

1901.
—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

R E P O R T

FOR

FINANCIAL YEAR

ENDING

30TH JUNE, 1901.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

PERTH:
BY AUTHORITY: WM. ALFRED WATSON, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

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1901.

No. 26.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Report for Financial Year ending 30th June, 1901.

TO THE HON. THE PREMIER.

SIR,

I beg to submit my Report on the working of the Aborigines Department for the year ending 30th June, 1901. The general condition of the aborigines throughout the State has not been much altered since my last Report, but a great deal more information as to the details of their employment has been gained from the reports of the Travelling Inspector, who has now completed his tour of investigation in the Northern half of the State, and has already commenced his tour of the Southern half by starting again from Geraldton and going Eastward, through Yalgoo and Mt. Magnet, towards Lawlers and Lake Way, from whence he will work down in a very zig-zag line towards Israelite Bay, and then Westwards to Perth. This trip will probably occupy him twelve months, or even more, and by that time we shall have a reliable official account of almost every station in the State on which natives are employed, or even congregate, which will not be required again for some time, and will be a most useful basis on which the general distribution of relief, etc., can be granted in detail.

His reports will be found in the Appendix, together with a plan showing his route and the places at which he stopped. I think anyone reading these reports will come to the conclusion that the settlements, as a rule, do not treat their employees harshly, and that the natives themselves have rarely little reason to complain.

The way in which Mr. Olivey has done his work has been most satisfactory, and the Department are happy in having secured the services of such a good bushman, a man of such independent character, and, perhaps, not least, of such knowledge of medicine and surgery, which is one of the principal advantages expected from his trip.

The work of the Department, as is usual, consisted of the direction of relief to the distributors, the inspection and payment of their monthly accounts, the distribution of blankets, clothing, and drugs, the supervision of their legal commitments and convictions, and the rescue and care of the waifs, and numberless other small matters which continually require attention.

The births and deaths reported seem about to balance one another, but are, probably, so incomplete that it is hardly worth while to tabulate them. I think, however, that the aboriginal population in all that part of the State which is as yet explored and settled in any way by the whites must remain about the same as that which I gave on the 30th June, 1899, viz., about 12,000. At that time there was a wide range of opinions as to the number in the unexplored interior, and in the Northern part of the Kimberley division. I have arranged to obtain a report on the natives of the latter area of country from the exploration party which is now there, and I hope that they will be able to give us some approximate estimate for future guidance.

I am able now to give more detailed information, as promised last year, regarding the number and condition of the half-castes, which is a subject on which legislation seems to me very necessary, and which, I trust, will meet with the attention of the Legislature very soon. The Travelling Inspector's reports have furnished me with the following particulars, namely:—That in his travels he came across about 170 of various ages, 120 of whom were yet children under 14. I gather from him that where there are no evil influences, these half-castes can be made into good useful workmen and women. Many of them are reported to be quite equal to white men in the work they do—driving teams, blacksmiths' work, etc. But, unfortunately, they are more often found in communities whose influence is towards laziness and vice; and I think it is our duty not to allow these children, whose blood is half British, to grow up as vagrants and outcasts, as their mothers now are.

The law, however, does not empower me to take possession of them, or interfere with them so long as they do not transgress it; they cannot be brought in as vagrants, because the natural custom of their race is one of vagrancy, and though in one or two instances magistrates have committed a native for imprisonment as a vagrant owing to his hovering about and disturbing the workers, and sponging upon their food, it is only because there seems no other way to abate the nuisance that I have allowed such conviction to pass without remark. I am glad, however, here to state that there are a few fathers of half-caste children doing their duty, and contributing to the support of these unfortunates; most notably amongst these is a Chinaman.

I am very glad, by the publication of the said reports, to vindicate the general character of the settlers in this State as to their treatment of their black employees. Very much has been written, and more said, about the ill-treatment of natives in the Northern part of this State. In such an immense area, it is impossible, of course, to supervise the daily actions of isolated men, and there may be instances of petty tyrannies, but, where news travels so fast as it does in the bush, and where I have so many assisting eyes and ears always ready to report these cases, there are few that sooner or later do not come before me, or before the magistrates.

The natives themselves are now getting wise enough to know that they have a protecting power to whom they can appeal, and that the police are not merely a terror, but are there for their protection. There are many intelligent young black men who live on the stations almost in the same way as their fellow white workers, whose sympathies must be with their own race, and who would very soon inform of any cruelty, even as mere gossip; and therefore I think all those who are interested in the question, after reading these reports, should modify any of the bad impressions which they have had hitherto. There are also, here and there, coming into existence small societies for the welfare and protection of the native race. At Kalgoorlie, at Esperance, and in Perth itself, these have been formed, and I think they all know that they will have the sympathy and assistance of the Department in their work.

Relief to the destitute, aged, and crippled has been administered at 121 centres, the particulars of which will be found in Table A. This, it will be seen, has cost £6,269 5s. 3d., the largest item in my expenditure. By the sample Account form, which I again attach, it will be seen that every effort is made to ensure corroboration that the relief has been properly and reasonably given, and that the Department does not lay itself open to the charge of wasting public funds to enrich private persons. It is an easy accusation, and in past times might have been partially true, but each year I am able to make stricter investigations, and even now I think it would be hard for anyone to find a case in which money was paid for services not properly performed.

The knowledge that relief is given liberally in the Southern districts is inducing the residents in East Kimberley to forward recommendation for distribution in that district. Hitherto I have felt that where game is so plentiful, and the tribes of natives so numerous, the aged and crippled have plenty of resources with the produce of the bush and their many relatives, and that the very extensive issue of rations in that far quarter should be avoided as much as possible; but now at Turkey Creek and elsewhere indigent natives are beginning to collect, and their claims must be considered. This is an increase in our expenditure which, however, must be expected as years go on. The natives about Lake Way are also getting more civilised, and hanging round the mining settlements, and, of course, getting improvident and helpless; some relief has been found necessary. On the new goldfield at Phillips River, too, similar claims are reported, but here the tribes are very small and scattered. The list of the relieving stations, therefore, is now being increased by those in the districts of East Kimberley, Lake Way, and Ravens-thorpe (Phillips River Goldfield).

With reference to *Crime*: All convictions being reported to the Crown Law Department are forwarded to me for perusal. During the past twelve months there have been 120 of these. The largest number are for killing cattle in the Kimberley district. Now, this district is hardly reclaimed from its original savage state, but parts of it are over-run with the herds of pioneer settlers, which are particularly open to the raids of the wild natives. Some might say that these natives are justified in feeding themselves from these herds, which have driven their own native game from the face of the land; but the law makes it crime, and the settlers, in their endeavour to preserve their property, look to the Government for its protection, paying, as they do, for the occupation of the land. The natives, now, are quite aware that they will get punished for killing the cattle, and, generally, freely confess in Court that they have done so. The women, apparently, are quite ready to give evidence against the men; why so, it is hard to understand. The result is that these men get sentenced often in batches from five to ten, which swells up the number of convictions, as, when a large beast is killed, a great many natives share in the feast.

It may be a surprise, after all that has been said about the ill-treatment of natives by their employers, to find that out of 120 convictions only 15 have been for absconding from service, and these generally have been given light sentences, or allowed to return to their work.

While on the subject of convictions, I must refer to the great objections which have been made as to the transport of convicted prisoners from the court of conviction to the nearest prison. These prisons are at the various ports; in some cases, 200 miles or more from the court of conviction. The prisoners have to be taken on foot, in the charge of a policeman. One can understand that a gang of 10 or 15 natives requires some very practical means to be taken to prevent their escape from this one policeman. He certainly is mounted, but they on foot are quite equal to eluding even a mounted man, and, unless forcibly kept together, would scatter in all directions. The only way, so far apparent to the authorities, of preventing this, has been by means of a chain attached to either iron collars or rings of chain round the men's necks. This it is that has caused so much controversy from time to time. I have made the closest inquiries as to the style of fastening, and the effect on the natives of this mode, and whether it would not have been better to fasten them by some other part of the body. The police inform me that other methods have been tried, that a native is so lithely made that he can get out of a ring fastened with all reasonable tightness round his waist, and that if put round his ankle he can so easily get at it with his hands, even if he cannot slip his foot through it, that it is not effective. Another objection to the ankle is that, should the native be employed in quarrying or dealing with heavy loads, the chain round the ankle is more likely to trip him up and fix him in a dangerous position than that from his neck. Putting it round the wrist is laughed at; the only other place, then, is the neck.

If some means could be suggested by which the use of chains could be avoided, and the prisoners yet prevented from escaping, it would meet with my hearty approval, and, no doubt, of all concerned in the charge of native prisoners.

The only way to abolish the use of the chain when under confinement would be to place natives on islands far from the coast, but the objection to this is the great cost, and the loss of all their services, which are now made useful to the State at the various ports, nor would the civilising influence be so possible. Table B shows the details of convictions.

Before leaving this subject, I must refer to the sad incident of a native prisoner when travelling from Marble Bar to Roebourne. A strict inquiry was made into the matter by the Premier's orders, and the sworn depositions show that the man suffered from dysentery, and died really from heart failure, consequent upon debility caused through diarrhoea and confinement. He had been in the lockup at Marble Bar for 21 days, owing to the want of horses and officers to escort him with others to Roebourne. The sick man had been under the doctor's charge, and when they left Marble Bar was improved, and the doctor considered that if he had remained in confinement he would have died, and did not consider that his death was hastened by the journey.

As to the use of the "Cat-o'-nine-tails," against which so much has been said, I find that the cases where flogging has been ordered are few. In answer to my close inquiries as to the sort of whip used, I find that the lashes are small cord, about a quarter of an inch in diameter, with the ends tapering off, but seized with small twine to prevent unravelling, and that no knots are permitted to be put anywhere upon the lashes. A high officer in the Police Department also informs me that he has not seen blood brought in any floggings he has witnessed. The magistrates are empowered to order flogging—and, no doubt, there are cases where evil-disposed natives require it as much as whites—but, as I said, the cases are very few.

One very serious native crime has engrossed for a time the attention of the public, namely, the murder of Mr. J. J. Durack, a pioneer settler in the East Kimberley district. This gentleman was found murdered, and his son wounded, on the night of the 23rd February, 1901, and the natives on the station had cleared out. The police and trackers very soon came upon them, and two boys were brought for trial to Perth. They were both very young, and the case entirely rested on the evidence of a very small black boy and two young black girls, who were the only people on the station at the time. (It is somewhat strange to me that such a valuable station as this should have been worked almost entirely with five natives, almost children.) The jury, however, acquitted the native charged with the murder of Mr. Durack, but another jury brought in the native who was charged with the wounding of Mr. Durack, junior, as guilty, and he was sentenced to 10 years' confinement at Rottneest. Possibly the first jury were not satisfied as to which of the natives committed the actual murder; however, the boy, Banjo by name, was thrown upon my hands by his acquittal, and I had some difficulty in providing for his future care. It would have been no use to return him to his own country; ultimately, however, I found a good master for him in a gentleman who was exploring and prospecting in the Eastern interior, and I hope that this boy's career will for the future be harmless.

With regard to the question of *Immorality*, I have had several reports and information from other sources during the year. There is no doubt the evil is increasing, and will increase, and, though I do not think any amount of legislation would stop it, still so much check might be put upon it as would prevent that damage to both races which appears to be inevitable without legislation. In the Bill which was prepared for consideration last year, one of the clauses was intended to deal with this evil, and after long thought I had it framed in such a manner as to prevent natives from hovering anywhere within the out-

skirts of white settlements or towns. The present law only gives power to expel natives from towns when they are not decently clothed from neck to knee, and even then the expulsion only holds good to the boundary of the townsite, which may be quite close to the thickest part of it. Should the legislature turn their attention to the native question during the present session, this, I think, is one of the most important points to be considered; it causes native men to abandon their usual employment on the stations, and to flock to the ports, mining townships, and pearling creeks, where they can live in idleness and comfort on the prostitution of their women; so that, while the stations are deprived of their usual labour, the Government are saddled with the expense of repressing crime, and relieving destitute and diseased natives.

There have been no serious *Epidemics* reported during the year; the worst seems to have been up the Fitzroy, but this seems to be an annual attack of malaria, attended with whooping-cough and fever, which has been reported upon by the medical officer at Derby to have been rather more severe than usual last year. Under the conditions of aboriginal life, little, however, could be done in the way of treatment. Instructions are given to the relieving stations to give small and frequent doses of quinine; but a score or so, mostly children, are known to have died. The epidemic was not confined to the native population only, but seems to attack all residents. Mr. Annear, the telegraph stationmaster at Fitzroy, furnished me with a full report, and it is gratifying to find that we have, in this distant locality, an officer who takes so much interest in the welfare of these wild people. In a report on native matters generally, this gentleman, who, from his long experience there, is competent to advise, informs me that the old tribal animosities are dying out as the country is getting more settled; that natives from great distances now remain about the telegraph stations without fear of molestation by those belonging to the vicinity. He gives a sad account of the ravages of certain diseases among them, and suggests the advisability of forming a native settlement, near the Leopold Ranges, on a large reservation, under white management, where general relief could be distributed, and which could be made self-supporting by the breeding of horses, cattle, and perhaps the Angora goat, and the growth of fruit, vegetables, and maize. He states that the native population is very great, running into thousands, and as the tribes are now intermixing so much, there would be no objection to all the relief being administered at this one centre. I have considered it advisable to attach extracts from his report and suggestions in Appendix. Malarial fever has also been reported as very prevalent at Hall's Creek. At Yuin Reefs, on the Murchison, there has also been a severe run of influenza quite recently. At Katanning, too, there has been a good deal of sickness; one native died of hydatids. Natives in this district are getting very civilised, and deserve care. We have a comfortable hospital specially for them in the townsite. At Bridgetown, also, several natives have been under treatment with typhoid fever, and have been carefully attended to by the authorities there. Considerable parcels of medicines have, from time to time, been forwarded to Yalgoo, Mt. Wittenoom, La Grange, Fitzroy telegraph stations, and Hall's Creek, with instructions for use.

Eastern Goldfields.—In November, a society of Kalgoorlie residents wrote to me that the condition of the natives about there required attention, and suggested some arrangements being made for their collection within areas, so as to prevent the growing nuisance to dwellers in Kalgoorlie and other mining towns from the presence of such loiterers and beggars. I arranged to meet the committee, and went to Kalgoorlie for a conference with them, the Rev. Gordon Saville being chief spokesman. Many points were talked over, and legislation was strongly urged, but as an immediate remedy, I stated I would try and procure a reservation. Several natives came to see me, headed by one or two who had been brought up among whites in the Fraser Range, and, at their suggestion, on my return I approached the Lands Department as to a reserve being made at a very favourable spot some few miles West of Esperance Bay. It was found, however, impossible to make this reservation, and the Hon. the Commissioner of Crown Lands suggested I should look out for some island. From long experience in that Department, I knew the capabilities of most of the islands on the South Coast, and replied that none were suitable as a permanent home, and then referred to Rottneest as being the only one in this part of the State where I thought natives could live permanently; but this, of course, would not do, so long as the prison existed there. On the North-West Coast, and farther North, there are, no doubt, several islands which may come in at a future time as native reserves, and would be very suitable, but they are not required yet. No steps, therefore, have yet been possible to abate the nuisance complained of by the Kalgoorlie people, but the matter is ever before me; if more power is given to the Department by the Legislature, some decisive action can be taken. All mining centres to the Eastward will probably be interested in this question. We shall, however, know more about the condition of things on the South Coast after the Travelling Inspector's reports are received. At present it is a sparsely settled district, and, though I have a few relieving stations there, there is not much opportunity of inspection. Near Eucla there seem to be a good many working on the Mundrabilla sheep runs.

The morality of the natives in this part does not seem to be so bad as at the North, probably because of fewer temptations; but still immorality is reported. Much comment was made recently upon the action of a magistrate some years ago in giving permission to a native woman to cohabit with a white man. On the face of it, this seemed a very strange proceeding, and the matter was looked into. The

explanation given was that there was no one in the locality able to perform the marriage ceremony, and that the magistrate considered the next best thing was to give his permit, with the consent of the woman's nearest relatives, and he also considered that it would prevent her from living indiscriminately with other whites, as she probably would have done. This, after all, was a *pis aller*.

Missions.—I have nothing special to report as to the conduct of the various missions, which are being carried on with the same estimable exertions and motives as hitherto. The New Norcia Benedictine Mission has, however, received a severe blow in the death of the good and wise Bishop Salvado; his death took place in Rome, on the 29th December, 1900, and I felt that the natives of this State had lost their greatest friend; but he was of ripe age, and had done his work, and his memory will long live in the minds of all Western Australians. Having given up his whole life to the work he had undertaken, there was no one so fitted to advise as to the treatment of the aborigines, and I have had the advantage of many hours of his company and of his wise counsels. His successor, who arrived in May, is the Right Rev. F. Torres; Father Bertram having administered the mission during the interval.

The new mission at Sunday Island seems tolerably prosperous; they ask for no Government assistance beyond a small sum for the relief of some aged natives, and blankets. I believe their labours at pearl-shelling and collection of *bêche-de-mer*, and the contributions from sympathising friends, are sufficient to keep the mission going. School-houses and dwelling-houses have been put up, and generally the mission seems to have a prosperous career before it.

A report from the Anglican Mission of the Swan will be found in the Appendix, as well as lists of the children who are educated and cared for at that and other missions (*see* Table C).

The children at the farm-home, Ellensbrook, are well cared for, and lead healthy lives. There are now four there, who, for various reasons, I am unable to put elsewhere. This is an excellent place for them, and I believe they will all turn out, ultimately, very useful servants, as everything they learn is of a practical nature.

Drunkennes, though not an original fault of the natives, is very common when they come in touch with civilisation, and I allude to it here principally to explain that the present law does not make it too easy to suppress it. The word "aboriginal" is defined in the main Aborigines Act, but, unfortunately, the definition which includes half-castes living with them is strictly confined to that Act. In the Wines, Beer, and Spirit Sale Act, there is no definition of the word, and, consequently, half-castes are able to purchase liquor with impunity. This, of course, nullifies to some extent the powers of the main Act. This is one of the points which my draft Bill was intended to meet.

With regard to the *Labour*: In spite of the many Press comments upon the law with reference to natives signing contracts for labour, I still receive many opinions in its favour from those experienced, although some of them are interested. I agree in the main with these opinions, for no suggestion has yet been made of any better system of regulating native labour. If these contracts were not entered into, the native would not only feel himself at liberty to come or go just as he liked, to the great detriment, and, perhaps, complete stoppage of any employment, but he could have no redress or proper claim upon his employer for food or raiment, and the employer, on the other hand, would be so uncertain of his labour that he would probably make arrangements as soon as possible to do without it, and the consequence would be that the whole of the natives in this immense area of country, where their own game is now extinct, would become pensioners on the Government, and, probably, very difficult pensioners to deal with, as it would be difficult to get any work out of them, and their idleness would lead them into all sorts of misdemeanours. If it were not for the bulk of these opinions, I should have much liked to have them printed. One telling argument in favour of the signing system, and also in favour of the general good treatment of native employees, is the fact that out of 120 convictions during the year only 15 are for absconding from service, which is a small number, when we know that there are about 4,000 employed. But it is no use attempting any changes without knowing actually the details, and, in order to get these, I have instituted a system from the 1st January last, by which the names of all natives who sign contracts will be forwarded periodically to the head office, so that, if the witnesses comply with my request, we shall really have the fullest information as to every native employed. The system gives very little trouble either to the witnesses or to the head office, and the information will certainly be useful, should the matter require Ministerial investigation.

In September and October, 1900, urgent private business requiring my presence in the other States, I took the opportunity of seeing and consulting those gentlemen who have charge of native affairs in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. In New South Wales, natives are all now collected on reserves, and few lessons are to be learnt of any use to this State. In Victoria, though the number of natives does not reach 500, it was worth my while to see the native settlement at Correndirk; it reminded me very much of the way in which Bishop Salvado carried on his settlement at New Norcia, and the natives themselves looked very much the same sort of people, but they were a trifle more civilised, more experienced in farm labour, more accustomed to living in houses, and they were certainly more under control than our natives. I sincerely hope that, before long, what I saw at Correndirk will

be in some way carried out in places in the Southern part of this State. In South Australia, the conditions seem more like they are here, but they have some fine institutions, which it would be worth my while to see before taking any steps.

I regret having lost a valuable coadjutor during the year, namely, Colonel Phillips, late Commissioner of Police, whose long experience in the State rendered his advice—which he was always ready to give—most useful, as well as his readiness to give me the assistance of the Officers of his Department, when necessary; and I here take the opportunity of thanking the present Commissioner of Police and the many officers of his force, who have rendered me willing and valuable help throughout the year.

From the number of applications made to me by travellers and other people who wish to buy native weapons and curiosities, and from the unsatisfactory replies that I have been able to make them, I have established a sort of exchange, which, however, is in embryo at present. It is hoped that many collectors in the country, and managers of missions, and, perhaps, natives themselves, here and there, may forward to me parcels, with their prices marked on the articles. I can then publish a list of what I have, and arrange the sale. In cases where the sellers are managers of charitable institutions, or natives themselves, the whole of the proceeds will be handed to them; but, where it is a speculation on the part of the seller, the Department will retain 20 per cent. of the proceeds, to be spent generally for the good of the natives. It seems to me that this will be a systematic way of bringing buyer and seller together, and, besides being a great convenience to travellers who call at Fremantle will, at any rate, bring in some funds for Christmas treats and other festivities, which, so far, I have been obliged to refuse.

The number of blankets issued to the old and weak men and women and children has been 1,796. In order to prevent misappropriation, the blankets are of a special pattern, unlike any others in the market, and are of gaudy colours, which please the wearers. Those who distribute the blankets are required to forward to the head office the name of every recipient, with the grounds of his claim. One expense which falls upon us is the clothing of prisoners who are released from gaol. Hitherto there have been places where the authorities have considered it necessary to go to unwarrantable expense in this direction, and provide the natives with unnecessary garments, which, no doubt, are soon got rid of in exchange for tobacco or drink, or else thrown away and wasted. I am now considering, with the Sheriff, whether it would not be better to have some regulation garment, made by contract, and supplied to the different Gaolers, so that economy and uniformity may be the rule.

Before closing my remarks, I beg to call attention to the draft Bill prepared last session, but which, unfortunately, was not attended to, through press of other business. The principal matters which require legislation are:—

- (a.) The future dealing with half-castes;
- (b.) The checking of immorality with whites;
- (c.) The guardianship of infants; and
- (d.) Further supervision of those employed in the pearling trade.

(a.) My previous remarks show how necessary it is to take action in this direction.

(b.) As this is a growing evil, it is high time that legislative action be taken. The subject is a nauseous one, but the worst phase of it is the readiness with which the natives take to an immoral life, the men, as I said before, finding so many temporary advantages accruing from the degradation of their women. As this leads to their hovering in great numbers about out-settlements, and going from their regular work to laziness and crime, the best course appears to me to give power to the Governor to declare, in places where need exists, sufficient reserve areas around any affected settlement against the intrusion of natives except by permit. They could thus be made to remain at such a distance from the settlement that it would not be worth their while to loiter there, nor would it be worth the while of the whites to seek their distant camps.

(c.) There are many children now, whom we can only expect to become bad subjects by the evil influences which surround them during their childhood, that unless legal power is given to rescue them from such, we may expect in the future great and expensive trouble.

(d.) The intermixing of natives with Asiatics, which is rapidly increasing, is, in my opinion, bad for the future of the race. Although Mr. Olivey's and other reports show that the Asiatics, as a rule, who possess themselves of native wives treat them very kindly, this very kindness will probably fill some of the Northern districts with a mongrel race, very inimical to their future quietude.

There are many other points, such as the amendment of the liquor laws; the registration of those employed as seamen; the suggested alteration in the length of indentures, etc., which require action. I see, by reports and returns from South Australia, that similar matters are engaging attention in Adelaide, where His Excellency the Governor, and the Minister of Education, have spoken strongly on the duties incumbent upon Englishmen in Australia with regard to the blacks. May I quote His

Excellency's words, adapting them to this State—"I hope that [Western Australia] will awaken to a true sense of the responsibility that she owes to these blackfellows, and that she will put down with a strong hand these abominable iniquities."

I earnestly trust that you will see fit to bring this question up during the present session.

The correspondence has been, as follows:—

Letters received	...	...	...	...	1,048
Letters forwarded	...	...	...	...	1,009

Tables have been attached, showing the details of relief (A), the issue of blankets (E), the children in institutions (C), half-castes in the North (D), and the convictions (B), together with the balance-sheet required by Statute.

I have, etc.,

HENRY C. PRINSEP,

Chief Inspector of Aborigines.

Report on the Swan Native Mission.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

SIR,

Church Office, Perth, 30th August, 1901.

In accordance with your request for a Report upon the Swan Native Mission, I have the honour to state the number of inmates is now 47, of whom 38 are at present maintained by your Department, the remainder being supported exclusively by the Church. Of this number 14 are boys and 33 are girls.

There has been no sickness during the past year, with one exception, that of a little baby girl sent down from Coolgardie in a very delicate condition. Her mother had died from the effects of a spear wound received before the baby's birth. The best medical skill available was obtained for the child, and no expense was spared in endeavouring to save her life, nor could more loving care have been bestowed upon her if she had been the child of the highest in the land. Unfortunately, notwithstanding all the efforts used, it was impossible to give the child that which she never had—strength to live. The maintenance allowed by the Government in this case (being that usually allowed) was but a trifle compared with the actual expense incurred.

A new development has taken place this year by the taking in of laundry work, which is proving so successful that it will be necessary to erect a larger laundry, and windmill to carry the water required.

Notwithstanding that some of the elder girls are far advanced in their teens, their conduct is proving very satisfactory, and the experiment of not apprenticing them out at the earlier age of 14 is proving successful. They certainly are displaying a greater aptitude for work of all kinds.

In addition to the laundry work mentioned, gardening is a favourite occupation; breadmaking, cooking, sewing, and other household occupations being carefully taught, and with good results. They grow nearly all their own vegetables. The cooking has improved so much that a larger and better stove has been provided.

The elder boys are, as heretofore, transferred to the Orphanage for white boys, where they receive exactly the same school instruction, and practical instruction in handicrafts, gardening, and farming as the white boys. Several of the still older native boys have, within the last year, been removed from the Orphanage to the Orphanage farm, where the stock proves an excellent means of training them. One native boy shears well, and is good at the various classes of work.

The native and half-caste children had several treats during the year, that which they enjoyed the most being their visit to Perth during the Royal visit.

The future of the girls is still a matter of grave anxiety to me. Notwithstanding the improvement in their behaviour and the development of a better character, I still think that discharging them from the Institution is attended with the most serious dangers, though I am more hopeful now than I ever thought I could be about them.

I would venture to point out, in the interests of the State as well as of the children themselves, that after experience in dealing with these children and knowledge acquired of the natives from travelling in the far Nor'-West, I think it would be highly desirable to give your Department the power of compelling native and half-caste children to be sent to some approved Institution. Provision is made under our law for giving white children an adequate education, and in the case of a neglected or destitute white child the State will take such child away from its parents and educate it compulsorily in an Industrial School. It seems to me only reasonable that this law should be made to apply to aboriginal and half-caste children, who otherwise become a serious menace to the community.

I desire, once more, to thank your Department for the kind consideration with which you have treated the Swan Native Mission, and also wish to place on record again my appreciation of the work done by Miss E. Mackintosh, as Superintendent, for which she is beyond all praise, and in which she is well assisted by her sister, Miss J. Mackintosh.

I am, etc.,

DAVID J. GARLAND,

Manager Swan Native and Half-caste Mission.

