

South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1922.



Adelaide:

R. E. E. ROGERS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1922.

REPORT.

Aboriginals Department,

Adelaide, October 12th, 1922

Sir—I have the honor to submit this my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the year ended June 30th, 1922.

Rations, clothing, blankets, and medical comforts have been supplied during the year to a number of depots throughout the State, and have been distributed by the issuers of rations to the old, sick, and infirm natives and to others found to be in poor circumstances. It is always a difficult matter to decide whether natives are in genuine need of assistance or whether they have been contributory through laziness or gambling to the state in which we often find them, without money or work, and having a wife and family to keep. The able-bodied natives, especially half-castes and quadroons, must be made to realise that they must maintain themselves and families without Government assistance. The practice of natives coming to Adelaide, spending all their money, and relying on the department to see them to their homes is far too common, and I intend taking a strong stand against this by considerably reducing the number of passes given from this office.

The whole question of how to transform these people, who are gradually becoming whiter, into a useful race who will be able to maintain themselves, is a very difficult and serious problem. It appears to me that the only way will be to start with the young children, and after they have been given sufficient education, to place them out in employment and keep them under supervision and see that they are properly treated. For the purpose of providing these children with the means of a little relaxation and to prevent them from feeling too lonely I would suggest sending, say, three or four, to one centre so that they could come together for conversation and amusement. It would not do to isolate them in employment for they would always feel lonely and dissatisfied, and from a dissatisfied person, whether white or black, little success can be expected.

The medical needs of the natives have been attended to throughout the year, the medical officers and hospital officers and attendants have all given to native patients every attention.

In addition, supplies of medicines for coughs, colds, and eye troubles have been sent to the depots and given out by the issuers of rations. At Point McLeay and Point Pearce the department has fully equipped dispensaries, and Koonibba is also supplied with medicines and drugs for their dispensary.

I have not yet received the census figures showing the aboriginal population, but as far as can be judged the approximate figures are as follows:—

Full-bloods, 3,779 ; half-castes, 982 ; total, 4,761.

The operations at Point Pearce and Point McLeay resulted in a loss of £1,750 9s. 5d. and £4,579 5s. 2d. respectively, which is a slight improvement on the previous year's working. It will be seen that it is a very difficult matter to make these stations pay their way when you take into consideration that there is at Point Pearce a population of 252, and at Point McLeay 351, all of whom are, more or less, dependent on the stations. Of the 252 natives at Point Pearce Station only 27 are full-bloods. During the year there were nine births, all half-castes, and three deaths, one full-blood and two half-castes, so it will be seen that the castes are gradually gaining ground.

The farming at Point Pearce is now all done on share-farming system, and some of the best native workers have been taken on as share-farmers. Particulars of the work done here during the year, the livestock on hand, and grain and hay harvested, are given in the Superintendent's report which is appended.

At Point McLeay Station the population is made up of 42 full-bloods and 309 half-castes. The births for the year were one full-blood and nine half-castes, and the deaths four full-bloods and four half-castes. Here also the half-castes have slightly increased.

In the term half-caste all castes below the full-blooded aborigines are included. The report of the Superintendent is appended. Even at Koonibba, where there is a larger proportion of full-bloods, 88 to 76 half-castes, there were no full-blood births and four deaths, and seven half-caste births and no deaths recorded during the year.

The Protector for the Far North, who is also Inspector of Police at Port Augusta, has furnished a very satisfactory report which shows that, generally speaking, the health of the natives has been good, and that they have been well cared for at the various centres in his district.

The following convictions were recorded against aborigines during the year:—

Obscene language	2
Drunkenness	43
Breach of Licensing Act	19
Mental defective	1
Unlawful possession	3
Indecent and riotous behavior	3
Resisting police	2
Cruelty to animals	1
Breach of Aborigines Act	1
Larceny	1
Murder	1
Total convictions	<u>77</u>

Fourteen persons were convicted for supplying intoxicating liquor to aborigines.

