

1909.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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# REPORT

OF THE

## CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 1909.

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

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**REPORT OF THE CHIEF PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING 30th JUNE, 1909.**

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

Sir,—

I have the honour to submit, for your information, the following report on the work undertaken by the Aborigines Department during the year ended June 30, 1909, together with information regarding the condition of the aborigines of this State.

**FINANCIAL.**

*Receipts.*—Under the provisions of "The Aborigines Act, 1905," the sum of £10,000 out of the Consolidated Revenue Fund is yearly placed at the disposal of the Department for the welfare of the aborigines, in addition to any other moneys which may be provided by Parliament. Additional to this £10,000 the sum of £11,017 was voted by Parliament on the Aborigines Estimates, making a total of £21,017. From this will have to be deducted £2,511 4s. 9d., being the overdraft at the Treasury on June 30, 1908, which amount was included in my expenditure statement for the previous year. This gives net receipts available under the Special Appropriation and the Aborigines Revenue Estimates of

	£	s.	d.
	18,505	15	3
To this must be added—			
Departmental Revenue .. .. .	15	18	7
Receipts from Treasury Miscellaneous Vote .. .. .	100	0	0
Receipts from Public Works Department—			
(a.) From General Loan Fund, Item 72 .. £1,056 15 5			
(b.) Revenue Estimates 254 9 5			
	1,311	4	10
Treasurer's Advance .. .. .	2,626	1	10
<b>Grand total of Receipts .. £22,557 0 6</b>			

*Expenditure.*—The total expenditure by the Government for all services in connection with Aborigines was £22,559 0s. 6d., being £4,609 17s. 11d. more than for the twelve months ended June 30, 1908.

The above expenditure includes the expenditure by the Treasury of £100 for compensation for the resumption of Dorre Island, and by the Public Works Department on the buildings at Dorre Island £1,056 15s. 5d. provided from Loan Funds, and also the expenditure on buildings at Bernier Island, £254 9s. 5d. provided from revenue.

The main increases are:—

- (1.) Relief of natives, £239 14s. 10d.
- (2.) Maintenance of Lock Hospitals, including transport of patients from their native country, £3,364 9s. 10d.

- (3.) Grants to missions for the maintenance and education of native half-caste boys and girls, £215 13s. 9d.
- (4.) Transport of natives, being transport expenses to their native country after release from gaol, £341 4s. 7d.
- (5.) Police protection, £110 2s. 8d., being payment by this department for police protection at Beagle Bay, in addition to the police protection at La Grange, shown last year.

A detailed statement of receipts and payments will be found in the appendix.

**LOCK HOSPITALS.**

During the year 68 female patients were received on Bernier Island suffering from venereal disease in all its stages. I regret having to report eight deaths from various causes during the same period. The general health of the patients has been satisfactory, and favourable reports in this direction have been received from the Superintendent Medical Officer in charge.

The patients are allowed to live in their own natural way as far as possible. Game is at present very plentiful, and hunting and fishing are the principal occupations of those in a fit condition to do so. I am pleased to be able to report that the matron is taking great interest in her work, and has been very successful in teaching many of the girls the use of the sewing machine. I am in hopes of the patients being able to make all their own clothing, thus saving the expense of having everything made down here. During my last visit to the island the general appearance of the patients compared more than favourably with their condition when first received at the hospital. They all appeared to be quite happy and contented, although having a natural longing to go back to their native homes, where some of them will be allowed to go very shortly.

The quarters of the staff to attend the male patients on Dorre Island have been completed, and the work of collection has been going on for some time past. No patients of either sex were brought down from anywhere North of Carnarvon during the winter months, it being thought desirable by the Medical Officer to give them some time to build up their strength during the summer, and become sufficiently acclimatised to stand the changed climatic conditions during the cold and wet months. During the year a total expenditure of £5,434 10s. was incurred on the staffing, maintenance, and general upkeep of the Lock hospitals, of which sum £1,311 4s. 10d. was expended in building quarters for the staff on Dorre Island,

and a small cottage for the Superintendent Medical Officer at Bernier Island, whose report for the year appears in the appendix.

#### SUBSIDISED MISSIONS.

The following missions are annually subsidised by the Government:—Beagle Bay, New Norcia, Salvation Army Homes, Swan Native and Half-caste, Ellensbrook, and the Australian Aborigines Mission. All these institutions are doing good work among the rising generation of the full-blooded and half-caste natives. The Drysdale Mission, which is a branch of the New Norcia, started operations last year in the far North, in country practically uninhabited except by aborigines. The Government have given them a grant of 20,000 acres, which can be held for all time, provided it is used for the purpose of a mission station. A similar grant has also been given to the Beagle Bay Mission, under the same conditions. These grants will allow of the mission work being extended in the direction of tropical cultivation, and of the formation of native settlements on the same lines as those adopted by some of the missions in the other States. The first duty of those controlling the destinies of these mission institutions should be to provide for the welfare of those under their charge, not only as boys and girls, but in future years when both sexes have grown into that stage of life when it is only natural and desirable that they be mated together, in conformity with their different races—half-caste to half-caste and full-blood to full-blood. I have always considered it the duty of the Aborigines Department to rescue the half-caste boys and girls from their bush surroundings, and I am gradually doing this throughout the State, but it must be recognised that this work is not one of the moment, and will continue for all time, and as settlement advances it will naturally increase. This has been the experience of the other States, especially of New South Wales, where at the last census the half-castes of both sexes numbered 4,781, as compared with 2,152 full-bloods. These figures speak for themselves, and I consider it the bounden duty of those who undertake the responsibility of caring for and educating the waifs and strays the result of the intermingling of the white and black races, to look ahead, and those institutions having a limited area of land, without any chance of forming future self-supporting native settlements, should immediately endeavour to secure sufficient land either in our agricultural areas or elsewhere, with the object of allowing both sexes to grow up together, and form attachments for each other, instead of the present system of educating half-caste children up to a certain age, and then separating them by sending the girls out to domestic service, and the boys as farm labourers, with but remote chances of coming together as man and wife. There is no need for me to further labour the question, feeling certain that if those interested give the question the serious consideration which it deserves, an effort will be made to alter the present unsatisfactory position which is absolutely unfair to both sexes, and more especially to the weaker.

#### CRIMES.

Details of crimes committed by natives throughout the year appear in the appendix. I am pleased to report that convictions for supplying natives with intoxicants are decreasing in number, owing to the magistrates in most cases inflicting the full penalty

of £20 for the offence. During the past twelve months tribal murders have been more frequent than in previous years, notably those committed near the Ida H. Mine, Laverton. A full report on these murders was laid on the table of the House during last session, and a copy appears in the appendix.

#### CATTLE-KILLING.

I regret to have to report that this form of crime is steadily increasing in the East and West Kimberley Divisions. During the year 113 natives were convicted of cattle-killing at Derby and 106 at Wyndham, being an increase of 53 on the figures for the previous year, and (to repeat myself from last report) points to the fact that our present system of punishment does not act as a deterrent to this form of crime. This question from an aborigine's standpoint is the most serious one facing the Government at the present time. Our native gaols are all full to overflowing, and their upkeep is an enormous yearly expense to the country.

