

South



Australia.



# REPORT

OF THE

## CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1929.



Adelaide:

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REPORT.

Aboriginals Department, Adelaide, September 17th, 1929.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Sir—I have the honor to submit this my report on the working of the Aboriginals Department for the year ended June 30th, 1929.

Rations, clothing, and blankets have been supplied during the year to depots throughout the State, and have been distributed by the issuers of rations to the old, sick, and infirm aboriginals.

Owing to the drought in the pastoral areas, many able-bodied aboriginals have been unable to obtain work, and it has been necessary to supply them with rations. In many parts of the country the natural food supplies of the aboriginals have completely disappeared.

The medical needs of the natives have been attended to by medical officers and at hospitals. Supplies of medicines for coughs, colds, and eye troubles have been sent to the depots and given out by issuers of rations. There are fully equipped dispensaries at Point Pearce, Point McLeay, and Koonibba Aboriginal Stations.

ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

The estimated total for Australia is about 75,000. The figures for South Australia are 4,180, and the Government Statist supplies the following particulars:—

About June, 1928, there were 4,180 aboriginals recorded, classified as follows:—

	Full Bloods.		Half-castes.		Total.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Nomadic .....	798	716	133	130	931	846	1,777
In regular employment ..	374	212	842	117	716	329	1,045
In supervised camps ....	39	45	210	281	249	329	578
Other .....	206	222	151	201	357	423	780
<b>Grand Total .....</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>2,253</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>4,180</b>
Adults .....	1,098	930	502	404	1,600	1,334	2,934
Children .....	319	268	334	325	653	593	1,246
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,198</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>2,253</b>	<b>1,927</b>	<b>4,180</b>

POINT McLEAY STATION.

Births: 12 half-castes. Deaths: 1 full blood; 6 half-castes.  
Number on station: 25 full bloods; 279 half-castes; total, 304.

POINT PEARCE STATION.

Births: 1 full blood; 10 half-castes. Deaths: 9 half-castes.  
Number on station: 5 full bloods; 281 half-castes; total, 286.

### KOONIBBA MISSION.

Births : 6 half-castes. Deaths : 3 full bloods.  
 Number on station : 93 full bloods ; 102 half-castes ; total, 195.

### POINT McLEAY STATION.

The Superintendent reports that steady progress has been made in maintaining and improving the station property. The financial results are very satisfactory ; the profit and loss account appended to this report shows a loss of only £1,854 2s. 1d., which is less than any amount shown for many years. The net loss for the previous year was £4,027 14s. 10d. There are on Point McLeay and in its neighborhood about 300 aboriginals and half-castes.

The hay crop yielded 125 tons of hay from 160 acres. The number of sheep and lambs shorn was 757 ; owing to the fall in prices the wool only realised £280 18s. The returns for cream sold from the dairy were £400 8s. 6d. Pigs sold realised £280 10s. 4d. Some cattle have been sold, returning £136 12s. 11d., and, in addition, the officers and natives have been supplied with milk. Other sources of revenue have been sheepskins and meat sold on the station. Lambing is not yet completed, but average results are expected.

The housing problem is being gradually solved. One cottage of four rooms and two two-roomed cottages have been erected ; also additions and repairs made to older cottages and the Superintendent's house. All cottages have been white-washed and some painting done.

A vigorous policy of searching for water on the recently acquired block " K " has been rewarded by finding a strong supply of well water, suitable for both domestic use and stock. Two wells have been timbered and pumps and troughing erected, giving stock an ample supply.

The fencing of this block has now been completed.

The water supply for the village has been much improved by several 1,000gall. tanks being placed at native's cottages, also by additional piping. Sanitation has been improved by the increase of conveniences and fixing of covers to the seats to prevent flies having access to the pans.

There has been a considerable amount of sickness during the year, including several cases of pneumonia. Sister Cook, the wife of the Missioner, resigned from charge of the hospital, finding the strain of the dual position too great. Her splendid services were much appreciated. Sister Rayney succeeded her and fills the position very efficiently. Dr. Cornish, the visiting medical officer, is valued highly for his services.

Religious services and Sunday school under the leadership of the Missionary, Mr. W. F. L. Cook, appointed by the Parkin Mission, have been well maintained. Officers and natives have assisted in the work, and various classes have been regularly held for social intercourse and improvement.

