

1932.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1931.

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There is a demand for farm-horses and it appears that for some time, horses will be of more value than cattle.

Pastoralists are attending to breeding and the importation of blood stock is noted.

#### DINGO FUND.

Rewards paid for scalps amounted to £422 6s. 9d., other expenditure being £2 9s. 10d. The collections credited to the fund totalled £878 13s. 9d.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Approximately 1,500 acres were under cultivation for peanuts. The gross proceeds for the previous crop were £9,777, the average price obtained being 7.22d. per lb.

About 50 men from the ranks of the unemployed were placed on blocks, granted a sustenance allowance and assisted until the sale of their first crop; many of the men are making good.

Supplies of vegetables and local fruits were normal but not sufficient for the needs of the population.

#### FISHERIES.

An Ordinance relating to Pearling came into force on the 1st January, 1931, and a limitation of the quantity of pearl-shell to be fished was fixed early this year.

The total take of shell was 673 tons after allowing for discarded shell, the value being estimated at £81,520.

The quantity of trepang shipped to the East was 262 cwts., valued at £907.

#### COURTS.

In the local Courts there were 478 actions, whilst those in the Police Courts numbered 463. A review of the proceedings of the Supreme Court is contained in the Clerk's report.

#### PUBLIC TRUSTEE.

During the year there were 25 new estates making the current total 100, of which 41 were finalized. The number of estates current on the 30th June, 1931, was 59, representing a total sum of £4,532 8s. 10d.

#### GAOLS.

The Darwin gaoler reports no deaths and no cases of serious illness. The conduct of the inmates, with only a few exceptions, was good.

The number received in the gaol during the year was 308. The number discharged was 307, whilst those remaining in the gaol at the end of the year numbered 49.

The report on the Stuart Town gaol shows that the number imprisoned during the year was 30. The number released was 35. Nine prisoners remained in gaol at the end of the year.

#### ABORIGINALS.

The number of offences committed by aboriginals during the year was 147.

There were, at the end of the year, 105 half-caste inmates in the Darwin half-caste home. The number at the Jay Creek Home was 52.

The number of aboriginals and half-castes above the twentieth parallel is estimated at 15,482.

Certain aboriginals in the Katherine and Mataranka districts were affected by malaria, but otherwise the health of the aboriginal population was good.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINALS.

*Employment.*—During the year licences to employ aborigines were issued as follows :—

District.						Licences.	Agreements.
Darwin	..	..	..	..	..	164	235
Parap	..	..	..	..	..	29	33
Pine Creek	..	..	..	..	..	5	4
Mataranka	..	..	..	..	..	4	5
Stuart	..	..	..	..	..	59	25
						261	302

An analysis of the nationality of licencees north of the twentieth parallel is as follows :—

						British.	Greek.	Asiatics.	Others.
Darwin	..	..	..	..	..	118	4	37	5
Parap	..	..	..	..	..	21	1	7	..
Pine Creek	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	..
Mataranka	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
						145	5	47	5

The issue of country licences was suspended in the area north of the twentieth parallel in anticipation of the early passing of amending legislation governing the employment of aborigines in country districts. Various delays occurred however and the year passed without these amendments being finalized.

*Proposed Legislation.*—During the year recommendations for the amendment of regulations under the Aborigines Ordinance were submitted to provide for medical care for aborigines employed in country districts. The draft regulations were discussed at a conference between the Chief Protector and representatives of the Pastoral Lessees Association in Sydney and accepted by the pastoralists with certain minor amendments. It is also proposed to amend Section 53 of the Ordinance to facilitate control of immorality.

*Half-caste Apprentices.*—The suspension of these regulations imposed by the Minister on 11th April, 1930, was lifted on 26th November, 1930. Instructions were issued that half-castes were not to be apprenticed to droving. Four half-caste youths were apprenticed to the pastoral industry during the year.

*Recognizances.*—During the year 31 aborigines and four half-castes were removed from the Northern Territory under recognizance.

*Aboriginal Drivers.*—The suspension imposed by the Minister upon the payment of aboriginal drivers was lifted on 23rd March, 1931, when new rates of wages, namely £3 per week whilst droving with stock and £1 10s. per week with plant were prescribed. Twenty-nine drivers were signed on during the year.

