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NEW

1920.

(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

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ABORIGINES.

(REPORT OF BOARD FOR PROTECTION OF, FOR THE PERIOD 1st JANUARY, 1919, TO 30th JUNE, 1920.)

Printed under No. 13 Report from Printing Committee, 9 December, 1920.

The Chairman and Members of the Board for the Protection of Aborigines to
The Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department.

Office of Board for Protection of Aborigines,
No. 5 Richmond Terrace, Domain,
Sydney, 28 September, 1920.

Sir,

In accordance with the established practice, we, the undersigned 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 January, 1919, to 30th June, 1920, together with the usual particulars of the numbers, location, and present condition of the Aborigines throughout the State, and the means adopted for their relief as far as the funds at our disposal would admit.

INSPECTORS.

During the period under review the majority of the Board's Stations and Reserves were regularly inspected.

Owing to the lack of funds very little in the direction of repairs and additions, erection of new accommodation, &c., could be attempted, but opportunity was taken to prepare plans, specifications, and estimates of work requiring to be done on various Reserves, and it is hoped that when the Appropriation Act for the current year has been passed by Parliament it will be possible to carry a number of these much needed improvements into effect.

It is regretted that at the present time the Board cannot report favourably regarding the condition of many of the Reserves where additional or improved accommodation is urgently required, in order to obviate overcrowding.

COOTAMUNDRA HOME.

At the 30th June, 1920, there were 45 girls in the Institution receiving instruction in domestic duties, &c. Thirty of these were also attending school attached to the Home.

The health of the inmates has been generally good.

Special attention is paid to the moral training of the girls, and each one receives the individual attention of the Matron.

From the Home the girls are drafted out into domestic service in excellent homes throughout the State where they are kept under strict supervision.

There are now over 200 girls in domestic service, the majority of whom have passed through Cootamundra Home.

The various townspeople take an interest in the Home, and the inmates are occasionally given an opportunity of distinguishing themselves in tennis matches, etc., arranged for their benefit.

Altogether the Home represents one of the best features of the Board's work.

SINGLETON

SINGLETON HOME.

This Institution accommodates an average of 30 Aboriginal boys who are taken from Reserves and looked after in the Home until they are of an age to enable them to go to employment, when they are placed out under supervision of the Board's Inspectors.

Owing to lack of accommodation at the Superior Public School, arrangements were made to erect a school building in the Home Grounds, and this is about to be opened under the control of the Superintendent, who has also been appointed to the dual position of Teacher.

Various necessary repairs and additions are being effected, and it is hoped that it will be possible to make arrangements for the boys to receive some extra training in manual work.

ABORIGINAL STATIONS.

Twenty-one (21) of the Board's Reserves are under the immediate supervision of Managers and Matrons; the Manager, in the majority of cases, also occupying the dual position of Teacher.

On these Aboriginal Stations, and where circumstances permit, farming and stock raising is carried on. The drought, however, seriously handicapped operations, and agistment country had to be found for stock from Cumeroounga and Warangesda.

At Brungle, near Gundagai, an area is regularly placed under crop, and during the period under review 43 acres were sown for hay. The value of produce, etc., sold amounted to £188, while hay valued at about £260 remained on hand. A new oil engine and chaff-cutter were installed, and a shed erected to house same.

Sugar-cane cultivation is carried on at Cabbage-tree Island on the Richmond River. Here the Aborigines have their own farms, which they cultivate for their own benefit, under the supervision of the Manager. £970 was taken off these farms from 1st January, 1919, to 30th June, 1920, while the value of the crop standing at the end of June was reported to be worth £500.

Maize is successfully grown at Grafton Station, which also carried over 100 head of cattle. A quantity of new wire fencing was erected, while existing boundary fences were kept in good repair.

At Kinchela, the Manager supervises Fattorini, Pelican Island, and Kinchela Creek Reserves, all of which are under cultivation for maize. The majority of the farms are worked by the Aborigines for their own benefit, but the Board itself works a certain portion. £808 was taken off these places, and £568 worth of maize remained on hand.

Towards the end of the year it became necessary owing to the severe drought to remove over 70 head of cattle and some horses from the Aboriginal Station, Cumeroounga. These were transferred to Pelican Island, where they are now picking up condition, and promise to return the Board a fair price.

Roseby Park is an Aboriginal Station on the South Coast, situated near Nowra. Little cultivation is carried on here beyond gardening, but the Manager, who is also Teacher, takes a special interest in the social life of the people, who are provided with a cinematograph entertainment every Saturday evening, at which the latest popular and educational films are shown. Sports are included in the weekly programme of amusements, and on public holidays, &c., teas and picnics are arranged.