Mr. A. L. Payne, who was appointed as Farm Overseer about 12 months since, has proved very capable and satisfactory. The Superintendent reports that all the officers loyally co-operate in work for the welfare of the station.

#### POINT PEARCE STATION.

The Superintendent reports that, owing to continued drought, the station has had another disappointing year financially. The harvest returns per acre were as follows :—Wheat, 2·52bush. ; barley, 7·9 bushels ; oats, 2½bush. The system of farming on shares was continued, and after making allowances for sharefarmers, the total station share was—Wheat, 2,645bush. ; barley, 3,875bush. ; oats, 300bush. ; total, 6,820bush. The returns for hay were poor, being 118 tons from 438 acres. It has been necessary to purchase additional hay in the district.

The wool clip totalled 82 bales from 3,255 sheep, 30 rams, and 537 lambs. The total number of lambs tailed was 750, being an average of 75 per cent.

The profit and loss account herewith shows a loss of £8,645 7s. on the year's operations. The loss last year was £6,240 11s. 3d. The continuation of the drought, with loss of stock and fall in prices of wool and sheep, are the causes of this large loss, conjoined with the maintenance of 286 aboriginals. It must be remembered that while a station or farm conducted as a business is able by retrenchment in wages, &c., to minimise its losses in bad seasons, this station has during such seasons a heavier burden than usual in its aboriginal population, as the natives have much less opportunity of obtaining outside work.

Harvest prospects.—The area under crop is about 3,000 acres. The crop at present is looking well, and should give a good return if the season end favorably.

A crude oil tractor has been purchased for this station, and is now being used by aboriginals for fallowing. It is doing satisfactory work and ploughing at the rate of 18 acres per day, which is equal to average ploughed in the past by three eight-horse teams. The cost per acre of oil is not more than 7d. per acre.

*Wardang Island.*—The programme of improvement of water supply has been continued. Two large catchments were erected last year, and this year three more catchments have been added. Although only light rains have fallen these improvements have considerably added to the water supply. In normal seasons the tanks will be filled.

Some top dressing of land with superphosphate has been done, but owing to the droughty conditions we shall not see much result this season.

Mr. C. Pethick, who for many years was farm overseer on the station, resigned on November 30th, 1928. He was much appreciated by both officers and natives for his many kindly qualities. Mr. W. W. Malcolm was appointed to fill the vacancy in January, 1929.

Mr. G. G. Miller, Book and Store Keeper, and his assistant, Miss Pethick, are capable officers. Mr. B. J. Grewar, school teacher, is obtaining good results. In addition to the usual subjects, the boys are taught wood work, and Mrs. Grewar teaches the girls domestic economy.

One three-roomed stone cottage has been erected by native builders, and additions and repairs have been made to older cottages.

Sister Richards, the nurse in charge at hospital, is very satisfactory. The health of the natives has been fairly good.

The work of the Anglican and Methodist Churches in regularly conducting religious services is much appreciated.

In accordance with your request, officers from the Efficiency Board and the Department of Agriculture have visited both Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations, and in their reports have given helpful suggestions concerning the management of these stations.

#### KOONIBBA MISSION STATION.

The Superintendent's report is included herewith.

Koonibba has suffered severely from the drought. The crops were a partial failure and the losses of sheep were heavy. There has been much unemployment, and it has been necessary for this Department to give more assistance in rations than in previous years.

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The Advisory Council of Aborigines continues to meet monthly. Mr. E. M. Smith, I.S.O., died during the past year. He was one of the first members of the Council, and always maintained a warm interest in the welfare of the aborigines. Mrs. W. Ternent Cooke has been appointed a member of the Council. Mrs. J. McKay was appointed during the previous year.

I thank the Aborigines' Friends Association for continued financial help in maintenance of nurses at Point Pearce and Point McLeay Stations.

Miss Elizabeth Hunter, who for many years was Matron at Point McLeay Station, has been appointed a Protector of Aborigines, and acts as honorary inspector of half-caste girls from Alice Springs who are in situations in Adelaide and suburbs.