*Trust Fund North Australia—*

	£	s.	d.
Credit balance 1st July, 1930 .. .. .	1,596	0	2
Receipts during year .. .. .	2,207	4	9
	3,803	4	11
Withdrawals during year .. .. .	1,914	9	7
Balance at 1st July, 1931 .. .. .	1,888	15	4

Deposits increased by £338 9s. 7d. and withdrawals by £452 19s. 7d. over the figures of the preceding year.

Cash orders to a total of 1,438, representing an increase of 249 over the preceding year, were issued.

Cash orders on stores to the number of 592 were completed, as compared with 432 for the preceding year.

*Trust Fund Central Australia—*

	£	s.	d.
Balance at 1st July, 1930 .. .. .	808	2	1
Receipts during Year .. .. .	218	12	7
	1,026	14	8
Withdrawals during Year .. .. .	249	11	9
Balance at 30th June, 1931 .. .. .	777	2	7

*Aged and Infirm Aborigines.*—Two hundred and thirty-five aged and infirm aborigines were rationed at twelve rationing depots in the portion of the Territory north of the twentieth parallel.

The private aboriginal ration depots at Horseshoe Bend, Doctor Stones, Henbury and Andado and the police depot at Alice Well were discontinued, the aborigines originally fed at these depots being concentrated at Charlotte Waters.

*Aboriginal Vote.*—The total expenditure was :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
North Australia .. .. .	2,756	17	0			
Southern expenditure .. .. .	889	12	11			
				3,646	9	11

<i>Kahlin Compound—</i>					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Groceries	..	..	..	..	..	811	0	1					
Clothing material, half-caste home and compound	..	..	..	..	..	122	9	9					
Equipment	..	..	..	..	..	31	15	7					
Wire-netting	..	..	..	..	..	37	16	8					
Drugs	..	..	..	..	..	105	6	3					
Beds	..	..	..	..	..	24	18	5					
Repairs and maintenance	..	..	..	..	..	57	13	5					
Blankets	..	..	..	..	..	60	0	0					
Bread and meat	..	..	..	..	..	631	8	5					
Wages	..	..	..	..	..	346	19	3					
Telephone and sanitary	..	..	..	..	..	65	6	9					
											2,294	14	7
<i>Less credits—</i>													
Sustenance, aboriginals	..	..	..	..	..	177	11	6					
Hire of labour	..	..	..	..	..	82	14	2					
<i>Sale—</i>													
Bags and hessian	..	..	..	..	..	16	5	0					
Blankets and clothing	..	..	..	..	..	93	15	0					
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	25	3	4					
Firewood	..	..	..	..	..	92	5	9					
Cartage	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4					
											488	18	1
													1,805 16 6
<i>Half-caste Home, Pine Creek—</i>													
Beds	..	..	..	..	..								18 0 0
<i>Aged and Infirm Aboriginals—</i>													
Rations	..	..	..	..	..	737	5	8					
Blankets	..	..	..	..	..	57	7	8					
Cartage	..	..	..	..	..	125	3	5					
													919 16 9
Defence of aboriginals	..	..	..	..	..					73	9	0	
Less expenses wrongly charged	..	..	..	..	..					41	19	0	
													31 10 0
Hospitalization, aboriginals	..	..	..	..	..								427 12 6
Car allowances	..	..	..	..	..								47 15 3
Meals, sick aboriginals	..	..	..	..	..								96 0 0
Fares, sick aboriginals	..	..	..	..	..								181 6 5
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	130	12	1					
Less credits	..	..	..	..	..	11	19	7					
													118 12 6
													3,646 9 11

*Compound, Kahlin Beach.*—The average number maintained at the half-caste home and compound native hospital was 173.

The actual cost of maintenance of the institution was £2,377 16s. (including the salaries of the matron and the superintendent).

The average number of aboriginals residing at the compound, including those working in Darwin, was 300.

Four new huts were erected.

All buildings were painted with calzie.