Little in the direction of cultivation is done at Runnymede, as it is found that the Aborigines prefer to go to casual work in the district rather than settle down to a farm for themselves. Casual work provides them with more variety, secures prompt returns for their labours, and entails no risk. The Board, however, raise cattle and pigs, and sales during the eighteen months amounted to £137, and the herd was increased by 44 head. A number of cows are kept for milking purposes, milk being daily issued to the residents.

The drought was responsible for the temporary abandonment of Sevington Aboriginal Station, via Inverell, the residents being compelled to move to a spot near the river, owing to the failure of the station water supply. Fortunately, however, the recent rains filled all the dams and a number of wells, thus ensuring practically a permanent water supply.

Further hut accommodation and repairs to the Manager's residence are required at Terry-hie-hie, and it is hoped that funds will be provided during the ensuing year to meet these needs.

At Ulgundahi Island Station, on the Clarence River, the residents cultivate their farms, raise sugar-cane, maize, beans, and tomatoes, £133 being realised from the sale of these products. During the year a new plough was supplied, the motor boat was repaired and thoroughly overhauled, while repairs were effected to tanks, and cement tubs and a shower were fitted to the Manager's residence.

Oyster

Oyster culture is the industry engaged in at Urunga, Bellinger River. Here the Manager, who is also the local Fisheries Inspector, supervises the laying down of oyster-beds, and the Board now has over 3,000 yards of foreshore heavily cultivated with young oysters, and, in addition, the fattening beds are covered with over 100 bags of saleable oysters, which it is hoped to market during the end of 1920. A fishing-net was supplied to this Station some considerable time ago, and the Aborigines are thus provided with ample supplies of fresh fish.

The Manager of the Aboriginal Station at Walhallow reported the sowing of 29 acres of wheat and 13 acres of broom millet, but owing to the drought the crop failed.

The Manager of Wallaga Lake Aboriginal Station, which is situated near Bermagui, on the South Coast, forwards a satisfactory report. A number of inexpensive, but very necessary, improvements were effected, adding considerably to the appearance of the place.

Over £53 worth of wattle bark was stripped and forwarded to Sydney for sale, and four acres were planted with wattle seed.

Practically the whole of the cattle on Warangesda Station, near Darlington Point, had to be removed to agistment country, on account of the drought. As a result of this experience it is thought advisable in the future to concentrate on the breeding of sheep, as the country appears to be more suitable for sheep than cattle. A complete set of drafting yards for sheep, and a brick and cement sheep dip were completed, while the boundary fences were put into proper repair.

SALE STORES.

At a number of the Board's Stations there are maintained, for the convenience of the Aborigines, Sale Stores, in which are sold at cost price groceries and such other items as are in constant demand. These, besides proving a great boon to the residents, tend to check them from entering town.

EDUCATION.

Schools for the exclusive use of the Aborigines have been established at many centres throughout the State under the supervision of the Education Department, and continue to report satisfactory progress. The children take a particular interest in manual training, and produce most creditable work. Evidence of this was available in February last, when the Board had a large stall at the Bush Week Exhibition in the Sydney Town Hall, and when the work of the Aborigines excited very favourable comment from the general public.

HEALTH.

During 1919 an epidemic of influenza broke out throughout the State, and as a result it became necessary to take special measures on Aboriginal Stations and Reserves to combat the disease. Consequently Reserves were quarantined, and nurses were despatched to attend to the Aborigines.

The mortality among the Aborigines was surprisingly low, and this was no doubt attributable to the energetic efforts put forth by the Board's Managers, Matrons, and the Police.

Apart from this outbreak, the health of the Aborigines has been good. Supplies of simple remedies are regularly forwarded from Sydney to any Reserves where they may be required, and Government Medical Officers are available in most places to deal with more serious cases.

NUMBERS.

On the 12th May, 1920, a special census of the Aborigines was taken, the numbers of each caste, those living on Reserves and off Reserves, those receiving aid, and those living independently of the Board. A copy of this return is attached as Appendix B. It will be seen that a number of quadroons and octoroons are still living on the Board's Reserves, and are in some cases receiving aid.

Instructions have therefore been given that in view of the Aborigines Protection (Amendment) Act, 1918 (which provides that the definition of the word "aborigine" shall include only full-blood and half-castes, and which gives the Board power to deal with any person having a lesser admixture of aboriginal blood in their veins), steps are to be taken by the Board's Inspectors to arrange for such quadroons and octoroons as are able, without inflicting hardship, to earn their own living independently of the Government, to leave the Reserves. At the same time the Board directed that each case must be treated on its merits, and that nothing savouring of harshness could be permitted.