The Home in North Adelaide conducted by the Adelaide City Mission for aboriginal women and children, continues its useful work, providing the necessary accommodation and oversight for these aboriginals when sickness and other reasons detain them in the city.

#### POLICE OFFICERS.

Inspector P. A. Giles, Protector of Aborigines, Port Augusta, reports :—"During the past year the aborigines in the far-northern and north-western portion of the State have suffered in common with the white settlers in consequence of the drought. Rabbits have disappeared, and the aborigines have lost a food supply. Foxes have gone on and away to other parts, and a source of income has disappeared with them.

"The demand for aboriginal labor on sheep stations is never great, and the drought has deprived the few of their employment; consequently, aborigines are more frequent in their requests for food and clothing.

"The health of the natives generally has been as satisfactory as in good seasons; their conduct invariably good. They are quiet and orderly, respectful and courteous; not one complaint has been lodged against an aboriginal for offensive behaviour.

"On the far north-west of Oodnadatta sixteen natives were arrested during the year for killing sheep and cattle with intent to steal the carcasses. All were imprisoned for periods ranging from six to nine months. No doubt the offences were committed in times of stress and hunger, and one must sympathise with them, but it would be extremely unwise to overlook these offences. Leniency would be construed as indifference, and if continued the natives would kill the stock without being in actual need.

"When in Port Augusta Gaol the aboriginal prisoners are provided with good food, clothing, and tobacco—three commodities that are almost unobtainable for them in the bush.

There is little work for them in the gaol. They sit about all day and appear contented. I do not think imprisonment punishes them. Maybe it creates a measure of awe in their minds for the masterful white man."

Mr. G. Aiston, Protector of Aborigines for the Newcastle District, reports from Mulka Well (which is situated near the old Kopperamanna Mission Station) that drought still continues throughout the district. Apart from a limited supply of tree grubs (*bardis*) all the aborigines' natural foods have disappeared, making them more than ever dependent on Government rations. Similar reports are being received from many ration depots in the interior, and, in consequence, many aborigines who in normal times were self-supporting are now receiving rations. Mr. Aiston says the rations supplied are sufficient, and no complaints have been received. He reports several cases of sickness which he has been able to help with suitable remedies.

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

Head Office—	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries .....	1,041	15	0				
Provisions, blankets, clothing, medical expenses, transport, &c. ....	5,447	13	4				
Boarding home for aboriginal women	187	0	0				
Advisory Council of Aborigines—							
Printing, stationery, and allowance to secretary .....		55	16	2			
Superannuation Fund pensions ....		164	13	4			
		<hr/>			6,896	17	10

EXPENDITURE—*continued.*

## Point Pearce Station—

Salaries and wages, &c. ....	5,888	13	10
Implements, stock, fertilisers, &c. . .	3,522	11	2
New cottages .....	369	14	1
Material for catchments, Wardang Island .....	458	13	2
Purchases for store .....	2,595	13	10
			<hr/>
	12,835	6	1

## Point McLeay Station —

Salaries and wages.....	2,937	7	9
Implements, stock, supplies, &c....	2,504	16	5
Interest and rent of sections .....	188	3	9
Purchases for store .....	2,076	11	8
			<hr/>
	7,706	19	7
			<hr/>
	£27,439	3	6

## RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
From sales of produce, &c., Point Pearce Station ...	2,922	16	4
From store sales, Point Pearce Station .....	2,867	10	7
From sales of produce, &c., Point McLeay Station....	1,978	18	3
From store sales, Point McLeay Station .....	2,219	7	2
Refund of advances for fares, &c.....	243	2	5
			<hr/>
	£10,231	14	9

The total expenditure is £1,426 15s. less than the previous 12 months.

The total receipts show a decrease of £2,815 15s. 4d. on last year.

	£	s.	d.
Total expenditure .....	27,439	3	6
Less total receipts .....	10,231	14	9

Cost of aborigines to South Australian Government

for 12 months ended June 30th, 1929 ..... £17,207 8 9

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

September 23rd, 1929.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, Adelaide.

## KONIBBA MISSION STATION.

Koonibba, July, 1929.

