the road—well in the bush, has been declared a Native Reserve, and the natives have been shifted there, and where white men are prohibited from going. This change has been much appreciated by the inhabitants of Bunbury

Esperance.

Matters have been very quiet at Esperance, nothing to report.

MISSION REPORTS.

Beagle Bay Mission,
Broome, August 31st, 1907.

To the Chief Inspector of Aborigines, Perth.

I have the honour to present my report on the progress of this Native Institution during the financial year 1906-7.

The great event of the year for us was the arrival of a community of nine Sisters of St. John of God, who came from Kalgoorlie and Subiaco to take

charge of the Mission School and of the black women and children. They arrived on June 6th last, and are now comfortably housed and settled down to their work. Their lives are much more pleasant than even the more cheerful of their friends in the South had led them to expect, for work among so kind and affectionate a people as the blacks has many consolations.

Throughout the year we maintained about 60 children at the Mission, feeding and clothing them; and of some 35 of these, who were over 7 years of age, we took full charge in place of the parents, and kept them in regular attendance at the Mission School. Black people have not less natural affection than white, and in the early stages of our work they were most reluctant to part with their children, but in the course of time, as they saw the children did not suffer from the change, their reluctance was overcome. I believe that at the present time we have the full charge of every child over 7 years of age born on Mission country, and within a few years I hope this custom of giving us the children will have extended to all the people on Dampier Peninsula. In this connection I am happy to say that the Protector at Derby will hand over to me some more native children as soon as I can go there to receive them.

There are now some 16 half-caste children on the Mission, most of them having come from Broome. Many more of these poor children may be found, especially in the neighbourhood of bush townships and seaports. I am indeed anxious to have charge of them, and it was with feelings of gratification that I read your letter to-day, announcing the Hon. Minister's decision to have all the Kimberleys sent to me. They urgently need the care of the Mission, for, surrounded as they are by vicious influences, they cannot but grow up immoral and criminal. We have done much for the 16 now in our charge, who are some of the best of our children; and we can do a great deal more for them and for those the Government will now send, for since the Sisters came we can afford our little charges the same education and training that is given to white children in the primary Catholic Schools of Perth.

The school was carried on during the first half of the year by Father Russell, and during the second half by Brother Futton, and it is now in charge of two Sisters. About 35 children were in regular attendance, and most of them made good progress in reading, writing, and arithmetic. In the case of some of the bigger boys, mainly half-castes, the progress was gratifying indeed. Native children profit very much by schooling, and good schools are as indispensable for their well-being as they are for that of white children.

About 300 adult natives are under the influence of the Mission. Of these about 200 only visit it from time to time, and then go back to their camps, but the remaining 100 live with us always. About 30 of these resident adults are sick and infirm. Over 30 women are with the Sisters, engaged in needle-work, cooking, washing, and all kinds of house-work; and these, with the 60 children, and the school, are the Sisters' principal charge. A number of able-bodied men also work with the Brothers. The work they prefer is with the stock, but some work very well at harder manual work, such as fencing, well-sinking, building, etc. The bigger boys in the school also spend a number of hours each day learning the

trades of the Brothers, and are becoming proficient as carpenters, blacksmiths, tailors, etc.

During the year there were six births on the Mission, one marriage, and six deaths. Four deaths were due to old age, one appeared to be pneumonia, and the sixth was the case of an infant a month old.

The chief trouble which affected the adults during the year was their contact with Asiatics. At different times in the year about 200 pearling luggers come into Beagle Bay for water and firewood, and about 100 lay up for repairs at various places within 20 miles of it and remain there for the whole wet season. Each boat has a crew of at least five Japanese, Malays, Manilamen, and it may from that be understood how large an Asiatic population we have on the Mission country, or within easy reach of it, for quite three months of the year. In fact, we have some for six months, for the first boats for "lay-up" begin to arrive in September, and the last do not go away until March. Unfortunately this year the police constable to enforce the Aborigines Act did not arrive until the end of October, although a number of Asiatics were in Beagle Bay from the middle of September. Nothing is more grievous to us Missioners than the presence of the pearling lugger crews on the Aboriginal Reserve, or within easy reach of it, for it certainly means the degradation and speedy extinction of the blackfellows.

We had a very good season, and the rainfall registered at the Mission in the twelve months was 45½ inches. There was abundance of grass, and the cattle were in better condition than they had been for three or four years.

The financial position of the mission at the beginning of the year was gloomy indeed, and with a Government Grant of only £500, it was hard to see the way to meet our liabilities. However, Father Walter began a tour of the Eastern States, to make an appeal to the charity of the Catholic people there; and so far he has met with so generous a response that he is almost sure of paying off the more pressing debts within two or three months. The Government also came to our assistance with a special grant of one shilling per day for the maintenance of twenty of the sick and infirm. The position at the end of the year is therefore much more satisfactory, and we look towards the future with a great deal of hope.

I have, etc.,

JOS. BISCHOFFS.

REPORT OF SUNDAY ISLAND ABORIGINAL MISSION SCHOOL FOR QUARTER ENDING 31st AUGUST, 1907.

The number of scholars on the roll is 29, with an average attendance of 28. One boy is at times away with the boat, and sickness (which I am pleased to say is of rare occurrence) accounts for there not being a full daily attendance.

The scholars evince a real interest in the work, and are exemplary in their behaviour, endeavouring at all times to retain what is taught them, and their willingness to learn and the attention they give to the various subjects leave nothing to be desired. They are steadily and surely advancing in knowledge, under the supervision of Mr. Hadley, and that gentleman deserves every credit for the progress which is being made in the work.

Insubordination amongst the scholars is unknown, each and every one endeavouring to the best of his ability to assist in the maintenance of discipline and furtherance of the school duties generally.

I have, etc.,
C. W. GENGE.

Sunday Island,
May 25th, 1907.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines,

Sir,—

In answer to your expressed wish to hear from me before the end of the financial year, I am sending you a short account of our doings here.

You mention that you have overtures to the Salvationists as to taking up the work here until I could return from England. Not knowing that, in March, directly I heard from the Bishop definitely that they were not prepared to complete negotiations, I wired at once to the Wesleyans, to Mr. Burridge of Claremont, asking him to find me a Missionary to undertake the instruction, both spiritual and secular, of the children and offering him £70 a year, and forwarded a cheque for his passage down. I think a Mr. Hill is coming; whether married or single I do not know, but I told Mr. Burridge in my letter that a man with a wife would do far more good amongst them and have a greater influence amongst the women of the tribe.

I opened the school on the 1st of April and shall keep it until Mr. Hill arrives, and have 28 pupils, and I find that with that and the garden my time is fully occupied, and that I am not able to do much towards our self-support.

I am paying an assistant, C. Thompson, £50 a year as storekeeper and cook. He has been with me five years as a volunteer, and I thought it only right that he should receive some remuneration. Of course this entails increased expense to me, but I have dispensed with a white man in my vessel and am using the natives as crew.

There is every chance of Mr. Hill's arrival, when I am set free to earn a very fair amount of money in the carriage of freight and copper ore to Derby, only using, besides myself, the labour of the adult natives, who are all good sailors, and in my new vessel they have a capital fore-castle with good bunks, lamps, etc., and so are much more comfortable than they were in the little cutter that I had at first. So I do not think there is any fear of the Mission getting behindhand, as everything earned will be clear profit to the Mission.

Our garden is flourishing in vegetables, and I am now reclaiming and replanting our banana plantation, as I have now a fence that is proof against everything except white ants: a No. 12 wire screen with a top wire barbed, running round the whole of our cultivation area.

We have had three calves this season, and have three cows in milk. I have given out 46 Government blankets and 38 of my own rugs at the beginning of the month, and will forward the voucher in my half-yearly report.

Thanking you for your interest displayed in your efforts to find someone to come and give me a holiday.

I have, etc.,
SYDNEY HADLEY,
Superintendent Sunday Island Mission.

Half-Yearly Financial Account, Sunday Island Mission.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.
Grant-in-aid	.. .. .	100	0	0
Relief for Aged	.. .. .	71	5	9
Freights on cargo carried	.. .. .	71	12	0
Tortoise Shell	.. .. .	25	0	0
Pearl Shell	.. .. .	15	0	0
		<hr/>		
		£282	17	9
		<hr/>		
Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
Flour and Meal	.. .. .	22	10	0
Rice	.. .. .	18	0	0
Groceries Tools, etc.	.. .. .	59	11	0
Tobacco	.. .. .	16	5	0
New mast and dinghy for cutter	.. .. .	19	10	0
One quarter wages for Schoolmaster	.. .. .	18	0	0
Half-year's wages for C. Thompson	.. .. .	32	0	0
Cheque to Mr. Glover	.. .. .	16	13	0
Freights and duties	.. .. .	19	5	6
Clothes and blankets	.. .. .	33	12	6
Debit Balance, 1906	.. .. .	26	3	10
		<hr/>		
		£281	10	10
		<hr/>		
		£	s.	d.
Total Receipts	.. .. .	282	17	9
Total Expenditure	.. .. .	281	10	10
		<hr/>		
Credit Balance	.. .. .	£1	6	11
		<hr/>		

N.B.—Our cutter being idle three months carrying on negotiations with the Anglican Church as offset against that time the Church sent down to the Mission one quarter's supplies.

SYDNEY HADLEY,
Superintendent.

THE SALVATION ARMY COLLIE SETTLEMENT.

Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

In reply to yours *re* a report on the aborigine children at our Institution, I beg to state that there are now nine girls and four boys. Their general conduct has been good, and although feeling the cold change for the first few weeks their health has been excellent. The progress they have made at school, especially the girls, is marked. One girl, "Topsy," who did not know her alphabet two years ago, is now a first-rate (3) Standard scholar. The others did not know how to express themselves on arrival, and have had all to learn, but are doing well.

The system of mixing them with the white children is undoubtedly beneficial to them, as they are mimics or copyists and learn rapidly from watching, and I must say when once they grasp a thing they soon become efficient.

In house duties they are clean and tidy, and in their moral conduct we have had no difficulty. Discipline is at first a little irksome, but with a little patience and firmness this soon passes away and obedience is natural.

I have, etc.,
A. G. HEAD,
Manager.

SWAN NATIVE AND HALF-CASTE MISSION,
MIDDLE SWAN.

Memos. for Aborigines Department's Report for year ended 30th June, 1907.

1. The Mission has in the past sent forth many who have proved citizens of worth and respectability in spite of the peculiar dangers which beset the aboriginal and half-caste.

2. At present it could shelter many more than it does, and the Committee hope that the new Act now in operation will result in our being able to extend its sphere of usefulness. The Committee are enabled to utilise for the benefit of the Mission a considerable area of ground, and the proceeds of the cultivated area, together with the profits of the stock raised thereon, form a valuable contribution to the maintenance of the work. If it were not for this and for the steady help of many friends, the work would be quite impossible on the parsimonious allowance of the tenpence per day for the children whom the State asks us to maintain.

