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1909.  
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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# R E P O R T

OF THE

## CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1908.

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

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**REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1908.**

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

Sir,—In accordance with the provisions of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," I have the honour to submit my report on the working of the Aborigines Department for the year ending 30th June, 1908, and on the condition of the aborigines of this State.

**EXPENDITURE.**

Under the provisions of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," the sum of £10,000 out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund is yearly placed at the disposal of the Department for the welfare of the aborigines, in addition to any other moneys which may be provided by Parliament. The amount voted for the year was £3,000, in addition to the sum of £2,000 especially provided for lock hospitals for natives. The total expenditure for the year, including the resumption of Bernier Island for hospital purposes, and an excess vote which I had to apply for to meet the increasing requirements of the Department, was £17,949 2s. 7d. A detailed statement of receipts and expenditure will be found in the Appendix.

**NUMBERS.**

From the last available returns it was approximately estimated that the number of aborigines within reach of civilisation was 12,000, and outside of civilisation approximately 20,000, making a total of 32,000. Further efforts will be made at the next census to have more reliable information obtained.

The general health of the natives has been good, no epidemics having been reported.

Medicines are always supplied by the Department to any relieving officer applying.

**EDUCATION.**

Throughout the State there are 65 full-blooded and half-caste boys, and 116 full-blooded and half-caste girls receiving education at the five Mission Stations and Industrial Homes.

*Beagle Bay.*—Thirty-three girls and 25 boys. The girls are taught sewing, cooking, and laundry work, besides of course the usual rudiments of education. They are being well taught and equipped with useful knowledge for their future life. The boys are also learning something useful, taking it in turns to attend the various trades. One boy is a first-class blacksmith, and several boys are proficient in the trades they have taken up. Some are learning to be butchers, bakers, cooks, masons, stock-drivers, etc. All clothing is made at the Mission.

*Sunday Island.*—Girls (full-blooded) 5 to 18 years of age, 19; boys, 15. They are taught reading and writing, geography and arithmetic. After school work the boys are taught to look after cattle, and do the milking and gardening. They are also taught to be seamen when they grow strong enough. The girls

learn needlework and make all their own dresses, cooking, and domestic service. Door screens are also made, and it is thought they would obtain a ready sale in Perth. One will be sent for as a specimen.

*New Norcia.*—Thirty-two girls, 14 boys. The girls are taught by Nuns the usual rudiments of education, and a training in domestic service and household duties, so as to make good wives to the young aboriginal men on the estate. Boys—educated to read and write, and to become farm hands, etc.

*Swan.*—Sixteen girls, 12 boys. General education. The girls are trained to be domestic servants; the boys generally to be farm servants.

*Collie Industrial Home.*—Sixteen girls. These girls attend the same classes as their white sisters, and are trained to become useful domestic servants.

**RESERVES, ETC.**

Meekatharra was, owing to the complaints made about natives loitering around the townsite for the purpose of obtaining liquor, declared by proclamation a place in which it shall be unlawful for aborigines or half-castes not in lawful employment to be or remain.

The native camping reserve at Bunbury being so close to town was found to be unsuitable, owing to frequent visits from males of other nationalities. The reserve has in consequence been removed much further from the town, and has been declared an area where it is unlawful for anyone without authority, except natives and half-castes, to enter.

Last year Broome was declared a town where it is unlawful for natives out of employment to be or remain. In addition to this, a camping reserve has been proclaimed some distance out of town, and all natives whether employed or not are compelled to camp on this reserve at night. In some cases exemptions are granted, the employer being held responsible for the good behaviour and housing of native servants so exempted.

This has had a very good effect, and has considerably decreased the drunkenness and immorality of the past.

Fitzroy Crossing at West Kimberley has also been declared a place in which it shall be unlawful for aborigines or half-castes not in lawful employment to be or remain.

**REGULATIONS.**

The following directions to Protectors and police officers were gazetted during the year:—

1. That no permits to employ natives are to be issued to any Asiatics whatsoever.
2. That no permits or agreements to employ natives are to be issued to hotel-keepers.



3. Section 38 of the Aborigines Act of 1905, which forbids aborigines from loitering in any town or municipal district, to be enforced.
4. The law to be rigidly enforced against people supplying natives with intoxicating liquors.

#### RATIONING INDIGENT NATIVES.

During the year an average of 1,200 indigent natives, an increase of 200 over the previous year, were daily receiving rations from 112 relieving stations established throughout the State.

The question of caring for the old and decrepit natives, and subsidising institutions for the care of the young, is one deserving of serious consideration, involving, as it already does, the expenditure of many thousands of pounds, which appears more likely to increase than otherwise.

The system obtaining in the past and up to the present is to allow relieving officers so much a day for each native, varying from 6d. to 1s., according to the distance from the nearest port, and the cost of transport of rations to centres of distribution.

The system I have found works most unsatisfactorily, as the Department has few opportunities of ascertaining if the accounts are correct and the service faithfully performed.

The question of establishing reserves where natives can be kept and rationed is one that has been under consideration for many years past, but little or nothing has been attempted in this direction; but in my own and many other people's opinion it will have to be faced seriously sooner or later. Owing to the number of tribes speaking different dialects in each of our magisterial districts, any attempt to force natives on to one reserve outside of their own country must necessarily be unsuccessful, and the only solution of the difficulty that I can see is the establishment of natives' reserves in each tribal district of sufficient area to make each reserve self-supporting. The scheme is not altogether a novel one, as many others who have considered the question have held the same views, notably the late Chief Protector of Aborigines, and Sergeant Pilmer of Roebourne, the former in his annual reports, and the latter had his ideas on this question printed for distribution.

I quite recognise that the initial expense of a scheme of this sort will be great, but feel convinced that it will be far cheaper in the long run than the present system.

The yearly sum which is spent in provisions for natives represents a capital value, at 4 per cent., of £250,000. This expenditure is going on year in and year out, and with every appearance of increasing, leaving nothing behind as an asset.

The Government have under the Lands Act power to resume any lands for the benefit of the aborigines, and there is no reason, as far as I can see, why industries, whether agricultural, pastoral, or both, should not be worked by the natives under Government supervision. Farms and stations could be established throughout the State where the old could be cared for, and the young taught to become useful servants.

With careful and good management these stations, I venture to think, could eventually be made self-supporting.

The sum of £1,879 was paid to Missions and other institutions during the year for the care and tuition

of young half-castes and aborigines, and there is no reason why the Government should not undertake this work instead of leaving it to others. I freely admit that some of these institutions are doing a large amount of good work in training the girls to become useful domestic servants, and the boys to earn their own future living by teaching them trades, etc.; but the fact that private subsidised institutions are able to do this good work is a strong argument in favour of the Government undertaking the work of looking after the young, old, and unemployed, by establishing these reserve stations, which the natives of each tribal district could look upon as a home for themselves and their children. It must not be thought that I am in favour of encouraging idleness; far from it, as I hold that every able-bodied native should be made to earn his own living. These Government institutions would become a labour-recruiting station, and the boys and girls, as they grew up, would be sent away to reputable employers to earn their own living.

Any such scheme as is here indicated, necessitating the splitting up of some of the large pastoral holdings in the Northern portion of the State by the resumption of good-sized areas by the Government, will no doubt be met in many quarters with strong opposition and protestation. Notwithstanding this, it is my intention to commend the scheme to serious consideration, feeling confident that the end gained will justify the proposal.

#### LOCK HOSPITALS.

During last year a medical conference was held to consider the best methods to deal with the spread of venereal disease among the native race. It was eventually decided that the only practical way was the segregation of those requiring treatment, and a recommendation was made in this direction.

The Government, with commendable promptitude, took the question in hand, and after full inquiries two islands, "Bernier" and "Dorre," situated West of Carnarvon, were selected for the purpose of establishing lock hospitals.

The former, which was being used for pastoral purposes, was resumed by the Government at a cost of £1,000, which included all buildings; these being suitable for the medical staff, this island was selected for the native women. Dorre Island, to the South of Bernier, was set apart for native men, and quarters are now being erected for the hospital staff.

Applications were invited for a lock hospital doctor, whose duties will be to attend the natives on both islands. From a number of applications received, many coming from outside the State, that of Dr. Frederick Lovegrove, who has been a Government relieving officer, was accepted to take charge, with an efficient hospital staff. Already 58 native women suffering from venereal disease have been collected from Wyndham downwards, and have been sent across to the island. From one of the doctor's reports I quote the following passage:—

"The condition of some of my patients here bears eloquent testimony to the urgent necessity for maintaining these institutions for the segregation and treatment of these unfortunate people in the most efficient manner possible, not only for their own sakes, but for the sake of the community at large."

The above remark also bears eloquent testimony to the wisdom of the Government in undertaking a work

of such a humanitarian nature. The male patients will be collected as soon as the hospital on the adjoining island is ready to accommodate the hospital staff, and so the work will continue till most, if not all, natives of both sexes suffering from this disease are segregated to prevent further contagion.

All these poor unfortunates will be detained on the islands until they are cured, when they will be returned to the mainland and sent back to their native homes.

Such a great undertaking of this kind has never before been attempted in any part of the Commonwealth, and it is an emphatic contradiction to the many charges made against the State Government of neglecting the welfare of the aborigines, and should be a conclusive proof of an earnest desire to ameliorate the conditions of a decadent race.

The whole scheme will necessarily mean the expenditure of thousands of pounds, and the question occurs to me that under our present law, or I should perhaps say want of law, it is quite probable that the work undertaken may never be completed, but may go on for all time, if some drastic measures are not taken to stamp out the same disease among the males of other nationalities. It appears to me a hopeless task trying to cleanse the aborigines, if fresh legislation in the above direction is not introduced.

This may be plain speaking, but the time has come, now that the Government have taken the first move in this question, when plain speaking in the interest of the native race is necessary.

#### CRIMES.

Crimes committed by natives during the year have not been, with one exception, of a very serious nature. (*See Appendix.*)

The greatest curse to the native race is strong drink, and Protectors of the Department have been instructed that the law regarding the supplying of intoxicating liquors to aborigines is to be rigidly enforced.

The Aborigines Act provides a penalty, on conviction, of £20 to any person supplying natives with liquor. Notwithstanding that the Act was passed subsequent to the Justices Act, magistrates often, under a section dealing with mitigation of punishment in the latter, reduce this fine to a nominal one. The question as to whether anyone has the power to interfere with any subsequent legislation is open to doubt. It is, I understand, held by many that the provision in the Justices Act as to reduction of fines was only intended to apply where Parliament does not subsequently legislate specifically. If the reduction of the specific penalty of £20, as provided by Section 45 of the Aborigines Act is lawful, then it will be desirable to amend the Act so that the fine cannot be reduced.

In nine cases out of ten, intoxicating liquors are given to natives with but one object, and the fining of an offender a nominal fine does not act as a deterrent.

During the year sixty-eight convictions were obtained for this offence throughout the State, with fines amounting to £616. The greatest number of convictions were obtained at Broome. This is accounted for by the intermingling of the Asiatic and native races. I am pleased, however, to report that since Inspector Isdell's visit, a great improvement has taken place.

I feel certain that if magistrates would recognise the great curse drink is to the aboriginal race, and

infrict the £20 penalty provided by the Act, drunkenness among them would not be as prevalent as it is.