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

*Farming.*—In common with most parts of the State, Koonibba suffered severely under drought conditions. The crops made a fair start, as rain during June and July of 1928 was just sufficient; but later on the almost complete absence of showers played havoc with our crops. About 400 acres were not harvested at all, but fed

off. The fallowed ground averaged on 6bush., while the average for the farm was only 1½bush., and we were unable to cut any hay. We harvested 988 bags of wheat, enough for seed and feed. The October rain came too late for the crops, but filled most of our tanks, so that we had enough water almost right through. Grass did not grow too well, and the paddocks soon became bare. The continued dry weather together with the phenominal winds destroyed all dry herbage and caused much drift. Tracks, drains, and tanks, silted up. We lost about 300 sheep owing to the drought, so that our flock has been reduced to about 600.

Last year we had 1,610 acres under crop, made up as follows :— Five hundred acres fallow, 780 stubble, and 330 new land. Besides that a sharefarmer put in 560 acres stubble. During the year 570 acres were cleared and are now under crop. We fallowed 930 acres in June and July of last year. Besides 620 acres stubble were sown. Altogether 1,800 acres were sown by our teams, and 900 by two sharefarmers, grand total 2,700 acres. Since the rainfall so far for this year is only 2½in., the prospects are not too bright. In fact, the wind has cut the wheat badly. Rain in the near future may still save the situation, otherwise the outlook is black indeed.

Unemployment is very general, owing to the practical failure of crops on the greater part of the West Coast. Our natives cannot find employment among farmers, hence they all come here; but we cannot employ so many profitably. Our loss on the Farm was over £2,000 last year. We now let the men work for a low wage, just enough to buy food for themselves. The women and children are obliged to obtain rations. Right here I would like to thank you, sir, for supplying us so promptly with rations. We would not know what to do without this help from your department.

There has not been much illness during the year. So in spite of the scarcity of life's necessities our natives have been able to obtain all the required food elements. Kangaroo has played quite an important part lately in their meat diet.

Mr. Bode, our teacher for the native children, has 65 on the roll. This is rather much for him, especially since the children are no prodigies, and above all no Archimedes. On the other hand, singing, calligraphy, and drawing are subjects in which they excel. They would far sooner trace in detail the outlines of a mountain devil than delve into a mountain of book learning.

*General.*—In August of last year a scientific expedition under the leadership of Professor Cleland spent 10 days with us. Their object was to obtain as much information first hand as possible of a fast disappearing race. They worked only on full bloods. Their mode of living was recorded, blood tests made, sight, hearing, and language investigated, native songs recorded, intelligence tests conducted, &c. During the Christmas vacation another expedition, also under the auspices of the Anthropological Society, arrived and tested the full bloods as to requirements of oxygen and their respiration in general. We have reason to believe that some important results were obtained.



Just recently we had the privilege to take the school children by special invitation to our siding to meet His Excellency the Governor and party while they were making a tour of the West Coast. The children appreciated it, and some creditable essays were written about this trip, showing that the natives are very observant.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Obediently yours,

C. HOFF, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

*Profit and Loss Account of the Point McLeay Station for the Year  
Ended June 30th, 1929.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Farm account, dairy and other produce .....	—	—	—	444	3	3
Rations for aborigines.....	607	19	2			
School books for aboriginal children .	9	2	6			
Hospital rations and expenses .....	26	3	0			
				643	5	2
Salary of Superintendent and book-keeper .....	463	7	9			
Wages of aborigines and white laborers .....	2,004	8	2			
				2,467	15	11
Horses .....	—	—	—	42	10	0
Accident insurance .....	—	—	—	34	1	3
Depreciation—						
Implements .....	80	11	1			
Harness.....	16	2	10			
Furniture .....	6	0	0			
Hospital furniture .....	3	5	9			
				105	19	8
Rent of section, hundred Baker....	41	15	9			
Interest, &c., on lands under purchase	147	18	5			
				189	14	2
Head office salaries and expenses ...	—	—	—	113	8	0
Net loss from 1915-1928 .....	—	—	—	41,983	18	11
				£46,024	16	4
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Cattle .....	513	6	11			
Sheep .....	832	2	4			
Pigs .....	309	15	4			
				1,655	4	7
Meat .....	—	—	—	108	15	8
Store .....	—	—	—	422	15	1
Net loss for year .....	1,854	2	1			
Add net loss brought forward .....	41,983	18	11			
				43,838	1	0
				£46,024	16	4