The Committee have always felt it to be absolutely necessary to provide the same standard of maintenance for the native and half-caste children as for the white boys and girls in the other Institutions under their care ; and as the Government allow 1s. 1½d. per day for white children it will be seen how great a discrepancy the Committee are compelled to make up, and how limited they are in their work amongst the class which demands the greater, rather than the less, attention and care.

3. The custom of drafting off the boys at about eight years of age into the Orphanage, which is close by, has been consistently followed. Here the coloured boys receive the same treatment as the others ; and start out in life with the same opportunities. It is gratifying to be able to record that they often excel their white companions, both in physical and mental achievements. One former inmate has at present over £90, and another over £80 to his credit as the result of wages saved ; some girls too have good sums up to £40. Good accounts are frequently received of inmates who have for years attained to maturity.

4. One weak spot in the treatment of the natives and half-castes is the absence of satisfactory provision for those in poor health. No doubt there are not many, and so the matter does not urgently call for remedy. One case, however, in point is that of a girl who many years ago left the Mission, and after some years of excellent conduct, fell into ill-health, which swallowed up all her savings in medicines, etc, and at the present time she is forced to take refuge at the Mission quite unable to take a situation, and with no means of support. At times the Hospital has sheltered her, and always Dr. Stewart, both of Perth and Guildford, have been very kind in giving gratuitous attendance.

5. If there were any means of drafting into the Mission young children of ages from three to seven, we feel sure that the State would immediately as well as ultimately benefit by the work amongst such members of the community with which the Institution is admirably adapted to deal.

6. Other points of interest may be found in the Annual Report of the Manager, on page 22, of Anglican Orphanages. Report for 1907 sent herewith.

A. BURTON,

Manager.

14/8/07.

NATIVE AND HALF-CASTE MISSION AT
THE SWAN.

Manager's Report for the Year ended 30th June, 1907.

At the close of the year we had twenty-seven girls and nine boys in the Mission, and in addition there are the eleven older boys at the Orphanage. Nine children were admitted and two went out to service.

Health.

We have to chronicle one death, that of an infant received in a poor state of health, whom we had to transfer to the Public Hospital, where it succumbed. There was one case of enteric fever, which we were obliged to send to the Hospital ; and during a visitation of influenza there were eight whom we sent for treatment to the Hospital, the mild cases being successfully dealt with at home. A month after the influenza had vanished, we had the whooping cough to contend with, but fortunately none of the children were laid up. In spite of these unavoidable epidemics, the general health has been as usual excellent.

Improvements.

The laying on of the Mundaring water has been one of the chief improvements of the year, as scarcity of water in the hot weather has always been a drawback.

A new cow shed and chaff room have been erected, and supply a want which we have long felt. The work has been done by the Orphanage, and the cost has been less than if outside labour had been employed. We have carried out some further improvements in gravelling and draining about the premises, and in erecting pens and sheds for poultry.

Produce.

The fruit-fly pest largely spoiled our sales of fruit, but it was not sufficiently bad to prevent the use of the fruit at home, most of it being dried or made into jam. 720 dozen eggs were sold, and the proceeds totalled £45 18s. 9d.; sales of poultry brought up our revenue from this source to £52.

Stock.

The live stock, generally, are in good condition. Unfortunately we lost one cow through disease, making our number of cattle ten, only six of which are at present milk producing.

Conduct.

The children have behaved very well indeed during the year, and gave evidence of living a happy and contented life. The presence of a number of very young children not only affords opportunity for kindly services on the part of the elder ones, but adds brightness to the home life.

During the twelve months, four girls have been confirmed, and two were sent out to service. The reports received concerning the girls out have been, in many cases, excellent. The native character is difficult to understand, and a good deal of trouble is occasioned if girls are sent out to unsuitable or incapable mistresses, but every care is taken to place them wisely. Two old girls were able to take a holiday in Melbourne last summer and returned to settle down to steady work once more.

Education.

The Inspector's report states :—"The children are cheerful, happy, and apparently very contented. Earnest work has been done by Miss Mackintosh, and the inspection on the whole was a satisfactory one. Considerable improvement was shown in all the subjects of instruction.

Amusements and Recreation.

The children have not been away for a holiday as in the past two years, but they have had a number of delightful outings for the day. Owing to the late Miss Moore's kindness, a day was spent on the river, in a launch, during January, which proved most pleasant to all who came. Miss Gill Hassell and Miss Mildred Brown entertained them with a Christmas tree and tea in December; Mrs. Stephen Brown and Mrs. Hale also invited them to a tea which was greatly enjoyed; they also participated in two socials at the Parish Hall, and the demonstration in Perth, and received many tokens of thoughtful kindness from many friends in the way of toys, cakes, sweets, and fruit.

Staff.

The Misses Mackintosh still constitute the staff, and by their patient and faithful labours earn the thanks of the Committee, and deserve the gratitude of all connected with the Mission.

A. BURTON,

The Rectory, The Swan, July 4, 1907.

REPORT OF NEW NORCIA MISSION FOR
YEAR 1906-1907.

The work accomplished at the New Norcia Mission during the year 1906-7 on behalf of the aborigines, has been very satisfactory. The boys are kept at school until they reach the age of 14. They are there taught the rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic, besides being well grounded in the Christian Doctrine. Their natural aptitude for music is

utilised in the Church services, a choir being composed of the young natives.

The male natives over the age of 14 are employed in various capacities in the Mission. They are taught carpentering, boot-making, gardening, and farming in all its branches, also the care of cattle, horses, and sheep, and the management of the different steam-driven engines and machines. Last year one of the natives secured an engineer's certificate. Their different sports clubs are in a flourishing condition, and they have proved themselves formidable rivals, both in the cricket and football field, to visiting teams from the surrounding districts and from Perth.

The native girls are trained and educated by the Sisters. They reside at the Convent until they are married. There, besides receiving a good elementary education, they are well instructed in all the domestic duties, such as needlework, laundry work, cooking, dressmaking, etc., and the general care of a home. During the year they secured four first prizes for their exhibits of needle-work and cooking at the Victoria Plains Show.

The general health of the natives of the Mission during the past year has been excellent.

Ellensbrook Home,
August 8th, 1907.

Dear Sir,

In answer to yours of the 3rd inst., I have pleasure in informing you that for the past year the general state of the children under my care, is quite satisfactory. Their conduct is good, and I am continuing to teach them daily in all necessary points.

Their health is perfect. There has been no illness for the last 12 months, except in the case of the three little girls who came last Christmas; they were in a very bad state of health for some time, covered in rash and sores. They are now in a thoroughly healthy state.

Yours truly,
EDITH A. BUSSELL.

APPENDIX.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year ended 30th June, 1907.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Vote 1906-7 under Edw. VII., No. 14	10,000	0	0	By Salary—						
Parliamentary	3,500	0	0	Chief Protector	550	0	0			
„ Approved Excess	393	6	0	Clerk (Accountant)	220	0	0			
„ Rent Pia Reserve (297A) { 1906-07 }	50	0	0	Clerk (temporary)	12	0	0			
„ „ Carnarvon (607A) { 1907-08 }	50	0	0	Working Superintendent, Welshpool Reserve	112	10	0			
„ „ Carnarvon (607A) { }	10	0	0	Travelling Inspector, 6 months, Northern District	125	0	0			
„ Refunds	10	19	9	Travelling Inspector, 6 months, Southern District	100	0	0			
								1,119	10	0
				„ Relief to Natives—						
				Blankets—Clothing	1,313	19	8			
				Provisions	7,945	9	8			
				Medical fees—Medicines	270	11	4			
				Native Shelters	92	4	3			
								9,622	4	11
				„ Grants, Missions, etc.—						
				Swan N. & H.C. (Ang.)	594	14	10			
				New Norcia Benedictine (R.C.)	366	13	4			
				Reagle Bay (R.C.)	584	16	0			
				Deaf and Dumb Inst.	12	10	0			
				Sunday Is. Mission	175	0	0			
				Ellensbrook Home	87	14	3			
				Salvation Army, Collie	153	7	11			
								1,974	16	4
				„ Police Protection, La Grange				125	11	9
				„ Legal Defence, Natives				13	19	8
				„ Transport				438	2	8
				„ Burial Expenses				248	8	0
				„ * Travelling				234	16	4
				„ Postage and Telegrams				72	3	4
				„ Telephones				14	5	0
				„ Miscellaneous				100	7	9
				„ Balance unexpended				50	0	0
								£14,014	5	9

* Including six months' travelling allowance to two Inspectors at £75 each per annum.

I certify that the foregoing statement of Receipts and Payments is correct. The individual items of receipts have been checked and the total of expenditure agreed with the Treasury, but not the various headings. The Aborigines Act requires a Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account to be submitted, but this has not been done, and the books are not kept in such a manner as will enable the information to be given.

C. S. TOPPIN, Auditor General.

24th October, 1907.

NOTE.—With reference to the Auditor General's remark *re* Balance Sheet mentioned in "The Aborigines Act of 1905," I would state that it is not possible to provide a Balance Sheet on the financial working of the Department, as it is now constituted. I believe Section 64, par. 4, provided for a Balance Sheet and an Income and Expenditure Account in the event of the Department owning property such as cattle stations and reserves becoming self-supporting, etc.

TABLE A.