#### KIMBERLEY DISTRICT AND CATTLE KILLING.

During the year 156 natives were convicted from East and West Kimberley of cattle killing, or being in unlawful possession of meat. These figures represent an increase of 54 prisoners over the previous year, and somewhat points to the fact that our present system of punishment is not acting as a deterrent to this form of crime; many holding the opinion that natives look upon a term of imprisonment as more of a holiday than anything else.

One has only to compare the condition of natives brought in from the bush before being committed to gaol with their healthy, fat, and sleek condition after being fed on prison rations, to realise that they fared better under civilisation than in their own country. The scale of rations per day allowed to native prisoners, as laid down by prison regulation, is as follows:—1lb. bread, 1lb. meat, 1lb. vegetables, 1oz. rice for soup, 3 pints tea, 1½oz. sugar, ¼oz. salt, ¼oz. soap. With this plentiful supply of good food cooked for them and being made to do but light work, there is every encouragement given to natives to further commit depredations in the hope of returning to prison after their release.

From a return supplied by the Comptroller of Prisons, the cost of aboriginal native prisoners in the gaols of the State during the year amounted to £7,138 12s. 6d.; which sum includes the transport of prisoners from one gaol to another, but does not include anything paid for escorts, or for the transport of prisoners to their own country on release from gaol.

These figures form another strong argument in favour of creating the station reserves mentioned elsewhere. General complaints are continually being made by pastoralists in the Kimberley division of the depredations committed by natives among the cattle herds, and I feel sure that any scheme advanced by the Government that would have a tendency to decrease this form of crime would be hailed with delight by those engaged in the industry.

#### SUBSIDISED MISSIONS.

The subsidies now granted by the Department to missions are as follows:—

To the Beagle Bay Mission a sum of £500 per annum, the agreement between the Mission and the Government being that they are to take in any children, especially half-caste, from the Kimberley districts.

To the New Norcia Mission a lump sum of £350 per annum is paid under similar terms.

To the Sunday Island Mission a lump sum of £200 per annum is paid on the same conditions.

To the Swan Native and Half-Caste Institution a per capita grant of 10d. per day for each child, until reaching the age of 14 for boys and 16 for girls; the same arrangements being made with the Salvation Army Home.

The grants to these missions require re-adjusting, and every subsidised institution should be placed on the same basis. All of these missions and industrial homes are doing good work among the aborigines of the State, and I am pleased to direct especial notice to Protector Isdell's favourable report on the Beagle Bay Mission, and to commend the methods adopted

by the responsible head, of teaching natives useful trades to the consideration of those in charge of similar institutions.

#### BLANKETS.

Two thousand five hundred blankets have been distributed among the old and helpless natives and children throughout the State during the year, and clothing has also been distributed where necessary; the expenditure in these two directions being the sum of £1,379.

#### GENERAL.

The thanks of the Department are due to the Commissioner of Police and his officers, for the distribution of blankets and the general supervision of the welfare of the natives, and for their efforts in carrying out the Aborigines Act. It is gratifying to note,

from the general tone of the reports received from district police officers and others in responsible positions throughout the State, that the treatment of natives, except in individual and isolated cases, has been such as to contradict many exaggerated and hysterical reports made by persons who have but a superficial knowledge of the subject on which they write.

Police reports, reports of the travelling Protectors on the stations visited throughout the year, and reports from the superintendents of mission stations, will be found in the Appendix.

I have, etc.,

C. F. GALE,

Chief Protector of Aborigines.

1st November, 1908.

## Return of Natives to whom Relief has been issued, Year ending June, 1908.

District.	Blind.		Aged and Deceprit.		Destitute.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
East and West Kimberley ..	14	29	77	93	15	35	106	157
North-West .. .. .	11	13	61	90	4	10	76	113
Ashburton and Gascoyne ..	8	7	44	86	12	18	64	111
Murchison and Victoria ..	5	18	45	76	12	35	62	129
Central and South-Western ..	2	5	55	35	46	28	103	68
Eastern Goldfields .. ..	1	1	2	3	35	46	38	50
South-Eastern .. .. .	2	3	30	38	20	30	52	71
	43	76	314	421	144	202	501	699
	1,200						1,200	

Convictions for supplying Aboriginal Natives with intoxicants, year ending 30th June, 1908:—

	Fines.
	£
Wyndham .. .. Nil ..	..
Derby .. .. 1 ..	20
Broome .. .. 52 ..	462
Port Hedland .. 5 ..	71
Onslow .. .. Nil ..	..
Carnarvon .. .. 3 ..	20
Cue .. .. 4 ..	20
Moora and District .. 3 ..	23
	—
	68 .. £616
	—

*Deaths.*

Sixty-one deaths have been officially reported during this year.

*Crimes.*

Assault on two young white girls ..	1
Drunkenness .. .. .	14
Assault .. .. .	4
Absconding from service .. .. .	3
Stealing, petty larceny .. .. .	8

*Crimes—continued*

Cattle-killing (including unlawful possession of meat) .. .. .	30
Escape legal custody .. .. .	156
Loitering in Municipalities .. .. .	2
Supplying liquor to other natives ..	4
Resisting police and disorderly ..	2
Goat-stealing .. .. .	3
Sheep-stealing .. .. .	1
	2
	—
	200
	—

Half-caste and full-blooded children sent by the Department to Missions, year ending June, 1908:—

*To Beagle Bay Mission—*

Half-caste girls .. .. .	10
Half-caste boys .. .. .	1
Full-blooded girls .. .. .	11
Full-blooded boys .. .. .	4
	—
Total .. .. .	26

*Swan Mission.*—Two half-caste girls.  
*Collie.*—Three half-caste girls, one half-caste boy.  
*Ellensbrook.*—Nil.  
*New Norcia.*—None from this Department.

## ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended 30th June, 1908.

## RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward, 1906-7 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	0	0
Vote under Edward VII., No. 14 of 1905 .. .. .	..	..	..	10,000	0	0	..	..	..
Vote under Aborigines Estimates .. .. .	5,500	0	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
Less unexpended balance of Lock Hospitals— Vote of £2,000 (balance lapsed) .. .. .	1,241	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
				4,258	15	11	..	..	..
Advance from Treasury .. .. .	2,530	11	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Less amount paid to Treasury but not credited to Trust Fund .. .. .	19	6	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
				2,511	4	9	..	..	..
Treasury, Miscellaneous Vote .. .. .	..	..	..	1,000	0	0	..	..	..
							17,770	0	8
Rent of Pia Reserve, 1909 .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	50	0	0
Sale of Government property .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	38	18	10
Refunds .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	30	3	1
Trust, Deposit for transport of Native .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	0	0
							£17,949	2	7

## PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Salaries generally—</i>									
Chief Protector .. .. .	..	..	..	504	3	4	..	..	..
Clerk and Accountant .. .. .	..	..	..	220	0	0	..	..	..
Temporary Clerk .. .. .	..	..	..	143	10	0	..	..	..
Working Superintendent, Welshpool Reserve .. .. .	..	..	..	125	0	0	..	..	..
Travelling Inspector .. .. .	..	..	..	250	0	0	..	..	..
Travelling Inspector .. .. .	..	..	..	200	0	0	..	..	..
							1,442	13	4
<i>Relief to Natives—</i>									
Blankets and Clothing .. .. .	..	..	..	1,379	9	9	..	..	..
Provisions .. .. .	..	..	..	9,804	10	8	..	..	..
Medical Fees and Medicines .. .. .	..	..	..	194	17	11	..	..	..
Native Shelters .. .. .	..	..	..	31	14	0	..	..	..
							11,410	12	4
<i>Lock Hospitals—</i>									
Resumption, Bernier Island .. .. .	..	..	..	1,000	0	0	..	..	..
Salaries, Matron .. .. .	15	16	7	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salaries, Domestic Staff .. .. .	62	18	0	..	..	..	..	..	..
				78	14	7	..	..	..
Provisions, etc. .. .. .	..	..	..	680	1	4	..	..	..
							1,758	15	11
<i>Grants to Missions, etc.—</i>									
Swan Native and H.C. (Anglican) .. .. .	..	..	..	513	17	8	..	..	..
New Norcia (R.C.) .. .. .	..	..	..	355	18	6	..	..	..
Beagle Bay (R.C.) .. .. .	..	..	..	526	13	0	..	..	..
Sunday Island .. .. .	..	..	..	160	16	2	..	..	..
Ellensbrook Home .. .. .	..	..	..	81	4	5	..	..	..
Salvation Army, Collie .. .. .	..	..	..	241	4	10	..	..	..
							1,879	14	7
Police Protection, LaGrange .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	8	11
Legal Defence, Natives .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	39	18	0
Transport .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	398	15	1
Burial Expenses .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	333	17	6
Travelling Expenses (including £75 allowance to each Inspector) .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	363	13	3
Postage and Telegrams .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	91	5	7
Telephones .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	5	0
Miscellaneous .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	110	3	1
							£17,949	2	7

Examined and found correct,—

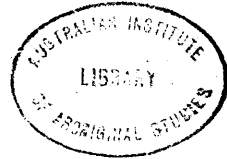
A. B. BELL.

4th May, 1909.

I certify that the above statement has been examined under my directions and correctly shows the receipts and payments on account of aborigines for the year ended 30th June, 1908, according to the books and documents produced. The report required by law is contained on page 155 of the Auditor General's report to Parliament for the year 1907-8, and in a minute to the Treasury, dated 18th January, 1909, on Audit file 08/2158.

7th May, 1909.

C. S. TOPPIN,  
Auditor General.



## APPENDIX.

### TRAVELLING PROTECTORS' REPORTS.

The Camp,  
Fitzroy River, 19th June, 1908.

Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

Sir,

Starting from Condon on the Nor'-West Coast in July, 1907, I travelled the whole of the coastal line from that township to Broome, in West Kimberley, a distance of close on 400 miles by road, but as I inspected all the numerous creeks and places where pearling luggers were in the habit of calling for wood and water and laying up for the Summer season, seldom travelling on the road, I covered approximately about 700 miles on horseback to middle of September, when I arrived in Broome.

#### *Stations.*

En route I visited all the stations, 10 in number, viz., Thompson & Co., Pardoo (sheep); Pipe & Galbraith (sheep); Felstead (cattle); Birnie & Zumfeldt (cattle); Noonan's (cattle); Eacotts (cattle); James' (cattle); Bull & Moss (cattle); Biddle & Edgar (cattle); Roe (cattle).

The total number of natives employed on above stations are—66 men, 68 females, 21 boys under 16 years, as permanent hands. There are also distributed amongst them—7 girls, 6 half-caste girls, all under 15 years old. Not included amongst these is a half-caste Malay woman with two children. Quadroons at Birnie & Zumfeldt's Anna Plains Station. The majority of the half-castes are the off-springs of Asiatic aliens from luggers' crews. I saw most of the employed natives, and interviewed a number of them on these different stations, and had no complaints from any of them, either of ill-treatment or want of food and clothes; most of them are under 12 months' agreements; a few only working under the permit system. Personally, I witnessed agreements with the Pardoo natives and Mr. Thompson (the manager), who complained to me of boys and girls being enticed away by teamsters passing the stations. At the time of my visit the main camp of the Rabbit Construction Party was at Mardi Springs, 16 miles North of the home-stead, and teams were constantly passing to and from Port Condon. I advised Mr. Thompson to sign them for their own protection if they were willing, until the fencing party had finished and left the district. They all did so willingly. The only other Agreement I witnessed en route was a half-caste girl to Mrs. Edgar of Yardogarry Station; all other Agreements had been issued by either Mr. Annear, La Grange Bay, or the authorities in Broome. There are no stations in the back country; those occupied all fronting the coast.