In spite of the clauses in the Licensing Act making it illegal for natives to be supplied with liquor it seems very easy for them to procure it, either directly from the hotels and wine saloons or, indirectly, through unscrupulous white people purchasing it for them. Only a very few of the crimes are of a serious nature, the others being either drunkenness or resulting from excessive drinking. The murder recorded was committed by a partly-civilised native in accordance with a tribal custom, and though he possibly knew he was doing wrong in the eyes of the white man's laws, he would not fully realise the seriousness of the crime.

The expenditure and receipts of the department for the year are as follows:—

EXPENDITURE.				
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
<i>Head Office—</i>				
Salaries	828	0 0		
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, &c., in connection with depots other than Point Pearce and Point McLeay	4,097	1 11		
Advisory Council of Aborigines, printing, stationery, and allowance to secretary	50	13 6		
<i>Point Pearce Station—</i>			4,975	15 5
Salaries and wages	5,464	3 7		
Implements, stock, stores, &c. ...	6,295	5 7		
<i>Point McLeay Station—</i>			11,759	9 2
Salaries and wages	3,287	0 0		
Implements, stock, and stores ...	5,466	13 5		
Rent of sections	41	15 9		
Repairs to cottages	26	13 1		
			8,822	2 3
Total			<u>£25,557</u>	<u>6 10</u>

The total expenditure is £978 17s. 7d. less than the previous 12 months.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station		11,701	19	1
From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station		4,926	9	7
Refund of advances to aborigines for rail fares, &c.		70	0	6
Contribution by Aborigines Friends' Association towards repairs to cottages		20	0	0
Total receipts		<u>£16,718</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>
This amount shows an increase of £1,669 9s. 9d. on last year.				
Total expenditure		25,557	6	10
Less total receipts		16,718	9	2
Cost of aborigines to South Australian Government for 12 months ended June 30th, 1922..		<u>£8,838</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>

I have, &c.

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Honorable Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1922.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Salaries of superintendent and storekeeper	468	0	0			
Wages of aborigines and white laborers	4,541	6	2			
				5,009	6	2
Rations for aborigines	680	1	4			
School books for aboriginal children	18	12	5			
				698	13	9
Horses	—				11	0
Interest	—				496	7
Head office salaries and expenses..	—				94	15
Depreciation—						
Furniture	5	18	8			
Implements, tools, &c.....	160	1	1			
Harness	18	17	7			
				184	17	4
Net profit brought forward	—			4,503	9	6
				<u>£10,998</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
By Store	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Farm account, wheat, and other produce	—			399	2	3
Rent of cottages	—			2,393	19	4
Stock accounts—				121	2	0
Cattle	88	0	0			
Sheep	1,495	4	3			
Pigs	62	18	0			
				1,646	2	3
Meat	—				177	2
Sundry debtors—Amount collected in excess of anticipation.....	—				7	2
Net profit brought forward	—			4,503	9	6
Balance net loss for year	—			1,750	9	5
				<u>£10,998</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>

**BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS
AT JUNE 30TH, 1922.**

	LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government	11,460	10	5					
H.M. Government interest account ...	947	2	6					
						12,407	12	11
Capital account						11,362	9	5
Sundry creditors						900	9	6
Net profit brought forward	4,503	9	6					
Less net loss for year	1,750	9	5					
						2,753	0	1
						£27,423	11	11
						£27,423	11	11
	ASSETS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings	8,780	0	0					
Improvements	5,170	0	0			13,950	0	0
Implements, vehicles, &c.	1,440	9	11					
Furniture	112	15	1					
Harness	169	16	9			1,723	1	9
Stocks on hand—								
Store	937	17	8					
Barley	28	9	3					
Oats	10	16	0					
Hay	1,800	0	0					
Cornsacks	90	0	0					
Wool packs	5	8	0					
Pigs feed, barley	14	0	0					
Binder twine.....	39	16	4					
Super.	18	15	0					
Bricks and lime	1	18	0					
Share farmers' seed and super. ...	482	0	0					
Livestock—								
Horses	1,182	0	0					
Cattle	952	0	0					
Sheep	5,251	5	0					
Pigs	102	0	0			10,916	5	3
Wheat certificates—								
1915-16, expected to realise	6	6	6					
1916-17, expected to realise	404	3	3					
1917-18, expected to realise	97	17	4					
1918-19, expected to realise	58	19	8					
1919-20, expected to realise	122	4	3					
1920-21, expected to realise	144	13	11			£834	4	11
						£27,423	11	11
						£27,423	11	11

