

170-101-1001



REPORT

OF THE

SUB-PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1879.

Crown Lands and Immigration Office, Adelaide, 10th Feb., 1880.
THE following report of the Sub-Protector of Aborigines for the year ended 31st December, 1879, is published for general information.

T. PLAYFORD, Commissioner.

Aborigines Office, Adelaide 31st January, 1880.

Sir—I have the honor to submit for your information, the following report in reference to the aborigines, for the year ending 31st December, 1879,

During nearly fifty years European occupation of this province, our intercourse and dealings with the native tribes have on the whole been characterised by a more humane and liberal policy than that pursued in other portions of the Australian Continent, and we have, in this respect, been happily free from the stigma that other colonists have laid themselves open to.

Of course, in a work of this nature, favorable results must naturally be of slow growth. Evidences, however, are not wanting to show that the efforts made on behalf of the aborigines here have not been wholly fruitless; some improvement at least has taken place in their condition. This is evident from the statements collected and forming part of the appendix to this report; they supply a good deal of interesting information tending to point out that a better state of affairs now prevails than has hitherto existed.

Civilisation has proved very destructive to savage life; when they first come into contact, it has been truly remarked that "The sun of civilisation extinguishes the feeble light of savagedom."

At the various mission stations a fair amount of progress appears to have been made, and the future prospects of these institutions are referred to in hopeful and encouraging terms. It would seem as if the new generation of aborigines were raising themselves above a mere animal existence, and becoming more susceptible to civilising influences, and showing an increased disposition to enter into useful and profitable employments.

The birth and death rate has been nearly equal. This is an unusual circumstance, as the records of previous years show that the mortality has invariably been excessive.

I visited the Murray district a few months ago, viz.:—Morgan, Blanchetown, Mannum, and Wellington. The natives had not all returned from the various stations at which they had been scattered during the shearing season; I therefore met with but a small number—about thirty; these appeared generally in good health and condition. I noticed only three cases of sickness among them.

The able-bodied find no great difficulty in making a living by their own exertions, and the depôts, which are sufficiently numerous and judiciously distributed, afford the necessary relief to the old, sick, and infirm. I would recommend that a few more canoes be supplied to deserving natives who have families and other relatives depending on them for support; this will relieve the depôts, while it assists these people to lead a life of industry in a way that accords with their natural habits and instincts.

A considerable sum of money is earned every year by the aborigines on the Lower Murray and Lakes, probably amounting to not less than £1,500. They do not, however, derive much real advantage from this—a few purchase useful articles, such as clothing, guns, and boats, but the majority squander the money, chiefly in exchange for intoxicating liquors. The blacks fall an easy prey to the enticements and

temptations which, I fear, are constantly presented to them by persons who ought to know better.

To put a stop to these practices would be difficult, but they might be lessened by the exercise of some stricter system of supervision. It might, perhaps, be worth while trying as an experiment, the opening of a branch Savings Bank at Point Macleay or Wellington, with a view to induce the natives to practise habits of greater economy and self-denial.

It is to be regretted that in former years an aboriginal reserve was not set apart for a mission station on the Murray, somewhere between Overland Corner and Blanchetown. Under the management of a society like the "Aborigines Friends' Association," such would, in all probability, have become the means of doing some good work.

By the loss sustained, in June last, of the Rev. George Taplin, superintendent of the Point Macleay institution, the aborigines of that and surrounding districts (numbering about 500) have been deprived of one who took an active interest in their welfare, and whose self-denying labors during a period of twenty years did much to benefit them; his knowledge of their habits, character, and languages, fitted him in a peculiar way to carry on a useful work and overcome difficulties that would probably have discouraged a less energetic and enthusiastic man. His studies and researches in ethnology and questions of an anthropological nature enabled him to make some valuable contributions to Australian scientific literature. The last work of the kind that engaged his attention, and which he brought to a successful termination a few days before his death, was editing for the Government a series of papers on the folklore, manners, customs, languages, &c., of the South Australian aborigines. Of the first edition of this work, published in August last, a few copies only remain on hand.

So far as the means at the disposal of this department will permit, every provision is made for the care of the sick. In most of the country districts the medical officers who have charge of the "destitute poor," are also appointed to look after those natives who may be in need of their services; in other localities special arrangements are made for the same object. In a few places, where the aborigines locate in considerable numbers, sheds have been erected to shelter the old and infirm, and to afford temporary hospital accommodation to the sick.

I have, &c.,

E. L. HAMILTON, Sub-Protector.

The Hon. Commissioner of Crown Lands, &c.

APPENDIX.—SUB-REPORTS.

Mr. Buttfield, S.M., Blinman, Sub-Protector, Far North, reports:—

It is my pleasing duty to again record the general good behaviour of the aborigines within my district, notwithstanding the hardships they have had to encounter during the first six months of the past year, and the effects of preceding unusually dry seasons, by which they were almost deprived of the use of native animals, the frequent and general complaint being "No butter; sit down along kangaroo and emu." Indeed, hundreds of native animals died from sheer want.

Beyond the limits of my district the blacks were more favourably circumstanced. In the Far North and North-West, the rainfall had been more abundant, consequently food was more plentiful. The numerous depôts established here averted suffering and privations which otherwise must have been entailed upon the recipients. As a rule, the depôts are under the supervision of gentlemen who dispense the provisions committed to their charge wisely and well. Very little sickness and but few deaths have occurred during the past year.

Reports have been circulated as to the miserable condition of the natives in the Far North and North-West. I have very reliable authority for stating that such was not the case. To meet the requirements of the aged, sick, and infirm, depôts have been extended North

and North-West. Many have applied to me for rations for certain stations, which I have declined to recommend. I have also opposed, to the utmost of my ability, applications for the establishment of depôts in centres of population, as I consider such a course detrimental to the interests and well-being of the aborigines and others.