#### *Bush Natives.*

Approximately, between Wallal and Broome, there are 600 bush natives who have no employment, nor can I see any probability of their getting any, as the few existing stations are fully manned, and cannot absorb any more.

Independent of the 11 half-castes on stations are about a dozen living with the bush aborigines. At a corroboree near Wallal I saw 4 half-castes, two of them were boys about 13 years of age, they were purely bush boys and could speak very few words of English. The half-caste question is an important one, deserving of serious consideration. Through their white blood they are naturally more intelligent than the full bloods. I am speaking from many years' experience, and as an unwilling witness to many scenes in native camps where half-castes were being reared.

#### *Drink.*

The greatest curse that has happened to the Aborigines through their intercourse with other races, is the drink curse. The grog traffic is only partially prevented. I am glad of this opportunity to write in praise of the work done by Corporal Stewart and P.C. Johnson in this connection on behalf of the aborigines.

The proclaiming of a Camping Reserve at Broome for town natives between sunset and sunrise has put a considerable check on the grog supply, only occasional cases coming before the Court. With a proper administration of this Act, the traffic could be stopped for good. Along the coast—both North and South of Broome—there is very little grog given to natives, though at many aliens' camps between La Grange Bay and Broome, with a large number of natives working for them, the numerous stacks of empty gin and whisky bottles are very suggestive of past days.

#### *Agreements and Permits.*

Most of the stations South of Broome to Condon have their natives working under signed Agreements, and also a couple of stations North of Broome. The reason advanced to me is that it is unsafe to allow or take any aborigines—especially boys or young men—into Broome, as people in there would sign them on the first opportunity. The town natives also persuade the bush ones to stop. Personally, I saw some examples of this practice. It requires stopping, which can be easily done by instructions being issued to Protectors to sign no native to a town resident that has not already been working in Broome for at least 12 months. There are quite sufficient aborigines in the town to serve all the residents; new blood is not required. This would stop enticing bush natives into town. The prohibiting Asiatics from employing natives will have a beneficial effect; a great many aborigines in Broome were signed on to Asiatics, some of their employers were totally unfit to have natives, it was the cause of a great deal of drunkenness and immorality. Aborigines should not be allowed to work for or be in company with Asiatics, either on land or sea. Those who are working natives under the permit system find it satisfactory, far more so than under Agreement, and it is much better for the employee. Under the Agreement system, in some cases, natives may be insufficiently fed, clothed, or ill-treated. They dare not abscond, as they know they



can be arrested and punished; under the permit system the employer, knowing he cannot legally prevent them leaving, finds it to his interest to feed and clothe well and treat them fair, as an inducement for them to stay with him. My own opinion is that Agreements can safely be abolished, and only permits be issued. It means sure, good treatment for aborigine employees. In the Nor'-West all the stations are now working under this system, and it is giving general satisfaction. In a populated town like Broome it would be far better for all Agreements to be done away with. There would then be no occasion for the surrounding stations to sign their natives.

#### *Relief Stations.*

Wallal and Lagrange Bay are the two principal Relief Stations on the coast, and are a source of heavy expense. The former has about 20, and the latter about 30 on their lists. The numbers vary, as old natives after heavy rain go into the bush for short spells. I can see no way of improving the present system, except as previously recommended, by creating reserves, and shifting the old people into them. The present system is undoubtedly unsatisfactory, as there is practically no check on the numbers of indigents, nor what supplies they get. A number of the indigents at Lagrange Bay do not belong to the coast, but have been brought up from the back country by their relatives. Messrs. Biddle and Edgar, of Yardogang Station, and Eacott of Frazier Plains' Station, receive Government assistance for feeding indigent natives. Mr. Geo. Roe of Thango Station received assistance up to the end of last year, but not so this year. Personally, I think it an imposition for stations to seek Government assistance in this direction, as they have the use of other natives, have occupied their land, and I think it only fair that they should feed the old ones, whose land they used for their own benefit.

Beagle Bay Mission received assistance for indigents and also for care-taking, and educating young aborigines; but most of the indigents are crippled and the expense is fully justified. Cygnet Bay Mission, under Father Meolo Emo, also received assistance; he also had a collection of very old cripples. This mission is now closed, and the old natives receive rations from Mr. Hunter, Boolgin Creek, 4 miles from Cygnet Bay.

I left Broome middle of February, and traversed the whole of the coast line from that town to Cygnet Bay, on King's Sound, arriving latter place on 6th April, after travelling close on 500 miles, visiting all stations and creeks, including Beagle Bay Mission Station. There are only five stations on the coast North of Broome, and none in the back country. The stations are:—Streeter & Co. (cattle); Harris & Hunter (cattle); Beagle Bay (cattle); Male & Bell (cattle); and Portalano's (Manillaman), (cattle); also Hunter's 50 acre special lease near Cape Leveque.

Three of these stations employ, permanently, 18 males, 19 females, and 6 boys under 16 years, and are supporting 6 males and 7 females as indigents. I found all these natives fed well, clothed and well treated. At Beagle Bay Mission they feed and clothe a large body of aborigines. Their permanent working hands are 30 men, including stock-riders, 11 boys learning various trades, 18 boys under 10 years, and 33 girls learning dressmaking, cooking, and laundry work, and 60 other natives, mostly

women, who do a little work. All of them being fed and clothed. During the winter months, as many as 170 bush natives come to the Mission for food; 6 males and 21 females, indigent, are on the permanent relief list.

At Hunter's lease, about 100 aborigines make their home. They are all assisted with food and clothed by Mr. Hunter. A number of them make trips in Mr. Hunter's lugger to the Lacepede Islands for supplies of turtle for the old people.

There are approximately about 400 bush natives between Broome and Swan Point on King Sound, no work being available for them; fully half of these are in the vicinity of Beagle Bay; the large number of pearling luggers and coloured crews always about that place being the attraction. As the country along the coast is not occupied to any great extent, there is plenty of bush food and fish. Amongst these bush natives are about 15 half-castes, offsprings of coloured men. I saw several lots of bush aborigines, and they all seemed happy and in good condition; during the interval between 6th April and 11th May, when I continued my journey around King Sound to Derby, I visited by boat Mr. Hedley's Sunday Island Mission; went across the Sound by boat to what is locally called the Grave Yard, near Cone Bay, to inspect land applied for by Mr. Hedley for Mission purposes, and also went to Derby by boat, travelling over 300 miles by water. As I have already fully reported on Beagle Bay Mission, Cygnet Bay and Sunday Island Missions, I need not enlarge on them, except to say that Beagle Bay Mission is doing good work, teaching both boys and girls trades and useful knowledge, that will assist them in the future. Whilst at Broome I sent 11 young children to the mission, most of them collected from the coast about Lagrange Bay, I also sent 11 children to same place from Cygnet Bay, as Father Meolo Emo has given up his Mission at that place. I visited Sunday Island Mission in charge of Mr. Hedley. On the Island were 107 natives, 11 of these were indigents getting relief; included are about 30 children under 15 years; they all seemed fat and happy. I cannot approve of Sunday Island Mission, in so far as being of any ultimate benefit to the younger generations, as they are not taught any trades or knowledge to help them in the future, except a few of them as sailors. Reading and writing are taught, but that knowledge will not fill their stomachs nor put clothes on their backs, nor is it a recommendation that finds favour with employers.

Leaving Cygnet Bay on 11th May I travelled around King Sound to Derby. Owing to heavy rains and flooded state of the country, I had to cover over 200 miles—fully 80 miles more than direct route. During this trip, I am sorry to say, I lost one of my best pack horses through the Kimberley disease, which is very prevalent this season. There are about 80 bush natives around the Sound. I saw some of them, they looked well and happy. No half-caste children or sickness amongst them. There is one half-caste woman, married to an aborigine; she has three children, two of them being at Beagle Bay, and one with the mother in the bush. I arrived in Derby on 27th May, camping at Mayall's Well, five miles from the town. I found Derby—in regard to aborigines—very well conducted, no crimes or drunkenness. About 30 employed in the town. I am glad to say Dr. Adams, the Resident Magistrate, on the grog question with natives, recognises the great harm drink does, and imposes the full penalty of £20

every time; only one case has happened for some time. £20 fine is a good check. A few loafing natives camp outside the town. They are a disturbing element to those in work, but the prohibition area recommended by me will compel them either to get work or else clear to the bush.

#### *Summary.*

My recommendations *re* cancelling agreements and permits existing between Asiatics and aborigines, prohibiting hotels employing natives, prohibiting employment in boats on which Asiatics are also engaged, creation of night camping reserve at Broome, and not sanctioning mixed marriages with Asiatics, are all of a beneficial nature, and I am sure will be approved of by the general public.

During my travels and inspections from Condon to Derby, I did not hear of a single case of ill-treatment on stations or by other employers. All the natives I have seen at work were happy and contented. I interviewed a large number of aborigines at work on various stations, and I did not receive a single complaint.

I found very little sickness or disease amongst the coastal natives. The absence of venereal diseases, considering the amount of intercourse with luggers' crews is very marked. I can only account for it through the cleanly habits of the coloured crews, who are constantly in the salt water, and the natives also during the hot weather.

Blindness is the most prevalent disease; amongst almost every mob of blacks there are sure to be one or two blind women or men, and nearly every station has some amongst their old natives; very few young natives are affected in this manner. Many of the old natives also suffer from syphilitic sores, which in most instances heal up, but sure to break out again. Young children are subject to the same trouble, but they generally grow out of it. Taking the natives as a body they enjoy good health. Colds in winter are prevalent, but a dose of painkiller—their panacea for all ills—generally cures them. A supposed outbreak of leprosy happened at Cygnet Bay amongst the indigents. One died there, and one removed to Derby, died. In view of these cases, I think it advisable for a qualified man to visit all the native camps possible, starting from Condon overland along the coast to Sunday Island. It would be more satisfactory to the general public, and stop these spasmodic newspaper alarms.

#### *Aborigines Act.*

The present act is working very satisfactorily. The permit system being a great improvement on the old agreement method. The Act, like all new ones, can be greatly improved on by amendments of some of the clauses. But there are so many new phases of the native question appearing in new country like the Kimberley, that it would be inadvisable to bring forward an amending Act until I have visited the whole of the West and East Kimberley.

The most urgent amendment is in connection with Clause 45—supplying natives with liquor. Personally I would recommend a fine of £50 or 12 months' imprisonment; the option of either to be with the magistrate, not the accused, as at present. Some men could afford to keep paying fines, when they ought to be in gaol.

There is no possible excuse for giving natives grog; no extenuating circumstances unless in case where a native is really ill, and it is given with or as a medicine.

