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REPORT OF THE ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1941.

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Aborigines Protection Board, Adelaide, 30th August, 1941.

To His Excellency SIR CHARLES MALCOLM BARCLAY-HARVEY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor in and over the State of South Australia and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency :

We do ourselves the honour to submit the annual report of the Aborigines Protection Board for the year ended 30th June, 1941.

During the year the Board gave special consideration to matters of policy, and, with a view to helping the aborigines to become independent and useful members of the community, the following programme was adopted :—

1. The provision of vocational training at the end of school years to fit young persons to obtain their livelihood in the community along the lines of station and farm work, and in handicrafts, such as plumbing, sheetmetal work, carpentry and joinery, blacksmithing, bootmaking and repairs, etc.

2. The provision of suitable employment for able-bodied persons, including those living on Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations, who are considered to be capable of earning their living in appropriate Government departments or in the general community.

3. Measures to be taken to refit, when possible, houses now in occupation, and to provide the most suitable, home-like, and at the same time least expensive dwellings that will meet the requirements of the inmates of Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations.

4. Advice to be obtained as to the best use that can be made of the water in Lake Alexandrina to make Point McLeay Station more self-supporting.

5. Development of areas reserved for aborigines so as to produce on each reserve as much as possible of the requirements of the inmates. The activities suggested are :—Farming, dairying, gardening, poultry raising, fishing, and also spinning and weaving, mat and rug making, basketware, clothing for home use, etc.

6. The acquisition of suitable blocks of land on the river or in coastal districts for homesteads and community establishments.

7. Medical survey of the health of the aborigines in South Australia.

8. Provision of a ration scale consistent with local needs of each group of aborigines.

In addition to the foregoing the Board also agreed that :—

(a) Operations of stations by religious organizations is preferable to control exercised exclusively by the Government.

(b) As far as possible, all tribal aborigines living under natural conditions should be protected from being detribalized, inasmuch as experience shows that such detribalization, in spite of all efforts, leads inevitably towards the extinction of the race through lack of interest in life, miscegenation, the introduction of European diseases, and under nourishment.

(c) To enable the tribal natives of the Musgrave Ranges to remain self-supporting, the land between the Reserve for Aborigines in the north-western corner of the State and the buffer Mission Station at Ernabella should continue to be attached to Ernabella as at present, or be added to the Reserve for Aborigines.

Steps have already been taken to implement the policy of the Board. An additional officer has been appointed to supervise the development of the lands reserved for aborigines, and considerable plant has been purchased to undertake the production of potatoes, vegetables, etc., at Point McLeay Station.

A matter of great importance to aborigines was the decision of the Commonwealth Government to allow them to participate in the benefits of the Child Endowment Scheme. Except in the case of nomadic natives, the aborigines will participate to the same extent as white people.

Efforts have also been made to secure a wider application to aborigines of old age and invalid pensions and the maternity allowance. It is hoped that all aborigines living under European conditions will eventually participate in these benefits.

EXEMPTIONS.

Unconditional exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Act was granted by the Board to 97 persons, and 59 others were exempted on probation.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

The following figures are taken from particulars supplied to the Government Statist by police officers, missionaries, station owners and managers. The total aboriginal population on the 30th June, 1941, namely 5,018, represents a net increase of 64 as compared with last year. The numbers recorded vary from year to year, the nomadic habits of the aborigines preclude the possibility of an accurate census.

The classification of those recorded on the 30th June, 1941, are as follows:—

	Full-blood.		Half-castes.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
On Mission Stations—							
In employment	24	21	181	17	205	38	243
Others	230	242	365	513	595	755	1,350
Others in employment	279	121	203	64	482	185	667
Dependants of employed	171	170	100	146	271	316	587
All other	759	781	297	334	1,056	1,115	2,171
Grand Total	1,463	1,335	1,146	1,074	2,609	2,409	5,018
Adults	1,092	1,009	700	569	1,742	1,528	3,270
Children	371	326	446	505	867	881	1,748

Reports from Protectors, managers, and missionaries, and also a statement of receipts and expenditure of the department, and income and expenditure statements of the Point McLeay and Point Pearce Stations are appended.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

M. McINTOSH,	} Aborigines Protection Board.
J. B. CLELAND,	
CONSTANCE M. COOKE,	
A. M. JOHNSTON,	
S. T. C. BEST,	
CHARLES DUGUID, LEN. J. COOK,	

Inspector S. R. Parsonage, reporting on the aborigines in the Northern and Western Police Districts, states that the general health of the natives in those areas has shown great improvement compared with the previous year. There is an abundance of natural food and game in the greater part of the district. There is also plenty of work available on farms and stations.