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

September 7th, 1922.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT OF THE POINT McLEAY
STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30TH, 1922.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Farm	—	—	—	382	7	6
Boot shop, boots and materials ...	—	—	—	2	0	0
Horses	—	—	—	4	0	0
Rations for aboriginals.....	706	18	11			
School books for aboriginal children	11	6	11			
				<hr/>		
				718	5	10
Salaries of superintendent and storekeeper	516	0	0			
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers	2,750	15	0			
				<hr/>		
				3,266	15	0
Depreciation—						
Furniture	7	2	6			
Implements, &c.	67	3	2			
Harness	8	1	2			
				<hr/>		
				82	6	10
Rent	—	—	—	41	15	9
Head office salaries and expenses..	—	—	—	94	15	9
Interest	—	—	—	1,038	4	2
Net loss brought forward.....	—	—	—	17,331	3	11
				<hr/>		
				£22,961	14	9
				<hr/>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Store	—	—	—	543	13	5
Meat	—	—	—	90	1	8
Stock accounts—						
Cattle	44	1	2			
Sheep	78	1	10			
Pigs	292	19	5			
				<hr/>		
				415	2	5
Mats and baskets	—	—	—	2	8	2
Net loss for year	4,579	5	2			
Add net loss brought forward	17,331	3	11			
				<hr/>		
				21,910	9	1
				<hr/>		
				£22,961	14	9
				<hr/>		

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT McLEAY STATION AS
AT JUNE 30TH, 1922.

	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account.....	25,015	7	8				
H.M. Government interest account ...	1,859	16	10				
				<hr/>	26,875	4	6
Sundry creditors	—	—	—		285	5	5
Capital account	—	—	—		5,550	6	4
					<hr/>		
					£32,710	16	3
					<hr/>		

	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Buildings		4,429	1	3			
Improvements		2,034	1	11			
					6,463	3	2
Furniture		135	7	4			
Implements, vehicles, &c.		603	13	1			
Harness		72	10	5			
					811	10	10
Stocks on hand—							
Store		899	2	0			
Mats and baskets		3	9	6			
Boot shop, boots and materials...		6	0	0			
Farm account—							
Barley		0	9	9			
Hay and chaff		552	0	0			
Pollard		14	1	3			
Super.		2	1	0			
Motor spirit		4	16	0			
Livestock—							
Cattle		1,473	0	0			
Horses		308	0	0			
Sheep		51	12	0			
Pigs		190	0	0			
Fowls		2	0	0			
					3,506	11	6
Sundry debtors		—			19	1	8
Net loss for year		4,579	5	2			
Add net loss brought forward		17,331	3	11			
					21,910	9	1
					£32,710	16	3

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

August 29th, 1922.

POINT PEARCE ABORIGINAL STATION.

Port Victoria, July, 1922.

Sir—I have the honor to forward you the following report for the year ended June 30th, 1922 :—

We find the system of farming with our natives on one-third shares satisfactory, and are continuing this method. Our crops suffered in quality and quantity from the severe heat of last November. Our returns are—Wheat, 13,414 bushels; Pryor's barley, 3,771 bush.; Cape barley, 915 bushels; oats, 1,430 bush.; making total station share of grain grown, 19,530 bush.; hay, 530 tons. Hay now on hand, 600 tons. The wheat averaged 12 bush. per acre; barley averaged 15 bush. per acre.