I am pleased to say that the suggestion of forming native settlements is receiving that consideration from the Government which it deserves, and any scheme aiming in the direction of keeping the natives from this continuous cattle-killing, and thereby emptying our native gaols, must commend itself to anyone giving the matter the deep thought necessary to grasp the present most unsatisfactory conditions existing between the Government, the native race, and those who are developing the cattle and other industries, and I trust that before writing my next annual report the first settlement scheme will be in active operation, and will prove the success that so many people anticipate.

#### EPIDEMICS.

I regret to report that an epidemic of influenza, followed by measles, occurred in the vicinity of the DeGrey Station, causing many deaths among the natives. It is extremely difficult to cope with an outbreak of the latter disease among natives, owing to those attacked having a natural inclination to cool themselves in the water, with in many cases fatal results. Apart from these and other individual cases, no other outbreaks have been reported.

#### RESERVES.

Further reserves have been proclaimed in the Northern portions of the State, on which it is unlawful for aborigines or half-castes not in lawful employment to be or remain. The creation of these reserves has been found necessary in order to keep the bush natives away from the watering places frequented by the pearling fleet, mostly manned by Asiatics, to whom the necessity for these restrictions principally applies.

Other reserves have been made as camping places for natives, on which, under the provisions of the Aborigines Act, persons other than aborigines are prohibited, unless with proper authority.

#### EDUCATION.

During the year 283 native full-bloods and half-castes have been receiving education in the different missions subsidised by the Government, being an increase of 102 over the number of last year. The details are as follow:—

Beagle Bay, 55 boys, 56 girls; Sunday Island Mission, 20 boys, 24 girls; New Norcia, 32 boys, 27

girls; Salvation Army Home, 2 boys, 17 girls; Ellensbrook, 2 boys, 3 girls; Dulhijunyah Orphanage (Australian Aborigines' Mission), 5 girls.

All these institutions are doing good work in the training of the girls as domestic servants, and teaching the boys different trades and farm work.

#### RATIONING INDIGENT NATIVES.

During the year an average of 1,504 natives, an increase of 304 over the previous year, have been receiving Government rations from the relieving stations established throughout the State. The system of distributing rations obtaining in the past was to allow a *per capita* grant to each relieving officer, varying from 6d. to 1s. per day. Owing to the few opportunities the Department had of checking the numerous accounts sent in, and ascertaining if they were correct, and if the service had been faithfully performed, an entirely new system has been inaugurated throughout the State, wherever possible, and rations are now supplied at contract rates, and indigent natives have to report themselves every week to the police, who issue ration orders on the contractor. This system is operating far more satisfactorily than the old one, and the saving to the Department by the new method of distribution has already amounted to over £1,000. Much still remains to be done in this direction, but the State is one of such great distances that it will require further time to

place all the relieving stations on a uniform working basis.

During the year the sum of £9,860 18s. 8d. was expended in provisioning indigent men, women, and children throughout the State.

#### BLANKETS AND CLOTHING.

Blankets and clothing have been distributed in all deserving cases reported to the Department, the expenditure during the year in these two directions being the sum of £1,591 8s. 4d., or an increase of £212 8s. 4d. over the amount spent in the previous year.

#### GENERAL.

The thanks of the Department are due to the Commissioner of Police and his officers for the general supervision of the welfare of the natives throughout the State, and for the distribution of blankets and clothes.

The general tone of the reports received points to the fact that the treatment of natives by employers, with but few exceptions, has been very satisfactory.

Police reports, reports of the Travelling Protectors on the stations visited, and reports from the managers of missions, will be found in the appendix.

I have, etc.,

C. F. GALE,  
Chief Protector of Aborigines.

1st November, 1909.

## APPENDIX.

## ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for year ended 30th June, 1909.

Receipts.				Payments.			
£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Grant under Section 5 of Aborigines Act, 5 Edward VII., No. 14 .. .. .		10,000	0 0	Salaries Generally—			
Amount provided on Aborigines Estimates, 1908-09 ..	11,017 0 0			Chief Protector .. .. .	450	0 0	
Less Overdraft, 1907-8 ..	2,511 4 9			"    "    Acting (ar-rears) .. .. .	6	18 10	
		8,505	15 3	Clerk-in-Charge .. .. .	205	18 10	
Departmental Revenue .. .. .		15	18 7	Clerks .. .. .	156	16 3	
Excesses on Aborigines Estimates approved by Ex. Co. ..	2,643 14 4			Messenger .. .. .	14	8 4	
Less amount unexpended ..	17 12 6			Travelling Inspectors ..	512	5 5	
		2,626	1 10	Cleaner .. .. .	1	19 0	
Public Works Department—							1,348 6 8
General Loan Fund, Item 72 ..	1,056 15 5			Relief to Natives—			
Revenue Estimates .. .. .	254 9 5			Blankets and Clothing ..	1,591	8 4	
		1,311	4 10	Provisions .. .. .	9,860	18 8	
Treasury—				Medical Fees and Medicines ..	135	10 2	
Miscellaneous Services .. .. .		100	0 0	Native Shelters .. .. .	62	10 0	
							11,650 7 2
				Lock Hospitals—			
				Resumption Dorre Island ..			100 0 0
				Salaries Medical Officer ..	533	6 8	
				Salaries Matron .. .. .	133	11 0	
				"    Domestic Staff ..	335	4 9	
				"    Shipping Agent ..	26	0 10	
				"    Sundry Persons, s.s.			
				"Penguin" .. .. .	58	12 2	
				Provisions, etc. .. .. .	3,036	10 4	
							4,123 5 9
				Buildings—			
				Dorre Island Hospital ..	1,056	15 5	
				Bernier Island Hospital ..	254	9 5	
							1,311 4 10
				Grants to Missions—			
				Swan Mission, Anglican ..	428	15 0	
				New Norcia Mission, R.C. ..	354	10 0	
				Beagle Bay Mission, R.C. ..	785	13 9	
				Salvation Army Home .. ..	241	8 4	
				Sunday Island Mission .. ..	237	19 0	
				Ellensbrook .. .. .	47	2 3	
							2,095 8 4
				General—			
				Police Protection .. .. .	221	11 7	
				Legal Defence Natives .. ..	87	7 0	
				Transport .. .. .	739	19 8	
				Burials .. .. .	358	1 0	
				Travelling .. .. .	161	3 2	
				Postage and Telephone .. ..	102	16 9	
				Welshpool Settlement .. ..	105	5 10	
				Miscellaneous .. .. .	154	2 9	
							1,930 7 9
		£22,559	0 6				£22,559 0 6

Statement of moneys held in trust by the Chief Protector of Aborigines with the Government Savings Bank on 30th June, 1909, under "The Aborigines Act, 1905":—

	£	s. d.
Jimmy Condon .. .. .	10	19 0
Topsy Burden .. .. .	2	8 6
Flossy Flarty .. .. .	5	17 3
Judy .. .. .	6	10 4
Nuramurrah Dongal .. .. .	4	12 7
	£30	7 8

## Return of Natives to whom Relief has been issued, Year ended June, 1909.

District.	Blind.		Aged and Decrepit.		Destitute.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
East and West Kimberley ... ..	15	32	57	106	30	84	102	222
North-West ... ..	8	11	55	92	...	10	63	113
Ashburton and Gascoyne ... ..	8	18	57	98	42	44	107	160
Murchison and Victoria ... ..	2	8	46	60	13	20	61	88
Central and South-Western ... ..	3	3	36	29	71	86	110	118
Eastern Goldfields ... ..	2	...	12	9	99	174	113	183
South-Eastern ... ..	...	1	3	7	20	33	23	41
	38	73	266	401	275	451	579	925
			1,504				1,504	

*Deaths.*

Seventy-nine deaths have been officially reported during the year, being an increase of eighteen on the number reported during the previous twelve months.