Port Augusta "Umewarra" Mission.—The establishment of the new reserve at Port Augusta has resulted in a marked improvement on the conditions which prevailed at the old camp site. A number of neat huts of a uniform design have been erected, and improved water supply and sanitation provided. A hut is in course of erection for the accommodation and treatment of minor cases of sickness.

The mission has established a dormitory with several children in residence. The homelike atmosphere of this institution, which is supervised by the missionary and his wife, is exercising a beneficent influence on the young people of the mission. Parents may now leave their children in the home while they are engaged on pastoral work on surrounding stations.

Ernabella Mission (Presbyterian).—The superintendent reports that the conduct and health of the natives at Ernabella has been satisfactory. The mission, with the Rev. J. R. B. Love as superintendent, continues to render valuable service in protecting the natives living in the adjacent reserves, providing medical attention, and also by instructing them in moral principles. Notwithstanding the nomadic habits of the Ernabella natives, the educational work has proceeded very satisfactorily.

The United Aborigines Mission, Ooldea.—The superintendent states that the usual activities and medical work has been effectively performed under the guidance of officers of the Australian Aerial Medical Services at Alice Springs and Kalgoorlie.

The school work has proceeded satisfactorily, with an average attendance of 40 children. Miss Nellie Lester, a native girl, has been appointed assistant teacher at Ooldea.

The United Aborigines Mission, Nepubunna.—The superintendent reports very favourably on the conduct of the aborigines in residence. There was practically no unemployment. Men unfit to engage in ordinary pastoral work undertook rabbit trapping as a means of livelihood.

The United Aborigines Mission, Finnis Springs.—A new school building was completed and opened for use during the year. The bricks used in the building were made by the aborigines under the supervision of the superintendent.

In addition to the ordinary school curriculum, the girls were instructed in domestic arts, dressmaking, etc. The boys are being trained for employment as stockmen and drovers.

The United Aborigines Mission, Colebrook Home, Quorn.—Matron Hyde reports that 31 children are in residence at the home. Children of suitable age attend the Quorn Primary School. Three older children are attending the Quorn High School.

The United Aborigines Mission, Swan Reach.—The majority of the able-bodied men were employed in the wood-cutting industry near Swan Reach; others secured casual employment as drovers and shearers. The women and girls were instructed in knitting, sewing, and domestic work; one trained girl was placed in domestic employment.

The health of the natives has shown considerable improvement compared with last year. The school work has continued satisfactorily with 14 scholars in attendance. The superintendent reports that the conduct of the natives has been very good.

Lutheran Mission, Koonibba.—The superintendent's report indicates a very satisfactory year. The natives were conscientious in their religious duties, and also in the performance of their daily work.

A new school building was erected, and is exceptionally well equipped. The Government contributed £200 towards the cost of the building.

There are 51 children in the home at Koonibba, and the officers of this institution are doing good work in training the children to become useful citizens.

Returns to the mission for wheat and wool were very good. There was ample employment for the able-bodied aborigines on surrounding farms and stations. Other aborigines secured good returns by engaging in trapping rabbits.

Point McLeay Station.—The harvest returns showed a slight falling off due to adverse seasonal conditions. Returns from the dairy were fairly satisfactory.

Fresh water is now available in Lake Alexandrina, and it is proposed to develop suitable areas of land with a view to producing as much as possible of the local food requirements. Vegetables, fruit, potatoes, and green fodders will then be grown under irrigation.

There was a slight decline in population. Although the general health of natives has been very satisfactory, Sister McKenzie experienced a busy year. There were 29 births during the period under review.

