

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.  
NEW SOUTH WALES.



ABORIGINES.

(ANNUAL REPORT OF BOARD FOR PROTECTION OF, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1930.)

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Report of Board for Protection of Aborigines for the year ended  
30th June, 1930.

Office of Board for Protection of Aborigines,  
No. 5 Richmond Terrace, Domain,  
Sydney, 10th November, 1930.

The Under Secretary,  
Chief Secretary's Department.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the established practice, we, the undermentioned members of the Board for Protection of Aborigines, duly appointed under the provisions of the Aborigines Protection Act, 1909, have the honor to submit for the Chief Secretary's information the following report of the operations of the Board during the period 1st July, 1929, to 30th June, 1930, together with the usual particulars of the numbers, location, and present condition of the Aborigines throughout the State, and means adopted for their relief as far as the funds at our disposal would permit.

GENERAL.

Owing to the retirement of Mr. R. Donaldson from the position of Inspector, and the fact that his position was not filled until towards the end of the year, very few inspections were carried out during the period under review. Reports, however, secured regularly from the Police and the Board's Managers, indicated that the condition of the Aborigines generally, was satisfactory. The Board, however, felt the necessity for a larger Vote to enable it to house the Aborigines in a more satisfactory manner on a number of its Reserves.

It was found impossible to erect any new buildings, but the huts upon the Aboriginal Station, Cowra, were lined, while improvements were effected to schools at Walcha, Bulgandramine, and Woodenbong.

The usual issues of rations, blankets, and clothing were made to all deserving cases.

FAMILY ENDOWMENT.

As a result of conferences with the Commissioner of Family Endowment, the Board, with the consent of the Minister, agreed to take over, and be responsible for, the administration of all moneys payable in respect of persons having an admixture of Aboriginal blood, and up to the 30th June, an amount of £11,179 13s. 11d. had been handed over to the Board accordingly.

The change in the administration of these moneys became necessary owing to reports having reached the Department of large amounts having been squandered by the parents, the children concerned not receiving any benefit whatever.

The system adopted by the Board provides for the issue to the parents of the children of orders for food, clothing, bedding, optical, dental, and medical attention, and, in short, anything which is for the direct or indirect benefit of the children.

In many cases large amounts of arrears had accumulated, and after debts which had been contracted for the children had been cleared, there was in many instances a sufficient sum of money left to purchase furniture, kitchen-ware, crockery, and other conveniences, which thus considerably raised the standard of comfort of the families concerned. In a few cases where it has been shown that the parents could be trusted to expend the money in the manner intended, the cash has been paid to them direct.

It can be safely stated that the handing over of the administration of these moneys to the Board must result in a considerable saving to the Consolidated Revenue, as many of the benefits now enjoyed by the Endowed families are paid for from Endowment, whereas previously the Endowment was diverted to other channels, and the Government perforce had to make the provision from other sources.

#### ABORIGINAL STATIONS.

The Board has seventeen Aboriginal Stations at various centres throughout the State, which are supervised by Teacher-Managers and Matrons, who are responsible for the distribution of aid, the maintenance of a proper standard of cleanliness and conduct, and a general interest in the welfare of the Aborigines located thereon.

These Stations prove most valuable aids to the Board in the placing of labour throughout the district, and generally speaking Managers have found, until recently, little difficulty in securing suitable employment for those under their care. Periods of depression, however, result in an influx of Aborigines to the Board's Reserves, with a result that housing accommodation is overtaxed, and severe strain is placed upon the funds available.

#### TRAINING HOMES.

The Board maintains Training Homes for girls and boys at Cootamundra and Kinchela respectively, and these Institutions have been well filled during the year. Schools are attached to each, at which those of school age attend, and very satisfactory reports have been received from the Education Department's Inspectors, who regularly visit these and other Aborigines' Schools throughout the State.

In addition to the above two Institutions, there is also a Children's Home at Bomaderry, which is the property of the United Aborigines Mission, and is staffed by its workers. This Home is devoted principally to young children, who are transferred there, and kept under the supervision of the Aborigines Protection Board, which also supplies rations, meat, blankets, clothing, medical attention, and other miscellaneous assistance.

#### EDUCATION.

Special Schools for Aborigines are established at all centres where the Aboriginal population justifies same. Satisfactory reports are received from the District School Inspectors regarding their conduct and operation. A special syllabus is taught, which features particularly the teaching of manual work, and a standard is aimed at which is calculated to be of the greatest service to the children when they are called upon to earn their own living. Periodical medical and dental inspections are made by Officers attached to the Department of Education, and the Board arranges necessary treatment when the parents are unable to do so.

In numbers of Schools where the necessary facilities are available, a midday meal is also provided for the pupils, portion of their ordinary rations being utilised for the purpose.

#### EMPLOYMENT.

As already stated, able-bodied Aborigines usually find little difficulty in securing suitable employment, many of them being expert fishermen, stockmen, shearers, &c., but the prevailing financial depression has, of course, seriously affected them, in common with the rest of the community, with a result that the Board has been called upon to find them accommodation on its Reserves, and provide them with rations and other assistance.

The depression is also affecting the employment of the younger Aborigines, who are apprenticed to situations upon leaving School, or upon completion of their period of training in the Board's Homes. Quite a considerable number of applications for the services of these apprentices have been cancelled, while numbers of people have, owing to the same cause, asked to be relieved of these already in their employ.

#### REMODELLING OF ABORIGINES' RESERVE, LA PEROUSE.

Following on conferences which took place between the Board and the Randwick Municipal Council, action was initiated in the direction of having the Aborigines Reserve at La Prouse remodelled, and towards the end of the year finality had almost been reached in this matter.

The plans involve the cancellation of the old area and the setting aside of a new Reserve, which will be fronted by a park area, facing the beach. The plans for the new buildings are in the hands of the Government Architect, and it is hoped that during the next twelve months the whole of the work will be completed with funds which have been provided by the Unemployment Relief Council.

#### NUMBERS AND EXPENDITURE.

On 1st June a census of Aborigines throughout the State was taken, and the figures made available to the State and Federal Government Statisticians. These disclosed that in New South Wales there remain 992 full bloods, and 7,928 half-castes, in the care and protection of which an amount of £37,746 was expended, including items within the Votes of the Aborigines Protection Board, and of the Departments of Public Health, Education, Government Stores, and Resumed Properties.

## HEALTH.

The Board is again able to report a satisfactory year so far as health is concerned, as there have not been any epidemics. Every care is taken to ensure that proper Medical facilities are made available at Aboriginal centres, and the Board's Officers and the Police have authority to arrange admission to hospitals, or requisition the services of a doctor.

Stocks of simple remedies are on hand at all places where facilities exist for their administration.

## CONCLUSION.

Considering the period of stress through which the country is at present passing, the condition of the Aborigines may be regarded as satisfactory.

They are provided with housing accommodation, food, clothing, blankets, medical, and, if necessary, dental attention, and those living outside the Reserves may, if circumstances compel it, return thereto, and obtain every reasonable assistance.

In conclusion, the Board desires to again express its appreciation of the assistance it has received from the members of the New South Wales Police Force, without which it would have been well nigh impossible for the work of the Protection of the Aborigines of the State to have been efficiently carried out.

(Sgd.) W. H. CHILDS, Chairman.

E. B. HARKNESS, Vice-Chairman.

ROBERT DICK.

G. R. THOMAS.

A. W. GREEN.

H. J. BATE.

R. S. VINCENT.

} Members.

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