*Convictions for supplying Aboriginal Natives with Intoxicants, Year ended June 30, 1909.*

	Amount.	
	£	s. d.
Cue .. .. Nil		
Guildford .. 3 ..	13	0 0
Geraldton .. Nil		
Esperance .. .. Nil		
Wyndham .. .. Nil		
Derby .. .. 1 ..	20	0 0
Broome .. .. 27 ..	63	0 0
Port Hedland .. 3 ..	24	0 0
Roebourne .. 4 ..	41	1 0
Onslow .. .. 1 ..	20	0 0
Carnarvon .. 2 ..	5	0 0
Albany .. .. Nil		
Bunbury .. .. Nil		
Coolgardie .. Nil		
Dundas .. .. 1 ..	5	0 0
Fremantle .. Nil		
Hall's Creek .. Nil		
Kalgoorlie .. 2 ..	7	0 0
Lawlers .. .. Nil		
Marble Bar .. 5 ..	75	0 0
Menzies .. .. Nil		
Northam .. 6 ..	70	0 0
Perth .. .. 2 ..	11	0 0
Phillips River .. Nil		
	57	354 1 0

At Carnarvon one of the offenders was imprisoned for three months, one at Kalgoorlie failed to pay his

fine and was sent to gaol for a similar period; and the man convicted at Derby failed to pay the fine and was sent to gaol.

*Crimes.*

The following is a list of the crimes committed by aborigines during the period under notice:—

Stealing, petty larceny .. ..	9
Cattle killing (including unlawful possession of meat) .. ..	219
Escape from legal custody .. ..	1
Sheep stealing .. ..	2
Unlawfully on premises .. ..	2
Stealing from dwellings .. ..	2
Unnatural offence .. ..	1
Manslaughter .. ..	4
Total .. ..	240

*Half-caste and Full-blooded Children sent by the Department to Missions, Year ended June, 1909:—*

To Beagle Bay Mission—	
Half-caste girls .. ..	11
Half-caste boys .. ..	11
Full-blooded girls .. ..	2
Full-blooded boys .. ..	1
Total .. ..	25

Swan Mission.—Nil.

Salvation Army Homes.—Two half-caste girls.

Ellensbrook.—Nil.

New Norcia.—One half-caste boy and one half-caste girl.

Australian Aborigines' Mission.—Four half-caste girls.

REPORT BY TRAVELLING PROTECTOR  
ISDELL ON WEST KIMBERLEY.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

Sir,

I beg to report that I concluded my visit of inspection over the whole of West Kimberley on Monday, January 11, 1909. Since leaving Broome on February 12, 1908, I have been continually travelling, and up to the 11th January covered 2,800 miles, visited and inspected natives on 33 stations, three mission stations, three police stations, one relief station, one settlement, and 19 bush camps. The total number of aborigines visited by me during that period were: on pastoral holdings, 296 males, 244 females, 187 children, 45 half-castes; indigents, 40 males and 83 females. The whole of the above are permanently living at stations, and are fed and clothed. In addition to them I have visited 19 bush camps comprising 288 males, 342 females, and 197 children. These bush camp natives, while living near the stations, get occasional work and supplies of rations, with a fair amount of meat and tobacco. I visited three mission stations, who feed and clothe 122 males, 138 females, and 124 children; and one of the three feeds and clothes in addition approximately 200 bush natives during the winter months. I also visited one relief station, at Fitzroy; three police stations—Napier Range, Isdell River, and Fitzroy—employing 14 males, 11 females, three children, 21 half-castes; one settlement—Hunter's Boolgin Creek Homestead, Cape Levique, 30 males, 33 females, 17 children, and five half-castes.

During my 12 months' travelling I have had some rough experiences and endured a few hardships, travelling over many miles of rough and mountainous country with neither roads nor pads, more especially in crossing and travelling to the North and East of the Leopold Ranges, on to the Isdell, Barnett, and Hann Rivers, and back over the ranges, down the Barnett River to Napier Ranges and Leonora River. I was placed under deep obligations to the Police at all the out-stations, and also to several station-owners, not only for giving me information and assistance in connection with aboriginal matters, but also for supplying me with rations. All the stations North of the Leopold Ranges, and a large number of those on the Upper Fitzroy and Margaret Rivers, use no teams. All their supplies are packed on either horses or mules, and they get only sufficient for their own use, consequently they refuse to sell to any one. None refused to supply me, but only on condition that I agreed to return an equal quantity. Another great drawback in travelling West Kimberley is the disastrous worm disease, that kills horses in hundreds every year. There is neither a known preventative or cure for it, consequently you never know when any of your horses are going to sicken and die, and they show no indication until shortly before they die. Between April and December of last year three of my horses died—two Government and one of my own.

I found travelling in West Kimberley fairly safe amongst the bush natives, except the coast line from King Sound to Camden Harbour, and North of the Leopold Ranges, on to the Isdell, Barnett, Hann, and Barker Rivers. In those places precaution is necessary, as there are so many natives in those localities who have been constantly in gaol, and escaped prisoners. They are partly civilised, and a dangerous class for anyone to meet in the bush. Personally they only molested me once, on the Isdell River, by set-

ting fire to the long grass round my camp, at midnight. Fortunately my camp was pitched on a small patch of clear ground, on which I rounded up my horses, and burnt the grass away from it. A few days after I left Blythe's Mount House Station they speared the cook. He escaped with his life, but a bit damaged. As a rule the really wild bush natives will not interfere if left alone; but the half-civilised bush native is always a danger, and can tell quickly whether you are a new-chum, or best left alone.

*Treatment of Natives.*

Taking the large number of stations, numbers of natives employed or partially so, into consideration, they are all well treated, plenty to eat, well clothed, with rarely any hard work to do. On the sheep stations there are some good shearers among them, and many of the women and boys do good work in the sheds, picking up fleeces and sorting wool. It is not hard work, and they find these tasks congenial. During lamb-marking they always show great willingness to muster and assist in the yards. Cattle stations have less work for them, except in branding time, when many from the bush find a few months' work. Many of the cattle stations kill cattle for the bush natives, and give them tobacco and clothes. During my trip I came across one instance of ill-treatment. Under my instructions the Fitzroy Police summoned the aggressor, and he was fined for assaulting two natives working under him as stock-boys. After the case I asked them if they wished to return to the same master, and they said yes, he is a good master, and they started straight away for home. Unfortunately, there always has and will exist a certain class of people who write letters to the papers accusing employers of cruelty and ill-treatment, but in nearly every instance when these charges are investigated they prove to be fabrications, and are generally the result of spite, or to satisfy some personal grudge. Such a case happened in the Derby district recently. I thoroughly investigated it, and those motives were really at the bottom of it, although it never came to light in a subsequent case. In the administration of the Aborigines Act by the police and magistrates, strict inquiry, combined with tact and common sense, is necessary to protect any accused person. Unfortunately all those empowered are not endowed with those qualifications, and one man deficient of them can cause a great deal of trouble and uncalled-for annoyance to those concerned.