I also recommend that some punishment should be inflicted on the natives for taking the liquors; under present conditions, natives will willingly accept any quantity of grog, because they are well aware that only the man who gives will be punished. They get off scott free; when natives become aware that they are as liable to punishment as the other man, they would be frightened to accept. Under any circumstances, it is urgently required that a stop is put to the reduction of fines below the stipulated fine of £20. In every respect, with the exception of Clauses 43 and 45, the Act is working satisfactorily.

I am paying particular attention to the native question in the Kimberley, as far as I have gone. I can see no cause to complain of any ill-treatment, nor of any open cases of immorality or cohabiting. The coast from Lagrange Bay to Swan Point is the worst portion of the North for drunkenness and immorality, and requires far more attention than stations or inland natives.

I am giving special attention to the cattle killing trouble, and I am fairly certain I can suggest a remedy that will effectually check, possibly eventually check it altogether in the more civilised parts. At the same time, it will be humane and economical, and can hardly receive any opposition from the general public, whose opinion on these matters of punishment has to be considered.

During the period under review, *i.e.*, from July, 1907, to end of May, 1908, I have traversed the whole of the coast line from Condon to Derby, covering, roughly, 1,200 miles by land and 300 miles by water. I spent four months in Broome straightening up matters there, visited 11 cattle stations, two sheep stations, three mission stations, one leasehold. All my travelling was done inside of six months.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) JAMES ISDELL,  
Travelling Protector.

Murchison, W.A.,  
2nd July, 1908.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines,*  
Perth.

Sir,

I beg to forward report covering my past 12 months' inspections.

After travelling through the neighbouring country I arrived at Bangemall Goldfield early in last July; I found there were 15 Natives on the Government Relief List. They were the most miserable lot I have met with in the course of my travels. Bangemall is an out-of-the-way locality, and game appears scarce.

In most places where the old natives are camped young ones are usually associated with them, but this is not the case at Bangemall, and I attribute the wretched appearance of these old natives is greatly due to that cause, as the young ones generally provide the old ones with kangaroo meat. The Government is not to blame, as they all receive their full allowance of flour, tea, sugar, and tobacco. There are 8 women and 7 men; 2 of the women suffering from a disease in an advanced stage. Mr. Wilkinson, the local store-

keeper, treats them very kindly, and gives them what meat he can spare when he kills a sheep.

Leaving Bagemall, I visited Mount Augustus, Mount Phillip, Onslow Creek, Arthur River, Lyons River, Junction Police Station, Clifton Downs, Dairy Creek, Dalgety Downs, Jimba Jimba, Doora Warra, Yalbalgo, Glenburgh, and Brick House Stations, then on to Carnarvon. I inspected the natives carefully, and I am pleased to state I did not find one instance where any complaint was made. They all presented a healthy appearance, were in good condition, well clothed, going about doing their ordinary Station work in a cheerful manner. In going through their camps I spoke to the old ones that were beyond work; they all gave the same reply, that they had plenty to eat and were all right, and their general appearance spoke for itself. During the last week in September I visited Bernier Island; having already forwarded my special report, it is needless for me to go into further detail about it.

During November I visited Barrow Island, on which I have already forwarded a lengthy report.

Before leaving Carnarvon, I took advantage of four Aborigines' Protectors being present to hold a meeting; the particulars have also been sent forward. One satisfactory result of the meeting was—the same opinion existed—that none of them had heard of any bad treatment to the natives on any stations where they were employed.

My next trip bringing it up to the present date, included the following stations and townships:—

Boclogoora, Zalobia, Minilya, Wandagee, Mid-dalia, Woorara, Williambury, Yaneeraddy, Towara, Wagoola, Naroo, Globe Hill, Minderoo, Onslow, Ma-roonah, Thomas River, Mt. Clare, Mt. Gould, Moor-arie, Peak Hill, Abbotts, Meekatharra, Nannine, An-nean, and Belele.

I am pleased to report throughout the whole trip I found the treatment and conditions were satisfactory. On each station I visited the natives were looking in perfect health, and most of the women fat as they could be. They were all decently clothed, and none had any complaints to make.

I was led to believe, as I approached the Goldfields, I would find venereal disease widely distributed on the fields and the neighbouring stations. After making most careful inquiry, excepting some few cases I have mentioned in my previous correspondence, I have not found the disease nearly as bad as I expected. I interviewed the police and medical men at all the places I visited from Peak Hill down, and excepting a few mild cases that were away in the bush, I could not hear of anything requiring special treatment; if there are any really bad cases, the police as a rule generally hear about them, even if they happen to be on out back places.

The permit and agreement system is working in a satisfactory manner amongst the stations, and the condition of the natives is an improvement on the state of things previous to the present Aborigines' Act being adopted.

There appears to be an increasing feeling the Government ought to support all the old and helpless natives. When it is taken into consideration that most of these poor old creatures have grown old in the service of the pastoralists—the most wealthy class in Western Australia—and who to a great extent owe their present prosperous position to the cheap labour they had the benefit of from natives in the

times that have passed, I consider it is unfair to call upon the Government to support these unfortunate old natives now that they have become too old to get any more work out of them.

I think it would be better for the future of the State if the mixed marriages were not permitted to continue. They only result in producing a most undesirable population, and in cases where they now exist it affords an excuse for avoiding the Act if a native woman is married to a white man. The Police will find difficulty in preventing her own relations and other natives from harbouring and congregating about the premises, and the man that marries a native woman is generally a low type, and likely to become a medium for distributing grog amongst the natives.

Another matter that promises to lead up to future trouble at an early date is the increasing number of walk-about natives and their numerous dogs. All parts I have visited the same complaint is being made by the station holders. The natives have a strongly developed affection for dogs, and they will not kill the puppies, with the result a numerous collection of the most useless mongrels that possibly could be bred are to be found at the out back stations and on open country, particularly amongst the walk-about natives. The stations do not care to be too severe in killing the dogs in the camps on the station; should they do so, the natives clear out and will not return, and they would then add to the number of the walk-about ones, and with them, I have been informed, that over 200 dogs have been counted on one camp. This means they cannot supply all these animals with food, and they get away hunting on their own, killing the station sheep. Eventually they join with the wild dogs, and an increase is produced that really is a more destructive animal than the original dingo.

The remedy, in my opinion, is for either the Government to resume some large area of country in each Magisterial District, where native game is abundant, where reserves could be proclaimed, and the walk-about natives induced to remain on them. They would then be under the supervision of the nearest Resident Magistrate, and the police could then destroy the surplus dogs beyond those required for hunting purposes.

Another plan I think would be feasible, and help to do away with the restless walk-about native, would be for the Government to acquire station properties at various districts, and work them with native labour, paying the natives a small weekly wage. Once the bush native knew he could earn money like the white man, he would be found a willing servant. If this scheme was introduced, and the properties placed under the management of capable experienced men, there ought to be the same profitable result shown as on any other ordinary station, and in that way the aborigines' question would become a paying proposition.

I may state, during the whole course of my travels I have always met with kindly assistance and obtained valuable information from all the police officers I met with in the many stations I visited.

In looking over my records, I find I have travelled over 2,500 miles, and inspected 770 natives on 42 stations and townships.

Yours obediently,  
(Sgd.) CHARLES FARTIERE,  
Travelling Protector.

## DISTRICT POLICE OFFICERS' REPORTS.

District Police Office, Derby, W.A.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

I respectfully submit report for year ending 30th June, 1908, *re* the Aborigines.

In the Kimberley Police District there are about 5,000 Aborigines.

The condition and treatment of the natives throughout the District are good.

During the year I have visited a good number of the stations between Wyndham and Derby, and have found the natives employed apparently well fed and clothed, looking strong and healthy. I also visited the following Relieving Stations:—Turkey Creek, Argyle, Hall's Creek, Flora Valley, and Fitzroy; saw the natives who were receiving the rations, found everything satisfactory. No case of ill-treatment was brought under my notice.

There is abundance of natural food and game in the bush for the natives who roam about the bush. The health of the natives is, on the whole, good.

In August last at Tarragee (near Obagooma) a native named "Derby" was knocked down by a waggon, the wheels passing over him—death was instantaneous. On the 23rd June ult., a female named "Wandowie," while sleeping beside her camp fire with her man, her clothes caught alight, and she was very severely burnt. She died five days afterwards. Inquiries were made into each of these cases on the spot, and found to be accidental.

Five tribal murders were committed during the year. The offenders in two cases were acquitted—one on the grounds of insanity (he was subsequently sent to the Asylum), one was found guilty of manslaughter, and received a sentence of two years' imprisonment; the two others have been committed for trial.

"The Aborigines Act, 1905," is, I consider, working satisfactorily. I have no suggestion to make regarding it.

The number of cases brought before the Courts during the year is 121, which include 60 charges of supplying liquor to natives—59 of the latter occurring at Broome.

A reserve has been set apart at Broome for the natives to camp in at night. All the natives in the town camp there at night, with the exception of a few who are exempted.

There are five natives on the indigent list at Derby. These natives obtain their rations at the store, 8lbs. flour, ¼lb. tea, 2lbs. sugar each at a cost of 2s. 3½d. per week each. I have seven new native blankets on hand.

Four half-caste girls have been sent from Derby to the Beagle Bay Mission Station; nineteen native and half-caste children from Broome.

(Sgd.) J. McCARTHY,  
Acting Sub-Inspector.

Police Office, Marble Bar,  
24th July, 1908.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

Sir,—

I beg to report *re* the aboriginal natives in the Marble Bar District.

When visiting the various stations, I always inspect the natives, and endeavour to ascertain if they have

any complaints. I have always found them well fed, in remarkably good condition, well clothed and contented. In support of this I have been two years in charge of Marble Bar, and have not yet received any complaints of natives absconding from service. This fact speaks for itself.

The natives in this district can dictate their own terms to employers, because if not satisfied they can clear out to the tinfields, and make a living getting tin. A good number of natives at Moolyella and Booglegong support themselves in this way, being very expert. The gins especially so in yanding tin.

The chief source of trouble with natives here is the giving of grog to them, but I have, I think, pretty well stopped this business. The Resident Magistrate Dr. Durack, and the Justices, in all cases imposing the full penalty of £20, but the penalty should be higher for a second offence. I have had a conviction this year, i.e., since January, for supplying liquor to natives.

Owing to the cold winter we have had, I have had to distribute more blankets amongst the indigent natives. I have now 14 on the Relief List, and 10 women and 1 man on rations, suffering from venereal disease, waiting to be taken to the coast.

(Sgd.) CHAS. W. STREET,  
Corporal.

Police Department,  
Inspector's Office, Roebourne,  
17th July, 1908.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

In accordance with your letter of the 21st May, 1908, I beg to submit my report *re* the condition of the aboriginal natives in the Roebourne Police District, and in order to furnish a correct state of affairs, I have obtained a report from each police officer in charge of the several districts.

Their reports are unanimous in stating that the natives located in the settled parts, and employed on the various stations, are well fed, well clothed and cared for, and appear to be perfectly happy.

The indigent natives at the various relief stations, as far as can be ascertained, are properly cared for. These stations have been visited by the police as often as convenient.

With respect to natives being supplied with liquor—several convictions have been obtained against whites and Asiatics. This offence for the past year has not been participated in so freely as previous years. This I attribute to the vigilance of the police to a very great measure.