Extracts from Letters from C. J. Annear, Fitzroy Telegraph Station.

* * * * * *Intermixing of the Tribes, and Disease.*—When I first came here, some years ago, I found it impossible to get natives belonging to a tribe thirty miles East to remain here; indeed, it took a lot of persuasion to get them to come here at all. I offered all the inducements I could afford to get one of these natives to mind our killing sheep, but could not. Other natives were at hand, but it was thought advisable to get one from another tribe. At the present time, natives from one hundred miles East are frequent visitors here, the trouble being to make them stay away. Some of the infirm here belong to the Upper Margaret River, eighty miles East, and the five that came from the Oscar Range belong to the Lennard River. These facts show conclusively that the tribes are gradually mixing together, and, doubtless, a few years hence, will find many tribes, who at present have different languages and customs, united, having one language and custom. There are, however, tribes fifty miles North and South of the telegraph line, that do not mix with the tribes I have mentioned; this is, I think, due to the white man not yet settling on the country. The mixing of the tribes, as I have mentioned, is an important factor, inasmuch as it will enable the Government to concentrate the infirm, and supply them from one depôt.

* * * * * It is of course impossible to estimate the native population of a district like this, but I feel sure the number would go into thousands, and from my own observations, I should say the births greatly exceed the deaths.

Relief to the infirm, under the present system, will doubtless become more costly each year, and I think every one knowing this country agrees that the Government have a difficult problem to solve in dealing with the natives, but one which all agree should be taken in hand as soon as possible.

As a means of minimising, if not entirely doing away with, the loss at present entailed by supplying relief to the infirm natives and those requiring it temporarily, as is always the case during fever months, and as a means of improving the welfare of the natives generally, I beg to suggest for your consideration, "That the Government set apart a sufficient area, erect suitable buildings thereon, say, for a staff of three or four men, and place upon it stock likely to be remunerative. A suitable site, I think, could be found at the foot of the Leopold Range, close to the Hall's Creek telegraph line, and about 50 miles East of here. To make this Institution self-supporting, I would suggest that horses, cows, and the Angora goat for breeding purposes be placed upon it. There is always a ready sale for horses and cattle, and the hair of the Angora is a valuable commodity. I mention a staff of four, but this could be reduced, once the place was put in working order. I firmly believe that this suggestion, if adopted, and placed in charge of an honest and intelligent officer, and worked on business lines would, in the course of a few years, pay its expenses, and leave a fair sum to go towards relief given elsewhere. I think it would give satisfaction all round. By placing it where I have indicated, it would be in the centre of many tribes; the natives at present receiving relief here or anywhere within a radius of sixty miles could be concentrated there, thereby doing away with relief at many places." * * * * *

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

BALANCE SHEET.

1st July, 1900, to 30th June, 1901

(as required by 60 Vict., No. 5, Sec. 10).

DR.				CR.
RECEIPTS.				
To Balance unexpended from Vote, 1899-1900	222	9	1	
„ Vote, 1900-1901, under 61 Vict., No. 5, Sec. 6	5,000	0	0	
„ Vote, 1900-1901, by Parliament	5,000	0	0	
„ Rent, Reserve 297A, for year ending 30th June, 1901	20	0	0	
„ Contribution towards maintenance of child at the New Norcia Roman Catholic Mission, 18th July, 1900	3	0	0	
„ Contribution towards maintenance of child at the Ellensbrook Home, 24th July, 1900	9	0	0	
„ Contribution towards maintenance of child at the Swan Native and Half-caste Mission, 1st August, 1900	6	0	0	
„ Refund certain overpayments, recovered 1900	10	3	0	
„ Refund certain overpayments, 1901	15	5	9	
„ Contribution towards maintenance of a child at the Ellensbrook Home, 20th April, 1901	9	0	0	
„ Contribution towards maintenance of a child at the Swan Native and Half-caste Mission, 28th May, 1901	6	0	0	
„ Sale of horse, 1st June, 1901	6	1	6	
	<u>£10,306</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>4</u>	
EXPENDITURE.				
By Salary, Chief Protector	550	0	0	
„ „ Travelling Inspector	200	0	0	
„ „ Clerk	200	0	0	950 0 0
„ Relief to Natives—				
Blankets and Clothing	612	12	9	
Provisions	6,269	5	3	
Transport	161	19	8	
Medical fees	38	1	9	
Defence, Native Prisoners	44	13	6	
Burial expenses	54	15	0	
	<u>7,181</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>	
„ Native Missions and Grants—				
Swan Native and Half-caste Mission	718	7	0	
New Norcia Roman Catholic Mission	450	0	0	
Beagle Bay Roman Catholic Mission	250	0	0	
Deaf and Dumb Institution	20	16	8	
Salvation Army Rescue Home	4	13	0	
	<u>1,443</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	
„ Native shelters	24	13	11	
„ Postage and telegrams	31	8	7	
„ Telephones	16	5	0	
„ Miscellaneous	11	11	3	
„ Travelling (including £200 allowance to Travelling Inspector)	293	15	7	
„ * Balance unexpended	354	0	5	£10,306 19 4
	<u>£10,306</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>4</u>	

* Of this, £100 was set apart for award to Williams Hospital, and £150 award at Esperance Hospital, but matters were delayed for full particulars.

ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

TABLE A.

Details of Relief to Aborigines and Half-castes in Western Australia, not including those in Institutions.

District.	Station and Owner or Police Officer in Charge.	Blind.		Aged, diseased, or crippled.		Destitute or otherwise prevented from gaining living.		Total Natives.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
KIMBERLEY, EAST ...	Keddall, F. J., Hall's Creek ...	1	...	2	6	...	...	3	6
	Buchanan, Gordon Bros., Flora Valley ...	1	2	2	2	...	...	3	4
	O'Brien, P.C., Argyle Station ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
	Tate, G. B., Postmaster, Turkey Creek ...	1	1	...	1	...	1	1	3
KIMBERLEY, WEST...	Annear, C. J., Telegraph Station, Fitzroy ...	2	9	3	7	1	2	6	18
	Prideaux, F. J., Telegraph Station, Wallal ...	1	...	5	7	...	...	6	7
	Felstead, C. E., Telegraph Station, Wallal ...		1	5	3	16	4	21
	Tuckett, F. W., La Grange Bay	1	2	1	2	...	...	2	4
	Boe, G. H., Thangoo ...	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	...
	Collins, J., Oscar Range...	1	...	3	2	...	...	4	2
	Adcock Bros., Derby ...	...	...	25	25	...	...	25	25
NORTH-WEST ...	Grant, Anderson, & Edgar, De Grey ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4
	Brockman Bros., Corunna Downs	2	...	8	5	...	...	10	5
	Mackay Bros., Mundabullangana	1	1	4	4	...	...	5	5
	Breen, Corporal, Police Station, Marble Bar ...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
	Meares & Cusack, Tambrey ...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Robinson Bros., Mt. Florence ...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3
	McRae, Straker, Croydon ...	...	2	...	5	...	...	...	7
	James, P.C., Table Land ...	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	2
	Padbury & Loton, Millstream ...	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	3
	Meares & Withnell, Sherlock ...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3
	Gillman, A. C., Chiritta ...	2	4	...	...	...	...	2	4
	Lockyer, A. B., Springs Station	1	...	1	2	...	...	2	2
	N.W. Mercantile Co., Cossack and Roebourne ...	1	...	1	1	...	...	2	1
	Street, P.C., Woodstock ...	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	3
ASHBURTON and GASCOYNE	Radley, P.C., Onslow ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Higham, H., Nanutarra ...	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	2
	Carter, T., Point Cloates ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	McLeod, D., Minilya ...	...	2	1	9	...	...	1	11
	Bunbury, M. C. R., Williambury	2	2	1	3	...	...	3	5
	Lefroy, G. W., Yanyearoddie ...	...	3	1	...	...	...	1	3
	Campbell, R., Booloogooroo ...	...	...	3	1	...	...	3	1
	Bush, R. E., Clifton Downs ...	...	1	...	5	...	...	...	6
	Ayliffe, St. Barbe, Bangemall ...	...	...	4	6	...	...	4	6
	Sunter, P.C., Junction Police Station ...	1	1	2	8	...	...	3	9
	Rogers, P.C., Sharks Bay Police Station ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Thompson, R. J., Hamelin Telegraph Station ...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	4
	Spry, P.C., Thomas Police Station	...	...	1	6	...	...	1	6
	Baston, G., Carnarvon ...	...	...	9	12	...	...	9	12
Masters, D., Wooramel ...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	8	
Munro & Hogarth ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	
MURCHISON ...	Byrne, P.C., Police Station, Peak Hill ...	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	1
	Turner, P.C., Police Station, Mt. Wittenoom ...	1	...	1	9	...	...	2	9
	Gordon, P.C., Police Station, Mt. Gould ...	3	1	9	...	...	...	12	1
	Steele Bros. & Smythe, Manfred ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1
	Nairn, J., Byro ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
	Dixon, E., Nannine ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2
	Mackay, J. H., Abbott's ...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
	Wittenoom, F., Boolardy ...	1	3	...	...	...	...	1	3
	Davis, G., Yarra Yarra ...	1	2	...	1	...	...	1	3
	Perks, J., Meeka ...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	2
	Carlyon, R. J., Yuin Reef ...	2	...	2	3	...	...	4	3
	Walsh & Sons, Mileura ...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	2
	Sharpe, J., Wooleen ...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	2
Ogilvie, A., Murchison House ...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	2	

TABLE A—continued.

District.	Station and Owner or Police Officer in Charge.	Blind.		Aged, diseased, or crippled.		Destitute or otherwise prevented from gaining a living.		Total Natives.		
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
VICTORIA	Pollard, P.C., Police Station, Yalgoo	1	1	2	5			3	6	
	Campbell, J., Arrino		1						1	
	Hardy, P.C., Police Station, Gullewa		1		2				3	
	McGuinness, P.C., Police Station, Field's Find			1				1		
	Broad, Robt., Wydges			1	2			1	2	
	Wainwright & Co., Geraldton			2				2		
	Woolf, Isaac, Northampton			6	6	4	1	10	7	
	White, J., Rothesay			1				1		
	McCarthy, J., Pindah				2				2	
	Davies, C., Tibradden			3				3		
EASTERN GOLD-FIELDS	Cable, Lardner Jones, Kurnalpi						11		11	
	Kennedy, Bros., Niagara					15	15	15	15	
CENTRAL	Hall, A., Wattoning (nil)									
	Chitty, C., Badbatting			1				1		
	Maddock, Wilgoyne		1	1	1			1	2	
	Clinch, A., Moora			1	2			1	2	
	Smith, C. C., Beambine, Pingelly			5	5			5	5	
	Heal, C. & J., Corolin			1	2		1	1	3	
	Edwards, C., York				4		3		7	
	Meares, E. G. M., Northam			2	1			2	1	
	Leake, R. B., Mooranoppin			2	2			2	2	
	New Norcia			2	1	2	3	4	4	
	Adams, J., Mangowine			2	2			2	2	
	Drummond, J., Yere Yere			1				1		
	Wells, E., Bindoon			1				1		
	Parker, J. & W., York				1	2	3	1	5	
	Clarkson, B. D., Newcastle	1						1		
	Parker, W. B., York		2	1	2	2	4	3	8	
	Parker, G., York			1	1		2	1	3	
	Blechynden, G., Oakdale			2			1		3	
	Perth			3	9	6	6	9	15	
Padbury, Wm., Guildford			11	15			11	15		
Molyneux, C., Northam			2	1			2	1		
SOUTH-WESTERN	Cornwall, W., Williams River				1				1	
	Dunmall, Wandering				2				2	
	Piesso, F. and C., Wagin			2	2			2	2	
	Gillett, M. A., Balbarrup			3	1			3	1	
	Belcher, H., Bunbury					5	4	5	4	
	Bussell, E., Ellonsbrook					3	2	3	2	
	Brockman, F. L., Vasse					1	1	1	1	
	Harris, C. A.			1	3			1	3	
	Janes, J. & W. T., Kojonup		1	4	1			4	2	
	Lockhart, R., Busselton			1				1		
	Moor., J. W., Kenenup	1		1	3			2	3	
	Muir, Thos., Deeside			2	2			2	2	
	Spratt, M. A., Arthur River		1	2	2			2	3	
	Hammersley, E., Williams									
	Tuckey, C., Mandurah				3		6		9	
	Brown, C. F., Arthur River				3	1	2	1	5	
	Cowcher, G. S. F., Williams				1				1	
	Bovell, J., Mullalyup			1				1		
	Horley, A. G., Moodiarrup			2	1			2	1	
Barnett, E., Albany					2	1	2	1		
Hassell, A. Y., Jerramungup				5				5		
Warburton, E. G., Yerriminup						5		5		
SOUTH-EASTERN	Daw, F. J., Esperance			2	2		3	2	5	
	Gorman, P., Postmaster, Bremer Bay			2		5	7	7	7	
	Kennedy, McGill, Mandra Bella, Eucla			9	9	2		9	11	
	Taylor, C., Lynburne				2	2	4	2	6	
	Moir, J., Cape Riche						3		3	
	Ponton Bros. & Sharpe, Balladonia			1	3	1	3	2	6	
	Dimer, H., Israelite Bay	1			2	4	1	5	3	
	Dunn Bros., Phillips River						5		5	
	Dempster, W. E., Esperance and Fraser River					7	8	7	8	
	Total			35	66	200	303	64	110	295	488

TABLE B.
Conviction of Aborigines, 1900-1901.

For killing cattle—East Kimberley	32	
Do. do. West Kimberley	16	
		48
For spearing horse—Pilbarra	1	
For stealing	22	
For assault on natives	6	
Do. on warder	1	
		7
For absconding from custody	14	
For absconding from service	15	
As vagrants and rogues	3	
As drunk and disorderly	9	
For supplying liquor to aborigines	1	
		120
Total		120

TABLE C.
List of Native and Half-caste Children at the various Institutions.

Institution.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Anglican Mission—Middle Swan	15	25	40
Benedictine Mission—New Norcia	32	32	64
Trappist Mission—Beagle Bay and Disaster Bay	27	10	37
Deaf and Dumb Institution	1	...	1
Ellensbrook—Farm Home	3	1	4
	78	68	146

N.B.—The Salvation Army have, with their usual readiness, given assistance to the Department by the care of a half-caste woman and child for a considerable part of the year.

TABLE D.
List of Half-castes in the Northern Districts (excluding East Kimberley).
(Compiled from the Reports of the Travelling Inspector.)

District.	Men.	Women.	Boys under 14.	Girls under 14.	Quadrants.	Totals.
Murchison	7	7	11	7	2	34
Gascoyne and Ashburton ... ..	...	...	16	16	...	32
North-West	13	16	28	30	1	88
West Kimberley	1	1	3	7	...	12
Total	21	24	58	60	3	166

N.B.—These numbers are necessarily approximate.

TABLE E.
Statement of Distribution of Blankets.

District.	No.
Kimberley	220
North-West	175
Ashburton and Gascoyne	189
Murchison	117
Eastern Goldfields	296
Victoria and Southern Districts	799
Total	1,796

[Form N.]

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

Dr. to.....

(Name of Public Creditor.)

Treasury Sched. No.	
Treasury Voucher	No.

Estimates, 190		
Item No.....	Head of Service—ABORIGINES.	Expenditure Authorised by
	Sub-Head do.....	

Date.*	Particulars.	Amount.																						
*Not of rendering Account, but of performing Service.	At Relieving Station.....	£	s.	d.																				
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">Period.</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Name of Native.</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Age.</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Sex.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Condition.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Rate each day.</th> <th style="width: 10%;">No. of days.</th> </tr> <tr> <th style="font-size: x-small;">From</th> <th style="font-size: x-small;">To</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="height: 100px;"></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period.	Name of Native.	Age.	Sex.	Condition.	Rate each day.	No. of days.	From	To														
Period.	Name of Native.	Age.	Sex.	Condition.	Rate each day.	No. of days.																		
From	To																							
	£																							

We certify, in terms of Section 14 of the Audit Act, that the amount charged in this Voucher as to computations, castings, and rates is correct; that the Service has been faithfully performed; and that the Expenditure is duly authorised.

.....
Accountant or other Officer,

I hereby authorise the amount of the above Certificate in my favour to be paid on my behalf to *.....

* Here insert name of Party or Branch of Bank to which payable.
Signature of Public Creditor.

RECEIVED from the Colonial Treasurer the sum of.....pounds.....shillings and
pence, in payment of above Account.

Witness.....
Signature.

50 Vict., No. 25.

RETURN OF ABORIGINES UNDER CONTRACT FOR SERVICE.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The undermentioned natives have signed contracts for service in my presence between the following dates.....to.....

* (Signed)

.....Date.

* Either Government Resident, Resident Magistrate, J.P., Protector, or person duly appointed.

Date.	Name of aboriginal, and alias.	Sex.	Age.	Employer.	Station or Locality.	Term in Months.	Wages if any.

Appendix.

Reports on Stations visited by the Travelling Inspector of Aborigines from 1st September, 1899 to 30th June, 1901.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

Mt. View Station,

7th September, 1899.

SIR,

I beg to report, for your information, having visited Murchison House Station, owned by Mr. A. J. Ogilvie.

There were five (5) natives here on the relief list, one, a woman, Maria, about 60 years old (?), died on 6th August, the cause of death being, probably, senile decay accelerated by an abscess on the face; this woman received rations to 29th July. Two (2) other women, Kitty, about 60 (?), Munga, about 60 or more, do not appear to be fit to do any work or earn their own living; a third (3rd), Boora, between 60 and 70 years, who is lame, and has one leg much shorter than the other, is also a fit subject for relief. A man, Jimmie, supposed to be about 80, and nearly blind, was away with one of Mr. Ogilvie's shepherds for a spell; he drew rations up to 27th August, and will again go on the list on his return. I examined another old native, Barrow, or Buttawa, between 60 and 70; he appears to have had a severe dislocation of the shoulder some time ago, but cannot account for it, causing his left arm to be almost useless, and his neck awry. This native has been fed by Mr. Ogilvie for the last two years, about that time having been taken very ill with a large tumour in his side, of which there appears to be no trace now; he has done little or nothing since; just at present he is minding a few killing sheep until the shepherd returns from his holiday. I have authorised Mr. Ogilvie to place Barrow, or Buttawa, on the relief list on the return of the other native, as I consider he is a fit subject for relief, and may break down at any moment.

I consider the amount allowed per head, viz., 7d. per day, is not too much, as the road out to Murchison House is a very bad one, thereby making carriage very expensive.

I append a list of natives employed on this station for your information:—

- (1.) A half-caste boy, Jack, about 16, born on the run.
- (2.) A native boy, George (19), indentured about six or seven years ago in Geraldton; Mr. Ogilvie not having the papers, cannot state date more exactly.
- (3.) Joe, about 55, a shepherd, away for a spell.
- (4.) Nellie, Joe's woman, working at homestead.
- (5.) Jilba, a black woman, working at homestead, and three children (two being half-caste); her mother looks after two of these children and is fed by the station.
- (6.) Ben, away for a spell.
- (7.) Venus, Ben's woman, away for a spell; with a half-caste Malay boy, nine years old.

These natives (men) are paid £1 per month for their services, with the exception of the two boys, Jack and George. I am glad to report that the natives on this station are well treated, fed, and clothed, and look happy and contented; the natives relieved by Government are also well clothed. There is another native and his woman hanging about this station, having come over from an adjoining run.

On TAMALA sheep station, owned by Ogilvie and Logue, 90 miles up the coast, there are nine men and boys

employed, together with about six women, all adults, being advanced in years. No sickness having been reported from this station, I did not visit it this trip, the road being a very bad one, and it can probably be visited on my trip North later on. If there are any half-caste, or native boys to be placed out, Mr. Ogilvie would take five or six, providing they were indentured to him. I consider this station a most desirable home in every way for any such boys, as they would be well treated and trained up to make themselves useful station hands, and also save the Department expense, and, the station being isolated, boys would be removed from many evil influences to which they would be open in a more densely populated district.

I have etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

New Forest, Murchison,

SIR,

20th September, 1899.

I beg to forward, for your information, reports on Messrs. Drage Bros.' station and Yallalonga, owned by Mrs. Mitchell.

Messrs. Drage Bros. have no natives on the relief list at present.

I append a list of the natives employed at Mt. View and the out camps belonging to Messrs. Drage Bros.:

The scale of rations issued to shepherds and other natives is very liberal, being as follows:—20lbs. flour, 15lbs. meat, 4lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, and 3 sticks of tobacco per week for a man and his woman. While natives employed at the homesteads live very well indeed, getting as much as they can eat, they are all also clothed liberally. The natives throughout the employ are well treated and cared for; they have been mostly reared on the place. Mr. Tom Drage will not keep any boys who refuse to make an agreement, as he says unscrupulous neighbours are very apt to entice the natives away, unless signed.

I also visited Balgooda, a sheep camp of Drage Bros., about 80 miles from Mt. View; here again the natives seemed happy and contented; also at Wale, the cattle station about 40 miles farther North. There are only three boys and one woman at Wale; one of these boys I saw playing cricket, draughts, the concertina, and also shoeing a horse; they are all fat, sleek, and contented.

I saw one woman at Mt. View who was sick, evidently in a decline; the owners had been giving her soups, &c., until quite recently at the homestead, but native-like she cleared out to one of the shepherd's camps, and could not be properly looked after. I advised Mr. Drage to give her some codliver oil.

About four weeks ago, at Balgooda, during the absence of the overseer, Mr. Clarke, the store, an iron building, was broken into by a native, supposed to be the work of an absconder called Mooney, for whom there is a warrant out. The nails were drawn and a sheet of iron removed, when the native helped himself to flour, sugar, jam, and tinned fruit; the iron was then replaced and nails put in again.

Mr. Clarke told me there had been three deaths, two adults and one child, and one birth at Balgooda, during the last five years.

Mr. Drage wished to indenture two or three boys, whose parents work on the run, but from the wording of the Act it appears this can only be done by a Resident Magistrate. I have also had another inquiry as to indentures, so should be obliged if you would inform me if I can do anything in the matter.

Natives employed by Messrs. Drage Bros.:—

Mount View.—Two men and three women, probably about 40 years; one half-caste boy, nine or 10 years; one man and two women (shepherding), all over 30.

Balgooda.—Three men and six women, all probably over 30; one boy, about nine or 10; two children (one boy about five, one girl about $2\frac{1}{2}$).

Wale.—One native, about 35; one half-caste boy, about 15; one native and woman, over 30.

There is generally an old couple at Wale, but they were absent during the time I was there. There are also two boys (10 and 7), and one girl about 15, living with Mr. Joe Drage in or about Northampton, all born on the run.

On leaving Mount View, on my way to Balgooda, I called at Geraldine Mine. There is one native and his woman employed there; they both looked fat and well, and apparently live just as well as the white men on the place.

Extracted from File 786/99. Travelling Report 2/99.

YALLALONGA, owned by Mrs. Mitchell, managed by her son, Mr. J. C. Mitchell, was my next place of call. Here I found two (2) old women had been on relief up to two months ago; one, aged about 70, I saw, the other had cleared out some time ago, and had not returned. According to your instructions I could not allow relief to the old woman, although she is certainly a fit subject, as her daughter is shepherding on the run. The manager said he would continue to feed her with the others. No accounts seem to have been rendered from the station for some time past, and from what I could learn they were formerly sent in by Mrs. Mitchell, of Northampton; an unsatisfactory arrangement to say the least of it. I signed two natives for Mr. Mitchell. I enter all natives signed in a book, with employer's name, term of service, etc., so as to keep a record for reference. The natives here get good rations, much the same as given by Drage Bros.; the only difference being that the meat supplied is somewhat irregular. The natives are rather advanced in years, but seem to be fairly satisfied. They being mostly employed shepherding naturally get rather discontented at times with such monotonous work.

There are four men, three women, and one boy (a half-caste, about 18) employed on this station; they appear to be well clothed on the whole. An old native died here last November, but he did not belong to the employ, having come in from the bush. One of the men suffers from his chest, and appears to be in a decline. I did what little I could for him. No venereal disease has yet come before my notice.

From Yallalunga I went on to New Forest, owned by the Western Australian Mortgage and Agency Corporation, and managed by Mr. E. R. Grey. No natives on relief here, and only one man and his woman (both about 50) and one boy (about 12) employed on the place. They all three are happy and contented, and are well fed and clothed. I found it necessary to remain

here a few days to give my horses a spell. Shall have to get at least two more by and bye. The constant work is too much for two. Up to the present I have been well treated by owners and managers, and have been afforded much assistance in doing my work.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

At MEELYA, owned by Messrs. T. and P. Ryan, there are at present no natives on relief. Mr. T. Ryan wished me to put one on, an old woman about 60, who has one leg shorter than the other, but as she has a daughter working as cook on the place, I felt bound to refuse, but would recommend that blankets be supplied to her and another old woman on Mr. Ryan applying for them. On this station there are employed four men, three women, one girl about nine, and one boy about 11 or 12. At times a number of other natives congregate here, but none were there during my visit. The natives are well treated and clothed, and appear happy and contented. The scale of rations is rather lower here than at some of the other stations visited, viz., 15lbs. flour, 3lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. mutton, 3 sticks tobacco, 1 box matches per week per man and woman. There was one birth here, but child died.

At BROOKFIELD, near Northampton, owned by the Ryan family, there are two men, two women, and one half-caste boy about 12.

BILLABALONG.—Owned by Mr. A. Dempster, late Dempster & Miller, and managed by Mr. A. Macpherson.

No natives on relief here.

There are three men (two about 45 and one about 40) and five women (from 30 and upwards) employed here, together with two girls (10 and 12), and one boy (five years old). One death, that of a man aged about 22, occurred here about 12 months ago.

At WONGULIA, cattle station, under the same management, there is one half-caste boy, aged about 19, also one woman about 40. Scale of rations here about the same as Meelya, with the exception of meat, viz., 15lbs. flour, 3lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks of tobacco, and matches per week for man and woman. Mr. Macpherson only gives meat when the natives ask for it, as they keep kangaroo dogs and hunt their own, though the boys at homestead apparently fare well enough in that respect and all seem happy and contented; these natives also get £1 when going for a holiday. I also saw some Wooleen natives here and two women belonging to a native now at Rottneat; one of the latter was sick. I attended to her as well as possible.

Mr. AUBREY STATION, owned by Dalgety & Co., and managed by Mr. A. Boddington. There are no natives on relief here, although I saw three old women at the camp who I think are fit subjects for relief, but they appear to be nomads—here to-day and gone to-morrow—and as Mr. Boddington does not expect to be on this station much longer it would be useless putting them on relief with him. I have myself seen two of these old women in other parts of the district; they do a good deal of travelling about. Eight men (ages ranging from 30 to 50) and 10 women (ages from 15 to 55) and one boy (16 years old) are employed on this station, together with five children (from two to nine years). One of the women has another boy, about 12, now working at New Forest, with the consent of his parents. There have been two births during the last three years. Two children died last year; these are the only deaths during the last 16 years. Scale of rations supplied

as follows: 15lbs. flour, 3lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks of tobacco, 2 boxes of matches, meat when required for man and woman per week.

The above ration scale is much the same as the former station, and meat is given when the natives want it. These natives are well fed and clothed, and seem happy and contented. It will be seen from the above record of only two deaths in 16 years that they are well nourished and looked after; the two children both died suddenly, probably from sunstroke. One woman had a very bad finger, which I opened, giving her instant relief; she was getting on well on my departure. I have not come across any venereal disease as yet.

WOOLEEN.—Owned by Mr. J. Sharpe.