The wool clip totalled 113 bales, from 3,002 sheep and 1,000 lambs shorn; total 4,002. The lambing this year was good; 1,085 lambs, giving an average of 70 per cent. The total number of sheep and lambs now is 4,852; horses, 80; cattle, 105; pigs, 51.

This year we have in crop 3,700 acres. Seeding is finished, and most of the crop is up and looking well. Splendid rains have fallen during May and June.

We continue to steadily improve our water supply. Two new wells of good water have been found in different parts of run where water was needed. These wells have been dug out and timbered, and will prove valuable.

Our men have been employed as share-farmers, builders, for rabbiting, fencing, stone-raising, wood-cutting, stone-picking, carting firewood, stores, grain, super., &c., milking, boundary riding, butchering, care of pigs, sanitary work, crossing sheep to and from Wardang Island, shearing, breeching, and dagging sheep. In addition to shearing our own sheep, most of the sheep in this neighborhood are shorn by aborigines. As usual the Port of Balgowan has given work to several of our men as wheat lumpers, &c. Our builders have completed large underground tank in Hughes paddock, built a store for machinery, &c., utilising the iron and timber of old school shelter shed for roof of same, also repaired store building and put new floors in several cottages. Most of our unmarried girls have been employed in domestic work, in the townships in our neighborhood.

The health of the people generally has been good.

Religious services have been conducted on the station weekly as usual by visiting ministers and laymen from the churches in our neighborhood, whose unselfish work we again gratefully acknowledge. Sunday evening services are also regularly conducted by Mr. D. Roper and myself. The Sunday school is in a flourishing condition; kindergarten is proving a great attraction. Mr. D. Roper acts as superintendent. The officers' daughters, with two native girls, act as teachers.

All the officers of the station continue to prove efficient workers in their several departments.

I have, &c.,

FRANCIS GARNETT, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

POINT McLEAY ABORIGINAL STATION.

August 15th, 1922.

Sir—I have the honor to submit the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1922 :—

We have had a very successful year with our dairy, the cows milking well. Butter has been a good price right through the year. Our rains did not start until later this year, and we had to hand-feed our cows very much longer than the year previous, but the cows have kept in much better condition than in other years. We have had installed a six unit plant Fidd milking machine, which I am very pleased to say is doing splendid work, and now that the cows are used to the machines they are giving more milk per milking than by the hand system, and I feel quite sure that when the flush of feed is with us we shall show a very much greater return for our dairy, and with a great deal less hands. With the machines we are employing one girl and two boys to do the work, and under the hand milking we employed seven hands to do the same work. We also find with the machines that the cows are so much quieter than when they were milked by hand. We also find the cows waiting to get into the bails instead of having to be driven into them, and since using the machines we have not had a cow with sore teats. Our pigs have also been doing well. We have had splendid results with our bacon pigs, securing good prices, both in the Adelaide market and for those which we have sold on the station. Our breeding sows have not been so successful this year as last; they have not had such large litters; but up to time of writing this report we have had enough pigs to keep our fattening sties filled. Our hay crops have turned out very much better than we expected, and the hay is of very much better quality than the year before. Our lucerne hay was much shorter in length, but we had a very heavy cut which made up the difference. Our lucerne paddocks are doing well this year and promise a good return, and we are saving one small paddock for seed so that we may have our own seed for future sowing.

The present crops are looking well; we have some of our crops sown on new ground, and this also is doing well. We have 20 acres of field peas: they are now looking very fine, and we hope next season to put in 40 acres; we find that this class of crop will do well at Point McLeay. We have also a splendid plant of grass on the big sand-drift and only in a few places is there any sign of the land drifting.

We have only had enough sheep for rations, but these have done well; we find it better to buy than try to rear our own lambs.