District.	Station and Owner or Police Officer in charge.	Blind.		Aged, diseased, or crippled.		Destitute.		Total Natives.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Kimberley, East...	Buchanan & Gordon Bros., Flora Valley	...	1	2	2	...	...	2	3
	Caldow, J. A. (P.C.), Hall's Creek	...	1	4	9	...	...	5	10
	Wiltshire, J. J. (P.C.), Wyndham	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
	Rhatigan, Mrs. K., Turkey Creek	...	1	4	5	2	2	7	7	
	Button, R., Hall's Creek, Ruby Plains Station	...	1	...	3	...	...	1	3
	Schmitz, A. H., Hall's Creek	...	...	...	...	5	11	5	11
	Thurlow, C. (P.C.), Wyndham	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
	McManus, C. J., Derby	...	1	1	1	...	...	2	1
	Annear, C. J., Fitzroy	...	1	2	18	27	...	19	29	
	Metcalf, Thompson, & Co., Pardoo	...	...	...	...	2	7	2	7
	Trigwell, H. H., Fitzroy Telegraph Station	...	3	3	5	13	...	8	16	
	Edgar & Biddles, Broome	...	...	...	...	3	8	3	8
	Roe, G. H., Broome	...	...	1	3	2	...	3	3
	Hadley, S., Sunday Island	...	...	2	4	4	...	4	6
	Emo, Rev. Nicholas, Derby	...	...	5	10	5	...	10	10
	Green, D. W., Fitzroy	...	2	4	4	6	...	2	6	
	Walter, Rev. Father Walter, Beagle Bay	...	2	5	8	4	...	10	9	
	Higgins, W. J., Wallal Downs	...	...	1	2	1	...	2	2
	Carrigan, D. ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
	North-West ...	McRae & Straker, Croydon	1	3	1	3
Ray, George, Balla Balla Station		...	...	3	4	...	...	3	4
Padbury, Loton, & Co., Mill Stream Station		...	1	2	3	...	...	3	4
Burges, S. L., Cooyapooya Station		...	1	1	2	...	...	2	3
Hardy, L. W. (P.C.), Tableland		...	2	3	6	11	...	8	14	
Church, J. H., Mt. Florence		...	...	4	3	...	...	4	3
Tuck, Wm. J., Whim Creek		...	...	3	4	...	...	3	4
Edwardes, E. (P.C.), Port Hedland		...	...	1	2	1	...	2	2
Pead, W. J., Woodstock		...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2
Mearns & Cusack, Tambrey		...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2
Rogers, T., Cossack		...	1	2	4	...	...	3	4
Ryan, J. J., Port Hedland		...	1	1	4	4	...	5	5	
Huxtable, E., Nullagine		...	1	2	4	10	...	5	12	
Mackay, R. L., Springs Station		...	1	1	1	2	...	2	3	
Street, Chas. (P.C.), Marble Bar		...	1	1	3	6	...	4	7	
Look & Beart, Marble Bar		...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Nevin, Thomas, Nullagine		...	...	18	24	...	2	18	26
Triat, E., Nullagine		...	...	...	...	2	5	2	5
Ashburton and Gascoyne		McLeod, D. N., Minilya	...	1	...	12	13
		Sheard, A., Hamelin Pool	1	3	1	3
	Dalgety & Co., Carnarvon	...	...	...	...	3	5	3	5
	Bush, R. E., Gascoyne	...	...	6	9	...	...	6	9
	Lefroy, G. W., Carnarvon	...	...	5	5	...	...	5	5
	Spry, E. J. (P.C.), Junction Police Station <i>via</i> Carnarvon	...	...	4	10	...	...	4	10
	Gooch, G. J., Carnarvon	...	1	3	6	...	...	3	7
	Martin, J. T., Sharks Bay	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
	Barry, M. P. (P.C.), Onslow	...	2	3	4	...	...	5	6
	Breen, T., Wooramel, Gascoyne	...	1	1	2	...	...	2	3
	Pollett, A. (P.C.), Ashburton Gorge, Carnarvon	...	1	3	3	...	...	4	3
	Francis, Celia, Sharks Bay	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	2
	Ayliffe, P., Bangemall	...	1	6	7	...	...	7	7
	Campbell, H., Boolagar Station	...	...	...	...	4	4	4	4
	Fitzpatrick, R. E., Upper Gascoyne	...	...	4	8	...	...	4	8
	Baston & Co., Carnarvon	...	...	5	6	...	...	5	6
	Watts, A. E., Onslow	...	...	3	2	...	...	3	2
	Mitchell, S. H., Geraldine	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Meginess, H. (P.C., Mt. Wittenoom	...	...	9	4	...	...	9	4
	Clinch, G., Field's Find	...	1	...	...	3	3	3	4
Walker, Wm. (P.C.), Wiluna	...	2	1	7	...	...	1	9	
Ogilvie, A. J., Murchison	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	
Murchison and Victoria	Buttle, Frank (Police Corporal), Mt. Magnet	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Carlyon, R. J., Yuin	...	1	2	2	...	...	2	3
	Brand, Andrew, Lynton, Northampton	...	...	...	...	4	4	4	4
	Lucas, W., Northampton	...	...	...	...	1	4	1	4
	Trotman, A. H., Gullewa	...	...	4	4	...	...	4	4
	Broad, Robt., Wydgee Station	...	1	2	3	...	...	2	4
	O'Connor, James (P.C.), Peak Hill	...	1	5	10	...	...	6	12
	Wittenoom, F., Boogardie <i>via</i> Yalgoo	...	1	2	1	...	...	2	2
	Wolf, Isaac, Northampton	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	1
	Wallace, E., Yalgoo	...	1	3	2	...	...	4	3
	Stone, H. E., Geraldton	...	1	5	2	...	...	6	4
	Threadgold, A. T., Cue	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	4
	Brodie, A., Cue	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Murchison Station Coy., Northampton	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	3
	Sharp, James, Wooleen	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Mitchell, Chas., Gullewa	...	...	4	4	...	...	4	4
	Pidgeon, T., Yalgoo	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3

TABLE A—continued.

District.	Station and Owner or Police Officer in charge.	Blind.		Aged, diseased, or crippled.		Destitute.		Total Natives.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Eastern Goldfield	Kennedy Bros., Kookynie ...	...	...	...	...	9	14	9	14
	Kurth, E., Davyhurst ...	...	...	...	...	15	17	15	17
Central and South-Western District	McAlpine, T.D., Mulline ...	...	...	...	...	6	5	6	5
	Rankin, J. J., Southern Cross	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Chitty, C., Northam ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
	Munyard & Kenworthy, Perth	...	...	1	4	5	3	2	7
	Drummond, Jas., Dandaragan	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Fouracre & Wass, Bunbury	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Edwards, Chas., Beverley ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Bussell, E. A., Ellensbrook	...	...	...	...	4	6	4	6
	Cooper, Benedict, Newcastle	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
	Layman, A. G., Capel ...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
	Adams, Jane, Mangowine ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2
	Giblitt, M. A., Dingup ...	...	...	3	2	...	...	3	2
	Lockhart, H. H., Busselton	...	...	1	1	2	...	3	1
	Lefroy, H. B., Walebing ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2
	Tuckey, C., Mandurah ...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	2
	Gill, Gregory, Guildford ...	...	...	1	3	3	...	3	4
	Brown, C. R., Arthur River	...	...	4	7	...	...	4	7
	Salvation Army, Collie ...	...	...	...	...	4	9	4	9
	Guerin, Eleanor, Busselton	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
	Swan Meat Coy., Guildford	...	...	4	4	2	2	6	6
Waddington & Awcock, Bridgetown	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	
Leake Bros., Kellerberrin ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2	
New Norcia Mission ...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	2	
Haines & Wheatley, Bridgetown	...	...	3	3	...	...	3	3	
South-Eastern ...	Gardiner, A. C., Cranbrook	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	4
	Moir, John, Albany ...	...	...	4	2	...	...	4	2
	McNamara, J., Mt. Barker	...	...	...	...	3	1	3	1
	Jones, W. T., Kojonup ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Rogers, Wm. J., Katanning	...	...	...	...	19	16	19	16
	Muir, Thomas, Deeside ...	...	...	4	4	...	...	4	4
	Donovan, J., Norseman ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2
	Cornish, Frank, Bremer Bay	...	...	2	3	...	...	2	3
	Moir, Andrew, Glenvale ...	...	...	...	...	3	5	3	5
	Drew, Robinson, & Co., Albany	...	...	2	1	2	2	4	3
	Betts, W. H., & Co., Eucla	...	...	8	8	...	...	8	8
	Cornwall, Wm., Narrogin ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Hassell, J. F. T. ...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	3
	Dunn Bros., Ravensthorpe	...	...	2	3	...	...	2	3
	Talbot, A. J., Mandrabella Station	...	...	...	...	3	3	3	3
Ponton Bros. & Sharp, Balladonia	...	...	...	...	3	2	...	5	
Total	30	60	270	366	112	158	412	584
Grand Total	996				996			

TABLE B.
Distribution of Blankets, 1906-07.

District.	No. of Blankets.	Remarks.
East Kimberley ...	30	
West Kimberley ...	275	
North-West ...	320	
Ashburton and Gascoyne	207	
Victoria and Murchison	343	
Eastern Goldfields ...	597	
South Coast ...	101	
Central ...	188	
South-Eastern ...	248	
Total ...	2,309	

TABLE C.
Crimes.

Breaking and entering ...	15
Stealing ...	30
Leaving fires in open air unprotected	2
Loitering about towns ...	4
Cattle killing ...	102
Attempted murder (tribal) ...	8
Desertion from lawful service	20
Escaping from gaol ...	6
Disorderly ...	11
Drunk ...	29
Assault ...	6

TABLE C.—Crimes—continued.

Supplying liquor to aborigines (aboriginal defendant)	1
Burning and destroying property ...	2
Using threatening language ...	1
Assaulting girl under 16 years	2
Unlawfully on premises ...	3
Horse stealing ...	1
Unlawful possession of beef ...	35
Total ...	278

TABLE D:
Reported Deaths.

Sunstroke ...	1
Pneumonia ...	6
Old age ...	17
Consumption ...	10
Accidents ...	5
Natural causes ...	24
Influenza ...	3
Syphilis ...	3
Found dead ...	1
Berri Berri ...	2
Abdominal troubles ...	1
Internal ulcers ...	1
Snake bite ...	2
Wounds during tribal fights ...	2
Total ...	78

The following have been fined for supplying natives with liquor at Broome, 1907:—Manillamen, 5; Malay, 6; Japanese, 3; Cingalese, 1; Chinese, 1; Aboriginal, 2; European, 5.

REPORTS FROM POLICE ON PATROL DUTY,
EAST AND WEST KIMBERLEY.

Turkey Creek—Beagle Bay, Cygnet Bay, and in all Neighbourhoods or Creeks where Pearl Luggers visit.

Not very much to report. Full diaries have been kept by these officers and forwarded by the Commissioner of Police for information of this Department.

Several white men have been found cohabiting with native women and have been warned, and the gins have been sent away to their districts. A great deal of the police officer's time is taken up in preventing from and arresting natives for cattle killing; but owing to the heavy rains lately it has been found impossible to follow up the tracks of the natives.

The police on the Beagle Bay patrol are occupied for the most part in warning natives away from the creeks visited by the pearling luggers, and in a great measure that has been put a stop to.

Police report while at Cygnet Bay inspected the natives who are under the care of the Revd. Father Nicholas Emo. He had about 20—all old and decrepit, they were well looked after. The Aboriginal Department support these old natives.

At Sunday Island the Mission was also inspected. There were about 120 natives there, all of them looked healthy and clean. No complaints—no coloured men visiting the Island during the lay off season of the pearling fleet.

On the 24th March P.C. Ryan reports whilst patrolling at Cygnet Bay, he surprised a camp of natives close to the pearling boats. Most of the natives bolted—nine were stopped, including one girl of ten years of age. The camp was destroyed, also 23 dogs. The girl was taken and placed under the charge of Father Nicholas Emo, with her mother and two other children.

P.C. Hill states that while patrolling the neighbourhood of the Ord River, it was reported to him that there was a large camp of blacks in the vicinity, and that a native woman had been speared and had died from the wound, another woman also being wounded. A native named Piper had speared both these women—he is well known to the Argyle police—but on this occasion he managed to get away to his country—the Northern Territory. Both the women had been attended to by the Manager of the Ord Station, and he had done his best to alleviate their sufferings.

P.C. Wilson, whilst patrolling creeks in neighbourhood of Beagle Bay for several months, found no natives about.