There are eight men (ages ranging from 23 to 25), six women, and three boys (14, 12, and 4), and eight girls (18, 15, 10, 4, 3, 3, 2, and two 3 months old). Three of the above girls are half-castes. No deaths during the last 12 months. About 14 months ago one death occurred: four births during the last three years. Scale of rations quoted by Mr. Sharpe as follows:—18lbs. flour, $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco, matches, per week per man and woman; also powder and shot and dogs; no meat.

The natives employed on this station look well, and appear to do pretty well as they like. They are well clothed. The women appear to do the stock work. I saw two go out on horseback to muster a paddock the day after my arrival at Wooleen. I hope to be able to inform you what arrangements I have made with P.C. Binning by this mail.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Murgoo, July 9, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

Mt. Wittenoom,

SIR,

12th October, 1899.

The natives on relief here, the majority of whom I saw to-day, are well looked after, and get a generous ration, viz., 14lbs. flour, 2lbs. sugar, and $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea per week, so that there is no doubt about the advisability of getting the Wooleen natives over here, where they will get the money's worth. I see the allowance for this station has been raised to 9d. per head for the last month, and I think rightly so, as a police constable cannot get rations carted anything like as cheaply as station owners, for obvious reasons.

I beg to suggest that a supply of Eucalyptus Oil and Pain Killer be supplied to this station for the use of natives on relief; they often suffer from colds and minor ailments, when a dose given in time often saves considerable trouble and sickness.

Have just received your wire of the 11th inst. *re* original arrangement, but am afraid it would take much longer to follow the course then mapped out than to go North from Peak Hill, so unless you particularly wish me to go South, think it will be advisable to go North now. Should you wish to make any further alteration in route, there will be plenty of time to let me know before I reach Peak Hill.

I returned to Murgoo yesterday and go on to Boolardy to-day, but a wire will follow me on by mail.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector, etc.

MT. WITTENOOM POLICE STATION.—P.C. Binning in charge.

There are ten (10) natives on relief here at present, and three (3) at Meka, seven miles distant; these latter are fed by Mr. Little, J.P., and charged to P.C. Binning, apparently a plan that works very well. I did not visit Meka, Mr. Little being away in Perth and feed being so very scarce, but from the constable's reports, am assured the natives are well treated there.

As reported in my communication No. 4/99, I have arranged with P.C. Binning to take over five (5) natives now on relief at Wooleen, and remove them to Mt. Wittenoom to be relieved by him. There is one native, about 30, and his woman, and one half-caste girl about 15 (latter indentured to Mrs. Binning) employed at Mt. Wittenoom.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MURGOO, owned and managed by Mr. H. M. Moloney, J.P.

There were three natives on relief here; two have died recently, and one Mr. Moloney handed over to P.C. Binning to be fed by him at Mt. Wittenoom. On arrival at this station, Mr. Moloney reported the death of one old woman a few days before. Some ten days previous she got badly burnt; the shock probably proved too much at her advanced age, and she collapsed. I had a look at another old woman who was bad, and gave her some cough mixture, but two days after she died, probably from acute congestion of the lungs; it is a very difficult matter to determine what these old natives are suffering from. Ten (10) men and eleven (11) women are employed at Murgoo, one of the latter being a half-caste, about 22 years of age, and having three children. There are eleven (11) children from three months to 12 years, including one half-caste about two years old.

These natives are well treated, clothed, and fed, and appear happy and contented. Two or three of the women at the homestead are very useful, doing the housework and looking after the white children. These women have evidently been well trained. I omitted to obtain the scale of rations given, but know well it is a liberal one, Mr. Moloney being a good master to whites and blacks.

There have been three (3) births and three (3) deaths here during the last twelve months.

BOOLARDY.—Owned by Messrs. E. and F. Wittenoom, and managed by Mr. G. Thomson (21/10/99).

There are four (4) natives on relief here: One man about 65, Eruthingie, *alias* Blind Jack; three women, one about 50, Junimine, blind; one about 50, Yarlowamma, nearly blind; and one about 60, Tharujingoo, nearly blind.

These natives are generally fed with those working on the place, at the homestead. The manager considers this a better plan than giving them rations at the camp, and as the younger natives are very prone to prey on the aged and infirm, I also think this a good plan, thereby insuring their getting regular food and not being so much at the mercy of their more able friends. Mr. Thomson tells me these natives have had two blankets given them of late years, therefore I would recommend that four blankets be sent to Boolardy for these old natives, and have advised the manager to apply for them. There are 18 men and 19 women employed on this station, two of the latter being half-castes. There are 10 children on this station, ranging from 12 months to 16 years, six of them being half-castes. Some of the women employed at the homestead are very useful at housework, and have evidently been well trained. Two of the half-caste boys, aged 16

and 14, are smart youngsters and make themselves useful in many ways. The natives here are well treated and happy, and the children are particularly well looked after.

The natives out on the run get rations as usual: 14lbs. flour, 2lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco, 1 box matches per week, man and woman. They are also given guns and ammunition to shoot their own meat. The majority of these natives have been on the run for years, some are signed, but not all. There have been two deaths (both infants) and two births during the last twelve months. I found two cases of venereal disease here; most of the natives had colds and one a touch of influenza.

MANFRED.—Owned by Mr. Smythe and at present managed by Mr. Satherthwaite.

There are three natives on relief here:—Najinghu, *alias* Billie, 60, M. (blind); Winneanjo, 50, F.; Bulyen, 55, F. The old man Najinghu, being very blind, is fed at the homestead with the working natives. The others are allowed 6lbs. flour, 6lbs. meat, and 2lbs. sugar per week each.

There are four men and five women employed on this station, one of the latter being a half-caste about 25, having two children, both by white men apparently. These natives have been in the employ for many years and are well treated, clothed, and fed. Rations: 14lbs. flour, 14lbs. meat, 3lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco, and matches per week, per man and woman.

Just at present, rations having nearly run out, the natives are on rather shorter allowance. Previous to last shearing, one woman, a confirmed invalid, died; there have been no births within the last 12 months.

In replying to this report, please address P. Office, Nannine.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Manfred, 21st October, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BYRO.—Owned by Messrs. J. Nairn & Son. Managed by Mr. W. Nairn.

There is one native on relief here, Tallajerra, M. 60, crippled and unable to walk. This native has his food taken to him from the homestead.

There are 17 men from 15 to 50, and 19 women from 13 to 50 employed on this station; there are also two children—half-castes, one boy six years old, and one girl, also six. The natives working at the homestead are very handy and seem to have been well-taught, and the same may be said of the women. Three of the latter do kitchen work, wait at table, etc. All those I saw are well fed, clothed, and contented. Feed being so scarce and no chaff available, I was unable to visit the out camp. Mr. Walter Nairn informed me there were generally nine or ten loafers around the out camps, mostly natives out for a holiday.

There was one birth here in November last, but the child died the following February.

At Byro I had my buggy tyred by a half-caste; this man, Charlie Mortimer, born at Gingin 36 years ago, was brought up and educated at New Norcia Mission. He married an aboriginal woman six years ago, she has two children by him, both boys; the eldest, 11 years old, is a very smart, intelligent boy, and with good training should turn out well. His father talks of getting him educated and eventually making a smith of him; the other boy, six years old, is not as sharp as his brother. Mortimer left the Mission 17 years ago, was two years at Gingin, and is now

well-known on the Murchison, where he travels about doing any work that comes in his way. He is a very good smith, rather slow, but does good work and is a great credit to the Mission and his instructors.

Scale of rations: 14lbs. flour, 14lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, 2 sticks tobacco, matches, and soap, per week, for woman and man.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Byro, 25th November, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MILLY MILLY.—Owned by Mr. J. Aitken, and managed by Mr. A. Daly.

The manager was away on my arrival here, but I was enabled to obtain some information from the overseer. Mr. Smith (the overseer) asked me to place two natives on relief. On seeing these, I felt bound to do so, they both being unable to obtain their own living. 1. Widjinarra, *alias* Charlie, male, about 60, blind, deaf, and infirm. 2. Adgeladie, *alias* Judy, female, about 55, unable to walk. These two I authorised the manager to relieve at the rate of 9d. per day, from the 1st November, 1899. There are 28 men and boys (from nine to 57), five boys (from nine to 13), and 27 women (from seven to 50), one half-caste girl (12) employed on this station. The natives I saw looked well, and are evidently well treated, fed, and clothed.

Scale of rations: 12lbs. flour, 12lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco, and matches every six days, man and woman.

I did not visit the out camps on this station, but hope to be able to do so on my way back from the North, when I hope there may be more feed about. Travelling under existing circumstances is terribly hard on my horses, as at several places I have been unable to obtain any fodder.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Milly Milly, 28th November, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MT. GOULD POLICE STATION (Upper Murchison).—P.C. Gordon, in charge.

There are 13 natives (seven men and six women) on relief at this station; there were two other women who generally turned up on ration days, but I considered they were both able to get their own living. Four (4) of these natives are on partial relief at 6d. per day, the remainder are at 9d. The latter get 6lbs. flour, 2lbs. sugar, and 4ozs. tea per week; whereas the former only get 6lbs. flour. I think these natives would be just as well without the tea, as long as they get sugar; they care very little for tea; the flour ration could then be increased. Two men (one 35 the other 20), together with their women, are employed at this station. All these natives are well looked after; those able to get about can get a certain amount of bush food around about, rain having fallen to the North of Mount Gould.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Beringarra, 22nd November, 1899.

The Chief Protector, Perth.

BERINGARRA.—Owned by Messrs. Darlot Bros.; managed by Mr. A. E. Barnes.

No natives on relief here. Thirty-five men (ages from 30 to 50) and 36 women (ages about the same) employed on this station, together with seven children (three of each sex), from three months to 12 years; also four men and four women away in the bush. When at Moorarrie I visited an out camp belonging to this station, in charge of Mr. G. W. Campbell. The natives employed at this out camp were well clothed, and as well fed and treated as any natives I have yet seen; they all signed agreements without the slightest hesitation. From information obtained at this camp and from Messrs. Davidson and Barnes, both being present at the inquiry held at Mt. Gould by Inspector Laurence, and also from natives, I feel confident the charges made by the late police constable (Ritchie) were greatly exaggerated. No doubt you will have seen the evidence taken at this inquiry, and therefore will be aware of the facts, I am satisfied there must have been truth in certain things the blacks told me.

I have been about this station a good deal, seeing the majority of the natives. That they are well fed you will see by the appended scale of rations. Those working at the homestead and camp are also well fed, and look well and contented. Scale of rations:—12lbs. flour, 20lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, 3 sticks tobacco, and matches, every six days for man and woman. There were two deaths during last 12 months, both old men. One birth three months ago.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Beringarra, 22nd November, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MILEURA STATION (Upper Murchison).—Owned by Messrs. Walsh & Sons, and managed by Mr. H. B. Walsh, I.M.

There are three natives on relief here; they get 12lbs. flour each per week. Up to the time of my visit Walsh Bros. had been drawing £2 per month for the keep of the three natives, which works out at the rate of 5½d. per day. Mr. Walsh informed me he could only supply a little over a pound of flour per day at this rate, so that for some considerable time past the station has been contributing largely to the keep of these old natives, and as they did not really belong to Mileura at all, and had done little or no work there, he said the firm could not continue to relieve them unless the rate was raised to a fair thing. Under these circumstances, the natives being worthy subjects for relief, I felt bound to raise the rate to the usual amount of 2s. 9d. per day, as they get a little more at Mileura for the money than they would at Mt. Gould at the same rate.

Mr. Walsh also referred to the memo. received by him from the Department, with reference to sending in vouchers every month, and pointed out that by doing so he would have to send 70 miles each month to Mt. Gould to get them certified to by the officer in charge there, and this officer would not have seen the natives or that they were in receipt of relief, and would therefore be perfectly right if he refused to certify to what he only had another man's word for. This matter has also appealed to me strongly on more than one occasion, and I should like to see a more satisfactory arrangement.

Relief natives are:—Cookermurra, female, about 55, blind; Judy, female, about 55, blind; Wincooka, male, about 60, unfit to work. Ten men, from 17 to 40; nine women, from 18 to 30; and two girls, nine and 14, are employed on this station. Scale of rations: 14lbs. flour, 2lbs. sugar, 2 sticks tobacco, matches, guns or dogs, per week.

One death occurred 12 months ago, that of a man aged about 30. No births during the last 12 months. The natives employed on this station look sleek and well, and are apparently contented and happy, and are well clothed. The two girls who do the house work, wait at table, etc., have been well trained, and are very useful in many ways.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Annean, 8th December, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ANNEAN STATION.—Owned by Messrs. Darlot Bros. & Co.; managed by Mr. W. H. Hutton.

There are now only four boys employed on this station, aged from 10 to 18. The place has lately changed hands, the present owners having bought it from the executors of the late Mr. Gascard. Mr. L. H. Darlot told me all the natives had cleared out and none of them had returned. From here I visited Mumara Gully, a mining camp about eight miles from Annean. Here I tracked up a mob of natives, five men, ten women, and two girls, the latter aged about nine. These natives said they came from Meeka Station, and were out for a holiday. They were all well clothed and looked well, none of them complaining of sickness. Amongst them were three or four young women, the remainder being middle-aged. No doubt these women will make a living by prostitution for the most part, there being a population of 40 or 50 men at this camp.

I would like to express here my appreciation of the kindness of Mr. L. H. Darlot, who put a horse and trap at my disposal while at the station. I only saw two of the boys employed at Annean, the other two being away with stock. They are well treated, clothed, and fed, and appeared to be very useful.

I was here once more asked about indenturing boys under 14, but had to refer Mr. Darlot to a Resident Magistrate.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Belele, 17th December, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

NANNINE.—I ascertained from Corporal Tyler, of the Police Department, that an old woman had died a few days previous to my visit, and nearly all the natives had scattered about in consequence. After a good deal of questioning, I managed to track up two old women, who had been on relief at Annean when the place belonged to the late Mr. Gascard. These two I have since put on relief again, this time under the care of Mr. G. M. Dickson, the Nannine butcher, at 9d. per day. As these natives are camped close to the slaughter yard, about two miles from the township, and as I have every reason to believe Mr. Dickson is a reliable man, I think it is the best arrangement that could be made under existing circumstances. One of these women is diseased, and apparently suffering from syphilis of long standing. I have supplied Mr. Dickson with medicine, which he has promised to administer; the other is a much older woman, very lame, and certainly unfit to work. They are:—

- (1.) Nunilla, *alias* Judy, female, about 35, unable to walk, and syphilitic;
- (2.) Thungundi, *alias* Biddy, female, about 45, infirm and lame.

At this camp there were also six other women and one child, female, about three, and four men, all apparently able to work, and doing odd jobs in the township. Mr. Dickson has a man and woman in his employ, the former coming from over on the river; seems very intelligent, speaking good English, and doing a white man's work. He is about 25 years old. At the Police Camp there is one native assistant and his woman, both about 30, evidently well looked after. The woman, Mrs. Tyler tells me, does excellent work, washing and keeping the place tidy, etc.

Undergoing a sentence of two months, for being drunk and assaulting a native woman, was a South Australian native named Cherry. He is a smart, intelligent boy (about 30), and is now doing odd jobs for Mr. Oliver, the Registrar, who intends to employ him regularly at the expiration of his sentence.

There are a few other natives working in and around the township, making a total of about 20 all told; but Corporal Tyler tells me they are constantly on the move, visiting the different camps. I should like to have visited Tukanarra, Star of the East, and other outlying camps, where there are a few natives, but hope to do so on my way South later on. I would like to recommend Mr. F. S. Oliver, the Registrar of this district, as an honorary Protector, if such appointments are made. I consider he would be a good man, as he takes a keen interest in the natives; and in a mining township such as this, far away from headquarters, I think it advisable there should be someone, other than the police, to look after the welfare of the natives, more especially where relief is being distributed by the Department. Mr. Oliver very kindly let me have the use of his trap and horse to go out and see the natives at their camps.

I have, etc.,
G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Belele, 17th December, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BELELE STATION.—Owned and managed by Mr. E. Lee Steere.

There are no natives on relief here. Thirteen (13) men, aged from 27 to 50, and sixteen (16) women, from 18 to 50, are employed on this station; also one boy 12 or 13. There is also one half-caste boy, aged four; the latter a very smart and intelligent little fellow. No deaths or births during the last 12 months. One old man died here a little over 12 months ago, but he did not belong to the station.

Scale of rations:—14lbs. flour, 14lbs. meat, 2½lbs. sugar, ¼lb. tea, 2½ sticks tobacco, per week.

I only saw a few natives on this station, most of them being shepherding out on the run, and Mr. Steere being just about to leave for the South, I was unable to go round. The natives seen were in good condition, well treated and fed.

I have, etc.
G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Horseshoe, 28th December, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ABBOTTS.—I saw a large number of natives at this mining camp; there being no police station here, they come in from all quarters. There must have been 30 all told, and I did not see them all. I regret to say amongst

the number there were several children, four being half-castes. One of these latter, aged about seven, a girl, should be removed from these surroundings as soon as possible. She is the eldest of three (two girls and a boy) belonging to the same woman. Would it not be possible to have this child taken into one of the Missions? It seems a great pity that a young girl with white blood in her veins should lead the life that must be hers by and bye if allowed to remain at Abbots or any goldfield.

I traced three more of the old Annean pensioners at Abbots, and have put two on relief—viz., Gindygingo, *alias* Jinnie (F 45), crippled; and Nubra, *alias* Laura (F 50), infirm. These two women I have placed under the care of Mr. McKay, at the rate of 9d. per day, for which amount he will give them 12lbs. of flour and 2lbs. sugar each per week. It is quite a pleasure to meet a man like Mr. McKay, who will undertake this good work out of pure good nature, and I feel perfectly certain these two women will get the full benefit of the amount allowed for their relief. If anything can be done for the half-caste children at Abbots, more especially the one aged seven, Mr. McKay has promised to do anything he can in the matter, under your instructions.

The men seen at this mining centre, for the most part were in real good condition, sleek and fat, and apparently do little or nothing but hunt for their living. On the other hand, the women do odd jobs about the township and are very well treated by the inhabitants. I saw a huge dish of scraps of all sorts given to some of them from one of the hotels. I did not consider it necessary to put any of the old men on relief, as they can battle for their own living; but the two women, I think, were entitled to assistance. I could hear of no venereal disease amongst the natives. Some little time ago there were some cases, but it is rather difficult to gain the confidence of the natives and get them to own up to anything being wrong with them, but as I could not hear of any disease amongst the whites, I do not think there can be much amongst the blacks either.

I have, etc.,
G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Horseshoe, 28th December, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

PEAK HILL.—There were five natives on relief here. One died some little time ago, and one old woman had been taken away by some other natives a week or two before my arrival. In the place of this one I put another old blind woman on the list, viz., Willaga, aged 50, so that there are still four on relief, as follows:—

- (1.) Winena *alias* Tommy, male, 50, infirm;
- (2.) Bundawaring *alias* Judy, 45, infirm and lame;
- (3.) Murmulada *alias* Judy, 35, crippled, and unable to walk;
- (4.) Willaga, female, 50, blind (from 1st January, 1900).

These natives are evidently well looked after by Corporal Byrne, the police officer in charge of Peak Hill, and I think get a very full ration for the amount allowed. I did not see many natives in or around Peak Hill. There were a few women doing odd jobs about the township, but the majority seem to have got scattered over the country. I could hear of no venereal disease at present amongst whites or blacks, but was told there was

a good deal about some few months ago. I saw one half-caste child—a boy, about three or four—knocking about in the township; he appeared to be well fed and clothed.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Horseshoe, 28th December, 1899.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

THE HORSESHOE.—In the vicinity of this mining camp I saw about a dozen men, young and able bodied, and for the most part in good condition, but doing little or nothing to gain a living. There were also about 15 women and three children. These also mostly looked well and hearty. I examined several of the former, but found no venereal disease amongst them. There is no doubt these women live themselves and keep their men by prostitution, a few of them doing odd jobs for the residents of the camp. At the Butcher's Well, three miles from the workings, there are two boys employed, together with two women; there is also a smart little boy, about six or seven, fed at this camp. Other natives hang around between the well and township. Mr. Chambers, the butcher, being an old station manager, I obtained his views in writing on the question of signing natives. Thanks to the kind endeavours of Mr. Chambers, I succeeded in obtaining the services of a native to go with me from the Horseshoe. At first he shaped very well, but after travelling some 70 miles to within a few miles of Teeamarra, a cattle camp on Mount Clere run, he left without any notice, taking care to collar the blanket, hat, etc., I had given him. This boy was well fed, and had very little to do, except look after my horses and ride in the buggy; but such is the nature of these bush loafers, after knocking about on a goldfield for any time, they will not do even the lightest work, but become absolutely useless. I hope to get hold of another boy in a day or two. Should he turn up, I think he will probably remain with me, as, having been accustomed to travelling about with white men, he will probably know how to appreciate a good billet.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Teeamarra, 18th January, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MILGUN STATION.—Owned by Mr. Charles Smith. Managed by Mr. F. T. Smirk.

No natives on relief here. I saw two old women at the homestead, one almost a cripple. These two were sharing the tucker with the natives working on the place, and as a beast is killed at frequent intervals, they should do well. 12 boys, from 12 (3) to 35, and seven women, 12 to 25, are employed on this station. There are also four children (one boy, three girls, nine to 18 months).

One old man died during last 12 months. Two births during last 12 months.

Scale of rations: 6lbs. flour, 14lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, ½lb. tea, 4 sticks tobacco, man and woman, every six days.

I told Mr. Smirk I considered the allowance of flour a very small one. He said, as they killed a beast nearly every week, the natives always got a good deal more meat

than the allowance mentioned, which I have no doubt is the case, as when cattle are killed in a place there is always a lot of waste stuff that the natives get, and judging from the appearance of the natives I saw, they look well fed, clothed, and contented.

Mr. Smirk informed me he had no trouble at all with them, but the difficulty was to get them signed, as very seldom anyone with the power passed by. I hope to enclose herewith Mr. Smirk's views on the signing question. The women, as well as boys and men, do the stock work on this station. I only saw about half the natives employed, the balance being away for a spell.

I have etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Teeamarra, 18th January, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ERIVILLA (Upper Gascoyne).—Owned and managed by Messrs. A. and G. Shaw Bros.

On my arrival at this station I found both the Shaws were out of the Colony, but the overseer-in-charge (Mr. McIlwraith) gave me all the information I required.

It had been reported further up the river that the natives on this station were not properly fed; but I was agreeably surprised to find that, far from such being the case, they are well fed, those at the homestead getting apparently all they require, and those drawing water, etc., being in receipt of a good ration.

There are 16 men and boys from 14 to 45, and 13 women, from 30 to 40, employed on the station. There are also four boys about eight years old, and one girl about the same age, and a few women, hangers on at the different camps. The season having been a fair one, these outsiders are able to obtain a fairly good living, and as kangaroo dogs are used by the natives, I think they do well on the whole. A native woman does the cooking and house work on this station. Messrs. Shaw Bros. apparently cater for the natives' amusement also to a certain extent, the boys at Erivilla have a football, and seem to enjoy the use of it immensely. Taking everything into consideration, my informant must have been actuated by anything but kindly motives, and apparently wished to cause mischief; no doubt some few years back the natives on this station were not too well treated.

Two (2) girls of 14 died last November, within a fortnight of each other, cause unknown; they were not related as far as I can learn. They were some distance up the river at the time, and not working on the station.

One (1) old woman also died in October last at the station, probably from senile decay.

Scale of rations: 10lbs. flour, 4lbs. rice, 12lbs. meat, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman, every six days.

The horse boys and those working about the place get sugar and tea.

These natives for the most part are well clothed; the ones stationed out drawing water, etc., not so well supplied as those at the homestead.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Mount Clere, 31st January, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MR. CLERE (Upper Gascoyne).—Owned by Mr. R. E. Bush, and managed by Mr. T. P. Wilson.

I visited some of the out camps belonging to this station, and saw several of the natives employed drawing water, shepherding, etc. Most of these natives look well, and are apparently contented. They get a very fair ration, but as some of them were rather scantily clothed, I decided to see Mr. Bush before sending in my report on this place; and from what he told me, I feel confident the natives are given a fair amount of clothing, etc. There are 17 men and boys, from 12 to 45, employed; also about 14 women and girls, from 18 to 45, and one child (F) about four years. There are a few elderly natives of both sexes with the shepherds and on the camps, not fed by the station; but as dogs are allowed, also guns, etc., they appear to get a fair living. A native woman does the cooking at the homestead.

Rations: 10lbs. flour, 16lbs. meat, 2 sticks tobacco, per week per man and woman.

The camp boys get sugar and tea. One woman I saw at the homestead will probably become a mother shortly.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Dalgety Well, 19th February, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

DAIRY CREEK.—Owned and managed by Mr. J. Fitzpatrick.

There are no natives on relief here; there are a few old natives, but as a good ration is given to those employed, and dogs kept, these old people do very well living with the working natives.

There are 10 men and boys, 16 to 50, employed; also seven, women, 16 to 50; one girl, 12; two half-castes—boy, 10; girl, eight. The two half-castes are brother and sister, Freddie and Lizzie Worth, the children of a white man formerly employed here and elsewhere in the district. This man kept these children's mother for six years, and eventually left mother and children to shift for themselves.

I am glad to find these children have a good home with Mr. Fitzpatrick, the mother also being employed by him. The girl Lizzie is a very smart, intelligent little thing, and makes herself very useful about the homestead, under the able tuition of Mrs. and Miss Fitzpatrick, and I am told the boy is a very smart youngster also; I did not see him, he having gone to Carnarvon. I consider these children have fallen into very good hands, and will be well taken care of on this station. I saw a very useful woman working at the homestead; she can do many things and has been with the Fitzpatricks for several years. The mother of the half-caste children was cooking at the shearing shed, and seems to be well up in her work also. The natives are well treated and cared for on this station, and seem contented and happy. By last mail I forwarded Mr. Fitzpatrick's opinion on the signing question, for your information. Two old men died 18 months ago, probably from senile decay.

No births during last 12 months. One young woman will probably become a mother in a few months.

Rations: 14lbs. flour, 14lbs. meat, 1½lbs. sugar, ¼lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week.

I would like to express my appreciation of the kindness shown me by the Fitzpatricks. I was lent a horse, saddle,

and bridle to ride down the river to Mr. Bush's and the Junction, so that I could give my horses a much-needed rest, before tackling a severe stage.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Dalgety Well, 19th February, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

CLIFTON DOWNS (Gascoyne).—Owned and managed by R. E. Bush, Esq.

Mr. Bush has lately bought Mingenew, a station formerly owned by the Mortgage & Agency Corporation and managed by Mr. Dunlop, and most of the natives have entered Mr. Bush's employ.

There are nine natives on Government relief. I only saw three of these pensioners, the others being at some of the other camps; and as I only took a flying trip as far as the Junction Station, was unable to visit these camps. The three old women seen were certainly deserving of support, and Mr. Bush assured me none of those on the list had ever worked for him. I hope to see one or two more in the course of my travels; one in particular, a man, Mr. Bush tells me, is unable to be shifted from a camp farther up the river. I will endeavour to get the police at the Thomas Station to get him to that station; I believe he is very bad and will probably not live very long. These natives were put on the list by a former protector and the late Inspector Lodge. The natives employed seem to be well treated, and I think well fed and clothed in winter. Mr. Bush has a very good system of giving the men good condemned army coats at the commencement of the winter, and makes them hand them over to the storekeeper during the summer months. As the native is never happy unless exchanging gear with his friends, I think this a very good idea, and apparently works well. Two or three women working at the homestead are wonderfully useful, doing the housework, etc., and looking clean and tidy. They have evidently been well trained. There are 60 males (from 11 to 60), 50 females (from 15 to 50) employed; 48 men and 36 women here, and the balance at Mt. Clere; there are also about 20 children, mostly girls. Mr. Bush seems to take a keen interest in the welfare of his natives. I had a long talk with him *re* signing, etc., and append his opinion on the question, written at his own dictation. There are no half-castes on the station, probably because no women are allowed to be kept by whites.