We have been able to find employment for a great many of our natives on the station with farm work, fencing, building, rabbiting, stone-raising, wood-cutting, and hedge-trimming, and other general work, but little or no profit has been the result. The contractor who supplies us with wood, and has done so for nearly 12 months, has employed a number of natives in cutting wood for him on his own scrub farm.

We find the wood question an ever-growing one, and some means must be found to reduce it, the amount being far too great; it has cost the station over £600 for wood alone the last year, and the only solution of this would be to shift our station, say, to Salt Creek, on the Coorong, where there is plenty of timber, and where more land could be set aside for the use of the natives. There is in this district alone quite 50,000 acres of very fair land fit for the growing of crops, with a 16in. to 19in. rainfall, the land also being suitable for the raising of sheep and other livestock.

The settlers would employ more of our native youths and girls on the farms, but they find that when spoken to they want to go back again to the station to be kept in idleness by their fathers and mothers, and until we have some law compelling them to stay in their employment they will always be a source of trouble to the station and to those who want to employ them.

The conduct of our natives has been fair. They are still able to obtain drink in a great many of the surrounding townships, but thanks to our police officers, who keep a keen eye on them, they have not had so much drink as in past years.

The health of the natives has been fair. We have sent a number to the Adelaide Hospital for treatment, and Dr. Linn, of Tailem Bend, has helped us very much indeed, he taking a great interest in the natives. We also thank the Chief Protector for the assistance in helping us when sending our sick to the Adelaide Hospital. We also have had several deaths of full-blood aboriginals, both male and female.

Religious services have been conducted on the station weekly as usual by visiting ministers, Mrs. Read, and the native helpers. We thank the A.F.A. for sending us from time to time ministers from the city, also Mr. Johnstone and Mr. Barber, of Meningie, and Mr. Sanders and Mr. Jones, of Milang, who take a deep interest in our natives.

All the officers of the station continue to prove efficient workers in their several departments.

I have, &c.,

J. B. STEER, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

KOONIBBA LUTHERAN MISSION.

Sir—I have the honor to respectfully submit the following report :—

On the whole the year ending June 30th, 1922, was a satisfactory one. The number of natives at the station averaged about 150, although at times there were about 180 here. The full-blood natives slightly preponderate. This applies also to the rising generation.

There are 10 families at the station, living in cottages especially erected for them, two cottages being added during the last 12 months. Most of the native women take a pride in keeping their little household neat and tidy, and their little ones are a credit to them. Four marriages were celebrated ; five male children and two female children were born. On the other hand we have to record five deaths, four of which were old camp natives and one an infant.

At the present time the health of the community is good. But there were two outbreaks of severe colds, which proved fatal to three old natives. In some cases of illness we experienced great difficulty in obtaining medical aid, there being no certificated doctor in the district. Medical expenses were, in consequence, abnormally high. Owing to the motherly care of the matron in charge the 79 children in the children's home are in excellent health.

As regards discipline, we passed through a short stormy period, but most of the permanent men were amenable to reason and showed a fine Christian spirit. That their training is not in vain can be seen by their splendid attendance at divine worship and their capabilities at the various trades and farm duties. With the aid of from 15 to 25 men (according to the season) we were able to crop 2,850 acres, of which we harvested several hundred tons of hay and a crop of 7bush. per acre. The bounteous rains filled all tanks.

There are 60 children attending school, which is ably conducted by our teacher, Mr. Bode. It was visited by the Director of Education (Mr. McCoy) and by Mr. Jeffries, the inspector. Also the Honorable the Premier (Sir Henry Barwell) and Parliamentary Party visited the school and inspected the station generally. On that occasion the children were granted a half-holiday after singing well and lustily.

The principle to Christianise and to civilise the natives has been continued and, as the above shows, not without success.

I have, &c.,

C. HOFF, Superintendent.

Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta

July 26th, 1922.

Sir—I have the honor respectfully to submit my annual report on the condition and general conduct of the natives in the Far Northern Division for the year ended June 30th, 1922.