The honorable Commissioner's perfect knowledge of the habits and customs of the aborigines renders it unnecessary for me to say it is impossible to get up a report of an exciting nature, especially when the natives roam at large over thousands of square miles of country, and are continually shifting from place to place, as generations before them have done. Many of the men find employment at the different stations throughout the year, and hundreds crowd the vicinities of woolsheds during the shearing seasons. Their cheques are, however, seldom of much value to them.

I trust the honorable Commissioner will kindly excuse the delay in forwarding this report, as I have been prostrate with sickness.

KOPPERAMANNA LUTHERAN MISSION STATION.

Mr. C. A. Moyer, Superintendent, states:—

The number of aborigines who have attended this station during the past year has been very variable, because they keep going and coming, and do not like to stay very long on one place; but, in spite of this, there has always been a fair number on the station, especially the young people, who seem to settle down more and more.

We employ the adults in shepherding, fencing, building, &c., also in hunting wild dogs, for which we pay them full price. Within the last six months, 235 dogs' scalps have been brought in. All our neighbors may be well satisfied, for if these dogs were still alive what damage would they have done, and still would do.

I am very sorry to have to state that up to the present time we did not succeed in growing any seeds of wheat, maize, or other sorts of grain. We never can depend on rains in this part; but we will not give up yet, for if we should succeed in this line it would be worth a great deal, as the aborigines could then constantly find employment, and see the use and benefit of it. We tried several times to grow the sweet potato (yams), for I believe they would answer very well in this sandy country, but I am sorry to state that we never could get good seed.

The natives have been well off this last year, as the old people get their rations from the Government regularly, and the young people could supply themselves with fish out of the lake.

The average attendance of children at school during the past year has been 25. They are making fair progress; but as they do not understand much English we now teach them in their own language, not forgetting to teach them in English also as well as we can. There is a fair number of them able to read and write in their own native language as well as in English. Arithmetic is also a branch they seem to be very fond of. The teaching of the children at school has been carried on regularly for several hours every day of secular and religious instruction. The girls make up all the clothing for themselves.

I am happy I can state that during the past year we could baptise the firstlings of these aborigines—twelve in number—seven males and five females. There have been also two marriages, one birth, and three deaths.

The general health of the natives has not been very good during the year, as they, all, with few exceptions, suffer from syphilis. It would therefore be very advisable to have some more medicine for them.

The buildings on this station at present are—Two schoolhouses, with sleeping rooms attached (boys and girls are taught and kept separate as well as we can), two mission houses, one store, one blacksmith's shop, and three little huts for married couples. All these buildings are on Lake Killalipanina, as we were obliged to remove the mission station from Bucaltanina to this place. At Bucaltanina, which is kept as an out-station, there is also one schoolhouse, one mission house, one store, and two huts for aborigines. At Kopperamanna there are two huts, making a total of sixteen buildings belonging to the mission. Our stock consists of close up to 5,000 sheep, 45 head of cattle, 49 horses, and 350 goats.

With regard to the conduct of the aborigines here, I wish to state that the majority behaved themselves throughout the year very well, especially the young people, showing themselves as being happy and contented.

In conclusion, I beg to express my sincere thanks for the active support received from the Government.

COWARIE, LAKE EYRE, FAR NORTH.

r. W. J. Paull, writing in October, states—
 could reply to yours of the 9th inst., asking for information about the condition of the blacks, I beg to state that it is only in seasons of

extreme drought, when confined to a few of the principal waters, that scarcity is likely to prevail amongst the able-bodied; and although we did not this year get the usual heavy summer rains, yet, ever since February there have been a succession of light showers that have kept the claypans full, so that the natives have been able to roam all over the country, and obtain an abundant supply of food. In fact, we have especially noticed during the last couple of months how very fat some of them were looking. In addition to the above I may state that the Warburton, which is as large a creek as the Cooper, taking the waters of both the Herbert and Diamantina rivers, has been in flood for the last three months. The Diamantina portion of the river having come down, and some of our black stockriders have deemed it a suitable time to have "a spell and walk about eat fish."

Just at this season the principal food of the blacks consists of fish, rats, lizards, and "waddaroo" (a long white root, something like a parsnip), supplemented by four or five different herbs.

At present there are only ten or eleven aged and sick natives in receipt of relief at the depôt here, although there are some forty or fifty blacks camped at the home station, whilst out on the run there are many other aged and infirm natives that, in a good season like the present, are not brought in for relief.

Last week fifty-eight men, in the prime of life, returned with red ochre from Parachilna, thirty miles south of Beltana, and a party of sixty from another tribe had previously, some three months ago, made their first expedition on the same errand.

In times of "starvation" red ochre is a secondary matter.

I have said enough to show that in this district it is an exceptionally good season for the natives, and until the receipt of your letter I had not heard the "faintest whisper" of their being privation among the blacks anywhere in the North, and I was on the Cooper nine weeks ago.

LAKE COONGY, COOPER'S CREEK, FAR NORTH.

Mr. G. B. Armstrong, reports:—

In reply to your communication of the 9th October, 1879, I have to say that the blacks on this run are not reduced to cannibalism, and I do not think any in the district are.

I have never known an instance of blacks eating human flesh for food. The black boys working for me inform me that when a chief dies some of the flesh is scraped off his cheeks with a shell and eaten as a mark of respect, and that near relatives of a dead person sometimes eat a part of the cheek as a mark of affection.

No doubt stocking the country makes it harder for the blacks to get food, and favorite spots may be overstocked with them.