The Aborigines' Act and Amendments have worked very well in the interests of the natives.

I would like to suggest that very great care be exercised in the appointment of Protectors.

Blankets and clothing have been distributed by the police to the indigent natives when required.

In conclusion, I may state that I have nothing to suggest for the betterment of the natives generally under present circumstances.

I may also state that the police throughout the Roebourne District have worked most loyally for the past year in the interests of the natives.

(Sgd.) WM. H. OSBORNE,  
Sub-Inspector of Police.

Police Department,  
Inspector's Office, Roebourne.

*The Commissioner of Police.*

I beg respectfully to report, for the information of the Chief Protector of Aborigines, that when at Nullagine on the 22nd September last, I made a visit to the Indigent Natives' Camp, which is situated about two miles from the town on the left bank of the Nullagine River.

They were not all present at the time of my visit; some were away hunting. Those present were old and decrepit, and several were blind—others partially blind.

They were quite happy under their afflictions and appeared to be well cared for by Constable Stow.

I left word at the camp for those I had not seen to come to the police station on the following morning. This they did, and I found that all were deserving cases for relief. There were a few strong healthy women, the wives of the very old natives.

These women are really necessary to care for the wants of these old people. In all there are 19 males and 32 females.

The locality in which these natives are camped is admirably situated. The part is nicely shaded by trees, and water is obtainable in the bed of the river. This river only runs at flood time; therefore, they do not pollute other waters. The river at the present time is perfectly dry.

This camp is away from the general line of traffic, so that the intercourse with the whites is very limited, and at the same time is clear from the town, and no reasonable person can take exception in any possible standpoint; in addition this camp is regularly visited by the police.

With regard to the quantity of rations supplied. I made strict inquiry and find that the same has been procured from a local merchant—Mr. Walker—who supplies only one class, that being the best procurable.

(Sgd.) WM. H. OSBORNE,  
Sub-Inspector.

District Police Office,  
Victoria, Gascoyne, Ashburton.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

Having recently visited the greater part of my District, I may say I received no complaints from any aborigines, and inquiries I made disclosed nothing that required any action other than the routine methods of the police.

With the exception of old and infirm natives, those I saw were in good condition.

The thoughtful traveller must be struck with, in many parts, the total absence of children. The women, for some reason, do not breed. This is possibly assisted by the old men claiming by tribal right the available girls, in many cases now there are no women for the young men.

As regards the supplying of liquor to aborigines, the altering of the section to imprisonment without the option of a fine will have a deterrent effect on the supply of liquor. On the other hand, I suggest that a section be included in the Aborigines' Act, imprisoning any aborigines found in possession of any fermented or spirituous liquors up to three months; in possession, to include, of course, inebriation.

(Sgd.) O. DREWERY,  
Inspector of Police.

District Police Office, Cue.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

I beg to report for your information, that from inquiries made by me from officers in charge of police stations in Murchison District, the treatment and condition of natives are, on the whole, very good.

The Aborigines' Act appears to be working well.

No doubt you will have complaints from certain settlers who are protectors, that the increase of aboriginal native dogs are the cause of much havoc among their sheep. The police throughout this district have destroyed a number of dogs within the last twelve months. The settler, to my mind, is responsible for the large increase of dogs with the natives. Many of them have kennels of all sorts, and give the surplus puppies to their native servants. These, of course, in time multiply and naturally start to kill sheep. The settlers do not care about killing the dogs themselves, but want police to travel hundreds of miles to do it.

By 46 Vict., No. 7, Sec. 4, Sub. Secs. 1, 2 and 3, the settlers have full power to destroy anyone's dog under certain circumstances. The police do their part within a fair distance of the towns, and I fail to understand why the settlers will not do theirs.

(Sgd.) F. G. MITCHELL,  
Sub. Inspector.

Eastern Police District.

I beg to report for the information of the Chief Protector of Aborigines, as desired, on the condition and treatment of the Aborigines in the Eastern Police District, during the year ending 30th June, 1908.

The treatment and condition of the aborigines have been good, those employed by settlers have been well fed, housed, clothed, and well looked after by their employers. I have not heard any complaints from any source regarding them. The sick and indigent natives have received from the Aborigines' Department every care and attention possible. Blankets, clothing, tents, when required, medicine and medical attendance when necessary; the police bringing all such cases under my notice, which were duly brought under the notice of the Aborigines' Department, and the Resident Medical Officer, who promptly attended to their wants.

The Aborigines' Act of 1905 appears to be working well throughout this district generally, and I have no suggestion to offer regarding it.

There has been very little crime amongst the aborigines in this district during the past year, only a few cases of drunkenness; the liquor being supplied by white people, and in most cases these people have been brought to justice, and owing to the vigilance of the police, drunkenness amongst the natives is decreasing.

(Sgd.) W. WOODS,

District Police Officer and Protector of Aborigines.

District Police Office,  
Kalgoorlie, W.A.

*Condition of Natives.*

There are only about 70 Natives in the whole of this District. Their beat extends from Menzies in the

North, South as far as Norseman, West to about Southern Cross, and East along the fringe of the Desert—a fairly large area of country to roam over. Their stay in any one of the towns is not of long duration.

The natives are gradually dwindling away. Pneumonia is the general complaint; this, together with the fact that it is becoming a rare thing for a child to be born (or if born to live), means that in a few years the native, as far as the Eastern Goldfields are concerned, will be as extinct as the dodo.

*Treatment of Natives.*

The natives are well treated by the white people.

*Aborigines Act, 1905.*

This Act, as far as it applies to this District, works smoothly. Very few natives are employed, none about hotels.

With the exception of one case at Fraser's Range already dealt with, no other white men are living with native women.

(Sgd.) M. BRODY,  
Inspector.

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District Police Office,  
Albany, W.A.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

I beg to report for your information *re* condition of aboriginal natives in my district for year ending 30th June, 1908.

On the whole we have but a small percentage in the Albany Police District. Dealing with their condition—I am glad to say they are healthy and strong—making allowance for infirmity and old age. They are, so far as I can learn (after careful inquiries), free from disease.

Those receiving Government rations apply at regular intervals at various centres for their allowance, and appear to be well satisfied, and, to all appearances, one is led to believe, they are getting plenty nourishing food.

The natives employed by settlers are well treated. I have made personal inquiries periodically, and also caused inquiries to be made by constables in charge of sub-district stations relative to treatment of aboriginal natives, and in every instance the results are satisfactory.

Those employed by the settlers are, judging by appearances, well looked after and cared for.

Competing at the Albany annual Athletic Sports some three or four aboriginal natives took a prominent part at the running and jumping competitions, and, I must confess, acquitted themselves in a creditable manner by winning some of the events, beating their white competitors.

The police have to exercise close vigilance when aboriginal natives happen to come into town in order to prevent people supplying them with liquor. In two or three instances where natives were supplied with liquor, those who supplied same were brought before the Court and convicted on each occasion. The convictions carried a heavy penalty, and I have no hesitation in saying, acted as a deterrent to others from committing similar offences.

The Aborigines Act, 1905, works fairly well, but the natives do not seem to trouble about gun licenses. In September last seven armed natives, roaming about the bush outside Mt. Barker, were met by Constable McNamara; each of them armed and supplied

with ammunition, none of them licensed. The constable took possession of the rifles and issued a summons against each of them. They appeared before the Court and were cautioned; police asked to deal leniently with them.

It appears they were engaged by a man named "Brown," hunting, and he it was who supplied them the arms; that being so a summons was issued against Brown, and he was fined at the Albany Court, being charged under Section 50 of the Aborigines Act, 1905.

(Sgd.) M. LEEN,  
Sergeant.

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Police Department,  
Inspector's Office, Bunbury.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

Referring to your letter of the 21st May, 1908, asking for a report on the treatment of natives in this District, and the working of the Act, etc., and in reply I beg to report as follows:—

1. There are very few natives in this portion of the District, but what are here are mostly employed under permit, and as far as I know they are treated well; in fact, I have never had any complaints during the whole year.

(Sgd.) F. T. HOLMES,  
Inspector of Police and Protector of Aborigines.

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District Police Office,  
Menziess, W.A.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

I am forwarding you a Report as requested *re* condition and treatment of natives in this District.

It would appear that the total number of natives in this District are—Males, 425, females, 232, and children under 12 years, 130. This can scarcely be said to be a correct return, as the tribes are generally travelling to and fro from one district to another, and the number given for one district may be included in another.

There appears very little distress amongst them, food being plentiful in most of the places. The few old and infirm in need are now being provided for. Blankets have been supplied to all in the district. Generally speaking, their conditions of living are fairly good. Rations should not be given to any but those who are unable to hunt for food. To give relief to able-bodied natives is only encouraging them to hang around civilization. If those who pretend to have the welfare of the natives at heart were to keep them away from civilized centres, they would be doing the natives a kindness.

There have been no cases of ill-treatment of natives brought under notice. Their contact with whites is general and cannot well be prevented, and I regret to say that a large number of whites grasp the opportunity of supplying them with liquor in exchange for the use of the females for immoral purposes. The police, however, have had a watchful eye in this direction; several whites and Afghans having been prosecuted for supplying liquor and harbouring natives.

With the exception of the Laverton tribe, the natives cannot be said to have been troublesome. Petty thieving, of course, has been indulged in, but

such is principally confined to food and clothing, and is not looked on by the settlers as being serious.

Two natives were murdered near Leonora during the year by a neighbouring tribe; the murderers evaded the Police, and are still at large. Warrants were issued for their arrest. The witnesses, however, who were detained to give evidence escaped and nothing has been seen of them since. Consequently the Police have not been active in searching for the murderers, as the time and expense would be lost without the witnesses.

The working of the Aborigines Act seems to be giving general satisfaction.

(Sgd.) J. DUNCAN,  
District Police Officer.

#### REPORT OF SUNDAY ISLAND MISSION.

Aboriginal Mission, Sunday Island.

To the Chief Protector, Perth.

Sir,—

Please find enclosed our Quarterly Report of progress, including financial, for the last half-year. The health has been uniformly good, with the exception of two cases of ulcerous sores; one a little girl of six years of age, now quite healed, who has been under Dr. Adam's care in Derby here for the past two months; and the other one, the old diseased woman who is on our relief list.

Your Department asked for an account of diseased natives, with a view of removal to Bernier Island. Well, this is the only one we have, and she is over 70 years of age and quite helpless, and I think, as we can look after her here, perhaps it would be as well if she ended her days here, as I think she will never recover, and she will only cost the Department ninepence per day here.

We have had one birth of a male child, and no deaths. I see, on looking back the nine years that the Mission has been founded, that the deaths and births on our Mission, taken together on the mean average, leave us a yearly increase of 12 per thousand births over deaths, out of an average population of 110 natives. This, I think, is very encouraging in the face of the way the rest of West Kimberley is being decimated of her aborigines, and I think it is a great argument in favour of our rule of not interfering with their own social and tribal laws, but just trying to bring home to them the great laws of Christianity. We have also (with the two exceptions of the two half-castes that were here when we started) nothing but pure-blooded natives on the Mission; whilst on the mainland, at the camp of the present distributor of Government relief, and also in Cygnet Bay, they are very numerous, which goes very far to show the great value of our isolated position.