Rations: 10lbs. flour, 14lbs. meat, 2 sticks tobacco, for man and woman, per week.

Guns and dogs are given to the natives, so they can kill their own meat. Kangaroos and other game being very numerous, and easily obtained such a season as this, the natives should do well enough. The camp boys get sugar and tea also. One woman, about 35, died in childbirth about six weeks ago; one man also died within last 12 months. Three births within last 12 months, but only one child now alive.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Dalgety Well, 19th February, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

JUNCTION POLICE STATION (Gascoyne).—P.C. Sunter in charge.

There are 13 natives on the relief list here, of which number I saw nine, the other four being away at the time of my visit. These natives are certainly all deserving of support, and are well looked after. P.C. Sunter gives them a good ration, and I feel sure can make little or nothing out of the 9d. allowed. He gives them 8lbs. flour, 1½lbs. sugar, ¼lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco. Two kangaroo dogs are also kept, so that the old people get as much meat as they require. One youngish woman is stone blind, and has been so apparently since birth. She has a half-caste child, about three years old. There is one girl about six on the list. There appeared to be no sickness amongst these natives at present.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Dalgety Well, 20th February, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BANGEMALL GOLDFIELD.—There are six (6) natives on relief here at 9d. per day, as follows:—

- (1.) Keilabidga, *alias* Jimmie, male, 60, nearly blind and very feeble;
- (2.) Arabiddy, *alias* Johnnie, 60, male, very decrepit;
- (3.) Bulyagouru, *alias* Fanny, female, 55, nearly blind and feeble;
- (4.) Jabulbiddy, *alias* Mary, 65, female, nearly blind and feeble;
- (5.) Dungarrin, *alias* Judy, 50, female, blind;
- (6.) Windowwidga, *alias* Polly, 40, female, blind.

These natives are certainly most deserving of relief, and none of them are able to obtain their own living. They are rationed by the storekeeper here, Mr. E. A. P. Burt, who gives them 8lbs. flour, 2lbs. sugar, 3ozs. tea, 2 sticks tobacco per week.

Mr. Burt complains that he has to ration these natives at 9d. per day, whereas the police at the Thomas Station, which is nearer Perth than this place, get 1s. The carriage here is also more expensive than to the police station, so that I think at the latter place the police might be able to give a fair allowance at the same rate as here, viz., 9d. It seems to me hardly fair to make fish of one and fowl of another. I am writing to the constable in charge of the Thomas, asking him to forward six blankets to Mr. Burt (as I hear there is a supply there) for distribution amongst these old natives, as winter will shortly be coming on.

There are a good many natives camped about this field as a rule. Just at present the majority are away hunting.

Four men, three white and one half-caste (West Indian), left here two or three days ago, each taking a native woman with him. One of these men has lived with his woman for several years, and she has a half-caste girl by him; but, I am pleased to say, this man has acted in an honourable manner, and about 12 months ago took this girl, aged about seven, to the Swan Mission, where she now is. He told me he paid 12s. 6d. per week for this child. I consider this amount rather large for an ordinary working man, and certainly is hardly likely to induce others to act in a similar manner. It seems to me, an institution formed at Geraldton, say, on economic lines should be able to bring up children at a lower figure than this.

I obtained promises from some of these men to find good homes for the women when they were leaving them, as they were bound to do sooner or later, and insisted upon their being taken back to their own districts. They seemed quite ready to do so. It appears to be looked upon as quite the correct thing to keep a woman on this field. I suppose the absence of the influence of white women accounts for this to a certain extent. They seemed contented with their lot, and were well dressed and fed. As the law stands, I suppose nothing can be done to prevent this sort of thing. There are a few natives and their women working for different people on this field, and appear well treated, clothed, and fed, and certainly do more work than the run of goldfields natives.

Since commencing this report, P.C. Duffy, constable in charge of the Thomas Station, has arrived here. I interviewed him this morning *re* a reduction in his allowance for feeding relief natives, but he tells me he cannot give them a fair thing under 1s. per day. Carting costs him £25 per ton, and goods very hard to get at that. He allows 6lbs. flour, ¼lb. tea, 2lbs. sugar, 2 sticks tobacco per week. They also get meat when sheep are killed, and often kangaroo. I suggested knocking off the tea and tobacco, and giving a little more flour instead, as I consider natives on relief are not supposed to luxuriate at Government expense. I have asked P.C. Duffy to remove a poor wretch from Chalby Chalby camp, on the Gascoyne, on Mr. Bush's run. This native is quite helpless, syphilitic, and miserable. The constable will do so, if possible. No white man being camped at the above camp, but only visiting there once a week or so, this native cannot be supplied regularly with medicine, which is my reason for endeavouring to have him removed to the police station. I am sending one of Mr. Bush's men some pills for this old chap, but I am afraid he is too far gone to hope for much benefit from them. He is on the relief list of Clifton Downs. I saw an old woman there, blind, also on the list. A few more natives came back here yesterday. They had a good deal of bush food amongst them, and are apparently doing all right.

I have been obliged to place another native on the relief list here, a crippled man. The other natives say he has been a cripple for years. He is about 40, and is certainly deserving of relief. He goes on the list from 11th March, 1900.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Bangemall, 11th March, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MR. AUGUSTUS.—Owned by Messrs. Phillips and Ryan. Managed by Mr. Pearson.

I visited an out camp belonging to this station some few miles from Bangemall. Finding nearly all the natives were away for a spell, I did not go to the main station, but obtained the following particulars from the man in charge of the out camp on the Lyons River:—Nine men, from 22 to 60; 10 women, from 12 to 40, employed on the station. One half-caste boy about three, one girl about five, and a boy about eight. Rations: 12lbs. flour, 10lbs. meat, and 2 sticks of tobacco per week per man and woman.

This station has lately changed hands, being under the present management only about six months, therefore I could get no statistics *re* deaths and births. The natives

I saw were evidently well fed and clothed, and appeared happy and contented. One case of venereal disease reported. I sent over some medicine yesterday.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Bangemall, 11th March, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MUNGERA STATION (Gascoyne).—Owned by Messrs. Forrest & Burt; managed by Mr. Laverty.

I visited several out camps on the Lyons and elsewhere, belonging to this station, but did not reach the head station, situated some little distance below the Junction Police Station. There are at present very few natives there, nearly all being at the different out camps. No natives on relief, neither did I see any infirm natives at the camps; all seemed fit and able to work. At an out camp (Oakeley's) on the Gifford, there were two men (28 to 35), and two women (17 to 35), also one boy, 11; and one girl, 12. At a wellsinkers' camp, also on the Gifford, one boy and one woman were employed, both belonging to this station. There were several bush natives camped here. Most of them I had already seen at Bangemall. The latter had any amount of bush tucker and appeared to be doing all right.

At the main sheep camp (Hatch's), on the Edmond Creek, I stayed a few days, visiting other camps, etc. There were 12 men (24 to 35), and the same number of women (13 to 40) at this camp, also two children. These natives are well treated, fed, and clothed, and look well and happy. The scale of rations is a very liberal one. There are other natives employed on another camp lower down on the Lyons, which I did not visit. No births or deaths during last 12 months.

Scale of rations:—12lbs. flour, 16lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, 2 sticks tobacco.

One of the women at the camp does all the cooking, and very well she does it.

I am, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Medallia Station, Minilya, 30th March, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MINNIE CREEK STATION.—Owner and Manager, Mr. W. Hatch.

This station I visited from Hatch's camp, on the Lyons, Mr. Herz, the gentleman in charge, kindly lending me a horse. Mr. Hatch only employs four boys (16 to 23), and three women (19 to 40), also one boy about 12 years.

Here also two women do the cooking and housework generally, making splendid bread, etc.

No births or deaths for 12 months.

Scale of rations:—15lbs. flour, 10lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week.

Although Mr. Hatch has not signed natives lately, he considers the contract system should not be done away with. I gave Mr. Hatch an order on the Thomas River Police Station to get three Government blankets for three old natives at his place. I did not put them on relief, as they appeared to be getting a fair amount of tucker from the station natives, and two of them are able to get about and

hunt up bush tucker, but I think they should have blankets. The natives here are well treated and give very little trouble.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Medallia Station, Minilya, 30th March, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

YANNYEAREDDY.—Owned by Messrs. W. and G. Lefroy, and managed by Mr. G. Lefroy.

There are four natives on relief at this station:—

- (1.) Bungarra, 60, male, infirm, nearly blind;
- (2.) Juncorea, 58, female, blind;
- (3.) Turicorea, 61, female, blind;
- (4.) Marichorra, 60, female, blind.

The above are all deserving of relief, and Mr. Lefroy tells me they have never worked for him; there are two or three others, aged and infirm, who have been employed by him; these he feeds at his own cost.

Fifteen women (16 to 45) are employed on this station. There are also six children, three boys (five to eight) and four girls (seven to 12); two births (both children dead); one boy about 30 died a few weeks ago from cold, etc.

Scale of rations: 10lbs. flour, 10lbs. meat, 1lb. sugar, 3 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week.

The relief natives get 10lbs. flour, 5lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, 1 stick tobacco per week.

The natives are well fed, treated, and clothed. Three women, working at the house work under Mrs. Lefroy's able tuition, are very useful; one in particular appears to be a real good housemaid. Mr. Lefroy has promised to give me his opinion on the signing question in writing on my return in a few weeks.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Medallia Station, Minilya, 30th March, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MIDDALYA STATION (Minilya).—Owned by Minilya River Squatting Co., and managed by Mr. D. J. Hearman.

There are no natives on relief here. Three old women, (from 50 to 60) are fed by the station. There are 11 men (from 15 to 45) and 12 women (14 to 60) employed; there are also three boys (seven to nine), two being half-caste, and six girls (from a week to six years).

The mother of one of the half-caste boys has evidently had a bad attack of syphilis, the cartilage of her nose having been eaten away. This woman was sent to Carnarvon for treatment some years ago, and while there gave birth to the half-caste boy. He appears to be healthy, and shows no signs of syphilis at present, and is a very smart youngster. Mr. Hearman intends to take him in hand himself. The natives here are well fed, treated, and clothed, and appear to be happy and contented. Mr. Hearman has been getting Government blankets for two old women from Mr. Gooch. I consider the other one should also have a blanket, and will see Mr. Gooch on the matter.

Scale of rations: 12lbs. flour, 20lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, ¼lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco per week, man and woman.

One old man died in February last, probably from senile decay; one birth during last 12 months.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Wandagee, 5th April, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WANDAGEE (Minilya River).—Owned and managed by Mr. G. J. Gooch.

On arrival at Wandagee I found Mr. Gooch had not returned from the South, but was expected daily; however he did not arrive while I was there, and as his overseer did not know much about the relief natives on the place, I am unable to report fully on them at present, but hope to do so on my way back. The overseer helped me as much as possible, and I was able to see all the natives on the station, but as all are fed at the homestead and are given food whenever they come for it, I was unable to pick out those on relief, it being a very difficult matter to get their names correctly. It is very evident the natives on the station are well treated, fed, and clothed.

There are 18 men, from 15 to 40, and 13 women, from 25 to 40. No children. No births or deaths during last 12 months.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Carnarvon, 20th April, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

YALOBIA (Gascoyne).—Owned and managed by Mr. J. Musk.

No natives on relief here. Four men, 25 to 55; six women, 20 to 45; four children, two to six (one pair twins); one half-caste boy, four years. No births; two deaths, both old, during last 12 months.

I spoke to a man about a half-caste boy (his son), and he assured me he intended to educate him as soon as he was old enough, and I have every reason to believe he will do so. The natives on this station are very well clothed, fed, and cared for. They get all they want in the way of rations.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Carnarvon, 21st April, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BOOLOGOORO (Gascoyne).—Owned and managed by Mr. Campbell.

There are now four natives on relief here: * Wedgegoo, *alias* Charlie, male, 55, sick and unable to work; * Grael, *alias* Yalgia, female, 55, blind; Jundu, *alias* Jumpup, male, 55, only one leg; * Cartenbiddy, *alias* Governor, male, 60, infirm.

They get 7lbs. flour, 2lbs. sugar, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea per week. There are four men, 20 to 33, and three women 20 to 30, employed on this station; no children. The natives are well treated, and appear happy and contented; two of the

* These three natives were placed on the list by the police on 1st January, 1900, and are deserving of relief. None of the above have ever been employed by Mr. Campbell.

women are employed at the house and are real good house women.

Rations: 12lbs. flour, 12lbs. meat, 4lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, and 4 sticks tobacco, per six days.

No births or deaths during 12 months.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Carnarvon, 21st April, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

CARNARVON.—There have been 22 natives on relief at this town. I saw several of these natives supplied with their rations a day or two after my arrival. Mr. Baston gives them a liberal ration, viz., 10lbs. flour, 3lbs. sugar, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea per week. After some difficulty, with the help of Sergeant Houlahan and P.C. Pollard, I have succeeded in getting a corrected list of names and ages of these natives, which I herewith append for your information. In the former list I consider the ages of several of these natives have been returned too young. I have only found one woman who should not be receiving rations. Mr. Foss tells me he thinks she was placed on the list by a former protector. This woman, some years ago, used to look after the children at Miss Butcher's Mission. I cut her off relief yesterday, but had to place an old man on in her place. Most of these natives appear to come from around Carnarvon. No doubt they have come in from the stations close to the town in many cases, having been attracted by the other natives. Some of the old men would be able to do light work if on a station, but I do not think any one would be likely to employ them here. They are only fitted for looking after a few sheep or cows, etc., being too infirm for any other work.

The women, in almost every case, are less fitted for work than the men, and I hardly think make much, if anything, by prostitution. One man and woman—Neddy and Maria—were placed on the list by Mr. Foss, on account of their having a large family of six children. The man is not at all strong, and often ailing, and the woman is heavily handicapped by the children. I am handing a corrected list of names and ages to Mr. Baston and the police. The police appear to have a good hold of the natives, keeping all except those working some two miles from the town. Two of the relief natives (a man and woman) went away three weeks ago in a boat with a man named Pedro (nigger), and have not been seen since. They are supposed to have been lost. I did not see those two. There are 20 now on the list.

I had intended getting away yesterday, but more heavy rain having fallen inland the river came down strong again, and I heard from Mr. Brockman the roads were terribly boggy, so I decided to remain until after arrival of mail by "Bullarra." The police are constantly prosecuting white and coloured men for giving natives grog. Sergeant Houlahan is very keen on putting a stop to this.

There are a great many children about the natives, camps of all ages, amongst them being three or four half-castes. It is a great pity to see these children, black and half-caste, growing up amongst such surroundings. I fear they will become utterly useless and a curse to the country unless something is done to remove them and teach them to earn their own living.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Carnarvon, 24th April, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BOOLATHANA STATION.—Owned by Messrs. J. and C. Butcher; managed by Mr. J. Butcher.

Two men, 30 to 35, and two women, 30 to 40; three boys (indentured), one a half-caste, 12 to 17; one girl (indentured), 14 years, has had two children still-born. One birth (child died) during last twelve months. Natives well treated, fed, and clothed. No natives rationed out, all fed at homestead. Mr. Butcher is to send me his views on the signing question.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Minilya, 22nd May, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

PT. CLOATES STATION.—Owned by Messrs. Burrill and Carter; managed by Mr. T. Carter.

I placed one old blind woman on the relief list on this station at the rate of 6d. per day; Mr. Carter told me she had never done any work for him and had been helpless for some considerable time. There are three other old women, but as they had done work at odd times, Mr. Carter was quite willing to feed them. I gave him an order on the police at Carnarvon for four blankets for these old women. There are 10 men, 17 to 30, and 16 women, 16 to 60, employed on this station. One child, female, was born here six months ago. No deaths during 12 months. The natives on this station are very well treated, clothed, and fed, and appear happy and contented. Scale of rations: 12lbs. flour, 12lbs. meat, 1½lbs. sugar, and two sticks of tobacco. These natives have the use of two or three boats and catch a great quantity of turtle and fish and seldom require any meat.

One woman here has been suffering from syphilis for some considerable time, but just at present seems better; I am going to send some medicine for her, as having ridden to Pt. Cloates was unable to take any.

I append Mr. Carter's opinion on the signing question for your information.

Mandajager, *alias* Cabbajaque, F., 60, blind and helpless, on relief at 6d. per day from 15th May, 1900.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Minilya, 22nd May, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WINNING POOL TELEGRAPH STATION.—Mr. Powell, Postmaster.

At this station there are several natives, three men, four women, and two children (one a half-caste boy nine years old)—formerly working for Mr. H. T. Knight, who owned Mia Mia station, having a homestead at Winning Pool. Mr. Knight having been sold up, these natives are now out of employment, one man and woman only being employed by the P.M. shepherding, killing sheep, etc. One man about 60 is blind in one eye, but has a strong lusty woman, so I considered there was no necessity to put him on relief, especially being such a splendid season, there is any amount of bush food to be obtained. There is also an old woman about 55 or 60 there. I did not put her on relief for the same reason, but these old people should have blankets.

It appears Mr. Powell has sent to Onslow for 10 blankets for distribution amongst these natives. He had intended giving them to all hands, including those natives working for him. He tells me he has put the majority of these natives on out of charity, as they are unable to obtain work in the district. I have requested him not to give these able-bodied natives blankets until he hears from you on the matter. Up to the present, I have been in the habit of only recommending infirm and aged natives for blankets. I should be obliged if you would let me know exactly what you wish done in this matter—should able-bodied natives be supplied with blankets if unable to obtain work? Will you kindly communicate with Mr. Powell by wire on the subject. He says he would have to get rid of these natives if he has to find them blankets as well as food, two boys being ample for his requirements. He now employs five men and three women. Since leaving Winning I have ascertained one of these boys is an absconder from Mr. McRae's, on the Ashburton. I have written to Mr. Powell, telling him on no account to give this boy a blanket.

I made inquiries concerning the native prisoner, Frank, about whom Mr. Brockman complained. It appears this native received a life sentence, and has been at Winning just over 12 months. Mr. Powell states that the boy is quite capable of any mischief; he is a smart, active fellow, and would make a capital native assistant for the police. I consider it is anything but fair to squatters and others in the district to have a boy with such a bad reputation so handy. Would it not be possible to have him removed? The police of the Gascoyne district were in quest of an assistant when I was in Carnarvon; with them he would be under close supervision, and would not be so likely to get into mischief. Mr. Powell does not particularly want him now; it would certainly be advisable to get this native removed if possible.

The half-caste boy is nine years old; he is a smart little chap, and ought to be removed from his present surroundings.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Minilya, 22nd May, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MINILYA STATION.—Owned and managed by Mr. G. S. Brockman.

On arrival at this station I deemed it advisable to make my own camp, and would not accept Mr. Brockman's hospitality until after I had seen how things were. I am glad to say Mr. Brockman assisted me in every way and expressed a wish that I should go out to his coast country and go through the natives there. I propose to do so on my return to Minilya from Carnarvon. Mr. Brockman will find me fresh horses for the trip. As far as I could see, the natives employed at the homestead and about the run were well treated; no doubt Mr. Brockman is strict with them, but I have no reason to think cruel. The natives (men, women, and children), all look well fed, more particularly the latter, of whom there are a great many, and the men and women compare very favourably with other stations visited, as regards clothing. I signed some of these natives, none of them hesitating in the slightest, and certainly exhibiting no signs of fear or compulsion. One boy who refused to sign some little time ago informed me he had been told by a man formerly working at the place not to sign with Mr. Brockman, but to cut sandalwood for him. This man bears anything but a good name in the district.

At my request Mr. Brockman showed me the correspondence from you, dealing mainly with payment of relief

accounts; he told me everything had now been squared up to the end of December, 1899, and that he did not intend to charge for any more relief, but would still feed the infirm natives on the place when they required it.

Mr. Brockman stated that an aboriginal native, Frank, supposed to come from the Eastern districts, convicted about two years ago of rape on a white woman, has turned up at Winning Telegraph Station, and is employed there. I have just ascertained from the postmaster here that such is the case. Mr. Brockman complains that the presence of this native on his run amongst his natives is a serious menace, as he demoralises them, being a bad lot. I will inquire further into this when visiting the coast shortly.

I only saw two old women who had been on the relief list, the remainder were out on the coast. There are 19 men, 17 to 50; 21 women, 11 to 65; also 15 children, 4 of the latter being half-castes: 3 girls, 2½ to 4; and 1 boy, 3 years. Four deaths during 12 months—1 man speared, 1 struck by a turtle, 2 natural causes. Mr. Brockman stated he did not weigh out rations, but gave them when required. He also said the water-drawers kill their own sheep when required. Mr. Brockman stated that he did not allow any men to keep women on the station.

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Carnarvon, 21st April, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MINILYA STATION.—Owned by Mr. G. J. Brockman.

Mr. Brockman let me have horses and equipment to go out to his coast country and Point Cloates. I regret having missed his natives, they must have gone down the coast somewhere; I believe they have a boat, and should get any amount of fish and turtle. When travelling along the coast I saw immense quantities of turtle shells and fish bones at all the old camps. *Re* Mr. Brockman's complaint against the native prisoner, Frank, employed at Winning Pool station, I have written fully in reporting on that station.

Mr. Brockman has not yet returned from the South. I would like to express my thanks to him and his overseer for so kindly letting me have horses and equipment for the trip to the coast.

I have, etc.,
G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Minilya, 23rd May, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WANDAGEE (Minilya River).—Owned and managed by Mr. G. J. Gooch.

Of the six natives on my list as being in receipt of relief on this station there are now only three alive, those dead being Jasber, Thoonarry, and Ualbinarry; the two former died in July, 1899, and the latter in February of the same year. None appear to have been charged for since July, 1899. Mr. Gooch tells me he does not consider it necessary to feed any of them just at present, as there is so much food to be obtained in the bush. I quite agree with him, and only regret others do not look at the matter in the same light, and consider great credit is due to Mr. Gooch for his consideration. I had a look at the old natives on this station, and submit the names of six that are fit subjects for

relief later on when bush food becomes scarce. Mr. Gooch will apply for relief when he considers it necessary:—

- (1.) Barnagoora, female, 50, crippled; on relief previously.
- (2.) Mindeloo, female, 70, unable to walk; on relief previously.
- (3.) Narjar, female, 45, blind; on relief previously.
- (4.) Noolgobiddy, *alias* Jumbo, male, 60, nearly blind and infirm.
- (5.) Withegoora, *alias* Jinnie, female, 60, infirm.
- (6.) Hilgagoora, female.

No. 6 (Hilgagoora) I did not see, she being away with a shepherd; but I have told Mr. Gooch, if he considers she is a fit subject and unable to work, to feed her with the others by-and-bye. I have no hesitation in trusting to Mr. Gooch's honour in this matter, and am confident he will not charge for this woman unless she is a fit subject for relief. The above natives have not done any work for Mr. Gooch. All the natives here are well clothed, fed, and looked after, and are contented and happy.

In my report on Winning Pool (No. 30/00) I stated there was a half-caste boy there, named Benjamin. Mr. Gooch is willing to take this boy. I consider he would have a good home at Wandagee, when he would become useful, instead of loafing at Winning. Mr. Gooch would also give his mother employment if she does not care to part with him. He would also find employment for another man and woman that are there. I am writing to Mr. Powell on this matter; he appears to have been mistaken as to these natives being unable to obtain work in the district. I should be obliged if you would communicate with Mr. Gooch on the subject of the boy Benjamin, giving him authority to take charge of him, as it is quite possible the mother may not care about letting him go; he is just the age now to either become useful or a thorough young scamp if not given employment.

I cannot conclude this report without expressing my sincere thanks to Mr. Gooch for his kindness in lending me horses to go to Carnarvon while mine were spelling on his run.

I have, etc.,
G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Middalya, 31st May, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MOGRIE (Minilya River).—Owned and managed by Mr. Newman.

There are seven men and five women working on this station, ages 17 to 60 and 18 to 60, respectively. There is also one old woman here occasionally, but not employed; she probably gets a fair amount of food from the working natives, who are apparently well fed and clothed.

Mr. Newman does not sign any natives, nor has he ever done so, preferring to be a free agent; should they run away he seldom allows them to come back, and states that he has had little or no trouble with his employees.

The natives that I saw on this station get as much food as they can eat, and are well clothed. This station being some distance from the main road, Mr. Newman's natives are not troubled by many of the travelling public. Mr. Newman states that he is quite prepared to do away with native labour altogether, should they give him any serious

trouble, and I think he evidently means it, his station being well improved.

I am, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Williambury, June 6, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WILLIAMBURY (Minilya River).—Owned and managed by Mr. M. C. R. Bunbury.

I found Mr. Bunbury at home on my return to this station; he told me no men were now allowed to keep native women on the station, and he hoped there would be no more half-caste children. Mr. Bunbury also told me that some of the children sent from Williambury had been paid for at the mission; he made arrangements with Archdeacon Brown when they were sent down. Mr. Bunbury also told me he had made arrangements to pay for the half-caste girl (three years) now at Williambury, the station to pay £12 per annum, and you had agreed to find the other £6. *Re* the Chinaman's child, the father would rather pay the whole sum and have the option of taking the boy away should he want to by-and-bye. There is still another half-caste child on this station, a boy about two years old; his mother was in Carnarvon Hospital for treatment when he was supposed to have been conceived. Mr. Bunbury would like to send this child down with the other two, and is going to write you on the subject.

I spoke very strongly to Mr. Bunbury on this half-caste question, and certainly think from the way he spoke that he intends to put a stop to it; it is to be hoped so, at all events; such a state of affairs does not bring credit to any station. I saw six out of the eight natives on relief here. None of them are being fed at present, Mr. Bunbury being of opinion there is plenty of bush food about for them for the next few months. This is satisfactory, and I hope to find others of the same opinion.

There is no doubt the natives on this station are remarkably well clothed and fed; I have not seen any better in my trip.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Towara, June 17, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WORKAGJIE (Yanarie).—Owned by Mr. T. H. Mansfield; managed at present by Mr. Musgrove.

Some time back I heard indirectly anything but favourable accounts of the way the natives were fed and clothed on this station, but am glad to say there appears to be no truth in these rumours. I inquired carefully into the matter and found the natives contented and well fed. In one or two cases there might have been a little more clothing, but as a whole these natives compare very favourably with those on the majority of other stations. Eight men, 22 to 55; nine women, 16 to 50.

No deaths or births during last 12 months.

Scale of rations: 12lbs. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep, no sugar, 5 sticks tobacco, every 8 days.

No natives on relief.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Towara, June 17, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

TOWARA (Yanarie River).—Owned and managed by Mr. H. Twitchin.

No natives on relief here. One old man 60, blind, and one woman about 55 nearly blind, are fed and kept by Mr. Twitchin, who considers it his duty to keep these old people, they having near relations working for him; neither does he ask for blankets for them, but finds them himself. It is quite refreshing to meet a gentleman with such views. I am sorry there are not more like him.

Nine men and boys, 12 to 60.

Eight women, 14 to 50.

Six children (five girls, 18 months to eight years) and one boy three years old, all black.

No births or deaths during last 12 months.

Scale of rations: 16lbs. flour, 1lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco; meat when required; every six days, for man and woman.