Cattle and blacks cannot run together; and those stations which give the blacks a large run on which to hunt and fish have plenty of blacks in good condition on them.

We have about 500 blacks on this run, all in good condition, and many fat ones among them, and, I am happy to say, all well behaved.

I would very much like to get some rations, blankets, and tomahawks for them; the rations for the old blacks and kids (of whom there are a good many), and the blankets, &c., as a reward for good conduct in the others.

[Supply of rations, &c., has been forwarded to this depôt.]

HERMANSBURGH MISSION STATION, FINKE RIVER, CENTRAL AUSTRALIA.

The Rev. G. A. Heidenreich, superintendent, reports as follows to 1st December, 1879:—

1. *Number of Aborigines on the Station.*—It is difficult to name an exact number, as the aborigines will not remain located at any one place. Last year there were, off and on, larger tribes present for some time; at times, however, only a few individuals. We observed that they stopped near the river and station if no rain had fallen for a long time, but as soon as rain had fallen at some distance, and they were able to find food, they went to such places. We believe, however, that after the receipt of the rations from the Government for distribution among those that need them, a larger number of aborigines will remain on the mission reserve. They belong to different tribes; but the tribe which lived here for many years—the so-called Finke tribe—consists of about 150 persons.

2. *Work of the Missionaries.*—They have taken great pains to learn the language of this tribe, and have collected a pretty large vocabulary, and written outlines of grammar. This difficult preparatory work now enables the missionaries to work with greater success, and they endeavor to lead the aborigines to useful employment of their time. Many who made themselves useful on the station have received food, clothes, and suitable gifts.

3. *Number of Europeans on the Station.*—There are ten persons, viz.,

three missionaries (two of whom are married), two shepherds, one carrier, one wheelwright, and one child.

4. *Buildings*.—They consist (1.) of a dwelling-house (stone), 66ft. x 24ft., containing eleven rooms; (2.) a kitchen (stone), 20ft. x 16ft.; (3.) a store, with two rooms attached (stone), 24ft. x 26ft.; (4.) a smithy (slabs); (5.) slab building, 16ft. by 14ft., for the laborers and cartshed; (6.) a woolshed and dwelling for the shepherds, 40ft. x 12ft. The whole of these buildings are covered with reeds, except the kitchen, which is covered with galvanized iron. Sheeppards are now very extensive.

5. *Farming and Gardening*.—After many fruitless experiments we have succeeded now pretty well. Two gardens have been made—one near the station, the other in the valley of the River Finke. We raised lettuce, cabbages, turnips, carrots, melons, cucumbers, peas, &c. We had only 20lbs. of seed wheat, which we had sown on a quarter of an acre, and reaped four bushels. A small quantity of oats and barley sown gave also favorable results. Special attention was paid to the cultivation of maize, which looked splendid for a rich harvest at the time of the last letters. Twelve more acres have been fenced and ploughed, to be cropped at the proper time, and it is expected that the aborigines will at a later period be usefully employed about the crop.

6. *Cattle, &c.*—We keep 2,530 sheep, viz., 30 rams, 600 wethers, 1,100 ewes, and 800 lambs; also, 100 head of goats, 52 horses, viz., 1 stallion, 18 colts, 20 mares, and 13 foals. The 32 head of cattle consist of 1 bull, 7 bullocks, 12 cows, and 12 calves.

7. *Remarks*.—Last year was, on the whole, favorable. From February to August the Finke was flooded four times from frequent and heavy rainfalls. The country showed, consequently, rich food for the cattle.

The rations forwarded in June by the Government for the support of the aborigines were received in November last.

Special Report on the Finke Mission Station by Mr. E. E. Flint, Telegraph Stationmaster, Alice Springs.

In compliance with instructions contained in Superintendent of Telegraph's memo. 19/8/79, I have visited the mission station on the Finke River, and now have the honor to forward result of inspection.

My visit, and the object of it, being totally unexpected, I found things in their every-day form.

The site selected for the station is an excellent one, both for squatting and agricultural purposes.

The improvements consist of a main building 100ft. x 30ft., built of stone with a thatched roof. This is divided into three suites of apartments for the accommodation of the three resident missionaries with their respective families. Detached from the main building are other substantial erections consisting of mess, men's sleeping rooms, and kitchen.

The usual requisites of a sheep and cattle station are also to be seen, such as substantial sheep and cattle yards, woolshed, and large paddock recently fenced in.

An attempt has been made by the missionaries this year to grow cereals on a small scale, with a view to increased efforts, and judging from the result a most successful experiment it has proved. It must be borne in mind, however, that the past year has been a most exceptional one for rain, no such rainfall being experienced since 1872, and it remains to be proved whether, in an ordinary season, and with the small rainfall usually to be anticipated between the months of March and November, that wheat, &c., can be produced. Of this the missionaries seem very confident, and intend next year laying down 100 acres of wheat, barley, &c. Should their prognostications be fulfilled the time is not far distant when residents in Central Australia will be able to produce their own flour at less than one-half its present cost.

I have very carefully packed samples of wheat, barley, and oats, grown at the mission station, which I trust will reach you safely, as, apart from their value as local produce, a certain amount of interest must attach to them on account of their being the first cereals grown in the centre of the continent. These specimens are not selected, but taken from the crops at random, and before arrival at maturity.

On my arrival I found nine adult male natives living on the station, and learned that the number fluctuated from three to fifty.

This portion of the MacDonnell Range is extremely prolific in all kinds of native food. Intersected by the Finke River, which affords a large supply of fish, the surrounding country abounds with game of all descriptions, added to which yams and other edible roots grow in profusion.