There is evidently a great improvement in the matter of the natives visiting the creeks visited by the pearling luggers—owing to the vigilance of the Police Officers patrolling these neighbourhoods—and after further reservations have been made in the vicinity of Edgar Creek, it is to be hoped that the evil will be still further decreased.

INSPECTORS' REPORTS UP TO 30TH JUNE,
1907.

Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

Brockman Creek, Moolyella.

Mr. Isdell reports:—

Sir,

I herewith tender my report of round trip to Cooglegong, visiting the various miners' and native camps on Shaw River Tinfelds. From the tinfeld I travelled up Shaw River, visiting Nolle & Co.'s Hillside Station, thence on to Look & Co.'s Bamboo Springs Station; from there across the divide on to head of the Coongan River to Carroll's Overdale Station. Down Coongan to Brockman's; thence *via* Warrawoona to Duffer Creek, close to Marble Bar.

During the course of this trip I interviewed many natives in regard to their source of living and treatment; a great number of these natives I have known for years. I am glad to say I received no complaints, and everything was satisfactory. There is only one bad blot against their present mode of living on the tinfelds, and that blot is grog; and that blot can neither be reduced nor eradicated without a police station on the Cooglegong.

During the course of this trip, I spent a fortnight travelling over Cooglegong and Shaw River mineral fields, inspecting natives and making investigations into all the circumstances surrounding their present mode of living and earning a sustenance. The Cooglegong and Shaw mineral fields are very extensive, being, so far as has been prospected, and proved payable, about 50 miles in length by 15 to 20 miles in width; over such a large extent of country, which is well supplied with water in wells, well-holes and soaks, there is plenty of room for both whites and natives without in any way interfering with one another.

There are about 140 natives permanently settled on this field, including a fair number of women and children, and a good few very old men and women, also some half-dozen half-castes; during my visit there were considerably over 200 natives, they having assembled from various outside centres for one of their large corroborees, a sort of social gathering for intercourse, dancing, and general amusement, and which takes place four or five times a year, and as a rule generally winds up with a fight: old scores being settled. A few get speared, sometimes killed, women, as usual, being nearly always the cause. During my visit I have taken very particular notice as to whether they are increasing or declining in numbers—whether the unnatural life, to them, they are now leading, has had any stimulating effect on their birthrate or otherwise. I find that they are rapidly decreasing, in fact, dying off. There has been no birth of black children amongst those who have constantly resided for that period on the field; amongst those who have arrived within the last three years very few births have taken place, a couple of black children and half-a-dozen half-castes have been born within that period, mostly the offspring of young girls. Nearly all the native children you come across are between the age of three and ten years old. It is quite evident from these facts, that the natives breed more regularly and numerously, and are morally better off either on stations, where most of them originally came from, or in the bush, leading their own natural lives; the annual death rate is about 14 per cent., birth rate 2 per cent.; 6 per cent. of deaths are old people, the

balance of deaths being from spear wounds and diseases, either lung complaint or venereal. The above averages also apply to Moolyella, although at the latter place the natives have better opportunities of getting attention and securing medicines, owing to larger white population and closer settlement. At the Nullagine, although there are fewer permanently residing natives, the death rate is much higher, as disease is much more prevalent at that place. Large numbers of natives come on to the Shaw fields from various localities, from stations whilst on a holiday, from coastal stations, also from Moolyella. They stay a few weeks and drift back again to their old homes; but I am sorry to say that the number of permanent residents are gradually increasing, as they keep leaving station life for tin-mining.

Hillside Station is an instance; a few years ago they had a splendid body of men, women, and children, all young and healthy, with plenty of babies in their camp, now there is not a single one of those natives on the station, they took to tin, drink, and immorality, about half of them are dead and buried owing to disease and drink, the remainder are mere wrecks. Hillside Station has now only one native, who comes from near Roebourne.

The natives on the fields are split up into small groups, in parties from a dozen down to two; they are scattered in all directions, each party working for themselves. The largest camp, about 40 in number, are at old Shaw workings. As there is no store nearer than Cooglegong, 18 miles distant, they consequently have to dispose of their tin to miners for rations, clothes, and, no doubt, grog. The camels come out once a month loaded from Marble Bar; the majority of the miners drink and get their gallon or more of spirits out with camels, consequently, there is always a great deal of drunkenness for a few days after their arrival. This is the time when the harm is done with natives. The natives will dispose of their tin only to those whites who will supply them with grog, they will not give their tin to a teetotaler, if they do they must have a large proportion of payment in cash, as they can always get someone to buy grog for them if they have the money.

I cannot see how the present state of affairs can be altered so far as the disposal of their tin is concerned; they cannot possibly travel 15 to 25 miles to the only local store, they must sell to the miners, who no doubt make a good profit, and I am satisfied that even if the Government made provisions to buy their tin and supply them with all necessaries, they would not bring their tin to them, as they could not get grog from a Government store, so that idea is out of the question. Then again I am satisfied that if all these natives were removed from the field, the Government would have to make provision to feed them; they have been born and reared on stations on white man's food, and could not possibly subsist in the bush. Of course, for the benefit of both whites and natives, it would be better by far to clear all the natives off the fields, but the heavy expense of having to support them without any return, and the numbers of police required to keep them off the various fields, make it impossible to carry out the proposition. As this is a very large district, with a population of nearly 300 whites, constantly increasing, I cannot see why the Government should object to forming a police station on Shaw or Cooglegong; this is the only solution of the difficult question. If

the supply of spirits to the natives can be checked—it is impossible to wholly prevent it—I do not see why the natives on these fields should be interfered with, owing to a large extent of the country carrying payable ore. There is room for all the roving natives in the Nor'-West besides the whites. It must be remembered that the fact of so many old natives getting a living saves the Government a lot of expense, as otherwise they would have to support them.

After careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that it is best and most economical to leave the natives as they are, provided a police station is formed on the field. I am sure this is the best remedy. A few convictions gained would practically stop the traffic. Under present conditions the police have no possible chance; they are 40 miles away and cannot approach the field without it being known, whereas a good constable stationed on the field soon gets to know the run of things: The names of grog suppliers, the many different roads and tracks, water holes and camps, and can get about at night time. The mere presence of a good man constantly on the field would act as a wholesome check. Until this step is undertaken, it is impossible to make any alteration for the better. The present officer in charge, Corporal Street, is the most energetic officer we have had for some years; he has travelled day and night, doing long rides, but they—natives and whites—always know that he is on the road, signal fires being the means of warning.

I hope, Sir, you will lay these facts before the Minister. I am sure the police and the more respectable and sober residents of the field support my views. The late inspector in charge of the police never visited these fields, and once only spent a couple of hours on Moolyella, so that his opinion is absolutely worthless. No one understands the question better than I do, and I certainly would not recommend the small expense of a station at Cooglegong if I did not think it was fully warranted.

After finishing my inspection of these tinfields, continued my trip to Hillside Station. With the exception of one Roebourne native and his woman there are no natives employed, they all left the station for the tinfields. The manager, Mr. Noble, complains bitterly of the drink supplied to natives; as some of the workings are on his run, he is in a position to speak definitely. From Hillside I continued my journey to Messrs. Look and Beart's station on the Upper Shaw. One of the owners of this station, Mr. Wm. Look, a few years ago married a young aboriginal girl; the unnatural change in living and clothing has evidently affected her; she is now dying of lung complaint.

Some five native boys and three women are employed on this station, but as none of the women were at home, being away at Roy Hill Station with the boys cattle-mustering, I did not see them. I left the Shaw River and went across country on to the head of Coongan River, to Carroll's Overdale Station; he also was away from home. I spent a busy day looking for him on the run, but failed to find him. He is a Southern Cross native half-caste, well educated and steady, never associating with the district natives. By steady work and perseverance he saved money, took up a large area of pastoral leases, stocked with cattle, and now has a comfortable home and plenty. He is legally married to a district native woman, and has a young married native,

brother of his wife, living with him as stockman; he also supports his wife's parents.

I left Carroll's after losing three days with a horse of Look's, and travelled down the Coongan River to an out-station of Brockman Bros. of Corunna Downs. At this place the number of natives employed varies according to the work in hand; generally six boys are always there, but when cattle and horse-mustering takes place, more natives come up from Homestead. The boys I saw, and the old pensioners, their parents, seemed to be well-clothed and fed; they were satisfied and had no complaints to make. Travelled on down Coongan, and camped at the old deserted homestead, five miles from the present station. I found on visiting the station that Mr. H. W. Drake-Brockman and most of the natives were absent grass-cutting and fencing, and as they were all to return in a few days, I waited. I rode to the station on the following Sunday, sending my packs on to 20-Mile Sandy, Warrawoona. Saw Mr. Brockman and the natives, a list of whom I secured. They are a fine body of young men and women, with plenty of young children. Mr. Brockman complained very much about young natives from the tinfields being allowed to camp within six miles of his homestead on 20-Mile Sandy, as there is no possible means of their making a living there or at Warrawoona. They undoubtedly assemble there for a drinking bout, securing the liquor from Warrawoona through the medium of somebody, as there are no police nearer than Marble Bar—20 miles distant. They are totally undisturbed in their drunken orgies, they endeavour to entice, often succeeding, the younger station boys and girls to join them, but as I have no power to interfere by ordering them away, nor yet have the police, the lot has to be put up with until some alteration is made in the existing Act regarding this and other matters.

Employed in Corunna Downs Station—men 18, women 16, full-grown half-caste girls 2, half-caste girls under 12 years 3, quadroon, under two years, 11, pensioners—men 7, women 6. Amongst the latter are a blind man, and two crippled women not belonging to the district, but kept and fed out of charity. They were brought to the station by other natives from 20-Mile Sandy. There are five young black boys under 10 years and three girls under 10 years. Two half-caste boys were taken South last year by Mr. Dudley Brockman, of Northam, to get them educated. I camped on 20-Mile Sandy but saw no natives. In Warrawoona one native boy is employed at the wayside house and store. From Warrawoona I travelled on to Duffer Creek, three miles from Marble Bar. After an absence of six weeks and five days and covering a mileage of 240 miles. Unfortunately, I was greatly impeded by having one of my horses sick for over a fortnight, and also lost some days through a horse of Look's getting into a mine, with the latter I lost three days and travelled 50 miles extra. Owing to the heat and that terrible pest the flies, it is almost impossible to do any writing in a readable manner.

JAMES ISDELL.

TRAVELLING INSPECTORS' REPORTS.

MR. ISDELL'S REPORT.

Moolyella.

I am pleased to be able to report that a very great improvement in regard to native matters has

taken place since I undertook the responsibility of travelling Inspector. The convictions of Monah and Graham and more energetic police supervision since Corporal Street took charge have been felt, and those in the habit of supplying natives with grog are evidently frightened. Last year, before I had any connection with Aborigines Department, I wrote a strong letter to the Colonial Secretary urging the necessity of a police station at Moolyella. A short time ago, I received a reply from Mr. North, Under Secretary, stating that a police station would be established at Moolyella. So far nothing more has been heard of the matter. Will you still urge the necessity of taking action in the matter. There is a large population of close on 500 whites, and it is necessary for the sake of the natives that no time should be lost. A deputation, advocating wants, waited on the Minister for Mines recently at Marble Bar and amongst the most urgent request was the forming of a police station at Cooglegong for the protection of whites and put a stop to the grog traffic with natives. I hope, Sir, you will do your utmost to secure this end. There is no improvement to report there, being so far from police protection.