I have interviewed some hundreds of natives in West Kimberley on the subject of their treatment by employers, and in no instance did I receive any complaints. In the past there have been cases of such, but native matters have greatly improved within recent years. The permit clauses have had a great deal to do with this improvement. Under the old agreements the natives were frightened, as they knew that if they absconded the police would invariably arrest them. They now recognise that under the permit system they can leave their employment whenever they wish, without fear of the consequences, however, they will not do so, if properly treated. The employer, if he wishes to keep his natives, must treat them fairly and well.

*Drink.*

Outside the coast and the town of Broome there is very little drinking among the natives. Derby is exceptionally good, and very few cases have been before the court. This is really owing to the strict admini-

stration of the Aborigines Act. No offender is ever fined less than £20 or six months' imprisonment, few can pay the fine, and they don't like gaol, so give no liquor to the natives. If the magistrates in Broome would carry out the Act in the same spirit, that town would be just as clean. At Fitzroy Crossing, where there are an hotel and pretended store, very little grog reaches the aborigines. One case happened last year, and that was the usual Asiatic. Station owners also are very strict, and do not allow grog to be brought on to their holdings if possible. I do not think the teamsters during wool season give any away to aborigines; they want it all themselves. I believe a number of pearling boats are breaking new ground about the Gambi Sound and Graveyard coast; possibly the natives there, like those on Broome coast, may be getting liquor from the Asiatic crews. Owing to the extreme roughness of that coastline, a horseman would have no possible chance of checking it. Protection could only be carried out by boat.

#### *Half-castes.*

Leaving out the half-caste children at the Beagle Bay Mission, there are approximately 80 half-castes in West Kimberley. About 30 of them are spread along the coast from King Sound to Wallal, living with the aborigines. The balance are principally on Fitzroy River, between Derby and the Crossing. Nearly all the coastal half-castes are half-bred Asiatics; on the Fitzroy they are the offspring of Europeans. The sexes are fairly evenly divided. There are a few grown girls in Fitzroy who are having children by white fathers. About Broome and along the coast there are a number of full-grown half-castes married to Asiatics, and most of them have children. A few half-castes are living with aboriginal husbands. I was glad to receive telegraphic instructions at Hall's Creek to arrange for the transport of all half-castes to the Beagle Bay Mission, but I think any boys over 12 years of age, in good station employment, should be allowed to remain. With regard to the paternity of these waifs, very few will admit it, and it is very difficult to prove. A few have admitted paternity, and have promised to send their offspring away for education as soon as old enough.

In collecting and transporting these waifs the question of separating them from their mothers against their wish is sure to crop up. People who really have no knowledge of the surroundings of these youngsters in native camps are fond of writing letters to the papers, detailing the cruelty and harrowing grief of the mothers. Their motives in writing may be perfectly sincere, but let them visit and reside for a while in these haunts in the far North where the youngsters are being reared, and they would soon alter their opinion on the matter, to see the open indecency and immorality, and hear the vile conversations ordinarily carried on, which these young children see, listen to, and repeat. It would convince them that separation is absolutely necessary if the future welfare of the youngsters is to be considered. I am convinced from my own experience and knowledge that the short-lived grief of the parent is of little consequence compared with the future of the children. The half-caste is intellectually above the aborigine, and it is the duty of the State that they be given a chance to lead a better life than their mothers. I would not hesitate for one moment to separate any half-caste from its aboriginal mother, no matter how

frantic her momentary grief might be at the time. They soon forget their offspring.

#### *Immorality and Disease.*

Immorality of native women and intercourse with white men throughout West Kimberley is not so prevalent as formerly, with the exception of along the coast, where aliens are so numerous. Of course there will always be intercourse, but it is not so open and public now. Cohabitation is practically a thing of the past. Of course an odd case crops up. Recently one came before the Derby Court. The worst feature of West Kimberley, and I may say of the whole State, is the coast-line within the sphere of the pearling luggers and Asiatic crews.

Often letters appear in the Perth papers, and have also been received by the Aborigines Department, accusing pastoralists and their employees and other residents of West Kimberley of keeping young black women for immoral purposes. I have personally received letters making such accusations, but upon investigation I have not yet discovered any truth in them. I regard all such letters with suspicion, as the outcome of spite, revenge, and personal spleen. In such a large scope of country as West Kimberley, with little or no supervision, it is quite possible that a few cases do exist, unknown to the authorities, but if so, they are kept very secret. The Police are all very vigilant, and so far as my knowledge goes, and I made inquiries on the subject amongst hundreds of natives, I did not hear of such a case.

In regard to disease and sickness, there always has been and will be syphilis amongst aborigines, but it is generally in a mild form, and with a little attention and proper treatment is soon cured. The dirty, filthy habits and neglect of the aborigines is responsible for nearly all the cases of skin disease so prevalent amongst them, and I am sure is also the cause of such a large percentage of eye troubles and blindness. Their eyes get inoculated by the numerous flies from off the festering sores. I made careful inquiries about any absolutely bad cases of venereal disease that should be sent to Bernier Island, but knew of only one case, on Obagooma Station, Rolinson River. She was a bush woman who came in to the station for relief. Numbers of natives, especially old ones and children, suffer from a scrofulous disease peculiar to themselves. They usually get better after a few weeks, but it recurs occasionally. The Fitzroy Police made diligent search in their sub-district for chronic venereal cases, but so far have found none. A few, I am informed, have been found in the Derby district. At Hall's Creek, where I am writing from, there are a few very bad cases waiting for removal to Wyndham, *en route* to Bernier Island. Some of them have been in relief camp for many months. The great difficulty is in securing conveyances for removal.

So far as the station natives are concerned, there is seldom any sickness among them, the most prevalent trouble being colds. Syphilitic diseases are not common. It does not pay to have station natives sick, and if they do get affected the station managers soon cure them. Nearly all the bad cases are nomads from the bush. When they cannot cure themselves, they come into the stations for relief.

#### *Crimes, etc.*

Owing to contact with whites, and consequent civilising influence, many of the native customs,



tribal fights, etc., are going out of vogue; they are getting gradually less. One of the causes, outside of contact with whites, is the meeting of natives in gaol, from all parts of West Kimberley. They become friends, and when released travel back in company to their respective tribes, and become less inclined to carry on their old-time feuds and disputes. Cattle-killing is taking the place of tribal fights, and is the most prevalent offence, and in company with many old experienced Kimberley residents I am convinced that the present system of punishment is doing far more harm than good. In a few years it will be a difficult matter to find a bush native that has not been in gaol for this offence, even the women are now taking to cattle-killing. Half-a-dozen of them, with a mob of dogs, will go out and put them on a beast, to chase and worry it until it becomes exhausted and drops. The women then finish it. In a few years we will have the unusual spectacle of the women doing the cattle-killing, and the men sitting in camp waiting for their bit of steak. If a mob of women are arrested, brought in on the chain, tried and sentenced to a term of imprisonment, how they will have to be dealt with will be a difficult problem for any future Government to decide; and the general public are sure to take a big hand in it. Before matters are allowed to arrive at this stage, it behoves the Government to take steps to check the crime. The forming of native stations in charge of a capable manager, stocked and worked by and for the benefit of the natives, would check it, and do away with relief stations. There are hundreds of fine, strapping bush boys, from 12 to 16 years old, whose sure fate is gaol, dragged into crime by returned prisoners. For years I have met dozens of natives returning to their country from gaol, and had conversations with many of them, and I am sure that if the Sheriff and members of the Government heard the comments of these natives on the Roebourne and Broome gaols, they would soon be satisfied that gaoling natives for cattle-killing does not deter them from repeating the offence. Most of them told me they were going back again, and intended to bring some of their younger relatives, to enjoy a spell in those places. My language is strong on this point, but true, by reason of the harm that is being done among the younger generation by the tales which the returned prisoners tell of no work and good food. This fires the ambition of the youngsters to visit these establishments for a term, an end which they can easily attain by joining in the killing of cattle.