To this cause must be attributed the difficulties the missionaries experience in keeping natives about the station. Again, the natives are of a different tribe to those in the vicinity of Alice Springs, and as the country has only been recently settled very little intercourse has

resulted with Europeans, consequently the natives are shy and retiring, and it will be a matter of time and much encouragement before the missionaries are enabled to depend upon the regular attendance of the blacks.

A few sheep have been killed by the natives, and the missionaries are reluctant to punish them, as they very sensibly remark that should they resort to harsh measures and correction, their mission would then be ended.

Without expatiating on this subject, I would remark that I am of opinion that the missionaries are doing all in their power to civilize them. They have had, and will still have, a certain amount of uphill work, but in the end will, I think, be successful.

Amongst other disadvantages the residents of the mission station have laboured under is their difficulty in mastering the English language, but this they are rapidly overcoming; in fact, now being able to speak English with a certain amount of fluency. There can be no question that natives understand communications made in "pigeon English" better than in the more guttural German tongue.

Mr. E. W. Parko (of Messrs. Parko & Walker, who own a cattle station seven miles from the mission station) speaks in most praiseworthy terms of his neighbors, and informs me that they are most obliging, and he also feels sure they are both earnest and painstaking in endeavoring to fulfil their allotted tasks.

In conclusion, I must say that I have been very favorably impressed by my visit, and erroneous opinions previously entertained are entirely removed.

I would therefore respectfully suggest that moderate supplies of rations and clothing be continued to the mission station for the use of the natives.

POINT MACLEAY NATIVE INSTITUTION.

Mr. F. W. Taplin, superintendent, states:—

The general conduct and behaviour of the natives during the past year has been good.

Many old tribal feuds are gradually dying out, the intermingling of the different clans at the mission station doing much towards establishing friendship and unity between tribes that in years past only met with hostile intentions.

Those of the natives who have been trained to habits of industry and usefulness at the institution, continue to obtain what employment they can amongst the squatters and farmers around us, the overseers at some of the shearing-sheds showing a marked preference for native shearers, as being more easily managed, although not so quick as white men.

The health of the natives has been tolerable, no epidemic of a serious nature having appeared.

The medical assistance rendered on the station is increasingly appreciated, and is made available as far as possible for all.

The attendance of children at school has been rather above the average of former years, the natives generally exhibiting an increased desire to obtain for their children the advantages of the institution.

The boys and girls are put to work, as they attain the age of fourteen or fifteen years, at whatever employment there is about the station suited to their ability, the boys showing more or less aptitude at learning farm or station work under the tuition of our overseer, and the girls domestic duties under the care of the schoolmistress.

The average number of natives who have been on the station during the year has been 141.

TATIARA—BORDER TOWN.

R. B. Penny, Esq., M.D., Medical Officer to Aborigines, reports:—

In April—The camps at Nalang, Wirrega, Cannawiggra, and Border Town are broken up, and the aborigines are scattered about the district at work. The main body of them are on a selection grubbing and lopping trees, and were visited by me.

There has been one death this quarter, that of an aboriginal woman who died in convulsions, she having been subject to fits for years. She had just returned from a station fourteen miles away, and I attribute her death to over-exertion, the weather being sultry at the time.

Very little sickness; all seem contented; and no complaints.

In July—I have visited the camp at Border Town, the only one in the district this quarter, and I am pleased to report no sickness among them, and they are more or less employed on the farms.

In December—I have visited the camp at Border Town, the only one in the district at present, where there are a few women and children only. The male natives are all employed among the farmers working at the harvest.

There has been no case of sickness this quarter. They appear to be contented, and, as far as I am able to judge, want for nothing.

The number of cases attended and prescribed for by me during the past year has been twelve.

NARACOORTE.

Sergeant Besley reports:—

No complaints against the aborigines have reached me during past quarter.

"Frank Lawson" and "Robert" died, the former from inflammation of the lungs, and the latter pleurisy and congestion of the liver.

Dr. Gunning attended them, and ordered wine, brandy, and butchers' meat for the sick, which was duly supplied. "Emma Lawson" was sent to Mount Gambier Hospital, but soon returned, as she could not endure the restraint and confinement there.

One "Jacky Jacky," suffering from hydatids on the liver, was very successfully operated on by Dr. Gunning, who extracted two pints of fluid from the cyst. I am glad to state he has now recovered. He received every care and attention from Dr. Gunning, and at the doctor's suggestion I engaged an old woman to attend him as nurse.

OVERLAND CORNER.

Sergeant Shaw states:—

All the natives about this neighborhood are now employed at shearing and about the sheds.

I have heard no complaints of misconduct, and their health is pretty good.

The opossum season has been a good one, but the natives have not, in my opinion, done as well as they ought. They don't get a proper price for their skins, and the agents and steamer people seem to derive the full benefit of their (the native's) labor by exchanging a lot of trash for the skins. There are a few who do better and get rations, but still they are got at by very high prices for everything.

There are no natives here at present (December). Some have gone to Chowilla, and the greater number to Morgan.

Their conduct has, I am glad to say, been good during the shearing season, and very little sickness prevails.

The bulk of those at Morgan are fishing, and those up the river will soon be employed in cutting down the Bathurst burr on the different sheep runs.

POINT PIERCE NATIVE INSTITUTION, YORKE'S PENINSULA.

The Rev. W. J. Kuhn, superintendent, says:—

I am pleased to state during the past year the health of the natives, on the whole, has been good, neither death nor birth having occurred. Ordinary ailments have been attended to by myself, still there have been some cases where I deemed it necessary to apply for medical advice.