The educational work has proceeded at the usual high standard. A Red Cross Circle consisting of the wives of the officers and the native women was formed, and the sum of £100 was raised for patriotic purposes. Improvements in housing conditions were effected and further improvements will be made this year.

Point Pearce Station.—The manager reports that, owing to a long dry period, the harvest returns were the poorest on record. Notwithstanding the dry conditions the returns for wool were very satisfactory. Several new wells were excavated, and, in some cases, a good supply of water was discovered.

The district council inspector's report indicates that the sanitary conditions on the station are very satisfactory. This fact is reflected in the general health of the community, which has been very good. The medical, educational, and religious services have been maintained as usual.

Fences, boats, implements, and vehicles, and also the public buildings on the station, have been maintained in good order, and improvements effected in the housing conditions.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE—ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT, YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1941.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Point Pearce Station—								Head Office—							
From sales of produce, etc.....	5,423	18	11					Salaries	1,295	11	1				
From store sales	3,421	14	11					Provisions—blankets, clothing, medical, dental and optical expenses, transport, etc.	7,999	19	8				
				8,845	13	10		Boarding home for aboriginal women, etc.	189	10	6				
Point McLeay Station—								Training half-caste girls for domestic service	137	0	0				
From sales of produce, etc.....	2,059	12	7					Koonibba school building	200	0	0				
From store sales	3,658	4	0					Grant to Ernabella Mission for ration store	50	0	0				
				5,717	16	7		Superannuation Fund pensions	127	16	0				
Refund of Flour Tax, advances for fares, etc.				538	19	10			9,999	17	3				
Cost of aboriginals to the South Australian Government for the 12 months ended 30th June, 1941.	23,146	7	8					Point Pearce Station—							
								Salaries and wages	6,343	6	0				
								Implements, stock, fertilizers, etc... ..	4,697	14	11				
								New cottages	308	7	11				
								Purchase and expenses for store....	3,735	1	3				
									15,084	10	1				
								Point McLeay Station—							
								Salaries and wages	5,124	18	9				
								Implements, stock, fertilizers, etc... ..	4,579	4	6				
								Rent of section, hundred of Baker.. ..	41	15	9				
								New cottages	249	15	5				
								Purchases and expenses for stores ..	3,168	16	2				
									13,164	10	7				
									£38,248	17	11				
									£38,248	17	11				

30th August, 1941.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1941.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance—Excess of income over expenditure, account trading store	—			214	10	1		By Trading Store Account	—		214	10	1
Station Accounts.								Station Accounts.					
To Farm expenses	—			649	1	6		By Cattle	756	7	2		
Horses	—			17	10	0		Sheep	685	6	6		
Salaries	694	19	8					Pigs	177	18	2		
Wages	1,977	16	8								1,619	11	10
				2,672	16	4		Balance—Excess of expenditure over income—Station accounts	—		2,124	10	10
Head office salaries and expenses ..	—			69	12	5		Institution Accounts.					
Rent—Hundred of Baker	—			41	15	9		By Balance—Excess of expenditure over income	—		5,383	6	3
Accident insurance	—			19	13	6							
Depreciation—													
Implements, vehicles, etc.	250	14	3										
Harness	22	18	11										
				273	13	2							
Institution Accounts.													
To Salaries	414	5	1										
Wages	1,895	6	7										
				2,309	11	8							
Accident insurance	—			18	17	5							
Head office salaries and expenses ..	—			69	12	5							
Medical, dental, and optical expenses	—			534	4	2							
Rations	—			1,422	9	10							
Institutional expenses	—			533	9	6							
School books and materials	—			18	1	4							
Firewood	—			460	16	0							
Depreciation—													
Hospital equipment	4	10	10										
Hospital furniture	11	13	1										
				16	3	11							
				£9,341	19	0					£9,341	19	0

30th August, 1941.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1941.