The natives on this run are well fed and looked after. At the time of my visit, some of them were rather scantily clothed, but through no fault of Mr. Twitchin's, as, on account of the plague, considerable difficulty has arisen in getting goods to Onslow, and amongst other things the native clothing had not come to hand, but was expected shortly. Mr. Twitchin told me there was one woman about, some little time ago, suffering from syphilis, but she had disappeared somewhere and was not then on the run. She did not belong to this run.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Onslow, July 6, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WOGOOLA (Yanarie River).—Owned by Messrs. Cameron and Clark, and managed by Mr. A. Cameron.

There have been no natives on relief here for some time. Two were on the list. One old woman, about 75, died in May from senile decay, and the other cleared out somewhere. Five men, 24 to 55; seven women, 17 to 45; one girl, 12; one half-caste boy, five.

These natives are all either fed at the homestead or at a white man's camp, and evidently get all they require in the way of food and clothing, all looking well and hearty. Two of the younger women do the housework, and under Miss Cameron's tuition have become very useful.

Two men died within the last 12 months; one 40 years old has been ailing for about five years, the other died when away for a holiday. I append Mr. Cameron's views on signing.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Onslow, 6th July, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

YANNEY STATION (Yanarie River).—Owned and managed by Mr. T. F. de Pledge.

When at Wogoola Mr. Cameron handed me a written statement made to him by a man, Thomas Roberts, employed up to a few days previously by Mr. de Pledge.

Roberts stated: "On the 10th inst. I was putting up a 'spinifex mia, and told the natives with me to gather 'spinifex. They all left but one Jimmy to do so."

"I said, 'Now, hurry up, Jimmy.' He picked up a picket, and made a blow at me. Before he could strike me I got another, and made a blow to strike it from his hand, but hit him on the arm and fractured it. He dropped his stick, and held his arm with other hand. When I found I had injured it I got some deal and splintered it. He is now getting on well. Reginald Orkney was near the spot; the other natives, may be, a hundred yards away.

"(Signed) T. ROBERTS.

"Witnessed by ALEX. CAMERON.

"15th June, 1900."

On arrival at Yanrey Station I made inquiries into this affair, and examined Jimmy's arm. It had evidently been broken, but there were no external signs of injury, and the bone (apparently only one had been broken) had commenced to knit. The natives' evidence was very conflicting, but on seeing Richard Orkney, who came back a few days after, I found he corroborated Roberts' statement. This man Roberts was working for me some three years ago on the Ashburton, and I always found him, if anything, lenient with natives rather than severe, and others for whom he has been working since say the same of him, consequently I have decided to let the matter drop, feeling confident it was an accident pure and simple. Roberts wished to report the affair to the police at Onslow, but Mr. de Pledge told him it was not necessary as I should be along in a few days. Mr. de Pledge did not care about employing Roberts after this affair.

Six men, 18 to 45; nine women, 16 to 40; one child (boy), two years; five old women, each about 50, not employed.

These old people are fed by Mr. de Pledge, and appear to get plenty. They also had a good supply of blankets.

No births during last 12 months. Four deaths during last 12 months; probably senile decay.

Scale of rations: 12lbs. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep, 2 sticks tobacco, every six days per man and woman.

These natives were all well clothed and fed, and, I am confident, are not ill-treated. Doubtless Mr. de Pledge is strict with them; but natives in this district must be dealt with firmly, or they very soon kick over the traces. Mr. de Pledge tells me he has hunted two or three lately, and should the others not behave themselves he intends to get rid of the lot. I feel confident this is no idle threat. Mr. Twitchin and others say the same.

There seems to be a general tendency in this district for the natives to attempt to bounce the white man. I fear this can only end one way, as most squatters are now in a position to dispense with natives almost, if not entirely; consequently they are not likely to keep any that will not do as they are told.

A native woman does the cooking here, and a very good cook she is. She also feeds the other natives, so there is no doubt they get all they require.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Onslow, 6th July, 1900.

I enclose Mr. de Pledge's views on signing, for your information.

G. S. O.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

YANNY STATION (Yanarie).—Owned by Messrs. Padbury & Loton, and managed by Mr. R. Woolhouse.

No natives on relief here; there were four old women, from 45 to 80, in the camp at the time of my visit, two blind, one nearly so, and the other unable to work; one old woman about 80 will probably die before long; they all appear to get plenty of food through the natives working. I am making arrangements to send them up some blankets from Onslow.

Twelve men, 16 to 55; 11 women, 14 to 45; one boy, 10, and one boy, 6.

Scale of rations: 24lbs. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep, 4lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco.

No births or deaths during last 12 months. Mr. Woolhouse tells me that on 14th January, a native employed on the station, on being told to do his work, threatened to break a white man's head with a hay-fork. Mr. Woolhouse was away at the time; on his return sent the man into Onslow to take out a warrant for the native's arrest; the warrant was granted but the police did not appear on the scene until the 24th ultimo. Such a considerable time having elapsed since the offence happened, Mr. Woolhouse objected to have any proceedings taken, and the police therefore cancelled the warrant.

It seems strange that the police in Onslow should have allowed a warrant on such a charge to remain in abeyance for so long, this station only being 66 miles out. I consider the police should be instructed to act at once when any serious charges of this kind are made. It only stands to reason if they are so slow in carrying out their duty the squatter is more than likely to take the law into his own hands, or get rid of the natives altogether.

The natives on this station are well fed, clothed, and treated, and appear to be contented. I saw one man here evidently suffering from long-standing syphilis, and gave Mr. Woolhouse stuff to treat him with.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Onslow, 7th July, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ONSLow.—There are no natives on relief in Onslow, and only a few working, about a dozen all told. They appear to be free from disease, and are well clothed and fed. I see the native prisoner, Frank, has been removed from Winning to this township.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Hardey Junction, 23rd July, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MINDEROO (Ashburton).—Owned by Messrs. Forrest and Burt, and managed by Mr. Bailey.

No natives on relief here. I saw five old women, who do no work in the camp. They all seemed to be doing well, and as the working natives get plenty to eat, these old people do all right. Mr. David Forrest was on the station at the time of my visit. He told me he had never asked for any relief, and considered it scandalous that men should stoop to ask the Government to feed old natives when they became useless, after the amount of good work done by



them and their relatives. It is to be hoped many more squatters may be induced to look at this question in the same manner. The natives on this station have built themselves very good "mias," much the best I have seen on my travels. They are well clothed, and had a good supply of blankets.

Fourteen men, 20 to 40; 13 women, 20 to 30; two boys, 10 years; two girls, six (one a half-caste); one child (boy), three years.

There is no scale of rations here. Mr. Bailey told me the natives get as much as they can eat.

No births during the last 12 months. Two deaths (men) 14 months ago, one middle-aged, one old.

Two of the unemployed (old women) had gathered more than a hundredweight of grass seed for Mr. Bailey. I mention this to show that at present, and for some time to come, these old people will be well able to obtain their own living.

I have, etc.,
G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hardey Junction, 23rd July, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

UAROO, (Ashburton).—Owned and managed by Mr. J. McCarthy.

No natives on relief here; there were two old women in the camp (50 and 70), one blind and the other nearly so. These old people appear to get plenty of food through the natives working on the place, who get as much as they can eat, all looking fat and hearty. I am glad to say Mr. McCarthy does not ask for any relief. One woman who does the cooking, about 35 years old, weighs 14 stone; this is a most exceptional weight for a native, as being for the most part small boned they do not scale well; she is certainly the stoutest native woman I have ever seen. There are several other fat women on this place, and the men also show the signs of good living.

Twelve men, 12 to 60; 11 women, 16 to 50; six children: one half-caste boy five years, four boys, three to eight; one girl eight years. These children all look remarkably well nourished.

Scale of rations: 16lbs. flour, ½ sheep, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman per week.

House boys and those about the homestead get tea and sugar. Shearing was going on at the time of my visit, which was being done by the natives, two or three of them being very good shearers, a woman doing the wool-winding. One old man (over 60) died two months ago, probably senile decay; one half-caste boy died (poisoned by accident and reported to the police) six months ago.

I have, etc.,
G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hardey Junction, 23rd July, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

GLOBE HILL (Ashburton).—Owned by Messrs. McRae and Harper; managed by Mr. G. W. McRae.

No natives on relief here. There were five old people in the camp not working on the station, also a boy of 12 having club feet. These natives all appeared to be doing well, having plenty of food and blankets, etc. I am pleased to say Mr. McRae does not ask for any relief. Several of the working natives were away for a holiday at

the time of my visit. I saw a few of the shepherds at an out station; they, together with those at homestead, were well fed and clothed.

Fifteen men, 16 to 50; 12 women, 16 to 35; three boys, nine to 14; one half-caste, nine; two girls, four and 12.

Scale of rations: 12lbs. flour, 10lbs. meat, 1 stick tobacco, man and woman per week. Kangaroo dogs also kept by the natives.

I have, etc.,
G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hardey Junction, 23rd July, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

NANNUTARRA (Ashburton).—Owned by Mr. H. Higham; managed by Mr. W. G. Learmonth.

There were seven natives on relief, according to list sent me by the Department. On arrival at Nannutarra I found only four, viz., Moorungie, *alias* Big Sam, male, 70, nearly blind; Williagoora, *alias* Bessie, female, 45, blind; Mun-guen, *alias* Dinah, female, 50, feeble, and partly blind; Janderbidy, *alias* Bumora, male, away. The other three are dead. As there is such a quantity of bush food about now, I arranged with Mr. Learmonth not to charge for these natives for at least the next three months. I have written to Mr. Higham pointing out the fact that he is the only squatter in this district receiving relief for natives, and considering the amount of work done by them on this station, he is about the last man to ask for assistance. The natives on this station do all the shearing, a great deal of the teamstering and stock work, and have done the greater part of the fencing, and I certainly think Mr. Higham ought to support the old natives of a tribe which has done such good work for him in past years.

At the time of my visit shearing was going on. There were some 16 or 18 natives shearing, most of them doing good work. Some of these natives were formerly in my employ when managing Hooley and New's station on this river. Mr. Higham recently bought the station, and now employs the majority of the natives. Thirty-four men (one half-caste, about 16), 27 women, 12 children (one half-caste girl, about nine), five to 15 years old.

Mr. Learmonth spoke to me about this half-caste girl, and would like to get her removed to a mission. Her reputed father is now managing a station in this district, but I doubt very much if he will do anything for her, but I shall not fail to urge her claim on him when we meet. All these natives were looking well and hearty, and seemed well contented with their lot. One or two of the house women seemed to be very useful, being able to wash and iron clothes, etc.

I could hear of no disease on this station. At Mt. Mortimer out camp there were only a few natives.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

HARDEY JUNCTION.—Owned by A. Forrest & Co.; managed by Mr. F. Hicks.

There are no natives on relief here, but there are six or seven old people in the camp, kept partly by the station, that is to say, they share the food of the working natives. Mr. Hicks supplied most of these old people with blankets this winter. There were two natives in the camp (man and woman) apparently suffering from syphilis; for these two I left some medicine. One boy, Boko, 17 years old, is an imbecile, and was in a terrible state. Some six weeks

ago he fell into the fire during a fit, burning one of his hands badly, also side and leg. The hand is now in a horrible state, and will probably mortify. If I see signs of this on my return to Hardey Junction the hand will have to come off. I supplied ointment to the burns, but found it useless to attempt any actual dressing, as the boy only pulls off any bandages as soon as applied. There is another male native at this station with a curious disease: his fingers and one or two toes are dropping off by degrees. This may be leprosy, but I am inclined to think not. However, on arrival in Roebourne I will obtain Dr. Maunsell's advice, and should it turn out to be that disease, will make the best arrangements possible for this man's removal and isolation. He appears to have come from up this way. Mr. Hicks would like to get this native and Boko removed. Recently two women and their men have come down from the fields. One of these women has two half-caste children and the other one; all three girls, aged from three to six or seven. Something ought to be done for these three children and the one (girl) at Nannutarra. Boys can look after themselves, but the girls become the prey of both whites and blacks at an early age if not taken away out of reach of harm, and I would respectfully urge you to do something for these children.

Sixteen men, 22 to 50; 13 women, 20 to 50; four children (girls), one about seven, and three half-castes, three to six or seven.

Scale of rations:—14lbs. flour, 14lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman per week.

Four deaths from July, 1899, to July, 1900. No births.

The natives on this station are well treated, fed, and clothed, and all look well and appear contented. Shearing is carried on here for the most part by natives, and wool scouring also. I enclose Mr. Hicks' views on the signing question for your information.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Ashburton Fields, 3rd August, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

GLEN FLORRIE (Henry River).—Owned by the Henry River Squatting Company; managed by Mr. W. Hall.

Mr. Hall was away at the time of my visit, but I was enabled to see most of the natives employed on the place, as they were putting up a hay stack at the homestead; they all looked well fed and clothed. There were several old people on the run. I hope to report more fully on them later on, as I am going to Glen Florrie again on my return to Hardey Junction, for the purpose of signing natives for Mr. Hall.

Nineteen men, 26 to 60; 22 women, 15 to 55; one boy, 10; one boy, 6; and one girl, 7.

Scale of rations: 14lbs. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep, 2 sticks tobacco, every six days, man and woman.

Kangaroo dogs are kept by the station for the use of the natives, so they all do well for meat.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Ashburton Fields, 3rd August, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

GLEN FLORRIE (Henry River).—Owned by the Henry River Pastoral Company, and managed by Mr. G. W. Hall.

I again visited this station for the purpose of signing natives.

Shearing was in progress, natives doing nearly all the work. These natives are very well fed and clothed.

I saw several old people amongst them, two formerly on relief with Harris Brothers. There were eight altogether fit subjects for relief in bad times, but in such a season as the present there is no necessity for relief, and I am glad to say Mr. Hall recognises this. These natives had blankets in May last. If times get bad Mr. Hall will apply for relief, as none of these old people have relations in his employ, and have done no work on the place.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Hardey Junction, 22nd August, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ULLAWARRA (Henry River).—Owned and managed by Mr. S. H. Edwards.

I visited this station and Glen Florrie on horseback, Mr. Hicks having kindly lent me a horse, the road being too rough for bicycle work.

There are eight old natives on this run, one of whom was formerly in receipt of relief through the Harris Bros. Mr. Edwards does not ask for any relief, but he applied some time ago to the Mt. Mortimer police for blankets, but none have yet arrived. I advised him in future to apply direct to the Department early in the year, so that blankets may come to hand before the cold weather sets in; to be of use, blankets should be at the different ports not later than the end of March; in most cases station teams could then take them to their respective stations, thereby saving carriage, etc. As kangaroo dogs are kept by the station for the use of the natives, I think the old people do all right. Five men, 25 to 50; six women, 17 to 50.

Three deaths (two young people about 25, man and woman, and one man, 40, killed by another native—latter was tried and acquitted) during last 12 months.

Scale of rations: 14lbs. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep, 2 sticks tobacco per week, man and woman.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Ashburton Fields, 3rd August, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ASHBURTON DOWNS.—Owned by Messrs. Throssell and Hancock, and managed by Mr. John Hancock.

Shearing was in progress at the time I visited this station, there were eight or nine natives shearing, some of them doing very good work, women picking up and rolling wool. This station had anything but a good name as regards morality; formerly men on the place lived with native women, but some time back this was put a stop to, and some of the men implicated were discharged. Mr. Hancock returned a few days before my departure, when I spoke to him on this subject, and he said he did not now allow anything of the sort.

Twenty-two men, from 20 to 50; 25 women, 20 to 50; 14 children (five males and nine females), from four to 16; four half-castes (two girls seven and nine, two boys seven and nine).

At one of the sheep camps, there is an aboriginal native, Black Harry, in charge; this native comes from lower down the river, he can count sheep, and has full charge of his flocks. Mr. Hancock some time ago, sent six or seven young gins, from 12 to 16, out to this native's camp to keep them out of mischief at the homestead, and to be out of the way of travellers, etc. At the station I saw a native, about 30, suffering from a bad attack of syphilis, one of his eyes being badly affected; I left medicine for him with the storekeeper.

There was not the amount of venereal disease about that I expected to find. I believe some little time ago there were several cases, but they have either gone into the bush or become temporarily cured. There were a few old people at the different camps; they seemed to be doing all right as far as food is concerned, dogs being kept by the shepherds, and the scale of rations being a liberal one. I have asked for a bale of blankets to be sent to the Warden; he being on the spot will be able to distribute them when required. Many of the old people hang about the camps and require blankets in the winter, but there is no necessity for further relief, the season being so good.

Scale of rations: 14lbs. flour; 25lbs. meat; tobacco, man and woman per week.

The natives on this station are well fed and for the best part well clothed, one or two that had just come in from the bush were rather scantily clad; they also appear to be well treated.

One death, old woman, two months ago.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Harley Junction, 22nd August, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

PEAKE STATION (Harley River).—Owned by Messrs. McGrath Bros., and managed by Mr. M. McGrath.

Shearing was in full swing at this station at the time of my visit, two natives shearing, both doing good work. Like several other stations I have visited, there are not many natives employed here; the owners do not sign, and are quite prepared to run the station without native labour at all. Six men, from 18 to 75; six women, from 17 to 60; and two boys, 12 and 13, are employed, and are apparently well fed and clothed.

Messrs. McGrath assured me that as long as these natives liked to remain on the place they would be looked after, even when they became useless as far as work is concerned. I trust they may always think the same.

Scale of rations: 14lbs. flour; $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep; 3 or 4 sticks tobacco, man and woman every six days.

There appears to be no sickness on this station at present.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 20th September, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MOUNT STEWART.—Out station belonging to Mr. Higham, of Nannutarra.

There were six men and four women employed at this camp, the men for the most part doing the boundary riding and

stock work generally, one or two drawing water, etc. These natives were well fed and clothed, and I know under the white man, W. Scott, stationed at this camp, are well treated, he having been in my employ when on the Ashburton some time ago. These natives get a liberal ration when camped away, viz., 16lbs. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep, 3 sticks tobacco, man and woman every six days.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 20th September, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

RED HILL (Ashburton District).—Owned by Messrs. Monger and Forrest; managed by Mr. J. E. Hicks.

There were no old natives at all on this station, and only 15 employed altogether; seven men, 22 to 45; eight women, 20 to 40; four children, three boys, three months to eight years; one girl, four months.

These natives were well fed and clothed, and all look well and happy. One woman does a good deal of the cooking and house work, etc., under the supervision of Mrs. Hicks.

Scale of rations is a very liberal one:—14lbs. flour, 2lbs. sugar, 14lbs. meat, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco, man and woman every six days.

No disease on this station that I could hear of. Two births three and four months ago; one death last October, a young man, probably consumption.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 20th August, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

PEEDAMULLA (Cane River).—Owned and managed by Messrs. Burt Bros.

Very few natives now on this station; there were formerly more, but Mr. Fred. Burt told me they had gradually cleared out, some to the coast and some to neighbouring stations, and they have not troubled after them, and are quite prepared to work the station without any native labour. There is one old chap, about 65, who turns up at intervals; he is always fed when on the place, although unable to do much.

Three men, 26 to 45, one woman 35. These men are used principally as horse boys, etc. While at this station two men called looking for shearing; one of them had a native woman with him dressed as a boy. I am glad to say Mr. Burt will not employ any men carting women about with them. If all squatters would act in this manner, a good deal of this sort of thing would be put a stop to.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 20th September, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MARDIE (Murray River Squatting Co).—Managed by Mr. Timms.

There are no natives on relief here, I saw three women nearly blind, all fed and clothed by the station. These natives appear to be almost too well fed, there being a good deal of waste at the camp. Shearing was in progress during my visit, all being done by natives, some of them doing very good work, the teamstering also being in the natives' hands: 16 men, 20 to 55; 14 women, 22 to 45; four boys (black), three to 12; four girls (black), six months to 11 years; three half-caste boys, four to six; two half-caste girls, 12 months to 13 years.

No natives are rationed out, Mr. Timms stating that he cannot rely on them to draw water, etc., and prefers to employ whites or Chinamen. No natives are signed, but the majority of them could not be driven from the place. These natives are holiday-making a great part of the year, and get rations whenever they come in for them. They appear to be a very dear class of labour here, taken as a whole. After leaving Mardie, I received a letter from Mr. Timms reporting one of the natives for having burnt his woman's eye with a fire-stick. I at once returned and inquired into the affair, and although confident in my own mind of the native's guilt, the evidence adduced was so conflicting that I could do nothing but warn the native in question. While at Mardie the second time, one of the young boys got thrown from a horse and broke his arm, which I was able to set before leaving. One woman died about twelve months ago, probably from old age. Two births during last twelve months.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 20th September, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

YARRALOOOLA (Robe River).—Owned by the Robe River Pastoral Co., and managed by Mr. F. Paterson.

I saw one old woman at this station; she was totally blind, aged about 75, and is fed by the station. All the natives here—men, women, and children—look remarkably well, and get everything they require. The women, with a few exceptions, appear to do very little, except at shearing time, the men being employed doing the usual station work: 10 men, 20 to 50; 13 women, 20 to 50; nine children (two boys about six, and seven girls 14 days to 13 years); no half-castes.

Scale of rations: 7lbs. flour, 6lbs. rice, 20lbs. meat, 3lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week.

One death, probably senile decay; one birth during last 12 months.

Mr. Paterson does not sign any natives, but as he has not had much experience amongst them, I did not get his views on the question. Mr. Paterson told me he had very little trouble now with the natives, but when he first took over the station they nearly all cleared out, but gradually returned, and are now apparently contented and happy. There is no station where they are better fed and clothed.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 20th September, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BALMORAL.—Owned by Mr. David Stewart; managed by Mr. A. Linton.

There were four old and infirm natives on this station, all being fed and kept by the owner; one of them is deaf and dumb. All the shearing is done by natives, also teamstering. Here, as at Mardie, the natives spend most of their time holiday-making, the majority only working at shearing, lamb-marking, etc.; they are also given rations when going into the bush, and are well treated, fed, and clothed. Mr. Stewart does not employ any natives water-drawing, etc., his manager told me he preferred to use whites or Chinamen, not being able to rely upon the blacks, consequently these natives do not do much work during the year. Nearly all these natives are under agreement: 17 men, 23 to 45; 15 women, 18 to 45; three children, 10 months to 11 years, all girls. One man (old) died before shearing. Rations given when asked for.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 20th September, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

KARRATHA (Maitland River).—Owned by the Withnel Bros., and managed by Mr. John Withnel.

Only seven natives employed here, none of them being signed: five males, 12 to 30; two women, 14 to 30. No births or deaths during last 12 months. Two boys shearing, each averaging 60 per day. Mr. Withnel tells me these two boys can play euchre correctly. The women do the housework and appear to be very useful. They are well fed and clothed. Mr. Withnel said he did not believe in signing, and promised to send me his opinion in writing, but has not yet done so.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 20th September, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

CHIBBITTA (Maitland River).—Owned and managed by Mr. A. C. Gillam.

There are three natives on relief here, two at 6d. per day and one at 9d., as follows:—

- (1.) Bobtail, 65, F., old and decrepit, and nearly blind.
- (2.) Mardanangada, *alias* Fanny, F., 37, a lunatic; taken over by Mr. Gillam from Roebourne at 9d. per day.
- (3.) Bullyabimung, *alias* Selina, F., 52, abnormally fat, weighing at least 16 stone and unable to get about; certainly the stoutest woman I have seen anywhere.

No. 2, Mardanangada, seems very mad and creates considerable disturbance at night, generally at the full moon. These natives are all fed with those working on the place. Natives do the teamstering and stock work, etc. One boy I saw shoeing horses. Mr. Gillam will not keep any natives unless they agree to sign. They all seem happy, contented, well fed, and clothed: 12 men, 18 to 65; 13 women, 16 to 65; three boys, six to 16, one being a half-caste of 16, two indentured; four girls, three to 15. No births or deaths.

Scale of rations: 16lbs. flour, 16lbs. meat, 3lbs. sugar, ½lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco, man and woman per week; extra given if more than one woman or any children.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 20th September, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ROEBOURNE.—The two (2) natives on relief here were both away at the time of my visit. The manager of the Nor'-West Mercantile Co. informed me they at times went away for two or three weeks at a time, but always obtaining a supply of rations before going. The police state this relief is properly administered. On my return to Roebourne I shall make a point of seeing these two natives.

On several occasions I had conversations with squatters living close to Roebourne; they are all agreed that something should be done to prevent the present state of affairs. The treatment of prisoners (native) in the gaol was brought before my notice. It appears these men have a very good time of it, and look upon a term of imprisonment as anything but punishment. A most liberal ration is allowed: Breakfast, 9oz. bread; dinner, 1lb. potatoes, ¾lb. meat; tea, 9oz. bread; with tea, sugar, salt, etc., including tobacco, soap, etc.

They are also allowed to corroboree at night. Messrs. Church, Clifton, and others say they consider imprisonment for natives under such conditions is little or no punishment, and tends rather to increase than prevent crime. This, of course, refers mainly to the more civilised prisoners. Doubtless incarceration alone is to a certain extent punishment to the real bush native. I was informed that in many cases natives living about Roebourne offer their women to white men for drink, etc., the latter often being under the influence of liquor himself accepts, and soon after finds himself fined for supplying liquor to natives, the natives escaping altogether. In such cases the native should certainly be punished also. I quite agree with Mr. Church and others that natives not working should not be allowed within a mile or two of the townships after sundown. On my return to Roebourne I hope to go more fully into this and other matters connected with natives in towns, etc.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hong Kong, 6th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

COSSACK.—Of the four natives on relief here I saw only three. One woman (Polly), aged about 45, being strong and hearty, I have removed from the list from 7th inst. The police tell me this woman can obtain employment if she wishes to; the other two were fit subjects, one man, Dolphin, being blind. One woman being away I did not see. Those seen appeared in good condition, and appear to get a fair thing.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hong Kong, 6th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WOODBROOK.—Owned by Messrs. Church, Meagher, & Co.; managed by Mr. J. H. Church.

This station I visited from Roebourne. No natives on relief. There was one old woman in the camp at the time of my visit; her son working on the place. The natives here get all they require as regards food and clothing, and are well treated. Seven men, 18 to 28; four women, 18 to 30; one boy, 12, indentured; also two half-caste girls, 13 and nine, indentured. The natives on this station, as on many visited in the Nor'-West, appear to have been well trained, they being good teamsters (Mr. Church employs no white man to drive his waggon). Some are able to shoe horses and do all kinds of station work. These natives all appear happy and contented. Herewith I enclose Mr. Church's opinion on the signing questions for your information.

I have etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hong Kong, 6th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

THE SPRINGS.—Owned by Mr. A. B. Lockyer; managed by Mr. Arnold Lockyer.

I paid a surprise visit to this station from Cooyapooya, Mr. Clifton kindly lending me a buggy and horses. I found six of the seven natives on the relief list, viz. :—

- (1) Cooararing, *alias* Biddy, female, 61, short leg and deformed foot, said to have a half-caste son of 35 working on place.
- (2) Yannanbiddy, *alias* Mary, female, 60, nearly blind.
- (3) Boyanboomurra, *alias* Caroling, male, 70.
- (4) Wanmagoorra, *alias* Mary, female, 57, apparently fairly strong and able to work, No. 3's woman.
- (5) Yatehegoora, female, 61, nearly blind.
- (6) Guiemagerra, male, 60, has a woman shepherding sheep in station employ; this man not seen by me.
- (7) Jennagueiroo, male, 70, probably children on the place.