It has been always a rule at the station to employ all able-bodied natives, for which they receive wages according to merit, and rations; their employments are ploughing, fencing, building, grubbing, shearing, and attending sheep, &c.

We had under cultivation last season 360 acres; unfortunately, the wombats destroyed over ten acres. The yield, though better than the previous season, is very light.

All the work is done by the natives, under the superintendence of a white man. I feel gratified to state that the natives have done all the mowing and reaping this season very satisfactorily.

Only the old, sick, and infirm natives, and children attending school, receive Government rations; they are supplied with animal food by the committee.

There are seventeen children resident at the station; eleven of them are of a school-going age, who have regularly attended school. They are instructed in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and rudiments of knowledge, &c; their conduct has been very good. After school hours I employ the boys in various outdoor work, so as to fit them for future usefulness; the girls are taught domestic duties.

Some of my former scholars are married, and keep their houses neat and clean, and are able to cut out and make their own dresses, as well as all kinds of garments for their children.

I am glad to state there has been an improvement in the general conduct of the natives compared with previous years, though there have been difficulties respecting drink which has caused temporary disturbance.

The average number of natives on this station during the past year has been forty-four.

KADINA.

P.C. Murray writes:—

A number of aborigines have gone up country shearing, and, subsequently, several have been employed in cleaning wheat amongst the various farmers about Kadina.

There have been some cases of sickness, which have been attended to by Dr. Robinson; one native woman was sent to the hospital, but would not remain there.

EDITHBURGH.

Mr. F. W. Allen, the issuer, states:—

The natives at this station are doing very well indeed. A large number of them paid a visit to their tribe at Edithburgh during the month (September), giving me an opportunity of seeing nearly all belonging to the district of Southern Yorke's Peninsula. There were none in really bad health, excepting one or two of the aged and infirm. Their general condition appeared to be very satisfactory.

In October he writes—

Old "Trowbridge Tommy" has been very ill with severe cold and rheumatism. He was in such a low state as to require Dr. _____ attendance, who prescribed nursing and medicines for him. I purchased a few pounds of beef and mutton to make broth for him, and he appears to be gradually recovering, although unable to walk. His age would be about seventy. An old man—"Ned"—died on the 20th inst. He was attacked with severe cramps in the stomach, and died in a few hours. I attribute his death more to extreme old age than from anything else.

The conduct of the natives has been exceedingly good.

POONINDIE NATIVE INSTITUTION, PORT LINCOLN.

Mr. Joseph Shaw, the superintendent, reports:—

With regard to the industry of the natives, I am glad to be able to say that, upon the whole, it has been satisfactory. Of course there are those, and perhaps always will be, who will take advantage of the absence of the overseer, and also occasionally sham sickness to escape a little work; but still there are men here who work most creditably, and can, I believe, hold their own with the ordinary run of European laborers.

We have two or three very good ploughers, and at a ploughing match in the district some months ago, the natives succeeded in obtaining all the best prizes, much to the surprise of every one, particularly of the competitors, who were farmers of long standing in the district.

We have also a man (half-caste) who has during the past year done almost all the painting, glazing, and carpentering of the institution. He is a most industrious young man, and possesses a great deal of natural taste and ability; some weeks ago he bought a few deal boards in Port Lincoln, and as he had plenty of work to do for the institution during the day, he set to work after working hours in the evening, and in a short time converted the timber into a neat little boat, capable of carrying three or four persons.

We had not quite so much wool last season as usual, owing to a number of sheep having been sold, but what we had was of good quality, and realised the highest prices.

The men are just now busy reaping the wheat, and I am glad to say it is turning out well, and there is every appearance of a good average yield.

The number of natives resident at the institution has varied from 64 to 84, and the average attendance has been about 70, including children.

The work of the day school has been regularly carried on by Miss Armstrong, who is very diligent and attentive to her duties, and under whose tuition some of the children are making fair progress. They are taught all the branches of learning usually taught in elementary schools. The average attendance for the year has been a little over twenty.

There has not, I believe, been so much sickness during the past year as in former years. The number of births and deaths is just equal, viz., four births and four deaths; three out of the four deaths were children, who died of lung disease, and the fourth was a young woman of twenty, who died of dysentery.

The wurley natives, who now number but few in this district, seldom visit the station except in the winter months. They will soon be all gone, as those who are still living are mostly old and infirm, and there are no children amongst them.

It is much to be regretted that the natives can obtain intoxicating liquors so readily, but I believe as long as the law remains what it is they will do so.

Unscrupulous persons will always be found ready to supply them for the few shillings they gain thereby, and the natives are too knowing to divulge the names of those who supply them. What is wanted is power to compel the natives who are found drunk to make known the names of the persons who supplied them.

The natives of this institution are remarkably well cared for, having all the necessaries of life regularly supplied to them.

A very skilful doctor also visits the station once a week, and dispenses medicines gratis to all who require such.

The natives are very fond of games and sports of any kind; and besides cricket and bagatelle which they indulge in, one night a week is set apart for dancing in the schoolroom, and in which nearly all, old and young, take part, and were it not for the rather heavy boots and bare feet of some, their graceful manner and movements would surprise many of those of our own people who delight in the "light fantastic toe."

TABLE I.—Showing Offences that Aborigines were charged with during Year ended 3rd December, 1879.

Locality.	Nature of Offence.									
	Common Assault.	Drunkenness.	Resisting and Assaulting Police.	Disturbing Public Peace.	Petty Larceny.	Unlawful Possession.	Murder	Convictions.	Dismissals.	Total.
Adelaide	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	8	3	11
Yorke's Peninsula	—	6	4	—	—	—	—	9	1	10
Southern District	1	5	2	19	—	4	—	30	1	31
South-Eastern District	3	12	2	—	—	—	—	16	1	17
Northern District	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Far Northern District	—	3	—	—	1	—	1	5	—	5
Murray River	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	18
Western District	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	5	—	5
Total	4	58	8	19	5	4	1	92	7	99

* Convicted of the murder of another native, and sentenced to death, afterwards commuted to imprisonment for life.