#### *Relief.*

The only Government relief stations visited by me since I left Broome were Cygnet Bay and Fitzroy. Cygnet Bay was under the supervision of Father Nicholas. He had a mission station there, but has since closed it down, and gone to Drysdale River. He had a large number of old natives getting relief. When he closed his mission the only suitable place for relief was Mr. Harry Hunter's place, six miles from Cygnet Bay, on Boolgin Creek. Mr. Hunter owns a homestead lease there, and is engaged in boat-building and repairing. He is the oldest coastal resident in the Kimberleys, and is better known to the natives than any other man in Kimberley. It is certain that no one in Western Australia is better acquainted with the natives, their customs, habits, and modes of living, and no one is better liked and trusted by the aborigines. He has natives who have lived with him for 30 years without a break. I advised the

Department to arrange and supply him with rations per steamer from Fremantle every three months. He was prepared to take delivery on the coast off Cape Leveque with his own boat, or at Derby Jetty. Mr. Hunter declined to ration the natives at so much per day, but was willing to serve out rations without any cost to the Department. There are a large number of natives, very old, about Swan Point and Cygnet Bay, and along the coast, who are deserving of relief, and as Boolgin Creek is their main camping ground, they are content to abide in the neighbourhood. There is good fishing ground and plenty of native vegetables in the locality. Mr. Hunter runs his own boat every fortnight over to the Lacedepes, bringing back a load of live turtle for the natives.

Fitzroy station had 13 on the list, two of whom I struck off, as not requiring any relief. One of these, a man, has since been post-hole sinking on a station. Of the eleven left five are on the list for removal to the Beagle Bay Mission, viz., one woman, with two half-caste girls, and two boys, 16 and 14 years old, brothers, both nearly blind and crippled. There is no shortness of bush food in this district, and the surrounding stations feed a large number of old natives.

The present system of relief is not at all satisfactory, as there is no check on the number of natives, or expenditure. I cannot see any alternative system that will overcome the difficulty, except what I have already recommended—the forming of native stations. I am not in favour of allowing relief to natives on stations along the coast, as it seems to me an imposition. The cost of rations amounts to very little over original cost. Their goods are landed almost at their doors. On the Upper Fitzroy and Margaret Rivers large numbers of indigents, as well as bush natives, are fed and looked after by the station owners and managers. None of them receive any Government assistance, nor has any one of them asked me for assistance, yet the cost of the carriage of stores runs from £20 to £30 per ton. Compare this charge with the coastal charge of £2 or £3 per ton. I think the coastal stations should be compelled to feed and look after a certain proportion of the old people belonging to the country they occupy. Anyone with knowledge and experience of the question knows that the younger natives will not stop in any place for long without the company of the old people. If you hunt the old ones away, the young ones will soon follow. If the stations had not the young ones working for them, they would be hunting and getting food for their parents and old relatives.

I think I have touched on all phases in connection with native matters in West Kimberley that come within my duties, and am glad to be able to report matters as satisfactory, with the exception of that portion of the coast within the sphere of the pearling luggers and Asiatics. I anticipate the necessity shortly of making arrangements for the protection of aborigines along the coast, from King Sound toward Camden Harbour. Pearling boats are beginning to open new grounds in this direction. It will be necessary to have a boat on that portion of the coast, as owing to the mountainous nature of the land, it will be impossible to do any good with horses.

There are no such things as slavery or ill-treatment. co-habitation is disappearing, and the native employees are happier, better treated, and more contented than in the past. The only unsatisfactory aspect of the native question in West Kimberley is the increase of cattle-killing, and the intercourse of

native women and Asiatics along the coast, both of which can be remedied.

As soon as I have fully inspected the Kimberley goldfield, and the Hall's Creek Magisterial District, I will send forward report.

I am, etc.,

(Signed) JAMES ISDELL,  
Travelling Protector.

Mt. Magnet,  
5th September, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

Sir,

I have the honour to submit my report from February last.

I left Perth on the 18th February for the Murchison Goldfield. During my travels I visited the following towns:—Dongarra, Geraldton, Northampton, Yalgoo, Mt. Magnet, Cue, Sandstone, Lawlers, Lake Darlot, Bronzewing, Mt. Sir Samuel, Wiluna, Barambie, and Berrigrin, and all the small places along the route. I also visited the following stations:—"Lyndon," 35 miles from Northampton, Mrs. Brand (cattle and sheep); P. Morrissey, near Yalgoo (cattle and sheep); "Wagga Wagga," near Yalgoo, Broad Bros. (cattle and sheep); "Edah," near Yalgoo, T. Kitchen (cattle and sheep); "Murrum," T. Fitzgerald, Mt. Magnet (cattle and sheep); "Yoweragabbie," Mt. Magnet, T. Watson (cattle and sheep); "Boogardie," Mt. Magnet, Jones Bros. (cattle and sheep); "Darda," Lake Darlot, A. C. Ashman (cattle), "Gum Creek," Nannine Road, A. Burrows (sheep)

#### *Stations.*

The total number of natives permanently employed on these stations number 23, 17 males and 6 females. The natives are well cared for, and had no complaint to make. As showing the good feeling existing between the masters and the natives, I may state that none of the natives are under agreement, but are engaged under permit to employ.

#### *Towns.*

Owing to the vigilance of the police the natives are kept out of town, the result being that drunkenness amongst the natives in the towns, on the Murchison at any rate, is a thing of the past.

I am very pleased to say that, during the whole of my travels on the Murchison, I did not see one native under the influence of liquor.

#### *Condition of Natives.*

The general condition of the natives is satisfactory. I visited a number of bush camps and saw over 350 natives, and did not hear of any suffering from venereal disease. A few old and infirm natives were placed on the relief list at Sandstone, Lawlers, and Wiluna. At one camp, near Maninga Marley, there were over 100 natives. On going through the various camps I saw no less than 53 rabbits, representing that day's catch.

#### *Relief List.*

I saw the whole of the natives on the relief list at the stations and town visited, and am satisfied those

supplied require rations and are being regularly supplied with same.

#### *Half-castes.*

I sent from Mt. Magnet to the New Norcia Mission one male, 13 years, one female, 10½ years.

#### *Convictions.*

John Conway, cohabiting with native woman at Yalgoo; fined £5 and £2 costs. Fine paid.

#### *Distance travelled.*

By rail 1,351 miles, road 1,120 miles; total 2,471 miles, from 18th February, 1909, to 30th May (inclusive).