Most of the natives, who lived at Moolyella, have gone to Cooglegong and Shaw, owing to the fact of having more liberty and chance of getting grog without interference from police. At present there are not more than 50 natives at Moolyella, and I think most of them will drift over to Shaw River.

Before leaving for Sandy Creek, on your instructions by wire, I removed four natives from Moolyella to Marble Bar. As the Government Medical Officer has no time to visit natives' camps away from Marble Bar, I think some arrangement is absolutely necessary that sick natives should be attended in their camps. It is a heavy expenditure having to hire vehicles to cart them to Marble Bar.

JAMES ISDELL.

Moolyella Tin Fields and Cooglegong—Police Supervision at.

Commissioner of Police,—Would you kindly read Mr. Isdell's letter, pages 1, 2, and 3, and inform me whether it is contemplated to station police at Moolyella and Cooglegong. Please return papers after perusal.

E. D. PECHELL,
for Chief Inspector of Aborigines.

2nd July, 1907.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines.

I attach file (1, No. 451/7) showing decision in regard to establishing police protection at Moolyella.

When you have perused the papers kindly return to this office.

FRED HARE,
Commissioner of Police.

5th July, 1897.

Referred to letter 431/07 from Under Secretary to Jas. Isdell, dated 5th April, 1907:

States that as Moolyella is considered on the decline the police protection would only be of a temporary nature, therefore, it is not considered advisable to incur the expense, etc. Mr. Isdell had probably not received this intimation when he wrote letter of 27th May.

Condon,
June 24th, 1907.

Mr. Isdell reports.—I beg to report that in accordance with telegraphic instructions to inspect and report on matters on De Grey River and coastal route to Broome, I started from Moolyella on Wednesday, 12th June, for Coongan River. I was detained at Moolyella longer than I expected, I found it was impossible for me to carry sufficient rations for trip to Broome and my camp out-fit on two pack horses, so was compelled to get one of my own horses to carry an extra pack; even with three packs I have to load heavy and travel slow. I proceeded from Moolyella down to Coongan Hotel, at one time Robinson Bros. old homestead. I saw several natives there working for Afghan camel owners, also a camp of 20 odd natives having a spell or "Pinki," some of them from Moolyella. There are four natives with their women employed about the Wayside House, mostly gardening and looking after mail horses. I have not heard of any drinking going on at this house. Natives seemed well treated and satisfied. I next called at Robinson & Welsh's Coongan Station, where there are 13 men and six women employed at general station work, all the males are young, mostly from 16 years to 25 years old, there are no natives under 12 years of age, except a girl 11 years old; there are no old natives or pensioners, the older natives having gone on to tin fields; the native boys to whom I spoke seemed well satisfied, plenty of clothes and not over worked. I next called at Hardies Wandling Station. At this place I saw most of the natives, who had no complaints; all were happy and contented; there are 11 men and eight women employed, under 14 years old—three girls and four boys, and five old pensioners.

The next station visited was Anderson & Campbell's Mulga Station, here they were busy shearing, consequently, I had a good opportunity of seeing all the station natives. All the shearing is done with natives, 14 of them being on the board. They were all happy and contented and had no complaints. There are engaged on this station 16 men and 14 women, under 14 years old—three boys and two girls, and 15 pensioners. It speaks well for the treatment these natives receive on this station, when only one native has left the place during the last seven years, especially as no natives have been signed for some years; in fact, no natives about this district, so far as I know, are now asked to sign an agreement.

I next visited the DeGrey Station and met Mr. Alec. Edgar. I also had a good opportunity of seeing these station natives as they were lamb marking. They have a fine lot of natives on this place, and are well looked after. I personally know many of them and had conversations with many of them. They had no complaints and were happy and contented, and anyone seeing the youngsters, about 20 of them all under 14 years old, playing about the hay stacks would be quite satisfied that they were neither starved nor ill treated. They are well-fed and clothed. On this station are 60 men and 60 women workers; under 14 years, are 10 boys and 13 girls and 16 babies, besides 20 old pensioners from DeGrey.

I proceeded to Condon, from whence I am now writing. From my own inspection and inquiries amongst the natives, they are being well treated and cared for on the stations I have visited. No one

signs natives, and they are at perfect liberty to leave their station if they wish. There is now very little work on any of these older stations; they are now all fenced, which has done away with shepherding, and the erection of windmills has done away with water drawing, so that, except for a few weeks during shearing, there is practically no work to do. From an economical point of view, most of the stations would prefer white labour only, but as the natives belong to the country on which they are working, they cannot be shifted, and if turned adrift, would simply have to live on stolen sheep and stores. The worst feature concerning station natives who drift on to the tin and goldfields, is that they are barred from station employment, if they wish to return, as no station will have anything to do with them.

I intend leaving Condon to-morrow morning *en route* for Wallal. The rabbit fence construction party are shifting into the Coast and I will have a chance of seeing the natives following them.

JAMES ISDELL.

Marble Bar,
Northern District, Feb. 8th, 1907.

Mr. Isdell reports.—In regard to the issuing of permits, I beg to draw your attention to what I think would be an improvement on the present mode of granting them, as I think it would act as a check against undesirables receiving permits.

A great number of people have been appointed Protectors, for the purpose of granting permits and I think, owing to the numerous appointments, that the real intention of the Act will be defeated.

I take it that the permit system has been adopted for the purpose of ensuring that only persons of good repute and character will be allowed to have natives in their employment. At present there is no surety that such will be the case. Simply because a man who resides in a certain district and is known to the Police as one of bad character, would be refused a permit, but he can proceed to another district where he is not so well known, and have no difficulty in securing one. Say, for instance, a man applies to R.M., Marble Bar, for a permit, his character is known and he is refused—he then travels to Port Hedland, where he may be personally known to many people—he applies there and gets it, so that the easiness in getting permits practically defeats the intentions of the Act. I think that now the whole of the State is divided into Road Board Districts, a man residing in the Road District, where he is sure to be known, should not be allowed to get a permit outside his own district. By this means, a check can be kept and only people of good repute could get them. At present, too many persons have power to issue them. One man in each Road District ought to be quite sufficient. I have refused to grant any so far, referring all applicants to the Resident Magistrate, who has the advantage of Police advice as to characters.

Afghans and Chinamen.—There are about 500 camels employed in the carrying trade from Port Hedland to Mining centres; with the exception of a couple of small teams owned and worked by white men, all the camels are owned and worked by Afghans, assisted principally by Aborigines. They pay these natives wages and food, and the wages are usually spent in liquor. Personally, I do not believe

it is to the benefit of natives to allow such employment. The Afghans engaged with these camels are of a low type and bear anything but good characters for morality. It is not good for natives to be in constant contact with them. The real camel owners, who seldom travel with their teams, as a rule, are all men of good character and mostly married, with residences at Port Hedland. Some time ago I was told of a lot of their native boys being drunk in one of the Afghan camps. I have often heard such stories, but have never seen such myself, but I see no reason to doubt it. I think it best for natives to prohibit them being employed by Afghans. There is plenty of work on stations with white employers. The same remarks apply to Chinamen, who employ natives, men and women, about their vegetable gardens. As you know, they are notoriously immoral, all Chinamen, and ruin many young black girls. Can either Afghans or Chinamen claim permits, if even of good character

Natives and Money.—Another great cause of evil to natives is paying in money for work; with very few exceptions, it all goes in drink. I know several natives, good workers, who receive their £1 per week every Saturday, and immediately spend it in liquor. They do not know the value of money. I consider that if a native gets well clothed and fed and looked after, he is far better off than if paid money to clothe and find himself.

The half-caste question is rapidly becoming a burning one, and something will have to be done in the matter, but I will write more fully on the question later on.

On all the above questions I would like to have your instructions before taking any steps. I may state that my personal opinions expressed are based on observations of these questions for many years.

JAMES ISDELL.

Brookman's Creek,
Moolyella, May 10th, 1907.

Your memo. requesting information and opinion on advisability of allowing natives to be employed by holders of Wayside Licenses received by me last mail and enclose reply.

I have already, previous to receiving your memo., talked the matter over with the Resident Magistrate and Officer in Charge of Police, both of whom thoroughly understand the question. My opinion is decidedly in favour of allowing permits to holders of Wayside Licenses, provided they are of good character. Wayside Licenses far outnumber General Publican's Licenses throughout the North-West. General Publican's Licenses are only granted either within a municipality or a surveyed town. In the North-West the more numerous settled populations are not in the above. For instance, Moolyella for the last five years has had a settlement of from 200 to 500 whites, with two Wayside Houses, 3 stores, and 6 boardinghouses, whereas Marble Bar, a surveyed townsite, has only a population of about 120 whites, with two General Publican's Licenses and 3 stores. Marble Bar is a town, Moolyella a mining camp or settlement. My experience has shown me that the fact of natives being employed about a Wayside House does not entice other natives, even if suppose they were forbidden employment at the house, they would still camp close to it, for the reason that all through the year there is a constant stream of callers and travellers with horses from whom the natives can earn quite sufficient to keep them. To debar natives from employment at Wayside Houses, would not only throw a large number

out of employment, but would create a great hardship on the general travelling public, who have to depend on these natives to hunt up their horses. Again the majority of Wayside Houses are away in the bush, either at small mining centres or else on the public roads. It is necessary at these places to have a supply of meat; they will employ natives to shepherd their killing sheep, and I think it is just as necessary to have some natives for horse purposes. No natives are employed indoors at any of these houses, their work is all out of doors. There are 13 Wayside Houses in the Pilbarra and West Pilbarra Goldfields District, giving work to about 50 natives. I think myself that the order of things should be reversed. I do not think natives should be allowed to work about a public house in a town; their work is seldom outside, generally about a stable, kitchen, or cleaning out the bar. They have far more temptation, and far more natives accumulate about these houses than do so at the ordinary Wayside House. Take Port Hedland, Roebourne, Cossack, Marble Bar, there are always a large number of natives camped in the vicinity of these towns, where there are no Wayside Licenses. Again, Sir, if permits are forbidden Wayside Houses, it won't keep the natives away, they will be still be employed horse hunting, etc. It is impossible for either a Police Constable or Protector to be always at these various houses to prevent employment. It is far better to grant permits when you can have some control over them, than have them continuously breaking the law. General publicans in towns don't require natives, they have no horse hunting, they stable their horses—all their work is about the hotels. At Wayside houses the reverse is the case, where natives' work is generally horse hunting. I have issued three Wayside permits, as I understood they were on the same footing as General Publicans. If Wayside House permits are disallowed, there will be a very great outcry in the North.

JAMES ISDELL.