TABLE II.—Return of Number of Persons charged with any violation of the 17th clause of Act 22 of 1872 (forbidding liquors to be supplied to the Aborigines) during Year ended 31st December, 1879.

Name of Accused.	Residence.	Occupation.	Place where alleged offence was committed.	Date of offence.	Magistrates before whom charge was heard.	Result of Inquiry.	
Carl Muller	Mannum	Carpenter	Mannum	1879.			
Louis Lenz	Ditto	Laborer	Ditto	Mar. 22	} J. W. Walker and B. Walker, J.P.'s	Fined £5. and costs.	
Murdock Morrison	Port Lincoln	Ditto	Near Port Lincoln	Jan. 1		J. S. Browne, S.M.	Fined 10s., and costs.
L. Jenkins	Farina Town	Ditto	Farina Town	Jan. 18		J. P. Butfield, S.M.	Dismissed.
Thos. Phillips							Dismissed for want of evidence.
J. Robinson	Walleroo	—	Walleroo	Jan. 3	J. B. Shepherdson, S.M.	Fined 20s., and costs 10s.	
Mary Grace				Jan. 16		Geo. Glen, J.P.	Fined £5, and 20s. costs. In default 2 months' imprisonment.
Robert Jones	Ditto	Drainer	Near Millicent	Ditto	—	Absconded.	
John Hollon	East Wellington	Ditto	East Wellington	Mar. 10	R. J. Turner, S.M.	Fined £10, and costs 25s.	
John Tully				Jan. 18	Messrs. Gaskett and Bowden, J.P.'s	Fined 20s., and costs 16s.	
Samuel Hitchcock	Walleroo	Carpenter	Kadina	Jan. 18	T. J. S. O'Halloran, S.M.	Fined £2, and costs 15s.	
Richard Kemp	Mount Gambier	Barman	Mount Gambier	Feb. 5		Messrs. Landseer and Dunk, J.P.'s	Fined 20s.
Richard (half-caste)	Milang	—	Milang	Feb. 8	Messrs. Jones and Woolley, J.P.'s	Fined £2. In default one month's imprisonment.	
John Brown	Unknown	Laborer	Morgan	Ditto	Messrs. McFarlane and Wells, J.P.'s	Fined £1, and costs £2 6s.	
Joseph Esser	Coorong	Fisherman	Coorong	April 16	} E. C. Hughes, S.M.	Dismissed.	
William Riddoch	Wellington	Laborer	East Wellington	May 26		Fined £5, and costs.	
James Hatson	Traveller	Ditto	Ditto	May 30		Fined £5, and costs £3 15s.	
Murdock McBean	Meningie	Barman	Meningie	June 19	} E. C. Hughes, S.M.	Dismissed.	
Robert Porter	Ditto	Laborer	Ditto	Ditto		Fined £5, and costs.	
James Ryan	Goolwa	Ditto	Goolwa	May 17	Messrs. Dutton and Cook, J.P.'s	Dismissed.	
Adana Duncan	Milang	Cook	Milang	April 24	Messrs. Landseer & Livingstone, J.P.'s	Fined £2, and costs.	
James McFie	Crystal Brook	Laborer	Crystal Brook	May 7	Messrs. Harman and Debney, J.P.'s	Fined 30s.	
Jas. Davidson	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Fined 30s.	
A. Skinner	Murray River	Hawker	Near Blanchetown	—	G. W. Hawkes, S.M.	Fined £5, and £4 10s. costs.	
Hugh Hughes	Port Victor	Laborer	Port Victor	Sept. 27	W. G. McCullagh, S.M.	Fined £5, or one month's imprisonment.	
Robert Hollon	Millicent	Ditto	Millicent	Sept. 17	T. J. S. O'Halloran, S.M.	Dismissed.	
James Donaldson	Beltana	Teamster	Beltana	Sept. 19	T. C. J. Hantke and J. Kingsmill, J.P.'s	Dismissed with a caution.	
Stephen Pain	Riverton	Laborers	Near Rhynie	July 26	Messrs. Castine and Kelly, J.P.'s	Fined £2 each, and 15s. costs.	
Charles Eiston				Aug. 23	E. C. Hughes, S.M., & H. E. Wells, J.P.	Fined £5, and costs (two informations).	
Edith J. Eiburn	Port Augusta	Housekeeper	Meningie Hotel	Aug. 7	E. Gower, S.M.	Fined £10.	
John Heyland	Ditto	Blacksmith	Port Augusta	Aug. 30		Ditto	Fined £10.
Robert Roberts	Ditto	Teamster	Ditto	Aug. 7	Ditto	Fined £10.	
Thomas Mudge	Maitland	Laborer	Maitland	July 19	H. Lamshed and C. Howard, J.P.'s	Fined £10.	
William Brown	Port Victor	Engineer	Port Victor	Nov. 17	H. Hodgson and G. G. Reed, J.P.'s	Fined £1, and costs 10s.	
William Jackson	Ditto	Laborer	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Fined £3, and costs 10s.	
Michael Kelly	Edithburgh	Milkman	Edithburgh	Oct. 18	G. B. Scott, S.M.	Informations dismissed.	
James Usher	Ditto	Laborer		Nov. 16	J. B. Shepherdson, S.M.	Fined £2, and costs 25s.	
Charles Smith	Walleroo	Ditto	Walleroo	Nov. 29	Ditto	Dismissed.	
Ann Dumaresque	Moonta	Married woman	Moonta	Nov. 29	Ditto	Dismissed.	
Joseph Baker	Port Germein	Laborer	Port Germein	Dec. 26	Messrs. Goode and Warren, J.P.'s	Dismissed.	
Larry Querns	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Fined £1, and costs £1.	
John Roc, jun.	Willowie	Ditto	Melrose	Nov. 6	F. Stokes and F. McCoull, J.P.'s	Fined £1, and 15s. costs.	