I left Perth on the 3rd June, and visited the following towns:—Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Kanoona, Broad Arrow, Paddington, Bardoc, Menzies, Niagara, Kookynie, Malcolm, Leonora, Murrin Murrin, Morgans, Laverton, Duketon, Ida H., Burtville, and Lancefield.

#### *Food Supplies.*

I am satisfied, with the exception of Northampton, Lawlers, and Duketon, there is plenty of food for natives in the shape of root foods, rabbits, kangaroos, and other native game, and there is no occasion at the present for the Department to feed other than the old and infirm natives.

#### *The future.*

While there is no necessity to feed other than old and infirm natives at present, it cannot be denied that something will have to be done shortly. While travelling over the Murchison and Eastern Goldfields, I noticed the country was fast being fenced in. The majority of the selected unenclosed land has few permanent waters, consequently, when the season is a dry one, the natives are naturally forced to the station wells. As the natives hunt with a number of dogs, the station owners naturally object to their doing so in paddocks where sheep, more especially lambing ewes, are depastured.

When the greater portion of the unenclosed land is fenced and stocked, there will be little room for the native to hunt.

#### *Reserves.*

I am of opinion that a reserve in each of the tribal districts visited should be set apart before it is too late; the reserves to be used by natives when not employed.

#### *Conclusion.*

I am struck with the fact that, by the erection of fences and windmills, the occupation of the natives as shepherds and water-drawers is fast diminishing.

The thanks of the Department are due to the municipal authorities, police officers, clergymen, and a large number of private persons for assistance rendered to myself while travelling through the country.

I have, etc.,

E. C. D. KEYSER,  
Travelling Protector.

**ANNUAL REPORT ON LOCK HOSPITALS, BY  
SUPERINTENDENT MEDICAL OFFICER.**

I have the honour to present my report on the Lock Hospitals for aborigines on Bernier and Dorre Islands, for the year ending June 30, 1909.

On the 6th October, 1908, the first patients arrived—three women from Onslow. They made a camp for themselves, preferring to lay in the open behind a breakwind to making use of the shelter provided for them. On October 29 the Penguin met the South bound Bullara, and transhipped 54 natives from the North to Bernier Island. The Chief Protector of Aborigines had come up from Fremantle in the Penguin and supervised the transhipment. Of these patients one was unfortunately very ill with double pneumonia, and died the next day. A number of the others, however, were in fairly physical condition, and the various tribes soon settled down, each forming its own camp, after the native fashion. During the following month (November) several small fights occurred, but by the time the next boat arrived the natives were well in hand, and had so far overcome tribal prejudices as to mix freely with one another. During December, January, and February the routine of work was only varied by the occasional arrival of the mail boat.

On February 28, a party consisting of the Colonial Secretary, the Chief Protector of Aborigines, the Inspector General of Insane, and the Chief Harbour Master, arrived at Bernier Island, bringing with them a large quantity of stores and building material. The natives held a corroboree in honour of the visitors. The Chief Protector commented favourably on the physical condition of the patients, and contrasted it with that which they presented on their arrival at the island four months previously. In view of the approaching winter it was decided not to send any further batches of invalids to the islands from the North; but in April nine more patients arrived from the Gascoyne district, where the climatic conditions are somewhat similar to those obtaining at Bernier Island. To provide accommodation for the expected increase of staff a cottage of two rooms and a kitchen was erected on a site about 100 yards east of the house. Repairs were also effected to the house, and a workshop and stable were built, while the chaff-house and another room were floored and made secure from the inroads of wallabies. A number of shelter sheds for natives were also erected on Windmill Flat. The work of the carpenters was completed about the middle of May.

Up to June 30, 67 patients had been treated on Bernier Island, and there had been eight deaths. The natives live as far as possible under natural conditions. They are provided with clothes, blankets, and rations of flour, sugar, tea, and tobacco. Those who are strong enough are allowed to hunt for their meat, and a kangaroo dog sent from Carnarvon by Dr. Hickenbotham is of great assistance in providing food and recreation. Fishing is popular and very successfully carried on by representatives of coastal tribes. During the summer turtle eggs and meat are a staple diet, and iguanas are also obtained in large numbers. Those who require it and are unable to hunt their own meat are provided with what is necessary. When the natives first landed they built mia-mias for themselves out of brushwood, and the tarpaulin shelters erected for them were not used. During the summer this was not important, but with the advent of the rainy season it became necessary to

provide something that they could be persuaded to use. The Chief Protector therefore sent up some sheds which he considered would be more suitable. The frame-work of these sheds is of jarrah, and was made in the South and shipped here ready for putting together. The roof is formed of two pieces of galvanised corrugated iron, and three sides are covered in with canvas. The front is open, so that a fire can be built outside, and send its warmth to the occupants without danger of a conflagration. Each shed accommodates two, or with a little crowding three natives, who find in them a compromise between the house of the white man, which they dislike, and the mia-mia of the aboriginal, which is inconvenient in bad weather. They are consequently very popular with the natives. The construction is very simple, so that the sheds can easily be taken down for transport. It has been found easier, however, to put the whole shed on a sledge, and use a horse to draw it from one place to another. The rations are distributed daily by the matron, who begins her work between 7.30 a.m. and 8 o'clock. After breakfast the patients assemble at the surgery, and the necessary dressings are done. This occupies several hours, as the women are very particular about exposing themselves before the eyes of their compatriots, and a certain amount of time is always wasted between the dismissal of one patient and the arrival of the next. At the present time the medical officer does the major part of the dressings, but when it becomes necessary for him to pay periodical visits to Dorre Island, this part of the work will have to be undertaken by a nurse. His duties will not then permit him to accomplish more than a general supervision of the patients and it will be necessary to provide a staff sufficient to carry on the routine in his absence.

When the project of isolating the aborigines suffering from venereal disease was first mooted, it was believed that the disease from which they suffered was syphilis. Recent investigations, however, have caused this idea to be questioned, and there is still much room for research. Though there are on Bernier Island a certain number of cases of undoubted syphilis, the majority of patients present anomalies in their clinical histories that are puzzling and to some extent disheartening. Dr. Hickenbotham, of Carnarvon, who has probably paid more attention to venereal disease among the aboriginals than anyone else in this country, is of the opinion that the common disease is not true syphilis, and he calls it ulcerative or infective granuloma—a sufficiently descriptive term. In a recent contribution to the *Journal of Tropical Medicine* (written in conjunction with Dr. J. B. Cleland, late pathologist to the W.A. Government, who also made researches in this disease) he states:—"Treatment of these cases is long, tedious, and disappointing. Mercury and iodide of potassium (the drugs used in the routine treatment of true syphilis) are absolutely useless." The experience of treatment with these drugs on Bernier Island corroborates this. The result of further bacteriological researches will therefore be awaited with much interest. Two points have, however, been established—(1.) The disease is infective and transmissible. (2.) The usual mode of transmission of the disease is by sexual intercourse. Irrespective of whatever hope of cure treatment may present, therefore, there is sufficient justification for the scheme in that the segregation of those suffering from the disease removes foci whence infection might spread far and wide. It is to the interest of the healthy as well as

that of the diseased that these patients should be isolated.

It redounds greatly to the credit of the Government and the responsible Minister that this important matter has been taken up so energetically, and it is to be hoped that there will be continuity of this enlightened policy which does not grudge the expense incurred where the health of the community is menaced.