You will have received from Mr. Bird a full account of the school work done. He opened the school this month again, after the summer holidays, with 29 scholars. He is also teaching them gardening. Our elder boys now take over our cattle entirely, and we have had dairy produce all the time since Mr. Bird's return. We have not been able to afford a cook this year, and have instead instructed four of the eldest girls in domestic work and dairy work, and now the whole of the cooking, etc., is done by them, and they are succeeding very well. Mr. Bird is experimenting with the seeds that the Agricultural Department supplied him with, and will report results

shortly. We hope, by the beginning of the next year, to be enabled to afford the necessary buildings for a matron and dormitories, but we have to be very economical to make both ends meet.

I have, etc.,  
(Sgd.) SYDNEY HADLEY,  
Superintendent.

#### Half-yearly Account Sunday Island Aboriginal Mission.

##### Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
Grant-in-aid .. .. .	100	0	0
Relief for aged .. .. .	75	9	9
Pearl, turtle, and trocas shell .. .. .	49	4	0
Hire for vessel .. .. .	42	0	0
Freight carried by vessel .. .. .	42	0	6
Sale of beast .. .. .	9	2	6
	<hr/>		
	£317	16	9

To balance .. .. . £0 10 7

##### Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
Flour, rice, and meal .. .. .	93	10	0
Groceries, stores, etc. .. .. .	80	15	0
Tobacco .. .. .	23	8	0
Wages and salaries .. .. .	58	6	8
Blankets and clothing .. .. .	28	10	5
Building material .. .. .	15	10	6
Freights and duties .. .. .	17	5	7
Credit balance .. .. .	0	10	7
	<hr/>		
	£317	16	9

Sunday Island Mission.

To Chief Protector, Perth.

Sir,—

Please find enclosed, or accompanying, the Report from our Schoolmaster, Mr. Bird.

He closed the school at the end of May, and reopened in the commencement of July. In addition to their school work, the boys have to look after our cattle and do the milking; look after the garden with Mr. Bird to instruct them, and also I am making seamen of all of them, as they grow strong enough. The girls have all learnt the use of the needle, and make all their own dresses, and they are now learning the cooking and domestic service. We have just received a visit from Mr. Campbell and party, geologist and surveyors, and they were very interested in an industry that we started in our school, and had to discontinue for want of customers, viz., the making of door-screens with white shells; they have ordered several, and I feel sure, if the beauty of the screens was known in Perth, we should have no trouble to dispose of as many as the children could make.

I am, etc.,  
(Sgd.) SYDNEY HADLEY.

#### School Report.

Sunday Island.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

Dear Sir,—

I arrived on the Island on 9th March, and started the school going a few days after. I found the

scholars somewhat lax after the holidays, but very soon brought them into discipline again, and they are now working very well. The attendance has been good, illness being almost the only cause of absence. The elder boys lost a week to take part in an initiation ceremony that takes place once a year. Apart from that, their attendance has been most regular. Their progress has been greatest in reading and writing; much patience being required in the arithmetic lessons. They have not yet got beyond short division, though up to that they are quite sound. To encourage them in the use of English, I teach them nursery and other rhymes, and find it of much assistance. They are good at singing, though music is not attempted; the songs being all taught by ear. Geography is no trouble to them at all, as they have only to have a thing explained once and they will retain it. They know the countries and capitals of the world, continents and oceans and products. Three younger scholars have joined the school this year, and though my patience was sorely tried at first, they are now coming on well. They have already mastered the alphabet, and are now writing short words and spelling them as well. They can also count and write up to 50 without help. Taking all things into consideration, I can confidently say that the progress has been very good. I am enclosing samples of writing and spelling, and if at any time you should wish it, I can prepare and send you examination papers showing arithmetic results as well.

I am, etc.,

(Sgd.) W. H. BIRD.

PROTECTOR ISDELL'S REPORT ON THE  
SUNDAY ISLAND MISSION.

Cygnets Bay.

To the Chief Protector, Perth.

Sir,—

I wish to state that in reporting on both Sunday Island and Cygnets Bay Mission Stations, I am doing so from the purely practical point of view—sentiment, theory, or religion I have nothing to do with. I take it that when the Government agrees to assist Missions to the Natives with public money irrespective of denomination, they fully expect those Missions to help themselves, either by the raising of stock, cultivations, or any other means that will return them revenue, and assist them to eventually make the Mission self-supporting, and that it will teach the younger generation of aborigines such knowledge and trades that will be of assistance to them in finding employment or make a living in their future days. This is my point of view of the matter.

On Wednesday, 8th of April, I hired from Father Nicholas a whale boat and crew of four natives to take me to Sunday Island, Mr. Hadley's Mission Station, arriving there the same afternoon.

*Landing Homestead.*—Sunday Island is situated between Escape Pass and Sunday Straits, in the entrance to King Sound; both of the above passes are used by steamers when *en route* to Derby. Surrounding Sunday Island are many smaller islands.

The aborigines, men, women, and children, frequently pass from island to island in their catamarans, or native canoes. The landing place at Sunday Island is about the worst you could imagine, it is at the foot of some steep granite rocks over which you have to climb. At the foot of and opposite side of this rough granite dyke is the Mission Homestead.

The homestead is situated on the side of a narrow valley, enclosed by high granite dykes on each side, the valley being barely half-a-mile wide.

The buildings are a roomy residence, built of stone walls and iron roof; a store being portion of the building used as schoolroom and church. There are also two other stone buildings, originally intended for the accommodation of natives, but which they refuse to occupy, preferring to live with their usual surroundings, in the usual aboriginal manner, under a few boughs erected to keep off the heat of the sun. All the natives live together in these humpies, with their numerous dogs. There is a kitchen with thatched roof, built many years ago, also a fine garden with cocoanut trees, bananas (just bearing fruit), melons, with various vegetables, also a fine healthy looking cotton plant. I was shown some exceedingly fine samples of cotton grown last year; but, unfortunately, the white ants killed all the plants. Mr. Bird, the Mission Schoolmaster, takes a great interest in the garden, and is experimenting with different varieties of tropical plants, including pine-apple trees. There is a fair supply of fresh water, but none too much in a dry season. The garden is in the centre of this valley, and consequently is likely to be considerably damaged after heavy tropical rains by flooding. There is very little soil, only a long narrow strip in the middle of the valley; most of the surface soil being shallow, coarse granite sand, useless for cultivation.

*Aborigines.*—I inspected all the natives then on the island, as follows:—

Males (18 to 40 years old)	..	32
Females (18 to 40 years old)	..	31
School girls (5 to 18 years old)	..	18
Boys (5 to 18 years old)	..	14
Children (12 months to 5 years old)	..	11
Half-caste boy (12 years old)	..	1
Half-caste girl (14 years old)	..	1
Relief, old males	..	4
Relief, old females	..	7
		—
Total	..	119
		—

Of those attending school six are fully grown young women, one of them being married. Of the boys, five or six are full grown young men. There are really only about 20 children of school age. They all looked well, in good condition, well clothed and contented, with no complaints.

*Sickness.*—There is very little sickness; one old woman slightly afflicted with sores, and one young woman was recently taken to Derby for medical inspection, troubled with swollen glands, as Mr. Hadley was afraid of leprosy. This girl's father was recently sent to Derby from Cygnets Bay with cancer in the face. Notwithstanding the apparent freedom from sickness, I deemed it advisable to have all the natives medically examined, in view of the natives at Cygnets Bay having had leprosy amongst them. Natives from both Missions are constantly going backwards and forwards, and intermixing.



*Teaching and Work.*—Mr. Bird is engaged by Mr. Hadley to teach the natives reading and writing; he is a great favourite with them, and deserves great credit for the patience and perseverance he displays in his up-hill task, whether he will ever succeed in teaching 17 and 18-year old natives to either read or write decently is very problematical.

There are, according to returns supplied to me by Mr. Hadley, 63 young men and women; the majority of whom are nearer 20 than 40 years old, who do no work, excepting a few of the men, who form his cutter's crew when boating cargo, and a few of them make buccaneering trips occasionally; a few of the women help water the garden. The majority of them do nothing. There is not even a decent cook amongst them. For the number of years Mr. Hadley has had these natives under his care, they seem to me to have learned very little of use to them. Looking at the whole question from a practical point of view, does the present system warrant the expenditure of the money entailed? When speaking to Mr. Hadley on the matter, he freely admitted both boys and girls ought to be taught trades, etc.—something that would be of benefit to them. He pleads poverty. He cannot afford to engage tradesmen to teach them. Well, they are better off in the bush getting food in their own natural way. Morally they are not a bit better than the bush natives; it is only the food, clothes, and not having to work for it, that keeps them on Sunday Island.

*Area and Isolation.*—The area of Sunday Island is about 8,000 acres; almost the whole island is purely granite rocks and rough hills; there are a few inaccessible valleys. Mr. Hadley had 11 head of cattle and a flock of goats (a hundred or so). Mr. Bird assures me that the island is fully stocked with the present number on it and will not sustain any more; well, if 8,000 acres will only sustain 11 head of cattle and a hundred or so of goats, there is not much prospect of it becoming self-supporting by stock raising.

Mr. Hadley is an earnest man, and has spent the last 10 years in what he religiously believes to be doing good work for the aborigines by simply keeping the young women from the "contaminating influence of the mainland." This is a questionable policy, keeping the young marriageable women from their prospective husbands on the mainland. By tribal custom each girl has her future husband allotted her. May it not be considered wrong and unjust to these men to unlawfully prevent them asserting their tribal rights?

I strongly advised Mr. Hadley to remove his mission to some more suitable place on East side of King Sound, where he can secure a lease of some pastoral lands, where he can utilise his native labour, raise stock, or cultivate and endeavour to make the Mission self-supporting. I strongly advised him also to make no more improvements where he is.

Mr. Hadley, personally, is absent from the island for a good many months in the year, either shipping cargo with his cutter to various coastal stations, or else away along the coast. He earns a fair amount by so doing, all of which he spends on the Mission; he neither looks for nor reaps any benefit nor remuneration from his labours; it is purely one of love.

I remain, etc.,

(Sgd.) JAMES ISDELL,  
Travelling Protector.

## THE SALVATION ARMY.

Collie Settlement, W.A.,  
30th June, 1908.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines,*

*Perth.*

Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to be able to report that the half-caste and native children under our care are in good health. Their general conduct has been good, and we have had practically no trouble with them as far as their work is concerned.

The boys are very happy in their surroundings, and appreciate to the full the kindness meted out to them. They join in the different games with great zest, and very often outstrip the other boys with whom they are playing.

As far as possible we are training them to be useful, so that when they have to take up work in the farming line, in the future, they will, I believe, be able to do it with credit to all concerned.

Yours respectfully,

JNO. BLAKE,  
Manager.

Girls' Home, Collie.

*To the Chief Protector of Aborigines,*

*Murray Street, Perth.*

Sir,

In reply to yours *re* a report on the Aborigine children at our institution, for the year ending 30th June, 1908, I might state that there are 12 girls at present in the home, two have been licensed out during the year and are doing very nicely.

Altogether the work has been of a very satisfactory nature; much progress has been made by many of the girls in the different branches of domestic work.

Also in school much progress has been made; they are anxious to learn, and will ask questions about anything they do not understand. Their conduct is good, and as a rule, they are clean and tidy in themselves.