No. 6 (Guiemagerra) has a woman in station employ, and should be supported by the station. No. 4 (Wanmagoorra) should be able to work, is supposed to wait on her man, No. 3. From the police I learnt that several of these natives had able bodied sons or daughters working on the station. Being only a flying trip I did not then remove any from the list, but have not done with them yet. These natives are supposed to get 1lb. flour, 1lb. meat, and tea and sugar per day, but I have doubts if they receive half the above. I shall endeavour to sift the matter fully on my next visit. When on the Fortescue, on my way to Roebourne, a drover named Platt reported the Lockyers for having indentured a boy about nine that ran away from him (Platt) some time before, this boy belonging to Croydon Station, owned by Messrs. McRae & Straker. I was under the impression it was necessary to obtain the parents' consent to a child being indentured, but find it is not so. Such being the case I did not mention anything about this boy when at the Springs, wishing to see Mr. McRae before taking any steps in the matter. On reaching Croydon I found Mr. McRae had sent the boy's father to fetch him back, with a note to the Lockyers requesting them to let the boy return. If they do so it will simplify matters, but should they refuse and the boy wishes to return, surely the indenture should be cancelled. I shall again look into this

matter on my return and report fully on it; in the meantime any information you can supply me with, as regards indenturing, would be most useful.

Five men, 17 to 50; five women 14 to 45 (one half-caste 35); one boy, 10 or 11, indentured; one girl (half-caste), nine, out of half-caste woman by a white man; one half-caste man working on wages; also half-caste woman and three children.

No births or deaths during last 12 months. All natives fed at homestead or camps. I only saw one working native, they all being away at the time of my visit, it being Sunday.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hong Kong, 6th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

PYRAMID STATION.—Owned by J. Richardson & Co.; managed by Mr. Broadhurst.

At this station I saw three old natives. Mr. Broadhurst told me there were some others, but he at present asks for no relief, the season being such a good one. Some of these old people were formerly on relief.

Twenty-two men, 18 to 50; 17 women, 16 to 50; one half-caste man, 20; three half-caste women, 16 to 50; six boys, nine to 14 (indentured); one half-caste girl, nine (indentured); one black girl, also nine (indentured); one half-caste girl, 15; 16 children, from a few days to eight years.

Mr. Broadhurst stated that he had very little trouble with his natives at present. Shearing here is done by the natives, also most of the carting, five teams being on the road, four of which are driven by blacks. Two natives were working a pit saw during my visit. One half-caste man (20), born on the place, has his meals in the kitchen, and receives £1 per month, together with clothes, etc. This man does most of the shoeing. The half-caste girls have become very useful servants.

Scale of rations: 16lbs. flour, 12lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, tobacco, per man and woman every six days.

The natives here all look in real good condition, and appear happy and contented, and have an abundance of clothes and blankets.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hong Kong, 6th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

SHERLOCK STATION.—Owned by Messrs. Meares & Withnell; managed by Mr. J. Meares.

Mr. Meares informed me relief had been granted to him for four more natives from 17th August, 1900, making seven now on the list at this station. I saw six of them, one being away for a holiday, to be struck off until his return. They are as follow:—

- (1.) Multhamurra, *alias* Johnnie, male, 60, infirm.
- (2.) Jemima, female, 55, often sick, now fairly well.
- (3.) Jollop, female, 60, blind.
- (4.) Neilbooro, *alias* Polly, female, 60, infirm.
- (5.) Lame Billie, male, 50, unable to work.
- (6.) Judy, female, 60, infirm.
- (7.) Weitha, male, 65, infirm.

The first three of these are on my list. The others are deserving of support, Mr. Meares stating they had done little or no work for him. I feel satisfied that these natives get a fair thing for 6d. a day allowed. Mr. Meares drove me out to an out-camp, where we saw three of these old people, who are fed by the man in charge. They are all fed with the working natives.

Twelve men, 30 to 65; seven women, 18 to 30; one half-caste man, 30, gets his meals in kitchen; one half-caste girl, 14; one half-caste boy, 14; one black boy, 10; and one girl, 9.

Four old people (three women and one man) died about March last. No births.

The natives here look well and do good work. Mr. Meares complained bitterly of the natives being supplied with liquor when away for holidays at small townships, such as Whim Creek, etc. No natives rationed out here.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hong Kong, 6th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

CROYDON.—Owned by Messrs. McRae and Straker. Managed by Mr. D. K. McRae.

Mr. McRae informed me he had sent a native (father of the boy indentured by Lockyer Bros.), to the Springs, requesting Lockyer Bros. to let this boy return with his father. They had not returned when I left Croydon. Mr. McRae will let me know result of his letter later on. There are three old women on relief here, all blind, viz. :—

- (1.) Danderabiddy, female, 60 or more, blind;
- (2.) Moonderabiddy, female, 60 or more, blind;
- (3.) Miadunya, female, 60 or more, blind.

There are four others nearly blind, but fed by the station. All the natives here looked wonderfully well and hearty, all being well clothed and fed, and the children (19 of them) sleek and happy. One native, about 35, does a good deal of the sheep work, being able to count the flocks and look after them, and often goes out and finds any lost on his own account. Another native does all the teamstering, and is spoken of as the best teamster about. Shearing is also done entirely by natives, some of them averaging 60 or 70 per day.

Twenty men and grown up boys, 18 to 60; 27 women and grown up girls, 15 to 60; nine boys from two to 12 years; 10 girls, from two months to 10 years; four women, nearly blind and useless, about 50; seven births during 12 months (of which four died); one woman died.

Only one half-caste boy on this place.

Scale of rations: 24lbs. flour, 7lbs. meat, 4lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week.

Mr. McRae has forbidden his natives to go to any of the townships handy, thereby minimising the danger of their getting liquor and becoming ruined. I enclose Mr. McRae's opinion on the signing question, for your information.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Hong Kong, 6th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

HONG KONG (near Pilbarra).—Three natives employed at this place, one by Mr. Hood of the Empress mine, and two by Mr. Newlands, boardinghouse-keeper, etc. Of these two, one is now in hospital at Roebourne with influenza, and the other, a boy of about 14, fell off a horse the day before my arrival, and sustained a compound fracture of the left forearm. The limb had been put in splints, but very badly. With Mr. Hood's aid, I made the boy comfortable, and I think the bones will knit all right now. Mr. Newlands complained about the charges made for the native in hospital, he having to pay £2 per week, besides doctor's fees, etc. If such is the case, the charges seem to me too high, and certainly are unlikely to induce men to send their native servants in for treatment.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Tambourah, 13th September, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WOODSTOCK.—Owned by North-West Mercantile Company, and managed at present by Mr. W. Street.

I met two natives (temporarily employed by Mr. Street) at Wagina. They had a dray and five horses going to Balla Balla for a load of rations. Their women I saw at Woodstock, they having five children between them. The women were about 30 to 35, two girls, five and seven; one boy, 18 months; two girls, two and four, latter being a half-caste. These women and children all looked well, and have evidently been well nourished. Mr. Street tells me they work by fits and starts and are not to be relied on. There were three old natives here. These I had to put on relief at 8d. per day from the 15th inst. :—

- (1.) Mindylingo, *alias* Mary, female, 60, very infirm and feeble;
- (2.) Kajeworna, *alias* Joey, male, 65, cannot walk;
- (3.) Egulta, *alias* Jackey, male, 65, nearly blind and infirm.

Am afraid there may be some difficulty in getting these accounts certified to, this place being so out of the way. The police very seldom visit it, but on arrival at Marble Bar I will interview the police. In the meantime I have told Mr. Street to send the vouchers into the police at Roebourne. These three natives are certainly most deserving cases.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Tambourah, 13th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

TAMBOURAH.—There are three old natives here, one man and two women, but Mr. Palmer, of the Tambourah Hotel, tells me they are continually on the move, having only been here a few days. There were some 30 or 40 natives here a few days back, but all have gone except these old people. They are able to get about, and, having dogs amongst their party, I think do very well, there being numbers of kangaroo about and quantities of fish.

Mr. Palmer employs one man and woman, about 35, former looking after horses and carrying water, woman shepherding; two natives, man and woman, shepherding at a well two miles out, aged 35 and 40. At the other hotel, Mr.

Watson employs two women, about 45, one of them having a half-caste girl 10, one man and woman away for a holiday, one man (35), and one man with team (20); only one of the above being permanently employed.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Tambourah, 13th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

HILLSIDE.—Owned by Messrs. G. and J. Withnell, and managed by Mr. G. Withnell.

No natives on relief at this station, neither did I see any very old people. 20 men, 18 to 55; 20 women, 14 to 50; eight children, four months to 14 years (five girls and three boys), one being a boy four months old by a half-caste, his mother being a native woman, also one half-caste girl, seven years. One birth and one death during 12 months.

Scale of rations :—14lbs. flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ sheep, 1lb. sugar, little tea, $1\frac{1}{2}$ sticks tobacco, every six days, man and woman.

One half-caste man, about 30, on wages, drives one team, a native driving the other. These natives were all well clothed and fed, and appeared contented and happy. I visited an out camp on my way to Roy Hill, in charge of a Chinaman, a few of the station natives being there, one woman apparently suffering from syphilis. I left medicine for her with the Chinaman. Mr. Withnell generally signs, but has not done so of late. One or two of the shepherds seen by me were not quite so well clothed as those at the station, but during the hot months they seldom wear much clothing.

There is no doubt these natives are all well treated and not worked too hard. Wool scouring was in progress at the homestead, this work being done by natives (men and women), under no direct supervision. Mr. Withnell told me this station had not been visited before by any representative of the Department.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Roy Hill, 26th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

COOGLETON TINFIELD.—Situating about 15 miles to the North of Hillside.

Mr. Withnell kindly lent me a horse to ride over to these fields.

Six men and four women are employed by different people on this field—shepherding, cattle and horse tending, etc. Two white men, camped somewhere in the vicinity, are living with native women. I did not see them or ascertain their names. There are three half-castes on this field; one man of 40, from somewhere South, has a woman (black) with him; another a man, of 29 or 30, also with a woman, works with the former, getting tin and earning their own living, and are spoken well of by the whites. One half-caste boy of nine is indentured to Mr. Tatlock, storekeeper and butcher.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Roy Hill, 26th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ETHEL CREEK STATION.—Owned by Mr. Charlie Smith and managed by Mr. G. A. Rayner.

Mr. St. Quintin, manager of Roy Hill, kindly lent me a horse to ride over to this station, road being too rough for a bicycle. On my way I met Mr. Rayner. As he had three out of the eight natives employed with him and some of the others being away, I returned here with him.

Four men, 20 to 30; two boys, 11 and 14; two women, 18 and 20, employed on this station.

A Malay, named Saidong, is married to a native woman. He is working on the station. I believe they were married in Roebourne. No births or deaths. Two men were reported to be syphilitic, but now away in the bush, so I am giving Mr. Rayner medicine for them. The boys I saw appeared to be well fed and clothed.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roy Hill, 26th October, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ROY HILL (Upper Fortescue).—Owned by Messrs. S. P. and J. McKay. Managed by Mr. J. E. St. Quintin.

This being a cattle station, there are not many natives employed. Eleven men and boys, from 14 to 35, and two women actually employed. Others of both sex work at odd times, grass cutting, etc. Just previous to my arrival a crowd of natives were camped close by, but they had then nearly all gone away again, a few only remaining. This country abounds in game, fish, and native food of all kinds, so that the outside natives do well. Most of the station natives were away for a holiday, only three working at the time of my visit; these looked well and hearty. One of the men made a very good job of shoeing a horse. On my way to this station I passed the team being driven by a half-caste (on wages), known as Billie. I am told he is a very good man. There was one old woman about 55 in the camp, lame, but appeared to be well cared for by her companions, some of whom had just come in from the bush. They were all sleek and fat, and evidently live well. There are also three boys, 10 to 12, and one child, male, 18 months; three girls, 12 months to nine years. One half-caste boy had been taken away by his father overland with stock, and, I believe, was to be put to school by him. There is also one half-caste Malay girl of 15 or 16 on the place. Her father is working on the adjoining station (Ethel Creek). The Chinaman cook here, Ah Hing, is married to a native woman. There is no doubt these natives are well fed and are thought a great deal of by the McKay Bros. None are signed at present.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Nullagine, 3rd November, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

NULLAGINE.—At this township I saw about 20 natives altogether, but only a few of them were employed, and these mostly women. The two hotel-keepers (Messrs. Clemensen and Walker) employ two or three men each. Three women are employed at the hop-beer shop, and the

butcher has one man and two or three women working for him. At a garden a mile or so up the river there are several natives loafing about at times. At this garden I saw and treated a very bad case of syphilis, and have left medicine to continue the treatment. I visited two or three other camps, in company with Constable Brown, and found two men, about 55, both pretty strong and hearty, and three old women, two of them nearly blind. These latter I should have put on relief, but until the loafers are cleared out of the township I consider it is useless to feed these old people, as those able to work would probably get the benefit of the rations supplied. I also saw two half-caste children one a boy about eight or nine, at Wordley's garden, and the other a child only a few weeks old, at the Butcher's camp. I was informed there were a great many natives about the township just before my arrival, but they had mostly gone into the bush towards Roy Hill and farther back for a big corroboree. The natives for the most part absolutely refuse to work, and live on the prostitution of the women. I believe several white men live with women in and around the township and outlying camps, but it is a difficult matter to obtain any definite information. Mr. Isdell, of Mosquito Creek, told me he had applied for blankets for the old natives last winter, but none were obtainable. I have since ascertained that there is now a good supply at Marble Bar, and will make arrangements for a bale to be sent to Nullagine before next winter. The prisoners (native) brought in from Horrigan's station and convicted of cattle killing were kept in the police camp for two or three days.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Corunna Downs, 18th November, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

"TWENTY-MILE," SANDY, AND MOSQUITO CREEK (Nullagine District).

From Nullagine I visited "20-Mile," Sandy, and Mosquito Creek. There were only four men working at the former place and three women. Just previous to my visit there had been a good many natives here, but they had all cleared out into the bush. At Mosquito Creek, I had a long talk with Mr. James Isdell on the native question. This gentleman tried and sentenced the 10 natives for cattle killing at Horrigan's, and has since been accused of being interested in the station. He assured me such was not the case, he having no interest whatever in it. Mr. Isdell, with many others, urge the necessity of keeping idle natives some distance out of these mining townships, as they will not work themselves and make those that will discontented, etc. There are only a few natives employed at this place, three between the two hotels, their women not being employed. There are seven or eight women about the township, doing odd jobs at times. A short time back there were a large number of natives around, but they have also nearly all cleared out. I believe some white men have taken young gins to live with them; but, as far as I could gather, none against their wish. In some instances the men (black) have complained to Mr. Isdell. Mr. Isdell is of opinion that there are usually between 200 and 250 natives knocking about Nullagine and district, about 100 being men, only about 20 being employed. There are between 50 and 60 children all told, five or six being half-castes, from a few weeks to 12 years old. As many natives come to Mr. Isdell for medicine, I think it would be advisable to send him a supply of the following, viz.: Iodoform, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb; vaseline, 2lbs.; 3 doz. pain killer; 3 doz. eucalyptus.

Bush natives can do well in this country, there being any amount of fish and bush tucker.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Corunna Downs, 18th November, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

CORUNNA DOWNS.—Brockman Bros. Mr. H. Brockman in charge.

On arrival at this station I was sorry to find Mr. Dudley Brockman had left only a few days before for the South, his brother being in charge. There are only two old women now on relief here, viz. :—

1. Mirilbung, *alias* Polly, female, 60, nearly blind, has a daughter working on the place; 2. Coogapee, *alias* Bandy Legs, female, 45, blind; no relatives of the other two on your list; one Coonderingo, female, died nine months ago; and Devering, female, has been away for 12 months or so and not charged for. The first two are certainly both fit subjects for relief. I told Mr. Brockman the firm ought to keep the old woman who has a daughter working on the place, but he contended the woman has never done any work for them herself, etc. There were one or two other old people that are kept by the station.

Sixteen men, from 17 to 60; 20 women from 17 to 60; six boys from two to 13 years; eight girls from three months to 15 years; seven half-castes, four girls, six months to 13 years; three boys, three to seven years. A half-caste, named Carrol, aged about 30, formerly working on this station has a small place of his own. He employs two natives, one boy, 16, and one woman, 21. This party passed through Corunna Downs at the time I was there. The natives on this station are well fed and clothed, and appear to be contented. A good many were away for a holiday; those that I saw were fat and sleek, the children looking particularly well and hearty. Shearing is done here by natives for the most part.

Two births during last 12 months; two deaths during last 12 months, old women.

Scale of rations: 12lbs. flour, 1lb. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep, 2 sticks tobacco, soap, man and woman, every six days.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Coongan, 7th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MARBLE BAR.—I saw ten (10) natives on relief at this place, administered by Corpl. Breen, Sergt. Smythe having been shifted elsewhere. They are as follows:—

- (1.) Coolabamurra, *alias* Jackie, male, 55, infirm;
- (2.) Carragoora, *alias* Cabbage, female, 55, infirm and blind one eye;
- (3.) Bundoolamurra, *alias* Yennerie, male, 60, infirm;
- (4.) Youndie, female, 55, infirm;
- (5.) Cooladar, *alias* Cabbage, female, 60, infirm;
- (6.) Meta Meta, female, 60, infirm;
- (7.) Minbaring, female, 45, blind and often sick;
- (8.) Williambung, *alias* Mary, female, 50, infirm;
- (9.) Cooberamurra, *alias* Jackie, male, 60, infirm;
- (10.) Cobadaboora, *alias* Judy, female, 60, infirm and blind one eye.

The above are all fit subjects for relief, and get 10lbs. flour, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. sugar, and a little tea each, every week.

They appear to have had no blankets given them last winter, but I feel confident the present officer in charge of the police will see they get their supply when the time comes. The Warden informed me there were 77 blankets now at Marble Bar, so no more should be required this next winter. Corpl. Breen, whom I know to be a good officer and an experienced man amongst natives, wishes to put a stop to natives working at hotels in the Bar, but the Warden appears to think there is no harm in their being thus employed; it certainly does seem rather hard that a native who is willing to work should not be allowed to do so, though I think they would be better off if kept out of the townships altogether. It appears to me, as I read the Act, that as long as a native is not loitering or hanging about a licensed house, he may be allowed to work in the employ of the publican. It would help me if you would kindly let me know your views on this subject and those of the Law Department. Corpl. Breen intends to keep all idle natives out of the township. This is a step in the right direction, and should be adopted in every case. There are 15 men employed at Marble Bar, from 15 up; also five women. None of the latter appear to be actually employed at hotels, but I saw them knocking about the premises, and there is no doubt if their men are employed by publicans, the women are sure to be somewhere handy. There are a few children; two boys, seven and 10, one girl eight years, and one half-caste six months, were all I saw; I believe there are others. One girl had been under Dr. Leary's treatment. I asked the police to take her up to Dr. Belgrave who is now in the Bar.

While at Marble Bar I received a wire from the postmaster at Nullagine, saying a woman had come to him very bad; a chemist who happened to be in the township examined her and found her suffering from inflammation of the lungs. He was feeding and giving her medicine, so I wired asking him to look after her while ill and charge the Department, getting some reliable person to certify his account. I also obtained some medicine from Dr. Belgrave, and sent by mail. This woman had a half-caste child, a few months old, so was unable to do much for herself. I saw her while at Nullagine, but she did not complain then. I have heard nothing further from Mr. McClarty, the postmaster.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Coongan, 7th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WARRAWAGINE (De Grey River).—Messrs. Darlot Bros. & Co.; managed by Mr. F. S. Thompson.

On arrival at this station I found the manager had just gone away, and was not expected back for some days; consequently I had to put in nearly a week before he returned. I saw five (5) old natives here, from 40 to 60 odd. Mr. Thompson said there were generally 10 or 12 about the place. The others were somewhere on the run. These old people seemed to be doing all right, as the working natives are very well fed on this station, and the old people get their share, and in bad times they are given food to keep them going. Some little time ago Darlot Bros. & Co. bought Braeside, eight of the natives from there being employed at Warrawagine now, the others being away holiday-making, and are not really attached to any station. Mr. Thompson did not ask for any relief, except in the shape of blankets. I think it would be as well to send a bale of 25 to Condon early in 1901, addressed to Darlot Bros & Co., care of Tifney & Co., Condon, to be distributed according to necessity by Mr. Thompson, who is a Protector, and I think a man to be relied upon. They

should be at Condon not later than the end of March. The natives at this station were all in good order and a useful lot; the cook, a very good one, was a native. Two boys were doing good work at the pit saw; they only required to have the timber marked for them. The natives also do all the butchering, and are very smart at cutting up a beast. A half-caste, about 25, is a very smart bullock-driver. These natives are well fed, clothed, and seem happy and contented, and are spoken of as being a real good lot of workers.

Thirty-nine men and boys, from 14 to 40; 24 women and girls, from 12 to 14. One birth (female) about 12 months ago. No deaths. No natives rationed out.

Mr. Thompson has promised to send me his views on the signing question.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

EEL CREEK STATION (DeGrey).—Owned by Messrs. C. Coppin and Sons.

There are about 10 old natives on this place, eight of whom I saw. They all appeared to be doing well, and as the working natives are well fed, the old people get their share. There is also any quantity of fish in the pools, and twine is given them, of which they make nets. I gave Mr. Coppin an order on the police at Marble Bar for 10 blankets, there being 70 out there, and Mr. Coppin told me he could get them over all right.

I saw two natives working at the sawpit here; they were doing good work. I also saw the smartest half-caste (about 18) seen during my travels.

Eighteen men, from 17 to 40, including one half-caste boy of 18; 20 females, from 15 to 40; seven children, two months to seven years, including two half-castes (boy and girl), seven years and three months. No deaths. One birth (three months ago).

Scale of rations:—28lbs. flour, 7lbs. meat, 3lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco, per man and woman, per week.

The natives appeared happy and contented, and were well fed; some of them were not quite so well clothed as others I have seen. Mr. Coppin has promised to send me his views on the signing question. Mr. Coppin and family showed me every kindness, lending me a horse to ride to Warrawagine and back, in the meantime feeding my team on hay.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MUCCAN (DeGrey).—Messrs. Ball and Corbett. Managed by Mr. W. Ball.

There was only one old woman (blind) on this station, and none on relief.

Fifteen men, from 20 to 45; 20 women, from 15 to 40; one half-caste boy, eight years; nine boys, four to 13; six girls, four to 13.

Scale of rations (very liberal): 36lbs. flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ sheep, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman, every eight days.

The natives here are well fed and clothed. Mr. Ball told me they were rather difficult to handle sometimes, being a very mixed lot, and want constant supervision. I left some medicine with Mr. Ball for a woman suffering from syphilis. No births or deaths.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

COONGAN STATION (Coongan River).—Owned by Messrs. Robinson and Co. Managed by Mr. J. F. S. Robinson.

This is a station on the Coongan, the homestead being on the main road, and Mr. Robinson having a wayside license. The natives, men and women, are used for station work principally, one of the latter being employed by Mrs. Robinson in the house. There are three old people here, all very old. These, being old servants, are fed by the firm.

Nine men and boys, 14 to 80; nine women, 14 to 80; five boys and one girl, 15 months to 10 years; one birth, 15 months ago. No deaths.

Scale of rations (very liberal): 20lbs. flour, 3lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 20lbs. meat, 2 sticks tobacco every week, for man and woman. Guns and dogs are allowed the natives.

My attention having been called to the fact that Mr. Robinson was in the habit of signing natives, I spoke to him on the subject, and found that he had been appointed to witness contracts by Colonel Angelo, when G.R. in Roebourne, some years ago, for the Roebourne district. On my pointing out to him that being no longer in the Roebourne district, he could not legally witness agreements, Mr. Robinson at once decided to sign no more.

I should be obliged if you would let me know fully how the law stands as regards tampering with an assigned servant (native).

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WARRALONG (Coongan River).—Messrs. Hardie Bros. Managed by Mr. T. Hardie, J.P.

There are a few old natives on this place, but they were away at the time of my visit. Mr. Hardie told me they were cared for by the firm and would not be allowed to starve.

Fifteen men, from 20 to 65; 15 women, from 20 to 65; six boys, 15 months to 12 years (one half-caste, five years); one girl three years; two deaths (one general decay, one influenza); two births, 15 months ago.

Scale of rations: 30lbs. flour, 3lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week, for those who do not eat meat; 20lbs. flour and 10lbs. of meat for those that will eat meat.

The majority of these natives do not eat meat for months together. They go into mourning for some relation, which takes the form of abstention from meat—that is, mutton and beef. This custom holds from here right

down the DeGrey River. Natives do all the shearing. Mr. Hardie is in favour of signing, and is going to send in his views.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ETTRICK (DeGrey).—Messrs. Hardie and Duff.

I saw three old women here, kept by the station. Nine men, 17 to 50; six women, 20 to 40; children—one boy, 10; one boy, six; one half-caste boy, three; two girls, two and four.

No births or deaths. These natives seldom eat meat. Cooking done by native women. Shearing by natives. Mr. Hardie was away, only a young fellow being in charge. Nearly all the natives were away for a holiday.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MULYIE (DeGrey River).—Messrs. Anderson Bros.

The owners had just left for the South on my arrival at this station, Mr. Campbell being in charge.

I saw four old people here, from 60 to 80, kept by the station; 20 men from 17 to 55; 14 women from 16 to 50; eight children, one to seven years.

One birth, no deaths. Very few of these natives eat meat; they do so occasionally.

Scale of rations (very liberal): 30lbs. flour, 2½lbs. sugar, ½lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week.

Shearing done by natives. No natives are signed here.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

DEGREY.—Messrs. Grant, Anderson, and J. Edgar. Managed by Mr. S. R. Corney.

As Mr. Corney wanted the natives on this station signed, I had an opportunity of seeing them all, he driving me round. I signed 89 men and boys, from 14 to 55; and 84 women, 14 to 45. I also saw 33 old people, seven being men all over 60, the remainder women, from 55 to 75. A few of these old people were out at the out camp, Pardoo. The man in charge there told me he fed them directly when necessary, that is when times were bad and not many working natives on the place. At the homestead, where I saw the majority of the old people, they share the food with the working natives and are fed in hard times. I feel sure the supply of flour given by the Department is well distributed, and blankets also. Further up the DeGrey I saw two old people from here, and at Port Hedland and Wedges more of them, out for a holiday, making a total of 40 seen. A bale of 55 or 60 blankets will be required to

be sent to Condon about the end of March. I have asked Mr. Corney to supply six (6) to Mr. Wilding for the old people at Boodarrie.

The natives on this station are well handled and give very little trouble, seem contented, and are well fed and clothed. They do nearly all the work, 48 of them being on the board at shearing, averaging nearly 50 per man. Carting (bullock teams) is all done by natives; fencing, well-sinking, and, in fact, all station work, only a few white men being employed as overseers. Cooking is also done by the boys. Two were on at the time of my visit, both good cooks. They work a month, when two others give them a spell, and so on.

On no station have I seen more systematically-worked natives, and great credit is due to the firm and to those in charge generally for the manner in which they have been trained. Mr. Corney will not have a man or woman on the place unless they are willing to sign. He has promised to send me his views on this question.

Ninety men and boys, from 14 to 55; 92 women and girls, from 14 to 45; 57 children (32 girls, 12 months to 12 years, and 25 boys, from 12 months to 12 years); 10 half-castes (two boys, three and 10 years; four girls, two to 11 years; four women, 18 to 23 years).

Scale of rations: 30lbs. flour, 2lbs. sugar, ½lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week; some do not get sugar and tea.