(Signed) FREDERICK LOVEGROVE,  
M.B., Ch. B., M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.,  
Superintendent Medical Officer.

#### POLICE AND PROTECTORS' REPORTS.

District Police Office,  
Northam, July 13, 1909.

I beg to report for your information on the state of the aborigines generally in the Eastern Police District for the year ended 30th June, 1909.

1. *Crime*.—There has been very little crime among the natives during the past year, except a few cases of drunkenness.

2. *Condition*.—The condition of the aborigines is good. Very few cases of illness have been reported, and every attention has been given to the sick and indigent ones by Dr. Rockett, D.M.O., the Aborigines Department, the police, and all concerned. Medicine, medical attention, clothing, blankets, and, on the recommendation of the doctor and myself, tents have been supplied when and where required. Nearly all the able-bodied natives are employed on farms, and owing to the strict supervision of the police they do not trouble the towns much. My officers have carried out the provisions of the Aborigines Act in this respect, and appears to work well in this district.

3. *Complaints*.—Very few complaints have been made to the police from any source during the year regarding the aborigines. From police and other sources, and from my own observations, I am satisfied that the natives have been and are well treated by their employers, and by white people generally, throughout the district; and I have no complaints to make or suggestions to offer.

(Signed) C. WOODS,  
Protector of Aborigines and District  
Police Officer.

Bunbury, July 12, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

I beg to report that there are only six old aborigines in this district, namely, Annie Anns, Abrams, Jimmy Bardoe, Bobby, Toby, and Sarah. They are all receiving Government rations, and living in the new huts which have been erected on the native reserve. They have been supplied with rugs, and are very comfortably off. The scale of rations is a good one—10lbs. flour, 1½lbs. sugar, ¼lb. tea, 5lbs. meat, and two sticks of tobacco per week. Bobby's son, who met with an accident about nine months ago, is living with his father, and no doubt helping to eat his rations. I would like permission to put him on the ration list, until he is fit to work again. There have only been four offences reported during the year,

and all the offenders were half-castes. The natives in the district, as a whole, are very quiet; and they are well looked after.

(Signed) A. L. EVANS, Sgt. 45,  
District Police Officer.

District Police Office,  
Albany, July 14, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

I beg to report for your information that the general condition of the aboriginal natives in the Albany district is satisfactory. Those who are old and feeble are supplied with Government rations sufficient to meet with all requirements, and a new blanket is issued to them annually. Neither rations nor blankets are issued to young able-bodied natives, but as a matter of fact they appear to be quite capable of maintaining themselves. Judging by what I have seen of the natives in the district, they are happy, healthy, and comfortable.

(Signed) M. LEEN, Sgt. 88.

District Police Office,  
Cue, July 15, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

As regards aborigines in the Western Police District there is little to report. Two reports of assault on natives were made, and correction followed in each case. Those natives who require relief obtain it. The race is fast dying out, a tribal custom of the old men having a lien over all the girls assisting in this. If the young men were permitted to mate with the girls, their final disappearance would be delayed for a short period.

(Signed) O. DREWRY,  
Inspector.

District Police Office,  
Menzies, July 16, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

In submitting my report on the condition of the aborigines in my district for the year ending June 30, 1909, I am pleased to state that they have given very little trouble. With the exception of the tribal murders at Ida H. there has been very little crime. A few cases of stealing have been reported, and most of the offenders have been arrested and imprisoned. The decrease in crime is largely due to the Police keeping the natives away from the principal centres, and preventing them as far as possible from coming in contact with the whites. There is little or no disease among the natives in the district, and they all appear healthy and well nourished; this is due to there being abundance of native food, game being plentiful, particularly rabbits. Several of the old and infirm are being rationed by the Government, being unable to hunt for their food. Blankets have been supplied to each individual; they seem contented, and generally speaking their conditions are much better than in past years.

No cases of cruelty have been reported, nor have there been any prosecutions for supplying natives with

liquor, although, undoubtedly, natives occasionally obtain a drop of liquor. I am pleased to say there is a marked improvement in this respect, drunkenness amongst natives being not so noticeable as in former years. Very few natives in this district are employed by whites. The native named Goolgar, mentioned in my last report, who had been arrested for the murder of a white man near Davyhurst, but escaped from custody, was subsequently re-arrested. The evidence, however, was considered insufficient, and the case was dismissed.

(Sgd.) J. DUNCAN,  
Sub-Inspector.

Police Station,  
Nullagine, July 10, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

I respectfully submit report for the year ended June 30, 1909, re condition and treatment of natives in the Nullagine District:—

I have to state that the number on my list receiving rations averages from 50 to 52, of whom a great number are very old and decrepit, while other are blind, crippled, deformed, or suffering from wasting disease. In all cases of disease I have used my best endeavours to effect cures, by providing medicine and attending to its proper administration, and in a number of cases I have been successful. The number of natives in the district is about 300, of whom 110 are employed, including Nullagine, 20-Mile Sandy, Eastern Creek, and the stations. Six deaths and four births have been reported. Mr. Crofton, of Balfour Downs Station, is giving rations to two old natives, and Messrs. Look and Beart, of Bamboo Springs, are also rationing two old natives. I received 100 blankets from the Department, and have distributed 80 to deserving natives. I also received 24 dresses, 12 pairs trousers, and 12 shirts, which I have distributed among the old and sick natives at Nullagine. During the twelve months I have issued 40 permits, and several natives have been signed on. I have also visited all stations in my district, and inspected the natives, who appear healthy, well-fed and clothed, and contented. I have issued no gun licenses during this period. Rations are issued once a week, in accordance with the prescribed scale; and only to deserving cases. Severe colds have been prevalent, and the sufferers have been freely supplied with eucalyptus and painkiller. In conclusion I may state that the constables when on patrol have paid careful attention to the natives, both on stations and in the bush. The natives have given no trouble; and I have had no complaints either from station owners or miners. I have not heard of any grog being supplied to aborigines, but there was one conviction under the Act, for harbouring native women.

(Signed) H. J. STOW,  
Protector.

Police Station,  
Marble Bar, July 9, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

I have the honour to forward the following report regarding the aborigines in the Marble Bar Police District:—

The approximate number is 900, and during the year there were 30 deaths and 10 births. The natives

receiving relief numbered 22, and 40 blankets were distributed. Their general condition and treatment have been good. During the twelve months only two natives have been charged in the Police Court, one for drunkenness, and one for stealing grog. Four white men have been fined the maximum amount for supplying liquor to natives, and one has been cautioned for loitering in the natives' camps. These convictions, I am pleased to say, have practically stamped out the supplying of liquor. When visiting the stations in October last I inspected the natives, and found them in good condition, well clothed, and contented. All the stations on the Nullagine, Oakover, and De Grey rivers employ a large number of natives, but, in addition, they feed all the relations of their employees. The bush natives, who are numerous, give no trouble to the station owners, as they are able to get plenty of native food. During the latter part of May and June an epidemic of influenza broke out among the natives on the De Grey River, followed by measles, and up to date I know that 18 have died, at the following stations:—Edjinbah, Coongan, Mulyie, Ettrick, Muccan, and Yarrie. So far the disease has not reached Darlot Bros.' Warrawagine Station, but it is still prevalent on the other stations, and I am afraid will carry off a large number of natives. The station people all keep medicine chests, and do all they possibly can for the sick natives, but they are most difficult creatures to deal with. You may wrap them up in blankets, but the moment your back is turned they are off, and into the nearest water if they are not stopped. Some of the station owners have had to lock these sick natives up in a warm room, to prevent them from practically committing suicide.