I remain, etc.,

E. J. GOWAN,  
Manager.

BEAGLE BAY, JULY, 1908.

*Report to the Department of Aborigines, Perth.*

Sir,—

For the past 12 months since the 30th of June last, the Native Institute at Beagle Bay has made good progress. The children both full-blood and half-caste clearly show by the vast improvement in their manner and conduct that the zeal with which the sisters have undertaken their instruction has already done much to elevate the minds and develop the intellects of these poor children and thereby enable them to know and learn such things as may be good and useful for them in their future (life) lives amidst civilised surroundings.

About 15 of the bigger boys receive technical instruction in the different shops from well trained Brothers, and all who have seen the boys working have expressed great surprise at their abilities.

We have from 20 to 30 old and infirm natives at the Mission. During the year a little boy about 7 years died of heart disease, and also 6 old people, 4 women and 2 men, all over 50 years of age.

Thanks to the energetic work of Mr. Isdell, Inspector of Aborigines and the corresponding efforts of Inspector Mr. McCarthy, Derby, Corporal Stewart, Broome, 23 children have been sent from the different districts to our institute.

Eleven of these children were half-caste and twelve full-blood aborigines. Four of them were sent from Broome; nine from stations South of Broome and La Grange Bay; five from Derby; five from Cygnet Bay, educated for a time on Revd. Father Nicholas' station. Mr. Isdell sent six children from Cygnet Bay, but the smallest was taken away by some Cygnet Bay people; we thought it best not to oppose them as they showed great affection for the little child.

Our financial affairs are not too good. We have about 2,000 head of cattle, and in the future we hope to be able to realise from sale of same a yearly sum of £600. During the last twelve months one imported bull and twelve horses died from worms (not grass poison as many people think). This was a loss of about £200 for the Mission. The costs of improvements run easily up to £300 yearly, and considering that the Mission has an overdraft of £3,400 with the banks, and a debt of about £1,000, we must confess we have great difficulties to contend with in running our Native Institute.

JOSEPH BISCHOF, S.  
Protector of Aborigines.

#### PROTECTOR ISDELL'S REPORT ON THE BEAGLE BAY MISSION.

Beagle Bay,  
March 24th, 1908.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

Sir,—

In forwarding you the following report of my visit to Beagle Bay Mission Station I think it is as well to give you a full description of the homestead, its various buildings, improvements, and its advantages for the purpose for which it is being used in connection with the aborigines.

The Mission homestead is situated about eight miles from the landing place at Beagle Bay, over a fairly good road. It is practically at the extreme Eastern inland point of the Bay, high spring tides coming within a mile of homestead. All goods have to be carted by bullock teams from the landing. I arrived at the Mission midday Monday, 23rd, and pitched my camp about half a mile from homestead, outside their fences. By kind permission of Father Bischofs I put my horses in horse paddock for safety, where flourished plenty of luxuriant couch grass and numbers of natural springs. The Mission buildings are erected on a piece of high circular ground, about 60 acres in extent, shaped like the bottom of an ordinary basin, the sides sloping gently down to level country. At the base of this rising ground and all around it are many springs of fresh water, some of them passing over the surface and some stationary, even on top of the elevated ground. There is a plentiful supply of fresh water a few feet below the surface. Couch grass grows splendidly on the high ground, horse paddocks, and the level country is covered with it. It was originally planted many years ago during the first settlement at Beagle Bay and has gradually spread over the country for miles. At the homestead, which has the appearance of a fair sized village,

there are numerous buildings—over 20 in number. The whole of the material used in their construction, except roofing iron and nails, having been sawn and fitted on the ground, where there is a fine supply of Cajeput timber. The posts are blackheart, walls short Cajeput weather boards, floors either Cajeput or cement.

The slaughter yard is the best and cleanest I have seen in the State. Killing yard cement floor with drain in centre which carries the blood into cement tank, where it is cooked with other offal and fed to the pigs. Butcher's shop, cement floor, all tables scrupulously clean, all ironwork bright and shining, gratings for draining salted meat; and Father Bischofs assures me that they have never yet had any meat go bad, and they kill all through the hot weather an average of two beasts a week. I quite believe it. One of the lay brothers is the butcher, assisted by a couple of half-caste boys, learning the trade. Every particle of a beast is used, no waste.

#### *School Houses.*

There are two separate school houses, one for the older boys and one for the girls and younger boys. The girls' school, with 33 scholars, including 10 small boys, is in charge of two nuns or sisters. The older boys' school house is a separate building, and is presided over by one of the brothers. The boys are divided into two classes, the more advanced boys being taught by themselves. Twenty-five boys attend the school.

#### *Sleeping Accommodation.*

The girls have a large separate sleeping dormitory, away from other buildings, they each have a stretcher with plenty of blankets. Three of the sisters always sleep in the room at the doorway.

There are three separate sleeping rooms for the boys, who are divided into two classes, young boys under 12 years and boys from 12 to 16 years in different rooms. The third room is used by the young unmarried men of the working staff; a lay brother sleeps in each room.

#### *Church.*

The church is not very large, but just sufficiently so to accommodate the present number of residents. It is the intention to erect a larger structure in the future.

#### *Nuns.*

There are seven nuns and lay sisters who have charge of all the girls, and teach them various useful occupations, sewing, cooking, and laundry work. They have a large building to themselves, with rooms attached for teaching the girls, with laundry, wash-house and kitchen, where the girls take it in turns to assist.

#### *Dining Rooms.*

The girls have a dining room to themselves in an isolated building. The boys all dine in one large room, the working staff in a second room, and the old relief natives who can walk in a third room, all in the one building.

#### *Kitchen.*

The kitchen is at the back but adjoining the dining rooms. It is a model one, four large boilers are built into stone and cement, they are capable of each holding 30 gallons; one for tea, two for rice and vegetables, and one for meat. As they are

heated from underneath from the outside there is never any smoke in the kitchen. The bath house is outside that of the kitchen and dining rooms. All the rooms and kitchen have cement floors with a slight hollow running down the centres, they are sluiced with water every day, the dirty water being carried away in a cement drain to a sink. Every building has its own water supply, a bore pipe being put down a few feet and a pump on it. No carrying of water anywhere.

#### *Wash Houses and Baths.*

Each sleeping apartment has its basins and towels for washing, also a bath with pump water on the ground. The boys and girls have every inducement to keep clean and learn cleanly habits.

#### *Priest and Brothers' Residence.*

This cottage where the clergy and lay brothers sleep is situated some distance away from sisters and girls' residences. It accommodates 10 lay brothers and three clergymen, they have their own kitchen, cook, and usual water supply.

#### *Blacksmith's Shop.*

Is situated close to laymen's cottage, and is one of the best fitted out shops north of Fremantle. There are labour saving machines of all descriptions, and for executing all classes of iron and metal work. Adjoining is a circular saw bench, over which they are erecting a roomy shed. A few yards distant is a large carpenter's shop, also well equipped with machinery, and any class of carpentry, joinery, or fine cabinet work can be executed. The motive power for the various machines in these shops and saw is a 6 h.p. engine in one end of the blacksmith's shop.

There is a large roomy store, with goods of all descriptions, a saddle and harness room, cart sheds, and many other buildings have their special and useful purpose.

There are 10 lay brothers, each of whom is a qualified tradesman in his own special branch. Engineer, driver, and metal worker (blacksmith and half-caste boy), carpenter and joiner, tailor and sail-maker, gardener, stone mason and builder, butcher and baker, two cooks, a well sinker in charge of boring plant. All these are voluntary workers, no wages.

#### *Garden.*

There is an extensive garden, dotted over with numerous springs of water, plenty of pumpkins, melons, and beans and other vegetables. In the garden are some splendid cocoanut palms, heavily laden with cocoanuts, date trees, bananas, and orange trees, all of which have yielded good crops of fruit, specially the orange and banana trees. In time to come, when planted in sufficient quantity, they will become a source of revenue. Owing to exceptionally dry season, only six inches of rain up to the present, the garden is not up to its usual form. In the shade of the cocoanut trees is a deep plunge bath in the centre of a large spring, the water always icy cold.

A little distance from the homestead and the garden is the farm paddock of about 10 acres sown with sorghum and haricot beans; although the season has been so dry, they look strong and healthy. Although there is plenty of spring water, it has not the good effect on plant life that warm showery weather has. The prolificness of the couch grass is a constant source

of trouble and labour in the garden and farm paddock, keeping it down seems to be almost impossible.

I give the routine adopted for the day's schooling, play, and work. Boys and girls' routine are practically similar:—

Rise in the morning 6.15 a.m. Church (15 minutes) 6.45 a.m. Breakfast (30 minutes) 7.15 a.m. School class (2 hours) 7.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. Play and do odd jobs until 11.30 a.m. Dinner and play until 1 p.m. More lessons in the open under a tree until 2 p.m. Walk and play about until 3 p.m. 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. odd jobs and garden work. Girls sewing and boys in various shops. 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. school. 30 minutes play until 6 p.m. Church for 15 minutes. Tea 6.30 p.m. Play after tea until, 8.15 p.m., bed time.

The class of larger boys spend more time learning various trades and also girls learning housework.

No one can say the children are either over-schooled, over-churched, or over-worked, the day is so divided that no part of it becomes tedious. All the children, staff natives and indigents get three meals a day. The working staff boys also get, independent of regular meals, a cup of tea and bread at 10 a.m. and the same at 4 p.m. The diet consists of rice, bread, meat, vegetables, and tea. Indigents are treated exactly as staff natives, they also receive an allowance of tobacco per day.

The clothes for all hands are made on the premises, boys and girls assisting in the making.

In regard to the above scale of diet, the general healthful and good-conditioned look of all the children, staff and indigents speaks for itself. They are well and comfortably dressed, happy, and contented. I sent to the mission last year from out of the indigents' camp at La Grange Bay, three young children. I could not recognise them on this visit, they were in poor health, miserable, starved mites, with a pinched and hopeless look in their faces. Father Bischofs called them up to me in the school-room, fat, laughing, merry-faced little youngsters as happy and contented as they possibly could be, one could hardly believe that they were the same half-starved youngsters, especially one little black girl, nine years old, badly deformed, with curvature of the spine. She was then just a shapeless little mass of bones and deformity, now you would not recognise her, fat, with a jolly laugh on her face and her eyes sparkling with fun and most of the deformity has disappeared. I am perfectly satisfied that this Mission is doing a great and good work to these waifs and strays from the native camps, and that they are being well taught and equipped with serviceable and useful knowledge for their future life. I am sure that a visit to this Mission from yourself or any of the members of the Government would confirm my own impressions.

I cannot close this account of the children without referring to several of the full-bloods and half-castes' great proficiency in the different trades they have learned at the Mission. One half-caste boy 17 years of age is a really first-class blacksmith, and has executed some very difficult metal work, he also lays all their troughing, water tanks, sets all the big boilers, and erects windmills with assistance. He has three full-blooded boys under 14 in the shop with him, and it is a pleasure to see the boys all striking to the half-caste's time with his forge hammer, a great sparking heated piece in the

forge, the three hammers keeping perfect time and no mistake made. It takes patience and perseverance to teach aborigines to this perfection. There are three full-blooded boys the same age in the carpentry shop all proficient in various branches of carpentry; A brother is in charge of each of these shops and has taught these boys all they have learnt. A full-blooded boy, 16 years old, is a first-class tailor, and could turn you out as well made a suit as can be bought in most shops; he also has his young black apprentices. There are boys also learning to be butchers, bakers, cooks, masons, bullock-driving, etc. The saddle room is in charge of a half-caste lad reared in the Mission, he does all the repairs, makes their hide ropes and whips. He is married to a half-caste girl, has his own cottage and is allowed 30s. per month to purchase his clothing, Mission finding them in food.