The elimination of these people of lighter caste presents in many instances a difficult problem seeing that they have been reared among Aborigines all their lives, and all their connections and interests are with Aborigines. However, it is hoped that by a gradual process of elimination the problem will eventually be solved

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS CHEER.

The usual arrangements were made for the holding of sports on the various Aboriginal Stations on Christmas Day, and all Aborigines who were residing on Reserves were supplied with the ingredients of a plum-pudding.

An appropriate toy was presented to each school-child, each toy being carefully selected by an officer of the Board.

CLOTHING AND BLANKETS.

Clothing and blankets were issued to all deserving cases at the beginning of the winter. A further issue of summer clothing is also made in September. It is not usual to give the issue to able-bodied men, as it is not the Board's policy to encourage idleness, but rather to assist the Aborigines to help themselves.

EMPLOYMENT.

All able-bodied men are encouraged to remain in regular employment, and every assistance is given them to obtain suitable work.

RESERVES.

The following Reserve, comprising an area of 30 acres, was set apart for the use of the Aborigines during the period in question :—

No.	County.	Parish.	Area.
53,357 Sale	Cunningham	Culgo	30 acres.
53,358 Lease generally			

The undermentioned Reserves for the use of Aborigines were revoked during the same period :—

No.	County.	Parish.	Area.
27,506 Sale	Townsend	Colimo (partly revoked) ...	245 acres.
27,507 Lic. and Lease			
17,537	Dudley	Clybucca (wholly revoked) ...	25 acres.
48,314 Sale	Murray	Morumbateman (wholly re- voked)	80 acres.
48,315 Lease generally			

In conclusion, the Board desire to once again express their appreciation for the valuable services rendered by the members of the Police Force in the interests of Aborigines throughout the State.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

JAMES MITCHELL,
E. B. HARKNESS,
ROBT. T. PATON,
J. DAWSON,
A. W. GREEN,
B. J. DOE,
W. MILLARD,

Members of Board for Protection of Aborigines.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

Department.	Particulars.	Amount expended.		
Aborigines Protection Board ...	Rations, medical comforts, seed, farm implements, fencing wire, boats, erection of buildings, dwellings, &c. (for the Aborigines generally).....	£	s.	d.
		13,031	1	11
	Expenses of maintaining the undermentioned Aboriginal Stations and Homes:—			
	Angledool	495	7	0
	Brewarrina	737	3	5
	Brungle	1,076	4	7
	Cootamundra	1,297	5	9
	Cumeroogunga	2,307	10	1
	Euraba	1,290	3	10
	Grafton	607	3	10
	Moonscullah	338	9	6
	Mount Olive	135	10	7
	Roseby Park	610	9	11
	Runnymede	630	3	7
	Sevington.....	576	9	8
	Terry-hie-hie	632	14	11
	Ulgundahi Island	495	2	5
	Urunga	396	15	9
	Wallaga Lake.....	820	17	4
	Warangesda	815	13	0
Walhallow	953	12	11	
Head Office Salaries—				
Inspectors	1,251	6	8	
Staff	1,327	13	4	
Department of Public Health.....	Medical attendance and medicine	775	19	0
Department of Education.....	Teachers' salaries, materials, &c.	6,941	15	3
Resumed Properties Department..	Sanitary attendance.....	190	4	4
Stores Supply Department	Supply of blankets, clothing, &c.	4,711	5	5
Total		£42,496	4	0

APPENDIX B.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINES TAKEN AT NOON ON 12TH MAY, 1920.

TOTALS FOR STATE.

Full-bloods.				Half-castes.				Quadroons.				Octoroons.				Total.
Living on Reserve.	Not Living on Reserve.	Receiving Aid.	Not Receiving Aid.	Living on Reserve.	Not Living on Reserve.	Receiving Aid.	Not Receiving Aid.	Living on Reserve.	Not Living on Reserve.	Receiving Aid.	Not Receiving Aid.	Living on Reserve.	Not Living on Reserve.	Receiving Aid.	Not Receiving Aid.	
590	648	706	532	1,870	2,662	1,585	2,947	272	851	234	889	76	259	57	278	7,228

Castes.	Living on Reserve.	Not Living on Reserve.	Receiving Aid.	Not Receiving Aid.
Full-bloods	590	648	706	532
Half-castes	1,870	2,662	1,585	2,947
Quadroons	272	851	234	889
Octoroons	76	259	57	278
Totals	2,808	4,420	2,582	4,646

= 7,228.