Mr. Fartiere, Travelling Inspector, reports up to 30th June, 1907:—According to information obtained from the various Ashburton stations, the number of blacks on the stations I visited are as follow—approximately:—

	Men.	W.	Tl.
Minderoo Station	17	14	31
Globe Hill Station	15	16	31
Globe Hill Station, old pensioners	4	3	7
Mannatarra Station	34	23	57
Mannatarra Station, old pensioners	3	8	11
Hardy Junction Station	13	12	25
Hardy Junction Station, old pensioners	5	3	8
Hardy Junction Station, half-caste girls	0	0	3
Gorge Police Camp	5	6	11
Ulwarra Station, 8 men and women	0	0	8
Ashburton* Downs Station, 10 men and women	0	0	10
Peake Station	8	5	13
Peake Station, old pensioners	1	1	2
Glen Florrie Station	16	19	35
Glen Florrie Station, old pensioners	2	5	7
Uaroo Station	5	4	9
Uaroo Station, old pensioners	2	0	2

In addition to these natives there is a travelling lot of natives, which is hard to estimate. As far as I could ascertain, I think another 20 per cent. might be added to above figures.

Ashburton River.

I have the honour to forward enclosed particulars and figures respecting the aborigines on the various stations I inspected on my recent journey up the Ashburton River.

I have given the particulars of each station separately, showing number of natives on each holding, with notes affording full information of all that I could learn at every station I visited. At each place I made careful inquiry and did my best to find out the exact conditions under which the aborigines were living.

Originally I intended forwarding separate report for each station, but I now find it not necessary to do so, as beyond the figures and notes I enclose one report covers the whole district I have visited, and the remarks made upon one station apply with equal justice to the whole. The situation and position are changed but the conditions are the same all throughout the various properties I visited and inspected.

I must state that I was surprised at the considerate way in which I found the natives were treated throughout the whole of my trip. I came up here expecting to find the natives harshly and badly treated, and now after making my trip—spending plenty of time at each station, making careful searching inquiry, I cannot find one single case in which any blacks have been badly treated. I am also well satisfied in my mind. I have seen the conditions of things as they really exist—there have not been any artificial appearances prepared on each station. There are natives that have been born on the place, and have been brought up amongst the whites, who talk and understand English thoroughly. These I have met and spoken to freely, without reserve, and I feel satisfied I have obtained a correct version and full detail respecting the conditions under which the aborigines in the Ashburton District have been and still are living. I arrived at various places quite unexpectedly, often when the owners and managers were absent and satisfied myself by personal inspection of food, clothing, etc., supplied, and after my long and careful inspection I can only come to the one conclusion, that the Ashburton natives are living under a better condition for their daily food and clothing, including tobacco as well, than many of the unemployed whites that manage to eke out an existence in the too numerous over-crowded metropolitan centres.

One great problem in dealing with the aborigines question, is what is the best course to adopt in connection with the venereal disease, that has become so widely distributed amongst them, and beyond doubt it is a most serious condition that requires prompt, severe, energetic, and expensive steps to be taken if the ravages of the disease are to be taken seriously into consideration, and some systematic course adopted towards stamping the disease out. So far as my present observations go, I honestly think unless some special legislation is brought to bear on the question, in a few more years the disease will have worked such dire results, the aborigines will have passed away, and be beyond causing Government or any others consideration, and I may instance in support of my statement, take Geraldton for

example, when I passed through only one old man there. Syphilis has become widely distributed, first of all taking the gins off and the males follow, and unless the question is taken seriously in hand, in a few more years there will only be a very small remnant left of the Nor'-West blacks.

In my opinion it is quite beyond the capabilities of the Department to cope with the prevention against spreading syphilis amongst the aborigines, the Department has not command of the necessary funds that would be required, and I am inclined to think that nothing short of special legislation, that would mean a large financial vote, would meet the requirements of the case.

From past experience it is quite evident that present measures are altogether failing in keeping the disease under control, and each year only sees a wider spread with accumulating fatal results, that point on the dial of time, showing what is to be expected if present conditions are allowed to continue.

Of course it is easy enough to describe the existing state of things with the aborigines, but to propose any practical measure to bring about more satisfactory results is a most difficult question to take in hand. After the most careful consideration I feel most diffident in placing my views before you, but if the venereal disease has to be checked, and eradicated from the aborigines that are still left, nothing but a large expensive comprehensive scheme will bring about that much desired result.

From what I have seen I feel confident that any steps taken, such as treating odd cases scattered all about the State, does not in any degree meet the real requirements the existing position demands, for where one or two cures may be effected, dozens of other cases are going on, spreading in other directions.

I hope you will not think I am going beyond my duties, or attempting to assume more than my position entitles me to, and I offer my views with the desire to help to check the ravages of the widely-spread disease that is swiftly and surely wiping out the Australian aborigines from their own country, through the introduction of the white man, and for which the aborigines themselves are not responsible.

In my opinion one of the first steps to be taken would be the establishing of a natives' sanatorium away from the mainland on one of the islands, say for instance, Dirk Hartog Island, which could be purchased by the Government on the same lines that land estates are acquired when wanted for closer settlement. This, no doubt, means large outlay, but under skilful management by a practical man it could be worked at a profit. Dirk Hartog Island would be most suitable, it carrying sheep that would show an annual profit, and there would also be pearling and beach-combing, all work the natives are fond of. Once the sanatorium was established, the Police being already appointed protectors, they can easily find out syphilitic cases, and instead of present plan of trying to make local cures the natives be deported to the Island right away and be under the control and observation of the resident medical officer, which would insure a certain, quick, and effectual cure. If this system were adopted it would also meet another difficulty which at present exists. The various local doctors in most cases do not care to have syphilitic patients about the Hospital, and will not admit them under the plea that they have no

proper accommodation. If the native sanatorium were once started that difficulty would be overcome, and a system once in proper working order, I think it would only mean in a reasonable lapse of time that the disease would be regularly under control: The cases that were not of too long standing would be cured and many lives saved that certainly mean ending fatally under the present conditions.

The present funds at the disposal of the Department are not equal to the disbursements that would be required to carry out the sanatorium system, and the only way I see is for special legislation, passing a short Bill through the House authorising the additional increased expenditure. The native question as it now stands, deserves the special attention of the State, and really becomes one of National interest, and now that Australia has become a united Commonwealth, it certainly will not be to the credit of Australia that the last of her original inhabitants should be allowed to die out and pass away through the unchecked ravages of a vile disease, that merely requires a special vote of money properly expended to wipe the disease out, and preserve the lives of the native race that is so rapidly passing away.

During my recent trip up the Ashburton River, I have ascertained that there is an extraordinary practice prevailing amongst the natives, that in my mind tends to distribute pulmonary disease. The practice is called danbadgee and consists of a concoction of tobacco, ashes, and rope yarn. A gin takes a large mouthful of tobacco and chews it up into a mass, then mixes it up with warm ashes, and then it is wrapped round with some teased-out rope about the size of a walnut; they then put it in their mouths and chew it, swallowing the saliva. After some considerable chewing it is taken out of the mouth and passed on to another, who repeats the process and then passes it on to someone else. It seems to me it produces some kind of a narcotic effect, similar to opium in a mild form. The practice has gained a large hold upon them and is generally indulged in. They evidently obtain pleasurable sensations and fall asleep after the chewing process. At the same time, it must be a means of communicating chest diseases and other complaints from one to another, but the habit is far too confirmed amongst them for there to be any hope of inducing them to give it up.

There is another feature in connection with the natives that I wish to bring under your notice. The blacks are beginning to assume a very independent demeanour, that if it goes on and becomes more pronounced will be likely to lead up to future trouble in working them, and they are getting cunning ones amongst them that advise they are under the care of such a paternal Government they can act as they please. Now the native is naturally of an indolent disposition and has no desire to acquire possession of property, all he wants is tucker, and if the idea becomes recognised by the natives that they can procure the food they require without working for it, they will certainly endeavour to bring about some such result, which would mean the Government having the whole cost of supporting the natives at the expense of the State. Already managers of the stations are beginning to discuss the question of expense in using black labour, and when it is taken into consideration the number of blacks required to do a certain amount of work, the fact remains that a very much smaller

number of white men would perform the same duties in a more satisfactory and economical manner.

During the whole of my trip, with one exception, I found managers were not disposed to sign agreements with the natives, the exception being Mr. McRae of Globe Hill Station, and his chief reason was the homestead being right on the main road, with a frequent passing of travellers. By having a signed agreement, he could take up a stronger position, where he found travellers inclined to interfere with the natives, or supplying them with grog. On all the other stations, although I had a good supply of forms with me and mentioned it to the various managers, none others would sign the natives on, as they said the natives did not regard the agreement if they wished to break it, and the managers found they got on equally well without the agreements. If a native did not act properly in doing his work, he was told he was not wanted, and sent away, such course being more convenient and less expensive than having to attend court at a long distance, trying to enforce the conditions of any agreement.

N.B.—With reference to Mr. Fartiere's remarks on venereal, it would be well to mention that the Bernier and Barrow Islands have been set aside for the use of the aboriginals suffering from syphilis. A report has been received from the Bernier Island, and the Travelling Inspector is now on his way to Onslow to report on the Barrow Island. The sum of £4,000 has been placed on the Estimates this year to meet expenditure in occupying these two islands, and it is to be hoped that by this time next year good progress will have been made in isolating these unfortunate natives.

Onslow.

I have the honour to report I visited Carnarvon on the 9th inst. and made inquiry into the condition of aborigines in that district, and more particularly as to the state of their health, and the extent of syphilitic disease amongst them.

In reply to all my inquiries I received the one answer that it was very widely spread, of a most malignant nature, and in many cases ended with fatal results. The present method of treatment was doing very little towards leading up to any permanent benefit, and was quite inadequate to either keep the disease in check, or prevent it spreading beyond its present limits. These and similar remarks were frequently repeated, but when I asked for suggestions as to the best way to effect some beneficial alteration or improvement, I could not get any practical reply.

At present my own experience has not been sufficiently long to make suggestions, but I will keep it constantly in mind, and as my travels extend, and I am able to get a larger grasp of all details, I hope to be able to offer some more practical way of dealing with this difficult, increasing, and largely distributed evil, which I am given to understand becomes more virulent the farther North you travel.

Drink is the cause of a lot of trouble with the blacks, as in spite of all precautions they appear to constantly get hold of more than is good for them, although they are always ordered away by the police, and not allowed to congregate about the town.

Permits have been plentifully taken out. Sergeant Smyth thinks there are about 200 blacks within a radius of, say, 50 miles; the birth rate is very small and only a small number of half-castes, or eight, is all that he knows as residing in or near to the township.

Woogoola Station,
June 11th, 1907.

Owners—Cameron & Clark; Manager—Alic. S. Cameron, J.P.

Number of Natives on Station.—4 men; 8 women; 1 boy (baby). Half-castes, 1 boy. Old Pensioners, 1 man; 3 women. Natives supported or assisted by Government, none; 1 old woman (blind); 1 aged and infirm; 1 chronic invalid; 1 man (paralysis).