LIABILITIES.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	ASSETS.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government Account	142,158	13	8						Station buildings	13,331	11	8					
H.M. Government Deposit Account	358	14	7						Cottages and hospital transferred from Pompoota	2,080	10	7					
				142,517	8	3			New cottages	1,684	7	8			17,096	9	11
Capital Account				5,612	8	5								3,630	0	0	
Sundry creditors				766	18	9			Land purchased	—					4,380	11	8
									Improvements	—							
									Implements, vehicles, etc.	721	18	0					
									Harness	50	0	0					
									Furniture	97	10	8					
									Hospital furniture	36	1	11					
									Hospital equipment	41	10	6			947	1	1
														117	14	1	
									Cash on hand	—					311	15	8
									Sundry debtors	—							
									Stocks on hand—								
									Store	417	9	0					
									Sheep	839	13	4					
									Cattle	705	5	0					
									Pigs	86	10	0					
									Horses	447	0	0					
									Farm stores, seed, super, fencing material, etc.	635	0	3					
									Institution stores	444	8	4					
									New cottages	57	0	9			3,632	6	8
									Excess of expenditure over income for the year—								
									Station Accounts	2,124	10	10					
									Institution Accounts	5,383	6	3					
										7,507	17	1					
									Less excess of income over expenditure account Trading Store	214	10	1					
										7,293	7	0					
									Excess of expenditure over income brought forward, 1915-40	111,487	9	4			118,780	16	4
															£148,896	15	5
				£148,896	15	5									£148,896	15	5

30th August, 1941.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1941.

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Balance—Excess of income over expenditure—Account Trading Store		—			187	4	4	By Trading Store Account		—			187	4	4
Station Accounts.								Station Accounts.							
To Pigs		—			242	8	4	By Horses		14	1	7			
Salaries		616	16	4				Cattle		107	4	5			
Wages		1,971	3	0				Sheep		2,803	10	7			
					2,587	19	4	Balance, excess of expenditure over income, Station Accounts		—			980	7	6
Accident insurance		—			15	8	9	Institution Accounts.							
Head office salaries and expenses ..		—			69	12	5	By Rent of school building		—			39	18	9
Farm		—			659	6	4	Balance—Excess of expenditure over income, Institution Accounts		—			5,743	16	4
Depreciation—															
Implements, vehicles, etc.		322	11	2											
Harness		7	17	9											
					330	8	11								
Institution Accounts.															
To Salaries		548	13	2											
Wages		2,980	14	11											
					3,529	8	1								
Rations		—			745	8	11								
Accident insurance		—			30	17	6								
School books and materials		—			44	3	8								
Head office salaries and expenses ..		—			69	12	5								
Medical, dental, and optical expenses		—			471	5	11								
Institutional expenses		—			892	14	4								
Depreciation—Hospital furniture ..		—			0	4	3								
					£9,876	3	6						£9,876	3	6

30th August, 1941.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS AT 30TH JUNE, 1941.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	ASSETS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
H.M. Government Account		109,002	4	3	Station buildings		13,823	11	4					
H.M. Government Deposit Account		331	11	8	New cottages		6,046	3	10					
Capital Account		12,930	1	7						19,869	15	2		
Sundry creditors		870	3	1	Improvements		—					9,665	10	8
					Implements, vehicles, etc.		1,977	4	9					
					Harness		109	1	7					
					Hospital furniture		12	6	9					
					Hospital equipment		11	7	9					
										2,110	0	10		
					Cash on hand		—					24	8	2
					Sundry debtors		—					111	10	5
					Furniture		—					130	11	2
					Stocks on hand—									
					Store		544	13	9					
					Farm stores, seed, super, fencing materials, etc.		1,582	9	6					
					Sheep		5,367	8	6					
					Cattle		472	6	0					
					Pigs		184	3	0					
					Horses		420	0	0					
					Institution store		245	12	2					
										8,816	12	11		
					Excess of expenditure over income for the year—									
					Institution ac-									
					counts		5,743	16	4					
					Station accounts ..		980	7	6					
										6,724	3	10		
					Less excess of income over expenditure—									
					Trading Store		187	4	4					
										6,536	19	6		
					Excess of expenditure over income brought forward, 1915-40		75,868	11	9					
										82,405	11	3		
										£123,134	0	7		

30th August, 1941.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

BY AUTHORITY: K. M. STEVENSON, Acting Government Printer, Adelaide.

*B No. 20.