= 7,228.

FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEAR.

Year.	Full Bloods.	Half Castes.	Total.
1917	1,326	4,921	6,247
1918	1,451	5,041	6,492

APPENDIX C.

EXPENDITURE by the Stores Supply Department on Aborigines for the Period 1st January, 1919, to 30th June, 1920.

	£	s.	d.
Blankets	1,782	9	5
Clothing	2,652	6	9
Stores	269	18	8
Stationery	54	19	2
Furniture	1	11	5
	£4,711	5	5

APPENDIX D.

STATEMENT of Amounts expended in Sanitary Attendance at Aborigines Reserves for period 1st January, 1919, to 30th June, 1920.

Aborigines Reserve.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
Burnt Bridge, Kempsey	1 9 6
Cumeroogunga, Moama	47 5 0
Condobolin	4 7 2
Erambie, Cowra	26 6 6
Forster	0 13 6
Cootamundra Home	70 4 0
Gulargambone	6 8 1
La Perouse	26 0 0
Wallaga Lake	3 0 0
Mount Olive	3 6 0
Wellington	1 4 0
	£190 4 4

APPENDIX E.

STATEMENT of Expenditure on behalf of Aborigines, by the Department of Public Health for period 1st January, 1919, to 30th June, 1920.

Reserve.	Amount.	Reserve.	Amount.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Bowraville	0 10 0	Nabiac	11 18 0
Bulgandramine	5 0 0	Nana Glen	8 15 0
Bomaderry Home	7 18 6	Peak Hill	1 15 0
Bellingen	1 10 0	Port Kembla	9 3 0
Barrington	2 0 0	Port Macquarie	52 10 0
Beachwood	1 0 0	Roseby Park	12 6
Casino	45 0 0	Singleton	32 3 6
Coonabarabran	46 1 0	Sevington	7 15 0
Condobolin	2 12 0	Stoney Gully	3 15 0
Cabbage Tree Island	25 5 0	Taree	60 0 0
Cobargo	54 8 0	Tumut	62 10 0
Delegate	8 17 6	Urunga	1 0 0
Grafton	75 0 0	Walcha	5 10 0
Gulgo	2 5 0	Wauchope	5 15 6
Karuah	43 3 0	Walhallow	55 5 0
Katoomba	3 10 0	Walgett	2 12 0
Lismore	10 16 0	Wollongong	2 0 0
Lawrence	3 10 0	Woolbrook	0 10 0
Moruya	4 15 0	Wingham	37 10 0
Murwillumbah	0 10 0	Yass	3 15 6
Macleay River	52 10 0		
Nowra	14 3 0	Total	£ 775 19 0

APPENDIX F.

STATEMENT of Expenditure by the Department of Education on account of Aborigines during period 1st January, 1919, to 30th June, 1920.

School.	Salaries.	Books and apparatus.	Forage and travelling expenses.	Repairs, rent, furniture, cleaning, fuel.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brewarrina	272 5 1			12 19 0	285 4 1
Burnt Bridge	209 5 0	0 5 5	34 3 1	0 5 0	243 18 6
Cabbage-tree Island	260 5 0	0 11 6		5 8 0	266 4 6
Cootamundra East	253 5 0			5 3 0	258 8 0
Coraki	253 5 0	1 0 0		1 16 0	256 1 0
Cumeroogunga	611 1 0	1 5 10		17 13 0	629 19 10
Erambie	217 5 0	0 6 11	1 5 0	1 0 0	219 16 11
Euraba	290 5 0	0 5 0		3 12 0	294 2 0
Fattorini	13 0 0		4 17 10	1 14 6	19 12 4
Forked Mountain	290 5 0	0 2 4		3 18 0	294 5 4
Googedee	253 5 0	0 3 3		8 16 6	262 4 9
Grafton Common	253 5 0	0 10 6		5 8 0	259 3 6
Gulargambone	68 0 0	0 5 0			68 5 0
Karuah	163 8 1			9 9 8	172 17 9
Moonacullah	236 19 10	0 10 10		8 13 0	246 3 8
Mount Olive	260 5 0	0 1 9		5 18 6	266 5 3
Nanima	251 11 2	0 8 4			251 19 6
New Angledool	234 3 9	0 2 6		4 12 0	238 18 3
Noocoorilma	260 5 0				260 5 0
Nulla Creek	253 5 0	0 4 8		1 16 0	255 5 8
Pelican Island	247 5 0		12 10 0	3 12 0	263 7 0
Pilliga	235 5 0	0 7 10		36 0 0	271 12 10
Roseby Park	253 11 8	0 1 6		5 11 0	264 4 2
Stewart Island	254 0 7	0 13 6		2 1 0	266 15 1
Stony Gully	260 5 0	0 3 9		6 8 0	266 16 9
Terry-hie-hie	305 18 9	0 11 0		7 0 0	313 9 9
Toowabba	251 19 10	0 1 0		5 8 0	257 8 10
Ulgundahi Island	339 0 6	0 5 3		8 6 6	347 12 3
Urunga	249 11 8		2 5 0	9 8 0	261 4 8
Walhallow	386 8 4		2 0 0	8 16 6	397 4 10
Wallaga Lake	253 5 0	1 9 6		5 11 0	260 5 6
Warungeda	190 5 0			8 6 6	198 11 6
Total	£ 8,136 5 3	9 17 2	57 0 11	203 10 8	8,406 14 0