Deaths 1902-7.—Five, three women and two men. One blind woman (general decline); 1 crazy woman, from natural cause; 1 old woman from old age; 1 man (paralysis). 1 man died from thirst on the back country while returning from his holiday.

Estimated Cost of keeping Natives, not including cost of Clothing, 10s. per week.

Estimated Cost Clothing (man), £10 per annum; Estimated Cost Clothing (woman), £5 per annum.

Unmarried women on Station—2 widows, the other women have their own men.

Veneral Disease.—None on the Station, and there has not been any for years past. For many years the natives have been looked after and care taken to prevent them from mixing up with the travelling public.

There has always been a good supply of venereal medicine kept on the Station, and having had a large experience in times gone by, the remedies have been used in the early stages of the disease.

There appears to be a growing tendency amongst the natives in their demeanour towards showing a spirit of independence. Although there has not been absolute refusal to carry out the instructions they receive, they appear to be developing a feeling of their own importance, and this is chiefly shown on the occasions when they are visited by other blacks that are known to be cunning and try to put bad ideas into the heads of the Station natives, with the view of causing them to become discontented.

The natives being well cared for and supplied with food, they show a contempt for the treatment they receive, and are inclined to sulk and want a change. Taking those under my own personal care, I have had but little trouble. When a native shows his feelings to a disagreeable extent, he is sent away, and told he is not wanted any longer. The natives are easily influenced in the right direction, so long as they are kept away from grog, public houses, and contact with whites of the lowest class.

Reserves.—These I consider to be beyond practicable working and natives would not submit to being confined to the boundaries of any Reserve, no matter how well they were treated, and in cases of disease, if they had to be kept in restraint, the only way to handle them, so as to ensure a course of proper treatment, would be to have them taken to some island at a distance from the mainland.

Agreements.—I believe in the principle, but for years past I have not used them, preferring to deal with the natives in my own manner, and according to the conditions, as they may exist.

I inspected natives and their camps, and found them all looking well, strong and hearty—the old ones well cared for, and all suitably clothed. They said they had plenty of tucker, and I saw the rations served out to them—was all good food. They also said they had plenty of clothes and tobacco, liked being on the Station and did not want to go away, liked the boss and had no complaints to make.

All the natives on this Station are remarkably well treated—Mr. Cameron's sister residing on the Station and taking considerable interest in them, keeping the women under her own special care. They all appeared to be thoroughly contented, happy amongst themselves and looking in the best of good health.

Statement made by Mr. A. S. Cameron, J.P., Woogoola Station.

CHARLES FARTIERE,
Travelling Inspector.

Towara Station,
June 14th, 1907.

Owner—H. Twitchin.

Number of Natives on Station.—7 men; 9 women; 4 children; total, 20. Old Pensioners, 2 women; total, 2. Half-castes, none. Natives supported or assisted by Government, none; and there never have been any.

Deaths.—1903, one woman (Jemima); 1904, 1905, 1906, Nil; 1907, one man (Joe). Probable cause of death, woman from clothes catching fire; man, from old age and natural decline.

Estimated Cost of keeping Natives (not including Clothing).—10s. to 12s. per week. Estimated Cost of Clothing, etc., men, £5 per annum; women, £2 10s. to £3.

Disease.—This place has been very free from the bad form of syphilis, that has been so prevalent in many other places in the district. There has only been one case, Bandy (Moorabiddy), who ran away from here, in a healthy state, with a native outlaw and upon his being captured, she was sent back, and then found to be in a diseased state. She was sent to the Onslow Hospital three times, and she ran away from there on each occasion.

On returning here she was still in an uncured condition. A native named Patsy, whom she belongs to, according to tribal laws, has since then taken her away, and at present she is out on the Linden country.

Unmarried women on the Station.—Two young gins that are of marriageable age.

Disease—Treatment and Prevention.—If some central position were chosen, and placed under the care of a Medical Officer, it would be the means of curing cases in this and surrounding districts. The patients could be kept there until properly cured, the present plan of trying to cure diseased natives on the Stations is useless. It means either the establishment of a depot, or sending the natives away to Rottnest, or some other similar locality, that may be decided upon.

Reserves.—The proposed idea of making Reserves of 2,000 acres would be useless. The natives would not stop upon them, and they would be found to be unworkable so far as the natives are concerned.

Each year the natives are becoming of less service to the Stations. Now the country is fenced in and water supplied by windmills, there is getting to be very little requirement for them, and beyond their giving some help at mustering time, and light odd jobs, such as cleaning up about the homestead, there is very little else for them to do.

Agreements.—They have not been used here, as I consider if a native does not value his position on the Station, and do what may be wanted, there is very

little use trying to force him to work, or carry out instructions by any agreement.

Statement made by Mr. H. Twitchin, Towara Station.

CHARLES FARTIERE,
Travelling Inspector.

Maronah Station,
June 18th., 1907.

Owners—*Mansfield & Griffin*; Manager—*J. J. Griffin*.

Number of Natives on Station.—8 men; 8 women; 3 boys; total, 19. Old Pensioners at Station expense, 2; half-caste, 1 boy, four years; 1 girl, five years; Natives supported or assisted by Government, none; all at Station expense.

Deaths.—No deaths on Station for past 12 years.

Estimated cost keeping natives, men, women per week, not including clothing, 10s., 12s. per week.

Estimated cost of clothing, etc., £5 to £6, £2 10s. to £3 per annum.

Unmarried women on Station—none.

Disease—Treatment, Prevention, etc.—Up to present date the Station has been very free from venereal disease. There is one woman now in the Carnarvon Hospital under treatment for syphilis. I attribute the cause of the Station being so free from disease to the position being situated out back away from the usual traffic, out of reach of ordinary travellers.

The Station is 60 miles in one direction and 30 miles in another from any other place, and I make a point of insisting that native travellers are not allowed to remain for any length of time on the Station, as they are frequently the cause of spreading the disease, and creating discontent amongst the natives residing on the Station.

Reserves.—These I consider would be almost useless, as the natives would not stop on them, unless by compulsion. The natives always have an intense desire to return to their own locality on which they were born, and have been accustomed to reside upon. Even when taking them away on a short journey, they are constantly enquiring when they are going back again to their own Station.

I think also, if any number of natives were confined to certain Reserves and limited boundaries, it would mean spreading venereal disease amongst them, worse than it is being done under the present system.

Statement by Mr. J. J. Griffin, Manager, Maronah Station.

CHARLES FARTIERE,
Travelling Inspector.

Yanyearaddy Station,
June 19th., 1907.

Owner—*Wm. G. Lefroy*; Manager—*F. E. Sinclair*.

Number of Natives on Station, 13 men; 12 women; 2 girls. Old Pensioners, 6 women. Half-castes, none. Natives supported or assisted by Government, 6 women.

Deaths.—Have only been in charge of Station for 12 months. There have been 7 deaths, extending over many years. Probable causes of death—One speared, others from old age and natural causes.

Estimated cost of keeping natives, men, women, not including clothing, about 10s. to 12s. per week. Cost of clothing, men, about £6 per annum; women, about £3 per annum.

Unmarried women on Station—Two, about 16 and 20 years old.

Disease, Treatment, etc.—None on Station at present time, and there has not been any during my term of management.

Reserves.—Consider they are not desirable and would not work satisfactorily; the present system is more sensible and in accordance with the natives' wishes and comfort. They decidedly prefer being allowed to live according to their own style and customs, amidst their old surroundings and associations.

Agreements.—If a native wants to go away from the Station, I would not prevent him, but think the signed agreements act as a check in preventing other parties from trying to induce the natives to leave their own Stations.

The natives on this place are all contented, and work is done in a satisfactory manner, and present Act and permit system appear to meet the general requirements of this part of the country.

Statement by Mr. F. E. Sinclair, Manager, Yanyearaddy Station.

CHARLES FARTIERE,
Travelling Inspector.

Williambury Station,
June 22nd., 1907.

Owner—*M. C. R. Bunbury*.

Number of Natives on Station, 13 men; 15 women; 2 boys, 9 years. Old Pensioners, 1 man; 3 women (blind). Half-caste, none. Natives supported or assisted by Government, none.

Deaths.—An old couple died of consumption about eighteen months back.

Estimated Cost of keeping Natives, men, women, not including clothing, about 10s. per week. Estimated Cost of Clothing, etc., total cost, including clothes, about £25 per annum.

Unmarried women on Station—None; all have their own men.

Disease.—No venereal amongst natives on Station. If there were any cases they would be sent away for treatment.

Reserves.—I consider it would be unfair to confine natives to any limited boundaries and the reserves would not in any way act to the natives' advantage; if any number of natives were shut up together they would be sure to get fighting amongst themselves.

In years past Carnarvon was a meeting place with the natives, and there was continuous and frequent fighting amongst them, of a severe nature; and I certainly consider there would not be any beneficial result from proclaiming Government Reserves.

Agreements.—They are serviceable by acting as a check and prevention to keep the natives from being influenced by those who may be inclined to induce them to leave the service of the station they belong to.

Suggestions.—I consider grog to be the chief cause of trouble amongst the natives, and every precaution ought to be taken to prevent natives from obtaining it in the townships, where most of the grog is obtained. If some measures were taken so that the casual travelling blacks were kept away, and the

regular recognised natives of good character were allowed to remain, it would mean beneficial results, as compared with present practice.

Statement made by

Mr. M. C. R. Bunbury,
Williamberry Station.

CHARLES FARTIERE,
Travelling Inspector.

Mangaroon Station.

June 26th, 1907.

Owners—Mangaroon Pastoral Co.; Manager—G. H. Rutherford; Sub-Manager—J. C. McGuyre.

Number of Natives on Station—Eight men (four unmarried); four women; total, 12.

Number of Old Pensioners—Three men; four women; total, seven.

Number of Half-castes—None.

Number of Natives supported or assisted by Government—None. All the natives kept at Station expense.

Deaths—1904-06—2; 1907—One woman and one man.

Probable causes of death—Old age and natural decline.

Estimated cost of keeping natives, men and women, not including clothing—About 12s. per week.

Estimated cost of clothing—Men, £7 per annum; women, £3 10s. per annum.

Unmarried women on the station—None.

Disease.—There are two suffering from syphilis, one man who is now on his way to Carnarvon for treatment, and one woman under station treatment; she is improving, and is under a course of medicine obtained from Dr. Higinbotham, of Carnarvon, before he went away.

Agreements.—They are not used on this station; if the native is not willing to work he is sent away, we do not consider it worth while using any compulsion.

Reserves.—I consider they would be found to be of little use, and unworkable. The natives would never stop on them unless compelled, and it would require a large expenditure of public money to introduce any system that would be sufficient to ensure the natives being kept within the boundaries of any reserve.

The natives are best left in their present condition, excepting those that are diseased; they are not breeding, and in a few years there will probably be very few left to cause care or trouble to anyone.