These natives seldom or never eat meat. Four deaths, two old people and two about 30 and 40; four births during last 12 months. At the out camp, Pardoo, I examined most of the women, and found several cases of venereal disease amongst them. I left medicine with the man in charge. Some of the cases were very disgusting. There were only one or two cases at the homestead.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

CONDON.—There were only five (5) natives at this place, four men and one woman, the latter living with a Malay, I believe. An old chap shepherds for the butcher; one man works at Rayner's store, the other two being employed by the publicans.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

PORT HEDLAND.—There were not many natives at this place at the time of my visit. Sometimes, I am told, there are a good many. I saw three of the old people from DeGrey in the camp on the beach. They will probably return shortly. I am glad to say neither of the two publicans employ native labour at all. Finucane employs four men and five women; they were away shelling. I am told they are out-casts from the stations around. I also saw one half-caste girl, about 12. Two or three other natives are employed in the township. At the Post Office there is an old native servant, about 55 (a prisoner from Rottneest). The lineman told me he was very little good to him, being too old, and not much use with horses. A policeman is badly needed in this port; I believe one has

been promised. Many natives come here holiday-making at times, and are apt to get into mischief when there are no police.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Mundabullanganna, 30th December, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BOODARRIE (Turner River).—Messrs. Wedge and Richardson; managed by Mr. A. Wilding.

There are no natives on relief here. I saw five old people, two of them belonging to the DeGrey, out for a holiday. These old people seemed to be doing all right, and appear to get a fair thing. Mr. Wilding said there were three more away. I gave him an order on Mr. Corney, of the DeGrey, for six blankets for these old people.

The working natives here are well handled, and are a very useful lot. They are well clothed and fed, and appear contented.

Twenty-eight men and boys, 14 to 70; 24 women, 15 to 55; four girls, two years to 12; three boys, three to 12; one half-caste boy, 14 years; one girl, 12 years.

Scale of rations:—20lbs. flour, 10lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week.

The natives here get flour, etc., when going for a spell. One death, last October, man about 45; no births. Little or no sickness here. A man has come before my notice. Twelve months ago he took a boy (signed) from Boodarrie. Mr. Wedge, who was then on the place, took out a summons for this man, but could only get a verdict against the boy; the Resident Magistrate refusing to punish the man, saying he could not do so, but said he could give the boy six months. If such is the case, it is surely time the law was altered. Formerly there was a penalty of £20 or £50 attached to tampering with a servant. Has this Act been repealed? Mr. Wilding drove me out to several wells, where I signed natives. I spent Christmas at this station, and had a real good time; Mr. and Mrs. Wilding being kindness itself.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Croydon, 9th January, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MUNDABULLANGANNA (Yule River).—Messrs. McKay Bros.; Mr. C. P. Roberts in charge.

There were very few natives about the homestead, many being away holiday-making. Mr. Roberts seemed to know little or nothing about the relief natives, who were conspicuous by their absence, not one of the 16 on my list being visible. I told Mr. Roberts I must see these natives on my way to Kimberley in a couple of months or so, and also asked him to inform McKay Bros. of my request. Mr. Roberts thought an account had been sent in two months ago. It seems strange that these natives are seldom or never visible. I am afraid that the relief is anything but well administered. Constable Doody, from Whim Creek, is now paying this station a visit. I requested him to obtain all the information he could concerning them. If his report is unfavourable, I think it will be better to cut them off relief altogether; but I shall be able to judge on the return of the constable.

The natives I saw at McKay's looked well, and were evidently well fed and clothed.

Sixty-seven men and boys, 14 to 60; 51 women, 15 to 50; nine children—six boys, 18 months to 13 years; three girls, three weeks to 12 years; five half-castes—two boys (two and six) three girls, 10 months to nine years. One death; two births.

Scale of rations: 20lbs. flour, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. sugar, 12lbs. meat, 1 stick tobacco, man and woman, per week.

A Chinaman is married to a native woman on this station. I did not stay here long enough to have a good look round, but hope to do so on my return when going to Kimberley and Broome, having to pass through this station.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Croydon, 9th January, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BALLA BALLA.—There are four natives on relief here, placed on the list in August, 1900:—

- (1.) Kunajarrung, male, 45;
- (2.) Winagoora, female, 60;
- (3.) Carwee, female, 60;
- (4.) Wilmungarra, female, 60.

I did not see the first of these (Kunajarrung). The other three are fit subjects for relief.

They get 30lbs. flour per week, sugar and tea, also tobacco amongst them, so they do very well. Mr. Matthews seems a very decent man, and, I feel sure, administers the relief properly.

From all accounts, a lot of drinking goes on amongst the natives (loafers for the most part) camped around this place. The constable is always on the lookout, but has not yet been able to drop on to anyone supplying the natives with liquor. Mr. Matthews, one of the publicans, employs two men (one he pays 5s. per week), one woman shepherding, and two women (14 and 25) working for Mrs. Matthews. None of these are working at the hotel. One man and one half-caste (Chinaman) woman with child eight years, working for the other publican, Mr. Byron. P.C. Doody informed me he had got a case against one publican for allowing these natives to remain on the licensed premises, and was going to prosecute him. Out at Balla Balla Pool, a teamster called O'Neil has a boy and two women working for him and wife, the women working for Mrs. O'Neil. I saw two of McKay's old natives in camp here, but their names do not coincide with any on my list, neither could I find out how long they had been there. There were not many natives loafing about at the time of my visit, but I believe there are several at times.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Croydon, 1st January, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

WHIM CREEK.—There were not many natives at this township. One of the publicans (Dunn) has two boys and one woman working for him; one woman at the Chinaman's garden; one old chap at the mine; one boy and woman at Police Camp; latter has two children, one girl

(eight) and one boy (five). I did not hear of much drinking going on here. The constable being stationed here, keeps a check on that sort of thing.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Croydon, 1st January, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MT. FLORENCE (Tableland).—Messrs. Robinson Bros. Mr. G. Cox in charge.

There were three (3) natives on relief here, viz. :—

- (1.) Mundarra, *alias* Susannah, female, 70, nearly blind;
- (2.) Mullaring, *alias* Mary, female, 70, nearly blind;
- (3.) Coulbringa, *alias* Mary, female, 25, blind from birth.

Coulbringa has four children: one girl, 10 years; one boy, eight years (deaf and dumb); one half-caste Chinaman, six years; and one girl, 10 years.

These children are fed by the station, and all looked well and hearty.

These three women get a good ration, and are well cared for, and are all fit subjects for relief.

Thirteen men, from 26 to 50; 13 women, 16 to 50; one boy, 16; five boys, from nine months to 10 years; three girls, from two years to 14 years; two half-caste boys, five and six; two women (25 and 30) will probably be confined in a few months; two deaths (one woman, 18 months ago; and one old woman five months ago); one birth, nine months ago.

Scale of rations: 20lbs. flour, 20lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco, per week, per man and woman.

These natives are well fed and clothed, also well treated.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Croydon, 15th February, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MULGA DOWNS (Fortescue River).—Owned by Mr. S. T. Burgess. Managed by Mr. A. Miller.

No natives on relief here. There were two old women, but they appeared to be getting all they required through the working natives, they being well fed.

Twenty men, from 15 to 60; 23 women, 19 to 60; 15 children (eight boys, six months to eight years; seven girls, four years to 13 years; four half-castes, one boy, five years; three girls, two and a-half to 10 years).

A few of these natives are signed. Most of the water drawers are only employed during the dry times. They all appear to be well fed and hearty. I examined and treated many of the children on this station. Some of them in a bad state from filth and disease; also a few of the women.

Two births, six months ago; four deaths—one boy, 17, probably heart disease; one man, 65 or 70, senile decay; two children (one half-caste), 12 months ago.

Scale of rations: 16lbs. flour, 3lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, 3 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week.

Mr. Miller drove me round to the different wells, so that I was enabled to see all the natives on the station. There can be no doubt they are well treated, fed, and clothed.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,
Travelling Inspector.

Croydon, 15th February, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

HAMERSLEY STATION.—Messrs. McRae and Straker. Managed by Mr. A. J. Allen.

No natives on relief here. I saw one old woman about 60 at a shepherd's camp. She seemed to be doing all right. I met P.C. James, from the Tableland Police Station, on my arrival here. He had just returned from searching for a boy of seven years, lost a few days before and reported by Mr. Allen. It appears this boy was taken away from a well by another boy about fifteen and a girl of the same age; these two left the little chap asleep, without any water, and he was never seen again, alive or dead, although searched for by the white man in charge of these camps, natives, and police. Cox (white man) did not know anything about this affair until two days after the three left the well. He at once got all available natives and searched high and low for the boy, but without success; they only once got his tracks, and then only for a very short distance, enough rain having fallen to obliterate them entirely. The boy's father also went out with a couple of water bags and put in two days searching, with the same result. P.C. James was also out two or three days with natives, without any success. I feel confident every effort was made to find this boy, but he was probably dead before he was missed, the weather being very hot at the time. I regretted not having the powers of a Justice of the Peace, as I consider the boy who took this child away and left him to die richly deserved the cat, and would certainly have got it had I been able to administer it. The manager sent him to Croydon (head station), as there is no doubt the child's father would have speared him had he remained in the vicinity.

Twenty-six men and boys, from 14 to 60; 26 women and girls, 15 to 40 years; nine children, three girls two years to eight years, six boys, nine months to 12 years. One birth, nine months ago; one death, boy seven years, lost in bush.

Scale of rations: 20lbs. flour, 20lbs. meat, 4lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 4 sticks tobacco, every eight days, for man and woman.

The natives on this station are well fed and clothed. I saw in one camp a bag containing at least 35lbs. of flour saved from the boys' rations. There were seldom any visitors at this camp. At another, where the Hill natives come in, the shepherds had little or nothing a day or two after their ration day. At the time of my visit to one of the out camps two runaway natives and four women came in. They had been out since the winter, and compared unfavourably with those employed, being miserably poor and hungry-looking, whereas the others were sleek and hearty. I signed the majority of the natives on this station. Two or three refused; one, the father of the lost boy, on account of his son's death. This goes to show how illogical the ordinary native is; one or two of the others reckoned they wanted a change. Young fellows often make this a reason for not signing, very seldom making any complaint against their treatment in any way. This tendency to wander about seems to be on the increase, several owners having lost young natives just when they were useful, they being led away by smooth-tongued whites, in many instances.

I cannot close this report without expressing my sincere thanks to Mr. McRae for his great kindness, he having lent

me horses and outfit for my Tableland trip, mine spelling at Croydon in the meantime.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Croydon, 15th February, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

POLICE STATION (Tableland).—P.C. James in charge.

Seven natives on relief here, viz:—

- (1.) Bungarie, *alias* Billie, female, 60, infirm;
- (2.) Palague, *alias* Peter, male, 70;
- (3.) Bowenboah, *alias* Granny, female, 75, very old and infirm;
- (4.) Coombanyo, *alias* Mary, female, 55, sick;
- (5.) Booyerbong, *alias* Kitty, female, 42, syphilis;
- (6.) Bimering, *alias* Mary, female, 60, nearly blind;
- (7.) Jimala, *alias* Billie, male, 60, nearly blind;
- (8.) Wanagorie, female, 52, said to be a lunatic; removed to this camp from Tambrey.

These natives are well treated and looked after here. Mrs. James has on more than one occasion given them clothing. In cases of this sort, when there are no other natives (working) about, I think the Department should provide a little clothing. The police cannot be expected to clothe these old people at their own expense. Mrs. James appears to be very good to these natives. In the case of No. 3 (old Granny), she was cooking cornflour, etc., for her. The poor old soul was very shaky, and I do not think can last very long.

I would suggest that any natives requiring relief in the neighbourhood of this station should be removed here, and supplied by the constable in charge, as I feel confident the relief is being administered very conscientiously.

P.C. James has two natives working for him, no women being employed. A woman, "Coobada," formerly on the list here, went down to Millstream, and is now being fed there.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 24th February, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MILLSTREAM (Fortescue River).—Owned by Messrs. Padbury and Loton; managed by Mr. C. Elliott.

There are four natives on relief here, viz:—

- (1.) Coobada, *alias* Polly, female, 56, St. Vitus' dance;
- (2.) Jano, *alias* Monkey, male, 70, very feeble;
- (3.) Keriman, male, 56, infirm;
- (4.) Wearing, *alias* Mary, female, 60, nearly blind.

Coobada came down to this station from the police station. I saw three of these four, the other one being away at an out camp, and fed there. The relief seems to be faithfully administered here. Thirteen men, 19 to 55; 13 women, 15 to 50; five children, from five months to 13 years; two half-caste girls, four years to 13 years; one birth; two deaths, both women after childbirth, children also dead.

Scale of rations:—16lbs. flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ sheep, 2lbs. sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tea, and 2 sticks tobacco, for man and woman, per week; dogs are also allowed.

A half-caste man of 33 works here, and has been in receipt of £4 10s. per month since June, 1894. He is now looking after paddocks. He has a native woman, and owns two horses and a buckboard buggy; he can read and write a little. The native driving the team is also in receipt of wages, and is a very good servant. Mr. Elliott complained that a lot of loafers, holiday-makers, and others were continually camped on the permanent pools on this run. They will do no work, and were making those employed very dissatisfied. The natives appear to be well fed and clothed.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 24th February, 1900.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

COOYAPOOYA (near Roebourne).—Messrs. S. I. Burges & Co.; managed by Mr. C. Clifton.

No natives on relief here. On my way from the Tableland I called at an outstation belonging to this station, and saw several of the natives. They are well fed, clothed, and treated generally. At the home station I saw one native who some time ago made a model of a waggon himself, and I believe is a very fair hand at almost anything. Some time ago one of the natives here had the end of his nose bitten off by a white man, both being under the influence of drink. The white man was tried in Roebourne, and got off very lightly, being sentenced only to two months' hard labour, and fined £20 for supplying drink to natives, this fine being paid by a squatter in the district.

21 men, from 21 to 60; 21 women, from 17 to 60; one half-caste boy, about 11 years; five youths, 10 to 15; 15 children, from six months to five years.

From this station I again visited the Springs, Mr. McLean (in charge during Mr. Clifton's absence) kindly lending me a buggy and horses. I enclose Mr. Clifton's views on the signing question.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 24th February, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

THE SPRINGS.—Mr. A. B. Lockyer; managed by Mr. Arnold Lockyer.

I once more visited this station on my return from the Tableland, and found everything apparently in order, and am inclined to think the relief is administered fairly well. Of course, Lockyer may get a little work out of one or two of the old people, but I do not think they are able to do much. I cut one native (Nemijarry) off the list from end of January, 1901, he having an able-bodied woman, who is quite able to obtain his living as well as her own. I did not see this native on my last visit. One native (Caroline) died in October, and does not appear to have been charged for after September last, so that there are now five on the list. Mr. Lockyer told me Mr. Clifton had refused to certify to his October account, having heard one of the natives had been working. He assured me this had not been the case, and I fancy this arose on account of the man Nemijarry being generally out with his

woman, who shepherded some sheep. At all events, I felt satisfied on Lockyer giving me his word that they had not been worked, and that the relief had been administered faithfully, and certified to the accounts up to end of January. P.C. James had also seen these natives since I saw them last, and reported them in order. I will ask Sub-Inspector Connor to send a constable out to this station as often as possible, and see that things go on all right. I saw the boy Wyarong, who formerly belonged to Croydon, and was indentured by Mr. A. B. Lockyer. He told me he wished to remain at the Springs, and not return to Croydon; consequently there the matter must rest. It appears to me some magistrates are not half particular enough in the matter of indenturing. In this particular case, the boy's age has not been stated. I certainly think the Act touching on this subject should be altered, a clause being inserted making it necessary that the consent of the parents or next of kin should be obtained, as in many cases these boys are not likely to understand the true meaning of what they are agreeing to. At this station I also saw a girl of 11 or 12, daughter of a white man and a half-caste woman. This girl is as near white as possible, and I certainly think she ought to be taken and brought up by the State. At present she sleeps at the house with her mother. I shall probably see the father on my way to Broome, and shall endeavour to get him to do something for his child.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY

Travelling Inspector.

Roebourne, 24th February, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

MT. FISHER.—Owned by Mr. Fisher; managed by Mr. J. Fisher.

Three men, 30 to 40; seven women, 21 to 40; two half-caste boys, 11 and 13; one man and woman shepherding at Balla Balla.

Scale of rations: 12lbs. flour, 2lbs. sugar, 30lbs. meat, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. tea, 2 sticks tobacco, man and woman, per week.

One old man died last August. No births.

The natives on this station are apparently well fed and clothed.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Boodarie, 18th March, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

SIR,

WALLAL TELEGRAPH STATION (90-Mile Beach).—Mr. Prideaux, officer in charge.

On arrival at this station, I could not help noticing the number of natives, principally women and children, having the run of the place. Messrs. Prideaux and C. D. Price appear to be keeping a good many natives and getting only a very limited amount of work from them.

On the list of natives on relief, furnished by you, there are 12 names. I carefully examined these natives and am giving you full particulars of each, as follows:—

- (1.) *Geordie Berrie*, male (60); has an able-bodied woman of 40, able to get living for both.
- (2.) *Berrilidgee*, male (60); able to earn his own living.
- (3.) *Chil Kuringa*, male; also able to earn his own living.

- (4.) *Winbady*, *alias* Dickey, male (70); this native I did not see; he is said to be blind; his woman has two young children; he is very old and infirm.
- (5.) *Gnibagorla*, *alias* Bamboora, male (65); blind.
- (6.) *Jangin*, female (60); blind.
- (7.) *Cooboroo*, female (30); blind in one eye; young and strong and able to get her own living.
- (8.) *Napileriza*, female; has been dead some time.
- (9.) *Wangoon*, female (55); has a grown son working here, and is herself able to get her own living.
- (10.) *Nabil Yarria*, *alias* Mary, female (60); infirm.
- (11.) *Yungerabiddy*, *alias* Rose, female (60); infirm.
- (12.) *Guangil Gerry*, *alias* Mary, female (65); nearly blind.
- (13.) *Boorajordoo*, female (60); infirm.
- (14.) *Winyera*, *alias* Jinnie, female (60); infirm.
- (15.) *Yeula*, *alias* Mary, female (70); nearly blind; very infirm.
- (16.) *Wirri Wirri*, female (25); cripple—paralysed.

Of the above, those italicised have been struck off the list, leaving 10 only now on relief. Mr. Prideaux informed me he had been in the habit of charging for 12 each month up to 2nd April, when, owing to scarcity of rations, he had to keep only six. These natives have been getting 2lbs. of flour per day, and from what I saw myself and heard from Mr. Hester, I think the relief has been properly administered, but it would be well if there were only one centre of relief, viz., La Grange Bay. I believe a good many of these natives come from North of Wallal, so that should it be necessary to place any more on relief, I would suggest that they be sent to La Grange Bay. I did not mention this suggestion to Mr. Prideaux, not having then seen the Bay. I consider no relief should ever have been granted along this coast, except under very exceptional circumstances (droughts, etc.), but now that it has been in force so long, I fail to see how it can be discontinued altogether; there can be no doubt that at a camp like Wallal, relieving the old natives simply means helping the young and able-bodied to live without attempting to work or look for their own food. There were about 50 or 60 natives in the camp at the time of my visit; there are generally nearer 200. I believe the majority were away in the bush. I saw 13 children, 12 months to 13 years; two half-castes, one girl, two years, and one boy, three years (the former a miserable looking specimen). I took some photographs of these natives, but have not yet developed them.

Mr. Prideaux drew my attention to the medicine that had been supplied from Broome some time back by Dr. Vines. For the most part this stuff appeared to be useless. On visiting Perth I hope to be able to suggest some better means of supplying medicine to these outlying districts. The above applies to La Grange Bay also. Mr. Prideaux has been supplying blankets to both able-bodied and decrepit natives, giving one to each family, with an extra one in case of a large family.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Broome, 5th May, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

LA GRANGE BAY TELEGRAPH STATION.—Mr. Tuckett, officer in charge.

At this station things are carried on very differently. No natives are allowed to camp alongside the house, as at

Wallal, except those employed by Mr. Tuckett or the linesman. At a glance, I could see they are kept in order. Two boys do most of the cooking, in the absence of Mrs. Tuckett. They have evidently been well trained. Every day the old pensioners come up for their flour or rice, each one getting 2lbs. flour or rice and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar. I only took exception to one woman here, who, I considered, was quite able to get her own living. The following is a full and detailed list of these natives:—

- (1.) Matchinoo, male (50), decrepit and unable to get about.
- (2.) Chinmarran, *alias* Billie (70), decrepit and unable to get about.
- (3.) Lingarry, female (45), infirm.
- (4.) Rocherman, female (70), blind and infirm.
- (5.) Chumbuli, female (65), blind in one eye, unable to get about.
- (6.) 1. Kooran, female (50), blind in one eye and infirm.
- (7.) 2. Kooran, female (50), infirm.
- (8.) Drigah, female (40), blind in one eye and infirm.
- (9.) Lawn, female (45), cripple.
- (10.) Mulya, female (70), blind, very infirm.
- (11.) Weeal, female (50), cripple.
- (12.) Charrat, male (40), cripple, having had one thigh broken some considerable time back, which was never set; he is, therefore, unable to walk.
- (13.) *Weelyarah*, female, cleared out, and has been struck off the list by Mr. Tuckett.
- (14.) Bamboorah, male, blind.
- (15.) 2. Rocherman, female (55), blind and infirm.
- (16.) Ettica, female (45), blind in one eye and infirm.
- (17.) 2. Biradoo, female (50), decrepit.
- (18.) Binmarray, female (50), blind and infirm.
- (19.) Kitty, female (50), very often sick.
- (20.) *Mulyar*, female (45), cut off; able to get her own living.
- (21.) Lindin, female (65); blind in one eye; infirm.
- (22.) Mulyenoora, female (45), decrepit.
- (23.) *Kooran*, cut off by Mr. Tuckett; absent without leave.
- (24.) 1. Biradoo, female (45), infirm.
- (25.) Maoonga, female (50), blind in one eye.
- (26.) Guemajarry, *alias* Harry, male (65), very shaky, senile decay.
- (27.) Moogera, female (65), blind and infirm.
- (28.) Bellelle, female (25), very lame, unable to get about much, apparently scrofulous.

I have no hesitation in stating that these natives get the full benefit of the allowance, and that the relief is well administered, but as at Wallal, I consider it is a pity they were ever placed on the list at all. Mr. Tuckett employs three men (18 to 60) and five women (14 to 35). I only saw three children up to two years old. Three half-castes; one girl 12 or 13, one girl eight, one boy (Jap.) 11 or 12. One boy at the house is suffering from asthma (13), and one boy of 12 is at the ship-building yard. The linesman employs two men 30 and 50, two women 22 and 25, two boys 10 and seven. I think there must be more children about, but hope to get full details from P.C. Zum Felde later on. In any but very bad seasons, the natives in this district can get an ample supply of native food; they also carry water and wood for the pearling boats that call in at the creeks during the season. I visited Whistler's Creek from La Grange, but there were only two luggers in and the blacks all cleared out when they sighted us in the distance. I am told a scandalous state of affairs exists as a rule when the pearling boats visit these creeks; the natives,

men and women, flocking around, when the Asiatics, principally Manillamen and Malays, secure the youngest gins they can, in many cases mere children, for immoral purposes. I have asked P.C. Zum Felde to report to me fully on this and other matters connected with the question. I fully appreciate the difficulty attached to proving cases of this kind, consequently I would strongly urge the necessity of stationing a constable at the Bay to patrol between there, Wallal, and the different creeks in the district, as I feel confident if nothing is done to stop this evil the natives must suffer more and more, and extermination will be only a question of a few years. Mr. Tuckett is of the same opinion as myself, and considers it absolutely essential that a good man be stationed in the neighbourhood and as soon as possible. There is a ship-building yard in the creek, only a mile or so from the telegraph station; all Asiatics employed. Everything was quiet when I visited this place, but I believe shortly after there was a row, liquor having found its way there. From what I can learn, liquor appears to be sold by the whites on the pearling schooners to their men on the luggers; surely this is sly grog selling and could be put a stop to. The young half-caste Jap. boy I brought in with me, and had him indentured, having only a borrowed boy with me at present. I could hear of no disease at the time of my visit, but believe it is very bad at times during the pearling season.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Broome, 5th April, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ENGEDENE PLAINS STATION.—Owned and managed by Mr. Marshall.

Seven men and seven women are employed on this station. There are six children, one year to 11 years, including two half-castes (girls), one year and 10 years. One birth 12 months ago; one death, a girl of eight or nine, from snake-bite, last August. The natives I saw were looking well and hearty.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY.

Travelling Inspector.

Broome, 6th May, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

ROEBUCK PLAINS STATION.—Messrs. Streeter & Co.; managed by Mr. A. E. Banks.

I saw very few natives here; they were nearly all away for a holiday. Those I did see were well fed and treated. Twenty-two men and boys, 11 to 60; 24 women and girls, 12 to 50; 14 children, 5 months to 10 years; one half-caste (Malay), 18 months. There have been other half-castes, but Mr. Banks told me they were in Broome.

Scale of rations: 12lbs. rice, 12lbs. meat, 2lbs. sugar, 2 sticks tobacco per week, man and woman.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Broome, 6th May, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BEAGLE BAY MISSION.—I arrived at the Mission on the 14th ult., after a somewhat rough trip overland, and was most kindly welcomed by the Superintendent, the Rev. Father Walter, and also Father White. On approaching the station, I could not help noticing the dilapidated state of the temporary-looking buildings, mere frameworks of timber, with paper-bark walls and iron roof, certainly very primitive looking structures after 10 years' work.

1. Condition of Children.—At present there are 19 boys, from five to 17, and 10 girls, from three to 15 (as per accompanying list), at the Mission. Of these 29, 17 are attending the school (as per accompanying list.) These children all look well, happy and contented. Only one, a little girl, was under treatment for a scrofulous disease, very common amongst natives.

Style of teaching and subjects taught.—Father White appears to have struck the right method of instructing these natives. I was very pleased at the attention and evident interest taken by all, boys and girls, in what they were doing. The senior boys read from the Royal School Primer (one herewith) Nos. 1 and 2, page 26; others Nos. 1, 2 and 3, page 10; others A.B.C. Only two of the boys were able to read their A.B.C. when taken over by Father White. Some of them now read the above fairly well, slowly of course, but without many mistakes. What I considered such a good sign was the evident interest shown by the remainder when one boy was reading. Some of these boys can also write from a copy correctly. Unfortunately I came away without a sample of what they have done, but will ask Father White to send some on by first chance. I consider these boys and girls have made remarkable strides, considering they have only been under their present instructor about two months, and I feel sure that with more facilities in the way of materials (copy books, reading books, etc.) as per list attached, they will do well; many of them can count and write up to 100 correctly. Father White, very wisely, does not attempt too much at a time; the school hours are only two each day, with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays, and Saints' days. During the day they all work, some making bricks, others repairing fences, others doing stock work amongst cattle, etc.; and if they are inclined to be idle, the threat of not being allowed to attend school has an instant effect. Other subjects taught include dictation on a small scale to senior boys, also, arithmetic has just been commenced. Religious instruction is given for about half-an-hour each day. Being so pleased with the improvement shown, I promised Father White to use my best endeavours to obtain the articles as per list herewith. The whole lot will only amount to very little, but will mean a good deal to the school, as they are certainly very short of everything at present.