The report furnished by the constable at Indulkinna shows that the general condition of the natives in that district has been satisfactory. At Lambinna a disease known as "Larikincha" broke out amongst them, but with one exception they all recovered. Six male aboriginals were found to be suffering from venereal disease. These have been treated by Constable Fox and have completely recovered from their trouble. At Granite Down station there are about 50 natives who require blankets and rations.

The constable at Mungeranie reports that there are about 300 aboriginals living in the camps in the district away from the cattle stations, possibly another 100 are employed on the stations in various capacities. There is no disease of a serious nature noticeable amongst the aboriginals. There are three natives mentally defective in the district who receive protection and assistance from other aboriginals. Since the closing of the Mission Station at Killappaninna about 66 of the natives have been living at Mungeranie. From the conditions at present prevailing at Mungeranie the constable at present stationed there is of the opinion that it would be advisable, in the interests of the natives generally, to have a reserve proclaimed for them somewhere in the vicinity of Kalamurrina or Poonaruna, on the Warburton River. This would afford them a good deal of security from the whites, besides they would be able to practically keep themselves on this country, where there is plenty of game and fish.

The wants of the old and infirm aboriginals in the Innamincka are adequately provided for by the supplies forwarded by the Government. The young and healthy natives follow their more primitive and natural manner of living by catching game and fish which, at present, is very plentiful on the Cooper River. There are no circumstances associated with the aboriginals in the Beltana, Farina, and Blinman police districts calling for special mention or attention. There are only about 13 aboriginals in the Mount Serle district, two being over 80 years of age. There are about 60 half-castes in the district, the majority of whom are employed on the different stations. Some of them have large families, from 8 to 10 children.

During the year a supply of blankets and rations was forwarded to J. D. McTaggart, Esq., of Nonning Station, for distribution amongst the old and infirm natives. A supply of blankets was also distributed among the female

aboriginals at Port Augusta, where there are about seven camped at present. A few blankets have also been issued to sick aboriginals when being discharged from the hospital.

A satisfactory report has also been received from the constable stationed at Tarcoola regarding the natives in that district and along the railway. The railway employees have not experienced any trouble with the natives. I understand that Mr. Davidson has charge of the ration depot at Oldeea, and attends to the wants of the natives.

Influenza has been responsible for the majority of the deaths recorded during the year, while syphilis has also claimed a few victims. The aboriginals suffering from this disease do not appear to realise the seriousness of the dreadful ailment, and unfortunately the majority of the sufferers have been victims of the lustful desires of some of the white people.

The offences recorded against the aboriginals during the year have been as follows:—Murder, 1; unlawful possession, 2; and drunkenness, 8. One person was convicted for supplying liquor to aboriginals.

On the 17th January last M.C. Fox arrested a native named "Wongacurra" for the murder of one "Konicka," a black gin, at Everard Range. The case was heard at the Circuit Court, held at Port Augusta in March last. The accused was found "Guilty" and sentenced to death, with a strong recommendation to mercy on the grounds that the murder was committed in accordance with tribal customs. The sentence was subsequently commuted to imprisonment for life.

During the year 10 aboriginals have been treated at the Port Augusta Hospital, seven of them were discharged as cured, two died, and two are still receiving treatment in the institution. The majority of the natives admitted to the hospital during the year came from the Marree and Farina districts, and, in most cases, at the expense of your department. Orders for rail fares on your department have also been issued at this office to enable the natives to return to their respective localities after being discharged from the hospital.

Credit is due to Doctor Gorrie for his care and treatment of the natives while under his care, and these remarks apply with equal force to the secretary and nursing staff.

Births.—Full-bloods—Males, 35; females, 22. Half-bloods—Males, 9; females, 5.

Deaths.—Full-bloods—Males, 17; females, 15. Half-bloods—Males, 5; females, 2.

I have, &c.,

T. B. McCARTHY, Inspector.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.