*Half-caste Home, Darwin.*—The number of inmates of the Half-caste Home, Darwin, at 30th June, 1931, was as under:—

Males	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Females	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	50
									—
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
									—

Arrangements were finalized during the year for the transfer of half-caste boys from the Darwin home to a building at Pine Creek, where they will be cared for by Mrs. Turner, who is a trained nurse. In this way the overcrowding at the Darwin home will be in some measure relieved.

The following articles of clothing were manufactured at the half-caste home:—

Trousers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	133
Shirts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Dresses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	129
Rompers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	260
Bloomers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62
Uniforms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

Details of material purchased and manufactured, period 1st May, 1931, to 19th January, 1931 :—

1,086 yards jute.	56 yards calico.
308½ yards khaki.	6 gross buttons.
78 reels cotton.	53 yards crepe.

The meat bill was reduced by the killing of 30 goats and two cows.

*Half-caste Home, Jay Creek.*—Inmates of the half-caste institution, Jay Creek, are classified as under :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Quadroon .. .. .	13	2	15
Half-caste .. .. .	16	16	32
Three-quarter caste .. .. .	1	4	5
	30	22	52

The conditions at the half-caste institution at Jay Creek have improved considerably under the control of the present superintendent and the matron (Mr. and Mrs. Freeman) despite the adverse circumstances in the way of accommodation under which they have to work.

The improved rainfall rendered possible the establishment of an extensive vegetable garden which amply supplied the needs of the institution as far as green foods are concerned.

The goat herd increased from the original 100 purchased in January, 1930, to a total present number of 260 despite the fact that a large number were killed to supplement the meat supply. As the herd increases it will be possible to decrease the purchase of beef. The herd also affords an abundant milk supply which is of great value, particularly to the younger children.

There was no illness of a serious nature nor any infectious disease during the period under review, only minor complaints and injuries having been reported.

The proposed removal of the institution to the present telegraph buildings at Alice Springs will afford better opportunities for the education and welfare of the children and, particularly, much more suitable accommodation.

*Marriage of Aborigines.*—Permission was given by the Chief Protector for the celebration of the marriage of seven female half-castes with persons other than aborigines, as follows :—

To Europeans .. .. .	1
To European half-castes .. .. .	6

Four half-caste girls accompanied their employers to southern States during the year. Special agreement were made in each case and employers were required to enter into a substantial bond to return them to the Territory. Two half-caste girls, who had been employed in southern States returned to the Territory during the year.

Half-caste girls employed by residents of Darwin, where the Chief Protector was satisfied as to the supervision exercised by the employers, were permitted to sleep on the employers' premises.

Seventeen half-caste girls were employed as domestics by European employers during the year.

The general welfare of aborigines in the southern portion of the Territory was satisfactory, the improvement during the year under review being generally due to the cessation of the drought period and the gradual increase in the native animal and vegetable food supply.

The most serious adverse factor was the number of cases of tuberculosis at Hermannsburg Mission Station, the disease probably having originated from a certain European who stayed at the mission for a lengthy period some five years ago. This individual died recently as the result of pulmonary and laryngeal tuberculosis. All cases found have been moved to a separate camp some 10 miles from the main buildings. This camp is supplied with food from a herd of goats at the camp itself, which is supplemented by beef and other rations and medicines from the central station.

It is hoped to combat the spread of tuberculosis by the continued isolation of infected individuals and the prevention of intercourse with outside natives.

The accommodation for natives at the mission head-quarters has been considerably improved, the original wurlies having been replaced by thatched grass huts. These huts are approximately 10 feet square, floor space, and 10 feet high, and are built around a large open square. They have been erected by the natives themselves and will supply much more hygienic conditions and more ample protection against the weather. The few stone buildings which accommodated a small proportion of the inmates of the mission are also being gradually vacated. These buildings were very unsatisfactory in that they had practically no ventilation and no opportunities for ready cleaning.

An attempt is to be made during the ensuing year to replace a small portion of the aboriginal flour rations with wheat. Apart from the lesser cost entailed, this would supply a ration of higher food value and a better balanced diet. It would, no doubt, be difficult to persuade the native of this, but through insistence by the Protectors concerned, I consider that a large part of the flour ration could eventually be replaced by wheat.