TABLE III.—Showing the Distribution of Stores issued by the Aborigines Department during the Year ended 31st December, 1879.

Name of Depot.	Flour.	Sugar.	Tea.	Rice.	Tobacco.	Soap.	Sago.	Blankets, Single.	Blue Shirts.	Serge.	Miscellaneous.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.			yds.	
S. E. DISTRICT—											
Border Town	1,000	112	20	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	
Goolwa	14,000	1,750	288	112	50	224	—	100	12	96	{ 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 12 tomahawks, 20lbs. netting twine, 200 fishhooks, 20 fishing lines, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 4 axes, 36 spoons, 3 loads firewood.
Gulichin Bay	1,000	112	40	56	10	—	56	20	—	48	{ 100 needles, 1lb. thread, 6 tomahawks.
Lacepede Bay	4,000	500	84	112	20	56	112	42	12	72	{ 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 12 tomahawks, 27lbs. netting twine, 200 fishhooks, 24 fishing lines, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 3 axes, 24 spoons.
MacDonnell Bay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	
Milang <i>Closed</i>	8,000	1,000	210	224	50	112	—	40	24	96	{ 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 6 tomahawks, 40lbs. netting twine, 40 fishing lines, 200 fishhooks, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, medicine, 15 loads firewood.
Millicent	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	6	24	{ 6 tomahawks, 1lb. thread, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans.
Mount Gambier	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	
Naracoorte	400	112	20	56	5	—	56	20	—	—	
Needles, Coorong	12,000	1,500	248	336	30	280	56	60	20	48	{ 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 18 tomahawks, 40lbs. netting twine, 200 fishhooks, 36 fishing lines, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 4 axes, 36 spoons.
Point Macleay	20,000	2,500	412	336	50	448	112	100	36	96	{ 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 24 tomahawks, 20lbs. netting twine, 400 fishhooks, 36 fishing lines, 36 quart pots, 36 pannicans 60 spoons, 6 axes, medicines.
Penola	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	
YORKE'S PENINSULA—											
Edithburgh	2,000	336	84	56	30	—	56	35	12	24	{ 6 tomahawks, 30lbs. netting twine, 20 fishing lines, 100 fishhooks.
Kadina	1,800	224	124	112	30	112	56	30	—	—	
Point Pierce	8,000	1,000	164	224	20	112	56	100	20	48	{ 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 20lbs. netting twine, 14 pairs mole trousers, 48 quart pots, 48 pannicans, 24 spoons, medicines.
MURRAY RIVER—											
Wellington <i>Closed</i>	4,000	500	84	56	20	112	56	100	18	48	{ 6 tomahawks, 40lbs. netting twine, 200 fishhooks, 20 fishing lines, 3 axes, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans.
Blanchetown	2,000	—	20	56	10	56	56	30	6	48	{ 12 tomahawks, 100 needles, 1lb. thread, 24lbs. netting twine, 40 fishing lines, 300 fishhooks, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 24 spoons, medicines.
Mannum	400	112	20	56	5	—	56	20	—	24	{ 6 tomahawks, 24lbs. netting twine, 100 fishhooks, 12 fishing lines, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans, medicines.
Overland Corner <i>Closed</i>	2,000	224	40	—	5	56	—	50	—	—	{ 20lbs. netting twine, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans, medicines.
NORTHERN DISTRICT—											
Bungaree	1,000	324	60	56	15	112	—	20	—	—	
Bundaleer <i>Closed</i>	1,000	112	20	—	5	—	—	12	—	—	
Bimbarric	4,000	500	80	112	20	—	—	80	—	—	
Port Augusta	4,000	750	168	168	40	280	112	30	18	60	{ 100 needles, 1lb. thread, 12 tomahawks, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 3 loads firewood.
Port Pirie <i>Closed</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	—	—	
Clare	1,000	112	20	56	5	—	56	—	—	12	{ 6 pairs moleskin trousers.
FAR NORTHERN DISTRICT—											
Angipena	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	
Arrovie <i>Closed</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	
Blinman	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	60	—	—	
Blanchewater	3,000	300	42	112	10	—	56	30	—	—	
Coopers Creek <i>Closed</i>	2,000	500	—	224	10	—	—	30	—	—	
Cowarie	4,000	500	80	56	20	112	—	30	12	24	{ 12 tomahawks, 20lbs. netting twine, 100 fishhooks, 12 fishing lines, medicines
Kopperamanna	12,000	1,000	200	112	25	168	56	50	36	72	{ 12 tomahawks, 20lbs. netting twine, 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 20 fishing lines, 200 fishhooks, 40 spoons, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 6 axes.
Mount Deception	2,000	250	40	56	10	56	—	30	6	24	{ 6 tomahawks, 24 quart pots.
Mundevadna <i>Closed</i>	2,000	250	40	—	10	—	—	20	—	48	{ 100 needles, 1lb. thread.
Moolooloo	4,000	50	80	—	20	—	—	20	—	—	
Mooloolina	4,300	500	40	—	10	—	—	50	—	—	
Parallana	2,000	250	42	—	10	—	—	20	—	—	
Owens <i>Closed</i>	4,000	500	80	—	10	—	—	20	12	—	{ 6 tomahawks, 24 quart pots.
Strangways Springs	3,000	300	42	112	10	56	—	80	—	—	
Stuart's Creek	3,000	300	40	112	10	—	—	25	12	53	{ 12 tomahawks, medicines.
Umberatana <i>Closed</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	
Warrakimbo	2,000	250	40	—	10	—	—	20	—	—	
Witiatpa <i>Closed</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	
Yandamulla <i>Closed</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	
WESTERN DISTRICT—											
Coromandel <i>Closed</i>	2,000	250	42	56	10	—	—	20	6	48	{ 6 tomahawks.
Fowler's Bay	8,000	1,000	168	112	30	56	56	52	12	48	{ 12 tomahawks, 2lbs. thread, 200 fishhooks, 24 fishing lines, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, medicines, boat, anchor, and chain.
Franklin Harbor	4,000	50	80	112	20	56	56	40	12	60	{ 12 tomahawks, 200 needles, 2lbs. thread, 12lbs. netting twine, 200 fishhooks, 24 fishing lines, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans.
Hillaby, G. R.	2,000	250	42	56	10	56	56	30	—	24	{ 6 tomahawks, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans, medicines.
Poomadie <i>Closed</i>	300	112	20	—	10	—	—	30	12	48	{ 12 tomahawks, 200 fishhooks, 20 fishing lines, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans.
Streaky Bay	6,000	500	84	168	20	112	112	40	20	48	{ 12 tomahawks, 20 fishing lines, 200 fishhooks, 3 axes, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, medicines.
Three Lakes	2,000	250	42	56	10	56	56	30	6	24	{ 100 fishhooks, 12 fishing lines, 12 quart pots, 12 pannicans, medicines.
Venus Bay <i>Closed</i>	6,000	750	124	256	30	112	112	50	24	96	{ 12 tomahawks, 40lbs. netting twine, 40 fishing lines, 400 fishhooks, anchor chain, medicines, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans.
Wallianippie	4,000	500	84	112	20	56	56	30	24	48	{ 12 tomahawks, 20lbs. netting twine, 20 fishing lines, 200 fishhooks, 3 axes, 24 quart pots, 24 pannicans, 24 spoons, 200 needles, 2lbs. thread.
Sundry natives	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	167	15	—	
Total	174,200	20,392	3,658	3,896	745	2,856	1,512	2,071	393	1,379	