APPENDIX G.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD—PRODUCE AND SALE STORE ACCOUNT.

STATEMENT of Receipts and Expenditure from 1st July, 1919, to 30th June, 1920, for presentation to Parliament under the provisions of Section 4 of the Special Deposits Accounts Act, No. 5, 1911.

Aboriginal Stations.	RECEIPTS.					EXPENDITURE.					
	Wheat, Maize, &c.	Sale of Stock.	Sundries.	Sale Store.	Total.	Machinery, Plant, Harness, and Repairs.	Harvesting, Shearing, and Cultivation.	Ferriery, Fodder, and Cultivation.	Improvements, Fencing, and Live Stock.	Sale Store.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brewarrina	12 16 2	304 14 10	2 9 5	142 15 7	462 16 0	20 15 9	190 4 4	15 14 5	167 4 8	369 15 9	763 14 11
Brungle	52 8 11	.....	.....	17 2 0	69 10 11	85 16 11	140 18 3	10 7 2	.....	.....	237 2 4
Cumerogunga	148 8 6	734 12 7	13 10 0	542 1 10	1,428 12 11	25 3 6	927 14 7	65 9 5	87 6 2	383 8 4	1,489 2 0
Euraba .....	.....	.....	.....	448 12 3	448 12 3	.....	.....	22 16 11	.....	630 14 9	653 11 8
Grafton	284 15 10	83 9 6	.....	368 5 4	66 16 11	.....	60 19 3	7 13 9	24 6 1	.....	92 19 1
Mount Olive .....	.....	.....	5 10 0	61 6 11	66 16 11	.....	1 6 5	.....	.....	91 4 2	92 10 7
Moonacullah .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 5 0	.....	.....	1 5 0
Runnymede .....	.....	80 7 6	.....	100 10 11	150 18 5	.....	26 8 0	.....	.....	151 0 6	177 8 6
Sevington	51 1 1	.....	7 10 0	219 5 9	229 16 10	18 18 0	.....	4 0 9	.....	274 13 11	297 12 8
Urunga	49 14 9	.....	49 0 0	.....	98 14 9	.....	115 15 10	.....	28 16 4	.....	142 12 2
Ugundahi Island	12 19 0	.....	.....	36 17 11	49 16 11	.....	11 4 1	6 11 10	.....	31 12 0	49 7 11
Waihallow .....	.....	14 3 9	.....	461 14 1	475 17 10	2 12 6	152 12 3	.....	.....	452 17 1	609 1 10
Wallaga Lake	54 10 10	.....	2 7 0	282 10 9	339 8 7	.....	17 5 0	0 5 6	.....	368 6 3	325 16 9
Warangesda	19 10 8	331 11 8	.....	.....	351 2 4	.....	253 4 9	10 19 1	160 16 4	19 8 9	444 8 11
Kinchela	10 0 0	.....	16 10 0	.....	26 10 0	.....	11 16 4	0 7 6	5 0 0	.....	17 3 10
Terry-hie-hie .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15 3 2	39 10 0	54 13 2
Burra Bee Dee	2 5 6	8 16 0	.....	.....	11 1 6	.....	.....	.....	6 14 0	.....	6 14 0
Miscellaneous	262 7 9	.....	267 2 5	.....	529 10 2	.....	.....	67 12 9	203 6 1	15 8 4	286 7 2
	912 19 0	1,557 15 10	363 18 10	2,312 18 0	5,147 11 8	153 6 8	1,909 9 1	213 4 1	606 12 10	2,768 19 10	5,741 12 6
		To Balance 30th June, 1919			1,092 15 2		By Balance 30th June, 1920				498 14 4
					6,240 6 10						6,240 6 10

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