Offences.—Details of proceedings taken against aboriginals during the year ended 30th June, 1931 :—

Offence.	Committed for Trial.		Convicted.		Discharged.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Unlawfully on premises ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Prohibited area ..	..	..	18	11	1	..	30
Larceny ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Possession opium ..	..	..	16	3	1	..	20
Drunk ..	..	..	18	1	..	..	19
Smoking opium ..	..	..	3	3	1	2	9
Unlawful possession ..	..	..	28	1	..	..	29
Possession opium articles ..	..	..	9	3	..	..	12
Assault ..	..	..	13	2	1	..	16
Breaking gaol ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Possession of gun ..	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
Obscene language ..	..	..	3	1	..	..	4
Murder ..	6	..	..	..	..	..	6
Riotous behaviour ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Indecent behaviour ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Fighting ..	..	..	2	1	..	..	3
	6	..	118	27	4	2	157

The number of offences shows considerable increase as compared with the previous year, the increase being principally due to the larger number of convictions for breaches of the prohibited area clauses and for unlawful possession. The increase in the number of prohibited area offences is attributable to the effect of the more stringent regulations in that regard which were promulgated during the previous year.

ABORIGINAL CENSUS (NORTH OF THE TWENTIETH PARALLEL).

YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1931.

Summary.

Districts.	Full Bloods.				Half-castes.				Total.
	Adults.		Children.		Adults.		Children.		
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Darwin ..	1,385	1,141	360	292	55	70	99	72	3,474
Brocks Creek ..	420	310	110	80	11	8	..	..	939
Daly River ..	1,746	1,044	260	185	4	2	2	2	3,245
Pine Creek ..	62	33	2	4	4	..	2	1	108
Katherine ..	83	72	26	20	9	5	..	7	222
Maranboy ..	122	86	38	31	3	1	..	..	281
Roper River ..	1,120	1,114	516	514	14	17	14	7	3,316
Borrooloola ..	288	225	85	76	13	9	17	7	720
Anthony's Lagoon ..	63	38	7	9	..	1	4	5	127
Rankine River ..	43	34	11	8	5	6	7	8	122
Newcastle Waters ..	143	142	45	29	12	9	5	8	393
Timber Creek ..	795	492	245	170	14	3	4	3	1,726
Wave Hill ..	301	311	88	96	2	1	4	6	809
	6,571	5,042	1,793	1,514	146	132	158	126	15,482

Districts.	Nomadic.		In Regular Employment.		In Supervised Camp.		Others.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Darwin ..	1,126	1,011	417	271	356	293	..	..	1,899	1,575
Brocks Creek ..	430	340	101	38	10	20	..	..	541	398
Daly River ..	1,840	1,175	90	6	82	52	..	..	2,012	1,233
Pine Creek ..	..	..	43	19	18	12	9	7	70	38
Katherine ..	53	47	51	37	14	20	..	..	118	104
Maranboy ..	138	102	25	16	..	..	..	..	163	118
Roper River ..	1,506	1,505	119	99	39	48	..	..	1,664	1,652
Borrooloola ..	306	296	97	21	..	..	..	..	403	317
Anthony's Lagoon ..	..	..	48	19	26	34	..	..	74	53
Rankine River ..	..	..	43	22	23	34	..	..	66	56
Newcastle Waters ..	3	3	56	25	146	160	..	..	205	188
Timber Creek ..	795	543	263	125	..	..	..	..	1,058	668
Wave Hill ..	208	213	111	40	76	161	..	..	395	414
	6,405	5,235	1,464	738	790	834	9	7	8,668	6,814

The estimated aboriginal population shows a fall of 582 as compared to financial year 1929-30. This is not to be regarded as a real decline in population, being wholly due to a recasting of the estimated population in the Roper River district. This district includes the bulk of the Arnhem Land Reserve, for which no reliable statistics are available, and for which the Protector has this year re-estimated the probable figure on a more conservative basis.

CECIL COOK,  
Chief Protector of Aboriginals.