Adult Natives.—There were 67 adult natives (39 males and 28 females) at the mission during my visit. At Mass on Sunday, 19th May, there were present 37 men and 24 women, together with the 17 schoolchildren. These natives were all well-dressed, clean and respectable, and, I am pleased to say, behaved most decorously in every respect. They sing hymns in their own lingo (taught them by the Trappists), and made the responses very audibly and, apparently, correctly. Father White preached a short sermon in very simple language; one of the senior boys, John by name, stood up and interpreted in his own language, and did it most fluently. Some of these natives work at the Mission, others are employed on board the turtle schooner, and some on board the Mission schooner; a few do very little. The superintendent told me there was very little fighting amongst the natives now; just after they arrived there were one or two rows, resulting in severe cuts, etc. I am sending with this report four monthly returns of natives, either sick

or unable to work, but being fed by the Mission. I may here mention that Father Walter goes on the principle of no work no food. One of the Brothers, Matthias by name, visits the sick every evening, and dresses any wounds, etc. The day previous to my departure, a native came in with a very bad attack of syphilis; he was in a terrible state; I dressed him and left a quantity of medicine with instructions for this case and other similar ones. There was only one other case of syphilis amongst these natives, that of a young woman; I also left medicine for her. These monthly returns are to be kept regularly in future. The school boys sleep about 100 yards from the church, but as soon as the new house is built they will be housed in the building now used as a dormitory, etc. The general tone of the young natives seems good; they are respectful, smart, and apparently good workers, and seem very happy. The superintendent tells me the old lustful corroborees have been put a stop to; they are now only allowed to take part in harmless dancing, etc. I questioned some of them, and found they have a good idea of a Supreme being and Jesus Christ; in fact, all I saw leads me to believe that those natives under the direct supervision of the people in charge have benefited considerably from the instruction imparted and being in contact with men who have given up their lives for this cause. Some of the older natives are employed carrying water, cutting firewood, cooking for the natives, and as general helps about the place. One man, about 35, a cripple, who gets about on his knees, has both legs contracted on his thighs; this man is a very constant attendant at service twice a day, and works at cutting firewood; he is a strong, healthy native, above the knees. The women mostly work in the garden, watering, carrying manure, etc. Service is held twice daily for the natives, everything is done methodically, and the bell ringing at daylight and horn sounded; the bell again sounds at sunrise for Mass when most of the working natives attend. On cold mornings, I noticed they were not so punctual in appearing on the scene, but that is a very common failing amongst natives. Formerly, I believe, the natives were fed almost entirely on rice, but they got damper twice a week, and meat on Sundays and Saints' days (averaging twice a week). I strongly urged the superintendent to improve their diet still more by giving them meat at least once every day, and assured him he would find the benefit in many ways, as by getting more work out of those employed, and attracting others to the mission when the news got around. Father Walter has decided to do this, and only awaits a stockman who has been engaged, when the cattle will be straightened up, a very needful process, they having degenerated terribly during the last 10 years. There can be no question that the natives get plenty to eat now, but they naturally get very tired of rice constantly, and would heartily welcome a change. Father Walter has also arranged with the man in charge of the boat to catch fish for the general consumption.

Buildings, etc.—As will be seen from the accompanying sheets of improvements, the buildings for the most part are very poor concerns. I cannot understand any men putting up such flimsy structures; the contrast of the new régime is very striking. The present superintendent has only been on the spot a little over two months, and has already caused to be made 11,000 bricks. He was told there was no clay or stone available for building purposes, but soon after his arrival set to work and found an inexhaustible supply of good clay, at once improvised a pug mill and got to work, and, notwithstanding immense trouble with the mill—it, being made of wood, would not stand the strain—has turned out the above number of bricks, which only remain to be burnt. An iron mill has now been made, and was working most satisfactorily the day I left. They can now turn out 1,000 bricks a day. Father Walter is a man of considerable practical experience, having been 10 years in

the Cameroons, amongst African blacks, and had great success in establishing and carrying on missionary endeavours in that country; he is a very energetic, hard-working man, and, I feel sure, in the course of a few years will make this Mission self-supporting. An immense amount of work has been done by the Trappists, but unfortunately there appears to have been a sad want of method. Being very shorthanded of late years, the gardens, fences, etc., have been neglected a good deal, but there are very evident signs of methodical work now being done. There can be no doubt that at present the effects of the missionary efforts are beneficial; it remains to be proved if they are lasting. It is the intention of the superintendent to get more lay Brothers out; he has sent home for a mechanic and carpenter amongst others, and on their arrival will have the boys taught different trades.

A Sisterhood is also to be formed as soon as accommodation can be found for the Sisters. A girls' school will then be formed, and the Sisters will take entire charge of the female part of the community. Father Walter informed me he was willing to take any number of half-castes from any part and educate them. He suggested, when possible, help should be obtained from the Father; this, of course, is a very difficult matter, and can only be hoped for in a very small number of cases. The Turtle Company's Tinning Works, at Beagle Bay, about seven miles from the Mission, is undoubtedly a source of great attraction to the Mission natives; they are able to get plenty to eat there, and do very little for it. It is to be hoped this factory will shortly be shifted away from the bay, the water there having become very bad of late. Should such be the case, some at least of the natives habitually hanging about this camp will repair to the Mission, and may be induced to do good work. Many pearlers make this Bay a place of call for water, etc., during the early part of the season, and I fear will always be a source of annoyance to the Mission, and are sure to draw a good many of the natives away, temporarily, at all events. To guard against the younger members of the Mission being thus led away into mischief, I consider it is absolutely necessary that the Institution be recognised as an industrial school, and that the superintendent should be certified as a fit person to manage it according to the Act, 38 Vict. No. 10 (Industrial Schools). If something of this sort is not done, the superintendent cannot exercise the authority necessary to work a school in a proper manner. I have much pleasure in stating both Father Walter and Father White are men well fitted to be given this authority, and are not likely to abuse it in any way.

In conclusion, I can only add that if the present superintendent goes on as he has begun, and carries out all that he has in view, there can be little doubt he will make a success of this Mission and should be the means of turning out many useful and well-behaved natives, both male and female. I should here like to express my hearty thanks to the superintendent, Father White, and the Brothers of the Mission for their kindness and the assistance so heartily given me in carrying out my work.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Broome, 5th June, 1901.

The Chief Inspector of Aborigines, Perth.

DISASTER BAY.—A Mission Station was started at this place, 30 miles East of Beagle Bay, some three or four years ago, by the Trappists, in conjunction with the head station, but was abandoned 12 months since. A few weeks back it was again taken in hand by Father Janney, one of

the former Trappists, and is now under the supervision of Father Walter. There were formerly 52 natives (male and female) here; there are now only 35, 12 men and boys, and 15 women (one a half-caste, about 18), also six boys about six years (one a half-caste), and two younger boys of 12 months and two years. Of these women, one of 35 is blind; one of 40 nearly so; and three are unable to work, from 40 to 65 or 70. All were well dressed, although anything but clean. The six boys are to be sent to the school at Beagle Bay shortly. The contrast between this place and the head station was very striking, everything being very dirty and untidy, including the natives; the boy doing the cooking apparently washed very seldom. A good deal of work must have been done here, but, having been abandoned for 12 months, the place was terribly overgrown with very rank grass, trees, etc. Ten natives (men) were employed clearing away the overgrowth around the spring; 20 others were digging ground preparatory to sowing haricot beans, etc. The women were carrying sand to bank up the channel conveying water to the kitchen. The only building here of any consequence is one composed of iron and timber, strongly put together and in very good order, divided into a small chapel and dwelling room and store combined. This building, land, etc., has been valued on a separate sheet and enclosed with the others. The regularity and precision so noticeable at Beagle Bay were wanting here. A short service is held about 7 a.m., and again at dark; these services are shorter than at Beagle Bay. The natives are fed on rice three times a day; they get sufficient, but I do not think will ever work satisfactorily unless they get a fair allowance of animal food. The behaviour at the services was equally good with that at the head station.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

Broome, 5th June, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BEAGLE BAY.—The W.A. Turtle Co. have their works at this Bay, and appear to be a source of constant attraction to a good number of natives. At times there are as many as 150 natives here; at the time of my visit there were only about 50 or 60 all told; of these eight men and boys, from 12 to 20, were working on the "John Elizabeth," a schooner owned by the Turtle Co. Captain Morrisey told me none of these boys were signed; at the time I had an idea they ought to be under some sort of agreement, and referred the matter to Mr. Warton, who told me they certainly ought to be so according to the Act bearing on taking natives to sea; this subject I shall hope to discuss with you on my arrival in Perth. Captain Morrisey tells me these boys make capital sailors, and he prefers them to Asiatics. Some native men and women, about six of each sex, were working, or pretending to work for Mr. Spurge (manager of the Company). The men were doing very little, the women doing most of the work. At this camp I saw one old woman of 70; she appeared to have good sight and was attacking a large fish vigorously when seen. One man of about 35 was suffering from tertiary syphilis, the cartilage of his nose being eaten away, and he was in a bad state generally. Upon my return to the Mission, I sent pills, etc., to Mr. Spurge, jun., for this man, with full instructions. There were five children, one a half-caste of 11 (this boy we took up to the Mission with the mother's consent, so that he will now be educated), two boys and two girls, from three to 11 years. There were also two younger children of about one year. There are five natives working on the Mission schooner, under a half-caste captain, William by name; he was born in

Cossack and seems to be a very intelligent man, and is well-spoken of by everyone. There is every probability that this Company will shift their works to Broome, the water at Beagle Bay having become very salt of late; should they do so it will doubtless prove a blessing to the Mission, as now this camp is an undoubted source of attraction to natives who want to loaf, as here they can always get plenty of tucker and do little or nothing for it. All the natives appeared sleek and well.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

s.s. Australind, 13th June, 1901.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.

BROOME.—Previous to my arrival at this town, I heard the state of affairs was anything but what it should be, and found I had not been misinformed; in fact they were even worse than painted. In the Asiatic quarter of the town it is impossible to walk along the main streets any time in the day without seeing natives, men, women, and children, lying and loafing about, sometimes right in the street, at others between the houses. They rarely appeared to be doing any work; at times a few might be seen carrying wood or water. The majority of these loafers were women, for the most part under 30 years of age. In no other town visited have I seen such a scandalous state of affairs. The women are all well dressed, and are to be seen at or about sundown carrying food away with them to the camps. A big majority of these natives camp about a mile out of town, others only a few hundred yards. With P.C. Zum Felde I visited the outlying camp one evening, when we saw about 150 men, women, and children; of these the men were a fine, strong, sturdy-looking lot, fat and sleek; very few of them were to be seen in the town; they will not work, but live on the women. The constable ascertained that many of these natives come from many miles inland, doubtless attracted by the easy life to be led if they have a young gin. On another occasion I went round the Asiatic quarters at night with Corporal Fox. At first we only found two women; these were both married to Manillamen. Later on we struck a camp of a West Indian negro, Justinian Farrel by name, where we found four native women camped under a tarpaulin at the back. With this man were two others, one a white man, the other a South Sea Islander. There were also two children, one a half-caste girl of five. Corporal Fox quickly hunted these women, and warned Farrel not to let this kind of thing occur again. This man Farrel is now doing a month's imprisonment for stealing a blanket from an old native woman; he got off very lightly, and had I been present I should have endeavoured to persuade the magistrate to deal much more severely with him. Unfortunately P.C. Zum Felde left for La Grange Bay shortly after my arrival in Broome, consequently I was not able to gain as much insight into all that goes on as if he had been there. I have interviewed several of the leading residents of Broome, and they all tell me the same thing, that they can seldom get a native (man) to do any work; some of them will perhaps work for a day or two and then clear out, and it is very certain while these women are allowed to remain in the town and make a good living by prostitution the men will not do anything more than they can help; it is very noticeable that the majority of the unattached men are elderly, that is to say, about 40. Shortly after my arrival in Broome I called on Father Nicholas, who is in charge of the Mission there, and was shown over the houses of the women (native) married to Manillamen and West Indians; there were seven married

couples altogether, two being West Indians from St. Vincent, three Manillamen, and the other two aboriginals. They each had comfortable little cottages, built on small blocks bought by the church and held in the woman's name; they were all very clean and tidy. Amongst these people were six children; one half-caste girl of eight has been adopted by a West Indian and his wife, and has been sent to school, the man, Philip O'Brien Taylor, paying 4s. per month for her; one girl of two years, offspring of one of the aboriginal couples; two girls, one of five, at school, and one of seven months, are the daughters of a Manillaman. There can be no doubt these native women all seem very happy and contented, and have certainly been raised above their ordinary level; all their surroundings were neat, clean, and tidy, but for all that the system of marrying Asiatics to aboriginal women should be stopped by law. In many cases the Asiatics really buy the women from the native husband, the latter thinking he will be able to get her back later on, is only too willing to let her go; he naturally is very angry when he finds too late that he has lost her entirely. I had a long talk with Father Nicholas on this subject. He told me he would much rather marry black with black, but asked, when Manillamen came to him wishing to be married to an aboriginal woman, and the latter was willing, what was he to do? I am glad to say both Father Walter and Father White, at Beagle Bay, are opposed to these mixed marriages, and do not intend to sanction them, but in Broome, I fear, unless the law forbids it, there will be more of these marriages. Father Nicholas is, of course, bound to keep in touch with his people, the Manillamen, and I have been told that these marriages all mean money to the church. He asked my opinion, which I gave as distinctly opposed to the system. Father Nicholas would like to see the idle natives all kept on reserves outside the town. He complained bitterly of the present state of affairs, and informed me that if a reserve were granted some little distance out of Broome he would go there and live amongst the natives himself, only coming into Broome on Sundays for the service, etc. I certainly think he is sincere in his endeavours to do good to the natives, but would no doubt like to assist his own people as well. I am sending herewith a list of converts, etc., made out by this gentleman, for your information.

In Broome there are a certain number of natives signed to Asiatics. The R.M. (Mr. Warton) informed me he considered this should be left to the discretion of the magistrate. This is a subject that requires careful consideration. Personally I do not think it desirable that natives should be signed to any Asiatic, but upon my arrival in Perth hope to discuss this matter with you.

While in Broome I saw several natives, said to be from Port Darwin or Queensland, obtaining liquor at the hotels. These boys make a boast of being able to do so. This state of affairs should not be allowed to exist any longer, and can easily be altered by omitting the word "Western" from the Act. There is no doubt these natives supply those born in this State with liquor, and I cannot see why a Queensland boy should be able to get in W.A. what he cannot obtain in his own country. I approached Mr. Warton on the subject of keeping unemployed natives out of the town, thereby putting a stop to the existing scandalous state of affairs, but could get very little satisfaction out of him; he was willing to have them kept out at night, but said they did no harm in the day and did a certain amount of work, and were necessary, etc. As far as I could make out, there are not a great many in the town at night, although no doubt at times there are; it ended in my taking no further action until I have seen and consulted you on the subject. I cannot see what benefit a lot of loafing women and children can be to anyone, whites or Asiatics. If this sort of thing is allowed to continue, it means the extinction of the race, and that before many years. I would suggest that all

unsigned natives, men and women, be kept out of the towns, both day and night, and anyone found in their camps without good and sufficient reason be liable to a heavy penalty. If some such step is taken, many of those now loafing and living on their women would go back inland to their own country and obtain an honest living. At one of the hotels natives are employed; one woman at least camps just at the back of the premises, and I was told by several people a great deal of immorality takes place here. I have seen the woman there by day, but not at night. This hotel is much frequented by the coloured men.

I have, etc.,

G. S. OLIVEY,

Travelling Inspector.

s.s. Australind, 13th June, 1901.

La Grange Bay, 14th May, 1901.

To G. S. Olivey, Esq., Broome, Inspector of Aborigines.

In complying with your request of reporting on the aborigines in the Broome district, I beg to state as follows:—

Condition.—The natives throughout the district during the last four years have degraded, physically and morally, to such extent that they almost became useless, except living on the proceeds of their women earned through prostitution, and many offcasts are now to be found in a state of semi-starvation, if not relieved by the Aborigines Department.

The tribal laws and customs have been annulled through the natives coming into constant contact with Asiatics; where in former days old men had the young women, who supported them through hunting, to-day most women are in the hands of the young men and boys (who by tribal law are not entitled to them), having stolen them from their rightful owners by brute force, leaving the old to fossick for themselves, whilst the young men, with their so-procured women, follow up the pearling boats or go into Broome (where there is a great demand for them), a distance of from 100 to 150 miles, trading their women, aged from 10 to 40 years, to all comers for prostitution, and thus make a living in ease and laziness.

Remedy.—The only way, I think, this state of affairs could be improved is to keep the natives away from town and creek where boats are calling for water, and prohibit any person from cohabiting with natives, as at present the police have no power to do anything; and, further, it should not be lawful for any coloured man to employ natives.

I am sure if the natives are kept away from these harbours of debauchery they will again improve, and no support be needed for any of them; but if no steps be taken to amend this state of affairs, instead of relieving 31 in the district the number will increase to 100 in a very short time, as all the offcasts will fall on the Aborigines Department for support. The approximate number of natives now loafing in Broome district, and mostly living on prostitution, is as follows:—Whistler's Creek and La Grange Bay, 450; Broome, 300; Beagle Bay, 150; King Sound, Cygnet Bay, 200. Out of above, 300 are young men and boys, 150 under age and old men, and the balance (550) women and children.

Veneral Diseases have now a solid footing, and cause great damage. Gonorrhœa and internal gonorrhœa (the latter most damaging to natives) and syphilis have also a footing, with a great variety of Eastern skin diseases raging throughout the district; and I have no doubt that venereal will stamp the race out of existence in the course of only a short time.

I have seen many camps of half-caste women suffering from loathsome venereal, and in one of them saw nine women of all ages, every one with sores all over their body, dying a miserable and slow death. At King Sound, this year, I don't think that a single woman could be found, if in contact with Asiatics, who did not suffer from venereal, and at Beagle Bay things were nearly as bad. At La Grange Bay and Whistler's Creek, where for eight months in the year an average of 150 coloured men come into contact fortnightly with the natives, I think will speak for itself; and Broome is as bad as any part of the district, if not worse. I may state that I saw girls from 11 to 13 years suffering from venereal disease.

Procuring native girls of tender age for prostitution is very common, and during the last four years four Asiatics were committed for trial for this crime: two were sentenced to imprisonment, but the other two were discharged on insufficient evidence.

Last year I made inquiries on this matter at La Grange Bay and Whistler's Creek, and eleven cases came under my notice where the girls were from 10 to 13 years, and only in one case obtained evidence to warrant prosecution. The Asiatic was committed for trial but subsequently discharged at sessions on insufficient evidence.

This crime is very hard to suppress as it requires corroborative evidence, and cannot be stamped out if natives are to be allowed to come into contact with Asiatics. The trading with young girls is very profitable to the natives, as for one night's debauchery from 10s. to £2 10s. is paid in rations and clothing. I may state that young girls are procured by Asiatics throughout the district.

Liquor is not supplied to natives to any extent, although on various occasions mobs have been drunk at Whistler's Creek and Beagle Bay, but I have no doubt that this crime will increase, as Asiatics give anything to natives if in their possession, for meeting their own ends, and the police not in the vicinity, and I believe that this offence is committed in Broome more than anywhere. I regret having to state that a far greater evil is approaching, viz., opium, which on several occasions has been introduced to natives, but so far has not gained footing.

Marriages of native girls to coloured men I think the most absurd action ever permitted. In most cases these women have a native husband and are sold by them for a good price. The native thinks he can reclaim her whenever he likes, and in cases where the woman is not willing fear and intimidation are brought into action; when the native objects or does not know the meaning of marriage, bribe and false representation are used, and after the marriage is performed the law will protect them and threats may be used.

I have known several cases where the natives objected, but their complaint never reached the authority until too late, and of cases where natives claimed their women, which of course was useless; and I am of opinion that only fear keeps natives from committing crime, if not murder.

I must state, having noticed that most Asiatics married never after follow up their usual occupation but loaf and impose on others. I may state one case where a Manilla-man was married at the Mission a few years ago: he is now employed on a lugger here, he keeps a woman here and has his lawful wife kept by the Mission. He has not been near Beagle Bay for nearly 12 months. I am sure that most of these women, in time, will be deserted, and they and their children will fall on the Aborigines Department for support, and as their children will have all the vice of the Asiatic mixed with the black blood of the mother, will prove a nuisance, if not criminals, to the country.

Native food.—The district throughout is plentifully supplied with game, sufficient to support double the present number of natives, and the sea and creeks are full with fish and shellfish, and the bush has an unlimited supply of native fruits and roots to keep all natives through the year in splendid health and condition without any support whatever.

In conclusion, I beg to state that about 75 per cent. of the whites in the district are against amendments, and would sooner have things continued as at present.

JOHN ZUM FELDE, P.C.

La Grange Bay,
19th May, 1900.

G. S. OLIVEY, Esq., Broome.

Re native children, I have endeavoured to obtain the information required, but without success, as owing to my presence most natives are out back, and will not come in. As far as I can learn only about 25 children, of both sexes, under the age of six years, could be found at La Grange Bay and Whistler's Creek, but I will try and obtain more correct information as soon as possible and forward to Chief Protector of Aborigines. As far as I can judge, the number of children throughout Broome district does not exceed 60. This small number of children is chiefly due to a great number being killed by old women, for if a young gin has a baby she becomes useless for trading with Malays, whereas if she is rid of the child by disposing of same she can flourish until another one arrives. Of course it is useless to try and obtain evidence to bring these cases up.

JOHN ZUM FELDE, P.C.

Aborigines Department - Report for Financial Year ending 30th June 1901
Corporate Author: Western Australia Aborigines Department

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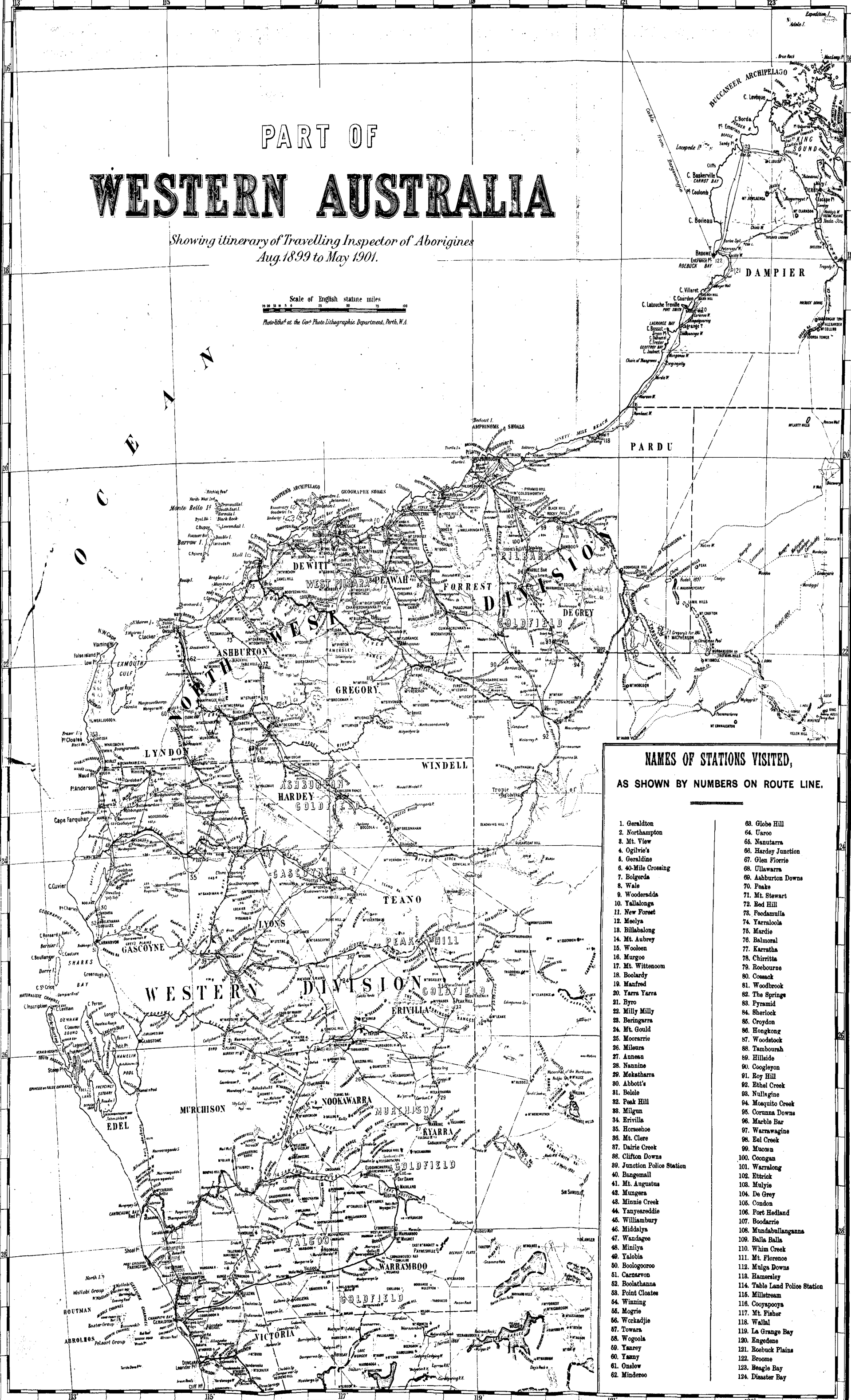
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PART OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Showing itinerary of Travelling Inspector of Aborigines
Aug. 1899 to May 1901.

Scale of English statute miles
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Photolitho at the Govt. Photo Lithographic Department, Perth, W.A.



NAMES OF STATIONS VISITED, AS SHOWN BY NUMBERS ON ROUTE LINE.

1. Geraldton
2. Northampton
3. Mt. View
4. Ogilvie's
5. Geraldine
6. 40-Mile Crossing
7. Bolgerda
8. Wale
9. Wooderada
10. Yallalong
11. New Forest
12. Meelya
13. Billabalong
14. Mt. Aubrey
15. Wooloon
16. Murgoo
17. Mt. Wittenoom
18. Boolardy
19. Manfred
20. Yarra Yarra
21. Byro
22. Milly Milly
23. Beringarra
24. Mt. Gould
25. Moorarie
26. Milours
27. Annean
28. Nannine
29. Mekatharra
30. Abbott's
31. Beale
32. Peak Hill
33. Milgun
34. Ervilla
35. Horaeohoe
36. Mt. Clare
37. Dairie Creek
38. Clifton Downs
39. Junction Police Station
40. Bangemall
41. Mt. Augustus
42. Mungera
43. Minnie Creek
44. Yanyesardie
45. Willambury
46. Middalya
47. Wandagee
48. Minilya
49. Yalobia
50. Boologoroo
51. Carnarvon
52. Boolathanna
53. Point Cloates
54. Winning
55. Mogrie
56. Workadje
57. Towara
58. Wogoola
59. Yanrey
60. Yamy
61. Onslow
62. Minderoo
63. Globe Hill
64. Uaroo
65. Nanutarra
66. Hardy Junction
67. Glen Florrie
68. Ullawarra
69. Ashburton Downs
70. Peaks
71. Mt. Stewart
72. Red Hill
73. Poedamulla
74. Yarraloola
75. Mardie
76. Balmoral
77. Karratha
78. Chirritta
79. Roebourne
80. Cosack
81. Woodbrook
82. The Springs
83. Pyramid
84. Sherlock
85. Croydon
86. Hongkong
87. Woodstock
88. Tambourah
89. Hillaide
90. Coogleyon
91. Roy Hill
92. Ethel Creek
93. Nullgine
94. Mosquito Creek
95. Corunna Downs
96. Marble Bar
97. Warrawagine
98. Eel Creek
99. Mucon
100. Coongan
101. Warralong
102. Ettrick
103. Mulyie
104. De Grey
105. Condon
106. Port Hedland
107. Boodarie
108. Mundabullanganna
109. Balla Balla
110. Whim Creek
111. Mt. Florence
112. Mulga Downs
113. Hamersley
114. Table Land Police Station
115. Millstream
116. Cooyapoos
117. Mt. Fisher
118. Wallal
119. La Grange Bay
120. Engedene
121. Roebuck Plains
122. Broome
123. Beagle Bay
124. Disaster Bay