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

*Balance-sheet of the Point McLeay Station as at June 30th, 1929.*

LIABILITIES.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
H.M. Government account.....		55,175	4 6		
H.M. Government deposit account .....		103	18 2		
				55,279	2 8
Sundry creditors .....		—		557	4 1
Capital account .....		—		5,550	6 4
Adjustment account .....		—		28	7 1
				£61,415	0 2
ASSETS.		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Station buildings .....		5,659	1 9		
Cottages and hospital transferred from Pompoota .....		2,080	10 7		
				7,739	12 4
Land purchased .....		—		2,122	15 0
Improvements .....		—		3,015	5 9
Implements, vehicles, &c. ....		725	0 1		
Harness .....		145	5 7		
Furniture .....		114	0 5		
Hospital furniture .....		62	8 2		
				1,046	14 3
Stock on hand—					
Store .....		414	3 2		
Horses .....		329	0 0		
Cattle .....		889	0 0		
Sheep .....		1,177	8 0		
Pigs .....		151	10 0		
Farm, tools, fodder, building and fencing material, &c. ....		397	16 6		
Skins and hides .....		15	4 8		
				3,374	2 4
Cash on hand .....		—		56	6 9
Sundry debtors .....		—		222	2 9
Net loss for year .....		1,854	2 1		
Add net loss brought forward .....		41,983	18 11		
				43,838	1 0
				£61,415	0 2



F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

*Profit and Loss Account of the Point Pearce Station for the Year Ended  
June 30th, 1929.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Farm and general expenses, wheat, barley, &c. ....	—				1,777	10	0
Horses .....	306	0	0				
Sheep .....	332	12	4				
					638	12	4
Salaries of officers .....	638	11	3				
Wages of aboriginals and white laborers .....	5,125	14	4				
					5,764	5	7
Rations for aboriginals .....	674	3	0				
School books for aboriginal children .	12	4	2				
Hospital rations and expenses .....	76	14	1				
					763	1	3
Meat .....	—				88	3	5
Accident insurance .....	—				67	3	6
Head office salaries and expenses ...	—				113	8	0
Depreciation—							
Implements, vehicles, &c. ....	137	16	1				
Harness .....	20	8	10				
Furniture .....	5	2	10				
Hospital furniture .....	2	0	10				
					165	8	7
Net loss brought forward .....	—				7,875	13	6
					£17,253	6	2
By Rent .....	—				18	14	7
Cattle .....	32	2	9				
Pigs .....	37	6	0				
					69	8	9
Store .....	—				644	2	4
Balance net loss for year .....	8,645	7	0				
Add net loss brought forward 1915-28	7,875	13	6				
					16,521	0	6
					£17,253	6	2

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aboriginals.

*Balance-sheet of the Point Pearce Station as at June 30th, 1929.*

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
H.M. Government account.....	32,871	3	8				
H.M. Government deposit account .....	466	12	8				
					33,337	16	4
Capital account .....	—				11,362	9	5
Sundry creditors .....	—				852	12	7
					£45,552	18	4
ASSETS.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Station buildings .....	10,324	13	4				
New cottages .....	1,603	13	8				
					11,928	7	0
Improvements .....	—				7,198	0	2
Implements, vehicles, &c. ....	1,240	5	1				
Harness .....	183	19	3				
Furniture .....	97	14	5				
Hospital furniture .....	38	15	11				
					1,560	14	8
Cash on hand .....	—				47	14	0
Sundry debtors .....	—				231	12	0
Adjustment account .....	—				28	7	5
Stock on hand—							
Horses .....	520	0	0				
Cattle .....	522	10	0				
Sheep .....	4,302	8	0				
Pigs .....	113	11	0				
Farm, seed, super., building and fencing materials, &c. ....	1,506	7	3				
Wool .....	26	18	0				
Sheepskins .....	11	11	0				
Store .....	1,033	17	4				
					8,037	2	7
Net loss for year .....	8,645	7	0				
Add net loss, 1915-28, brought forward..	7,875	13	6				
					16,521	0	6
					£45,552	18	4

F. GARNETT, Chief Protector of Aborigines.