All the boys are learning something useful, taking it in turns to attend to the various trades. The same with the girls, they take their turn in the sewing-room, the kitchen and the laundry. One half-caste girl is a first-class machine hand.

#### *Old Relief Natives.*

At present there are 29 indigents on the relief list, five have died during last six months, others have taken their place. I have seen them all, some are comparatively young, two young men paralysed in the lower extremities cannot walk, one young woman the same, they scramble along on their hands and buttocks. There are several blind and also crippled, all deserving cases so far as I could see. There are none on the list that are able to work. There are 10 other old men and women who occasionally come in for relief, they stay for a week or two and then wander away again but are sure to return if pushed for food. Father Bischofs puts them on the list when they are receiving relief, all the indigents receive the food as the children and general staff, which is a generous supply for the amount paid.

#### *Bush Natives.*

There are a large number of bush natives who make the Mission their head-quarters when short of food at any time; there are never less than 60 camped at the station. There are over that number there now; they do not belong to the Mission, but keep coming and going. But when there the Mission people give them food; some of them do a little work. Father Bischofs informs me that during the dry time of the year from July to rainy season in December there are invariably from 170 to 200 bush natives camped at homestead; he allows them some food. These are the natives that cause so much trouble at the various creeks during the lay up season with the coloured men. The Mission people have no power to prevent them going when or where they like. There are more women than men with these natives.

#### *Permanent Staff.*

The permanent staff of natives employed on the Mission and who never leave for the bush are 25 men and 40 women. All the men are young and about one-third of them married, the remainder being too young for wives. Two-thirds of the women are old and are widows, their husbands being dead, they prefer to stay at the Mission working than risk the change of a new husband and a bush life.

Counting all the different grades of natives on the Mission they number about 220 which are increased towards the end of the year by close on another 150.

#### *Financial.*

Father Bischofs kindly gave me some information on this head. The expenses are naturally heavy with the large number of natives and living expenses of whites. He gives the cost of 58 children at £25 per head per annum. The cost of finding the wandering bush natives who visit the Station during the dry time and those who are generally camped here at £600 per annum. These two items total up roughly £2,000 per annum. The sources of income from the Mission station at present are not large, the cattle in fact return their sole income. As there are only 2,150 head on the Station, the larger number of which are breeders and young cattle they can only depend at present on getting from 60 to 80 fat bullocks a year for which they receive delivered at Broome £5 5s. to £5 10s. per head, and at that price they must be fat and weigh at least six and a-half cwt. They sell to boats throughout the year another 25 head at a profit of about £8 per head. Allowing the higher price for stock their income from this source amounts to £600 per annum, this amount, with Government allowance of £500 and indigent relief money £272 per annum, makes a total of £1,372 which is their income. They have a lugger pearling, and last year made a profit of £80, making a grand total of £1,452. According to their statement, which I believe to be correct, with natives alone fed and clothed on behalf of the State, they lose roughly £550 per annum.

Independent of all the above there is then their permanent staff of native workers and whites to clothe and feed. Unfortunately they cannot breed horses owing to the ravages of the Kimberley worms, their annual average loss of horses is 6 head, some years as high as 10 head. They have to pay for practically a weed or inferior class of horse £12 per head, so that the loss of horses is severely felt, amounting from £70 to £120 per annum. They have also been put to heavy expense in buying fresh bulls. When the previous owners, The Trappists, had the place, the cattle were totally neglected, consequently degenerated from inbreeding, to improve the cattle the present holders had to purchase new blood.

In regard to cultivation with a view to opening up new sources of income there is no doubt that so far as climate, soil, and water supply are concerned, this country offers great opportunities and prospects for the successful cultivation of many commercial commodities, but to succeed it requires capital. I am sure that tobacco, cotton, coffee, and various fruits could be successfully grown, but as Father Bischofs pointed out to me, the planting of the above would be practically experimental and financially they have not the means to go in for experiments. They are paying all their attention to the cattle as their reliable source of revenue, fencing, and getting plentiful supplies of water by boring. When they have increased their stock and got a return of from £1,500 to £2,000 per annum then they will be in a financial position to test other sources or ways of increasing their income, and I think personally this is the best and safest policy to adopt. During the last two years they have erected 25 miles of barbed wire fencing, put down 6 bores, all good supplies, erected two windmills. In two bores they struck artesian

supplies, the water rising from 6 to 10 feet above the surface. A number of the springs they banked up raising the level of the water, then inserted a pipe through the bank which leads into a trough, the water always flowing into the trough and keeping it full. Nearly all the springs are very boggy and have to be fenced off.

Before my visit I may state that I heard many and various statements concerning the Beagle Bay Mission Station, its management, morals, and treatment of aborigines, some very bitter and some quite the reverse. All the business and more important residents of Broome speak very highly and favourably of the Mission under its present management. Under the previous owners, The Trappists, their opinions were quite the opposite. All the station-owners in this district also speak highly of the Mission. Personally I did not expect to see things so far advanced in connection with the aborigines. The training of the children is of a most useful character and certainly will equip them for bettering themselves in the future. The rescuing of waifs and strays from the bad contaminating influence of natives' camps and training them at this Mission is well worthy of deep consideration by the Government and the support of the general public. The Mission's revenue is not large, they receive most of their support by subscription from Europe and some slight support from the Eastern States. Not a single person in the Mission, except the half-caste saddler, receives any wages or salary, they are all voluntary workers, spending their trade knowledge and their lives on behalf of the waifs and strays from the Aborigines camp. Is there another Mission in the State working on such voluntary lines? So far as the religious aspect of the question is concerned, I pay little attention to it, my knowledge and experience of these Northern Aborigines have satisfied me that no religious body in the world can turn out a genuine Christian from amongst the natives. As showing that I am not religiously prejudiced in favour of this Mission I may state that personally I am a member of the Church of England.

I have, etc.,

JAMES ISDELL.

#### NEW NORCIA MISSION.

Sir,

I have pleasure in reporting that everything at this Mission in relation to the Natives during the last financial year has been satisfactory.

The Mission in point of health has been exceptionally fortunate; with a solitary exception, it has been free from sickness of any kind. Although the neighbouring towns and villages suffered considerably from a bad epidemic of diphtheria, yet New Norcia had not one case. The boys and girls are in the best of health, strong and vigorous.

One girl died towards the end of 1907. She contracted cold, and fever supervening, she succumbed.

During the year the number of girls at the Institution varied from 35 to 37, and the number of boys from 17 to 19.

Many of our New Norcia adult men are working for the farmers around. They take contracts for fencing, clearing, ring-barking, etc. Some of them are doing well at this class of work. They frequently come to the Mission, which they look

upon as their home, in order to keep up the old connection, and also to discharge their religious obligations, and attend Divine Service. On these occasions they remain at the Mission for some days generally.

The natives at New Norcia are, and have been, always free to leave at any time and better their positions if they can do so; but they mostly always fall back on the "old love" ultimately, and apply for work again as stockmen, ploughmen, teamsters, shearers, etc.

During the year many of our boys and girls have been married, and are now keeping house for themselves. Some of these girls are now fond and loving mothers. Our girls as a rule marry only their own countrymen, and for these they are best suited; they understand each other better. These girls are indeed very fastidious in their tastes respecting the choice of a partner for life; quite as particular in this respect as their more fortunate white sisters.

(Sgd.) F. TORRES, O.I.B.,  
New Norcia Mission Manager.

#### DRYSDALE RIVER ABORIGINES' MISSION.

This Mission was founded during the present year (1908) from New Norcia. The expedition left Fremantle per "Bullarra" on 16th June. I opened the Mission myself in July last, and left for the working of it 15 hands, all told, viz., three priests, one lay Brother, and eleven other hands.

The Missionaries have already a fine house built, a paddock, cleared, vegetable garden, the beginning of an orchard; they have fowls, pigs, kangaroo dogs, abundance of fish and many tons of provisions, building materials, etc. They are already fairly comfortable.

The natives are very numerous in this part, very blood-thirsty and treacherous. The Missionaries have to be careful, and always on the watch. By and by it is to be hoped they will become more reconciled to their new friends.

(Sgd.) F. TORRES, O.I.B.,  
New Norcia Mission Manager.

#### SWAN NATIVE AND HALF-CASTE MISSION.

*Manager's Report for the Year ended 30th June, 1908.*

We began the year with 36 children, and the number now in the Institution is 31. Four were admitted and four have gone out to service.

#### Health.

We have had two deaths during the year, both children having been admitted to the Hospital in Perth, where no doubt everything possible was done for them. The first case was a girl of eleven, and the cause of death was a tubercular affection of the brain, while the second was a little child of about six, who only lately came to us from Mingenew, and succumbed to measles, which came upon her while in a weak state of health.

There were no less than 20 of the children suffering from this complaint, which is said to be more severe upon the natives than upon white people. At all events a few of the children suffered severely, and

it was only through the unremitting care of the Matron and Dr. Gill that one tiny girl of four was saved. Although there are several children whose constitutions are far from strong, yet the health of the inmates generally is very good indeed. At present there is only one girl in the Hospital, who was admitted on 18th April, suffering from consumption.

#### Conduct.

The behaviour of the children has been exceedingly good, and reflects great credit upon the Staff, who display great patience and affection in the management and control of them.

#### Recreation.

The children have had their usual outings, having been twice to Perth on a launch, upon one occasion paying their annual visit to the Zoo. They have also been entertained by Mrs. S. A. Brown, where they spent a most enjoyable afternoon.

#### Improvements.

Plans are being prepared for a new building, for the erection of which we shall need the liberal support of our many friends. We hope to arrange for the erection of a portion of the scheme during the coming year, and, as time goes on, gradually to complete the whole structure; but at present our resources are small and have been sadly crippled by the economy of the State.

Our proposed venture on a new building will only be possible through the liberal bequest of the late Mr. McKellar.

#### Staff.

The position of Matron is now occupied by Miss Price, and Miss Parker (who has been transferred from Redhill) is Housekeeper. These ladies took charge on June 1st, and had a most severe trial to begin with, owing to the event of the measles in the midst of very wet weather, and they are to be congratulated upon the splendid manner in which they responded to the call.

The Misses Mackintosh, who had for so many years carried on the work with such excellent results, finally decided to retire and enjoy a well earned rest. The Committee appreciate very highly the admirable manner in which their duties have been discharged, and consider that the Institution has been singularly fortunate in having had the services of two such trustworthy officers for so long a period. The best wishes of all who are interested in the Mission will, we are sure, be accorded these ladies for their future welfare.

A. BURTON,  
Manager.

The Rectory,  
The Swan, 8th July, 1908.

Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the year ending 30th June 1908  
Corporate Author: Western Australia. Chief Protector of Aborigines

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