

THE BOARD

During the past year, the following changes took place in the personnel of the Board. Mr. N. W. Drummond, B.A., the representative of the Education Dept., retired, and Mr. P. C. Price, B.Sc., Deputy Director-General of Secondary Education was appointed to succeed him. Later in the year Mr. Price resigned and Mr. V. J. Truskett, B.A., Deputy Director of Primary Education was appointed. Superintendent J. D. McAuley, representing the Police Department also retired, and Superintendent P. R. Clifton was appointed in his stead.

The constitution of the Board now is as follows :—

Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department
Mr. C. J. Buttsworth, (Chairman).

Superintendent of Aborigines Welfare—Mr. M. H. Saxby.

Officer of the Department of Public Health—
Dr. C. J. Cummins, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Officer of the Department of Public Instruction—
Mr. V. J. Truskett, B.A.

Member of Police Force—Superintendent P. R. Clifton.

An expert in Agriculture—Mr. S. Wyatt, M.L.A.

An expert in Sociology and/or Anthropology—
Professor A. P. Elkin, M.A., Ph.D., (Vice-Chairman).

Two persons nominated by the Minister—Mr. M. Sawtell, and Hon. E. G. Wright, M.L.C.

Two aborigines—

(a) one full blood—Vacant ; (b) one having admixture of aboriginal blood—Mr. H. Groves.

Monthly meetings were held during the year, when statutory business was transacted and matters of general policy discussed.

As yet, no nomination has been received to fill the vacancy on the Board for a full-blooded aboriginal member.

The Board could not function effectively without the helpful interest and advice of other State Departments, such as Education, Works, Agriculture, Health, Police, Lands, Forestry and the Housing Commission ; and the assistance of these is gratefully acknowledged.

Mention is also made of the valuable services rendered by church groups and local committees which function actively in many centres in promoting the spiritual and material welfare of aborigines. In addition, other organizations such as Apex, Rotary, Lions, and many private persons, have rendered valuable assistance.

Special mention must be made of the work of Apex during the year.

About two years ago the Association of Apex Clubs adopted as its National Service Scheme for a period of two years "Aboriginal Welfare" throughout Australia.

Jack Murray of Quambone

At the end of June, 1952, Jack Murray was helping a drover to muster cattle on a station in the Quambone district. That night was very cold, and Jack was camped out of doors with the cattle, ready to move the mob down the stock route first thing in the morning. The aboriginal stockmen built up a big fire, and rolled up in their blankets to sleep, except the boss drover who stayed up to watch the cattle. As Jack Murray slept, the wind changed, and the camp fire blazed away ; Jack was too near the fire, and his feet were burned badly. His mates rushed him to hospital in Coonamble, but he was too badly burned and the doctors were only able to save one leg ; the other leg had to be amputated:

You can imagine what a terrible thing it was for a stockman to lose a leg ; he would not be able to ride a horse again.

After a long spell in hospital, Jack Murray left on crutches. The Board helped him to get an invalid pension, arranged for a solicitor to apply for compensation for the loss of his leg, and most important, arranged for the Rehabilitation authorities to fit him with an artificial leg. It took Jack many months to learn to manage the artificial leg ; he had to learn to walk again. At first it was very painful, but he stuck to it, and very slowly he became very skilled at handling the new leg.

Instead of sitting down to brood about his ill fortune, Jack Murray next thought about working. He knew he could not manage a horse again, so he tried to work as a fencer. Fencing is very heavy work, but Jack taught his new leg to do what was required, and he became a skilful fencer.

Today, Jack Murray is still fencing in the Quambone district, and is a good example of a man who triumphed over a serious misfortune.



Ray Nolan, of Dubbo, went for a walk with this sketch.