TABLE IV.—Return of Aborigines under treatment in Adelaide Hospital during Year ended 31st December, 1879.

Name.	Country or tribe.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Date of admission.	Date of discharge.	Result of treatment.	Remarks.
Joseph Newland	Goolwa	M.	26	Paraplegia	1879 Jan. 30	1879 March 4	Incurable	
Harry Tripp	Horseshoe	M.	35	Phthisis	March 15	April 22	Relieved	
Jacky Ford	Minlaton	M.	23	Phthisis	March 18	June 18	Died	
Harry Tripp	Horseshoe	M.	35	Phthisis	April 23	August 30	Relieved	
Nellie	Point Mcleay	F.	21	Constipated liver	July 14	August 23	Cured	
Wm. Fry	Balaklava	M.	—	Senile decay	July 25	August 4	Nil	
John Buffalo	Wellington	M.	30	Pneumonia	August 12	August 21	Cured	
Mary J. Bates	Mannum	F.	20	Bronchitis	August 18	August 23	Relieved	
Lizzie Buffalo	Wellington	F.	30	Bronchitis	August 18	August 21	Relieved	
Jack Murray	Queensland	M.	17	Præmia	Sept. 27	October 5	Died	
Paddy	Morgan	M.	40	Hydatids	Nov. 15	—	—	Still in hospital
Lilly White	Point Mcleay	M.	22	Catarrh	Nov. 22	Dec. 3	Cured	
Emily Chalke	Milang	F.	30	Retention of urine	Nov. 30	Dec. 1	Cured	

TABLE V.—Showing number of Births, Deaths, and Causes of Deaths during the Year ended 31st December, 1879.

Name of Depôt.	Births.	Deaths.	Name of Depôt.	Births.	Deaths.
Blanchetown	1	1	Brought forward	30	33
Blanchewater	2	4	Mundowadna	0	1
Border Town	0	1	Millicent	0	1
Bungaree	1	1	Needles	2	3
Bramfield	0	1	Naracoorte	0	2
Cowarie	0	1	Owieandena	1	0
Coralbignie	0	1	Poonindie	4	4
Edithburgh	0	1	Point Mcleay	12	4
Fowler's Bay	2	4	Point Pierce	0	0
Franklin Harbor	6	4	Port Augusta	5	3
Goolwa	0	3	Strangways Springs	0	1
Guichen Bay	0	1	Streaky Bay	1	5
Kadina	3	2	Stuart's Creek	2	0
Kopperamanna	5	4	Venus Bay	4	0
Lacepede Bay	2	1	Umberatana	1	1
McDonnell Bay	0	1	Wallianipie	0	3
Mannum	1	0	Wellington	1	1
Milang	7	2	Warrakimbo	0	3
Carried forward	30	33	Total	63	65

Causes of Death.—Burn (accidental), 1; cancer in stomach, 2; childbirth, 1; dropsy, 4; dysentery, 3; gunshot (accidental), 1; inflammation of bowels, 2; liver complaint, 2; lung disease, 28; marasmus, 1; murder, 1; old age, 7; puerperal fever, 1; paralysis, 1; stillborn, 2; snakebite, 1; unknown, 8.