Statement made by Mr. J. C. McGuyre, Sub-Manager Mangaroon Station.

CHARLES FARTIERE,
Travelling Inspector.

Minnie Creek Station,

29th June, 1907.

Owner—Sept. Burt; Manager—K. D. Messer.

Number of natives on station—Eight men; 10 women; four children (black).

Number of Old Pensioners—Two men; one woman.

Number of Half-caste—One boy, about 13 years.

Number supported or assisted by Government—None.

Number of Deaths—1904-06—One woman, named Fanny. 1907—One man, two months back.

Probable cause of death—Man, old age

Probable cause of death—Woman, syphilis.

Estimated cost of keeping natives, not including clothing, about 8s. per week.

Estimated cost of clothing, etc.—Men, £5 per annum.

Estimated cost of clothing, etc.—Women, £2 10s. per annum.

Unmarried women on the place:—One widow, one girl, 10 years old.

Disease, treatment, etc.—The woman that died was treated on the station; one boy sent to Carnarvon and returned cured; one boy treated on station and cured; another woman suffering from chancres was treated on the station, but doubt exists if it is a permanent cure, although she does not show external symptoms of suffering from venereal.

The method of treatment is insisting on cleanliness, and using caustic stick and Epsom salts, together with Condy's Fluid to wash themselves with; but the greatest difficulty exists in getting the natives to keep up continuous course of treatment, and they will not attend to themselves unless they are absolutely compelled.

Reserves.—Consider reserves would be a failure as it would require a very large number of officials to compel the natives to remain on any reserve, even if they were most extensive areas.

The reserves, to be of any practical use, would require to be made for use of each particular tribe, as there would be constant disturbances amongst them if the various tribes were mixed up together in any limited location or reserve.

Agreements.—They are used on the Station, as they act as a preventive in keeping travellers and others from inducing the natives to go away from their own station, and in that way they are of service, but I would not make use of them to compel a native to work against his will; if he was discontented and not inclined to work willingly he would be sent away.

Permits and Suggestions.—I consider the permit system is a good one, as it prevents undesirable persons from getting control of the aborigines, who are often influenced by a low class of whites, whose chief object is wanting to get at the native women.

I think in dealing with the venereal disease, if a medical officer could be appointed to visit the outlying districts, who could make personal inspection of the natives, supply proper medicine, and advise the Station Manager as to the right course of treatment to carry out, that beneficial results would be brought about, and that station holders would in all probability be found willing to bear the expense of the medicine supplied.

Statements made by Mr. K. D. Messer,
Manager Minnie Creek Station.

CHARLES FARTIERE,
Travelling Inspector.

Yanery Station,

June 5th, 1907.

Owner—T. F. dePledge; Manager—F. C. Harvey.

Number of Natives on Station:—Men, 5; women, 5; children, 1 boy (five years); total, 11.

Number of old pensioners:—Men, 1; women, 2.

Number of half-castes:—None.

Deaths, 1904-7:—1 man, 3 women.

The three women died from old age and syphilis; the man from old age and natural causes.

Estimated cost of keeping natives, not including clothing, about 10s. per week.

Estimated cost of clothing men, £5 per annum.

Estimated cost of clothing women, £3 per annum.

Disease.—When the natives become affected with venereal disease the cost of medicine becomes a very important item, as shown in two recent cases.

Wadgie, a native girl who was recently sent to Onslow:—Police fees (feeding for three weeks) amounted to £4 18s.; the Doctor's fees came to £7 7s., and since she returned to the station she has cost 4s. 6d. per week for medicine supplied to her.

Topsie, another native girl, who is ill with syphilis, is costing the station 5s. per week for medicine; and this treatment and expense will have to be kept up continuously for the next 18 months. It has to be pointed out that during the time they are sick they can only be put to light work, and practically they are but very little service to the station.

Wadgie is the only unmarried woman on the station.

Do not know of any of the men on the place being affected with venereal disease at the present time.

Find difficulty in getting the natives to take medicine or submit themselves for treatment after becoming infected with venereal disease.

Do not know of any special form of treatment; usually make use of the ordinary remedies, such as mercury and iodide of potassium, as recommended by the doctor.

The natives are showing a feeling of independence and dislike for work. Without absolutely refusing to work, they have a way of ignoring orders that do not suit them, and get away out of sight and neglect to carry out instructions, and are becoming altogether unreliable. They also take holidays when it suits them, and often the stations are put to inconvenience; and at the present time the station has been left to get along the best way they can short-handed, until the natives choose to find their way back again at some uncertain date that may suit themselves.

We find the natives are becoming harder to deal with, and they seem to realise that Government protection is extended to them to such an extent that they can ignore station control and please themselves as to what duties they may be called upon to perform.

In carrying out the station work at the present time it has become necessary to send one white man with two blacks when mustering or other outside work; if this is not done and the natives get away by themselves they take things easy, and come back and say they were not able to find the stock they were sent out for.

After carefully inspecting the natives and their camps on this station, and having long talks with them, I found they were well satisfied and contented. The food they were supplied with was good, wholesome rations; they all looked in good health, and were properly fed and clothed; said they were all satisfied with the way they were treated, liked being on the station, did not want to go away, and had no complaints; they all looked well, being fat and in good condition.

My inquiries were made quite independently by myself, and were not in any way influenced by Mr. Harvey. The natives spoke and understood English,

and they could easily have told me if they had any grievances to complain about.

Statement made by Mr. F. C. Harvey, Manager, Yanrey Station.

CHARLES FARTIERE,
Travelling Inspector.

NORTHAMPTON.

I have the honour to state that I visited Northampton on the 1st inst. (February) and made careful inquiry into the existing state of things relating to the blacks in that locality. I called upon Dr. Moffat and had a long interview with him. He stated the general health of the aborigines about that district was good, their chief trouble being bad eyes—the blacks about being well treated and cared for—the drink question being the most troublesome feature they had to deal with. For further detail and particulars he recommended me to interview Constable Pollett.

I called upon Police Officer Pollett, who I may state takes more than ordinary interest in the aborigines question. I had a very lengthy conversation with him, and he afforded me a lot of local information. Constable Pollett roughly estimates there are about 100 blacks within say a radius of 50 miles, and he thinks there must be something like 30 per cent. of half-castes, some matured, and others growing up very quickly. As a rule they are well conducted, the exception being outbreaks caused through drinking. They are well clothed, and in good healthy condition.

YALGOO.

This is a large and very promising district, having great promise for future development, both from its mining and pastoral prospects. The back country is quickly being converted into large station holdings, and blacks are well distributed all through the back settlements. Many of the stations have been established for periods extending over years, and there is a fair sprinkling of half-caste children to be found amongst them.

There appear to be about a dozen blacks that visit the Yalgoo township and its vicinity. They behave themselves properly, and appear healthy and cleanly, and are decently clothed and kindly treated by the whites. The gins make a little money by doing washing. They are quiet in their habits and not in any way troublesome to the townspeople.

I believe it would be worth while making an extensive trip through the back country from Yalgoo, and that interesting items and figures would result if a trip were made right through to the Murchison back country.

GERALDTON.

In accordance with instructions received I have made inquiries into state of aborigines residing in and about Geraldton. So far as I can gather they have almost disappeared, there being only one old fellow, a cripple, going about called King Billy. He is quite an identity, and well treated. I have spoken to him; he is gentle, happy, and in good condition.

Until recently there were two or three gins going about, but they died some little time since, and beyond old King Billy and some occasional odd visitor from out back stations, I could not hear of any others residing in or near to Geraldton.

I made inquiries from the police, the Church of England minister, Rev. Mr. Saunders, and several others, without being able to obtain further information than I have above stated. Practically King Billy appears to be the last local representative, and there does not appear to be any necessity for further inquiry or operations in the immediate vicinity of Geraldton.

FIELD'S FIND.

Roughly speaking, as far as I could learn there are something like a couple of dozen blacks that roam about this part. They are all in good condition and well provided with food and clothing. The gins have several black pickaninnies; and I only saw two half-castes. They are generally healthy and clean, and I could not hear anything about venereal disease being prevalent amongst them. They are kindly treated by the whites, and sore eyes in summer seemed their worst complaint.

All the settlers in the surrounding country have the reputation of treating the blacks kindly; and I could not hear of any cause for complaint in that direction. They are liberally supplied with rations, and they also earn money by killing game and kangaroos and selling the skins.

Draft Letter to Protector of Aborigines.

In a few cases difficulties have arisen *re* issuing permits to employ natives, inasmuch that a Protector of Aborigines refusing a permit to anyone does not prevent this person obtaining a permit from some other Protector. As the proposed suggestion that everyone, before obtaining a permit, should swear on oath that he had not been refused a permit was found unworkable, as such declaration would have to be made before a J.P., it is now proposed that when a Protector refuses a permit, he should, if possible, inform the other Protectors in his district of the circumstance, and inform the Aborigines Department also; and the other Protectors in the State would be given particulars from that office. The Protectors and travelling inspectors are asked to offer any suggestions on this point which may effectually put a stop to the abuse. In the meantime kindly follow instructions quoted above.

List of names to whom permits have been issued should be kept by each Protector, and duplicate copies of such names be sent to the Head Office on the 30th June each year.

E. D. PECELL,
for Chief Protector Aborigines.

10th July, 1907.

A better system for issuing permits is now under consideration. Above is only temporary.

[Extract from "Government Gazette" of 31st May, 1907.]

ABORIGINES ACT, 1905.

The Treasury,
Perth, 30th May, 1907.

HIS Excellency the Governor in Executive Council has been pleased to make the following Regulation, under Sections 60 and 62 of the above-mentioned Act.

FRANK WILSON,
Colonial Treasurer.

"It shall be unlawful for any camel owner or driver or any person in charge of camels to employ any aboriginal native under the age of 20 years, and no permit shall be granted for the employment or shall authorise the employment of any aboriginal native under the age of 20 years by any camel owner or driver or person in the charge of camels.

"Any person committing a breach of this Regulation shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Twenty pounds or to imprisonment not exceeding one month."

The following matters are now receiving attention :—

Stoppage of the wholesale slaughter of the kangaroo for their skins alone.

Refusal of permits to Asiatics and aliens to employ natives on any condition.

Small Reserves for natives outside each townsite.

Regulations *re* issue of permits, so as to prevent people who have been refused a permit from one Protector, from obtaining one in another or same district.

Issue of gun licenses. More care to be exercised in connection with kangaroo killing.

Preparation for the occupation of islands for reception of syphilitic natives.

Cattle stations in the Nor'-West. To prevent if possible the enormous amount of cattle killing by the natives.

Further supervision and reserves in the creeks visited by pearling luggers, etc.

Removal of half-caste and full-blooded children in the East and West Kimberley districts to the Beagle Bay Mission, and other suggestions made by the Travelling Inspectors are receiving careful consideration.

Aborigines Department - Report for Financial Year ending 30th June 1907

Corporate Author: Western Australia Aborigines Department

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