Moolyella.—There are about 100 natives working here at present, on the tin, after the recent rains. They recovered 12cwt. of tin in one week. This was sold to the storekeepers, and taken out in food and clothes, and I am sure they get good treatment and good value from the storekeepers.

Cooglegong.—About 100 natives are at present on this tinfield. They get a fair amount of tin, and owing to the establishment of stores in various parts of the field, they get better value for their tin. They take it all out in food and clothes, and consequently there is not so much drinking amongst them. Previously they bartered the tin to the white men about the field for grog, but I do not think there is much of that lately.

(Signed) C. W. STREET,  
Corporal.

District Police Office,  
Derby, July 19, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

I respectfully submit my annual report re the aborigines in this district, for the year ended June 30, 1909:—

The condition and treatment of the natives throughout the East and West Kimberleys are good; and a large number of them are employed on the sheep and saddle stations. Reports to hand from the outstations are to the effect that the natives so employed are well treated. They are good stockmen and labourers, and a great number of them are employed from time to time as fencers. Very few deaths have been reported during the year, and only one tribal murder occurred at Noonkanbah Station, Fitzroy River, on February

21. Two female aboriginals working on the station, *Tamilie alias Annie*, and *Gungillin alias Kitty* had a dispute, in the course of which *Tamilie* hit *Gungillin* on the head with a piece of wood, and she died during the night. The deceased was the aggressor, and after perusing a report on the matter, the Chief Protector was of the opinion that no proceedings should be taken against *Tamilie*. It has been alleged that a native named *Jimmy* has killed his woman *Jamah*, but details are not yet to hand.

During the year two natives were tried at Derby for crimes committed in the previous year. *Eregah alias Charlie*, who was defended by Mr. Clarke Hall, of Broome, was found guilty of the murder of *Bearbe alias Bobbie*, on the Fitzroy River, on February 28, 1908, and was sentenced to death. *Wyribi alias George* was arrested and brought to Derby on March 6, 1908, charged with the murder of one *Mowal*, a native woman, at Pender Bay, on February 20, 1908. He escaped from custody on May 23, and before his recapture the charge was reduced to manslaughter. He stood his trial for this offence, and was acquitted.

On September 27 last, on the King River, near Wyndham, William Favell reported to the Wyndham police that he had accidentally shot a native named Major, mistaking the boy for a crocodile, while he was fishing in a pool. He was in the employ of Favell. The body was subsequently found by the police. The matter was reported to Dr. Parer, R.M., R.M.O., but as there was no other person present when the alleged accident took place, and the body when discovered was too decomposed for a post mortem to be made, nothing more could be done.

A native tracker named Paddy, who was with Constable Hill's party in pursuit of Major's gang on August 29, was shot dead by Special Constable McCullock, at Growler's Gully, near Texas, East Kimberley. It was alleged that when the party were preparing for a start, Paddy fired a shot from a rifle point blank at Special Constable McLaughlin, and missed. He was in the act of firing another shot when McCullock fired and shot Paddy dead. An inquest was held at Wyndham by Dr. Parer, who exonerated McCullock.

During the year three half-caste girls and one native girl, all under 16 years of age, were sent from Derby to the Beagle Bay Mission, also two blind native boys.

The number of offences dealt with during the year under the Aborigines Act was 133, of which 32 were for supplying liquor to aboriginals, 30 at Broome and two at Derby. Twenty-eight convictions were obtained. In the previous year there were 60 prosecutions and 55 convictions. Cattle-killing by natives is on the increase. In this police district 342 were charged with this offence, against 303 during the previous year. In addition, 80 aboriginals were charged with being unlawfully in possession of beef. At present there are five natives on the indigent list. They are all deserving cases, and obtain their rations from the storekeepers at a very small cost.

(Signed) J. McCARTHY,  
Acting Sub-Inspector.

Carnarvon, July 22, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

In reporting on the aborigines in the Gascoyne District for the year ended June 30, 1909, I must

point out that my report only includes that part of the district between the Minilya on the north and Doorawarra on the east. Mr. McLeod, who is a protector, resides on the Minilya, and Mr. Cameron, another protector, resides at Doorawarra, and I presume that they also will report.

There are about 116 aborigines within the area mentioned above, 79 of whom are employed, while 12 are old and infirm, in receipt of rations from the Government; 10 are children, and 15 are at times in employment. The health of these natives is good, and during the year there has been very little drunkenness among them. I have had no complaints from aborigines or their employers and I have issued 36 permits, of which I have not found it necessary to cancel any.

(Signed) C. D. FOSS,  
Protector of Aborigines.

Wyndham Police Station,  
July 29, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

I have to report that the condition of the natives generally in this district is good and food is plentiful. The settlers treat them well, and not a single complaint has been made by the natives. No cases of supplying liquor to natives have been reported.

(Signed) A. H. BUCKLAND, Sgt. 162.

District Police Office,  
Roebourne, July 11, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

I have the honour to submit for your information my report on the aborigines in this police district for the year ended June 30, 1909:—

I have not yet had an opportunity to personally inspect the natives throughout the district, but am kept in touch with them by the sub-officers and constables stationed in the various centres. The natives generally are well treated on the stations, receiving for their labour plenty of wholesome food, clothing, and blankets, and in some cases small wages—the latter I consider to be a great mistake. Quite a large number of natives are earning their living by fossicking for gold and tin, and this might be encouraged with advantage to themselves and the State. If possible, it would be to their distinct advantage if the Government would make provision to purchase the fruits of their labours in this direction. The Aborigines Act is working well, and the natives are benefiting by its provisions in many ways. I am pleased to report that crime among the natives is at a low ebb. The death rate during the year has been about normal, and from the appended table may seem low, but I think that many deaths from natural causes occurring among the natives are not brought under notice. The number of births is very low.

The following table gives approximately the particulars of the natives in the Roebourne Police District:—

No. of Natives.	No. employed.	Births.	Deaths.	No. receiving relief.
2,244	1,312	75	72	218

The number of indigent natives, old, blind, and infirm, is increasing at an alarming rate, and is too

high. I think the stations should keep most of the present indigents, as many of them have been worked until they attained their present state and the stations reaped the benefit of their labour in their younger days, and in many instances the sons and daughters of the indigents are at present employed. Several of the stations in the Roebourne District do support their old and infirm natives, treating them exceedingly well.

I am of the opinion that the natives as a whole could be made self-supporting. I forwarded you a scheme for this purpose some time ago, and I attach another copy of it, in case the former may have been mislaid.

(Signed) R. H. PILMER, Sgt. 93.

Police Station,  
Onslow, July 21, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

I respectfully report as follows on the condition of the natives in the Onslow sub-district for the year ended June 30, 1909:—

At the beginning of the year there were, roughly, 190 natives in this district, made up of 102 males and 88 females. Of this number 25 were sent to the Island Hospital at Carnarvon, where they still remain; and there were four deaths during the year, leaving at present 99 males and 63 females, total 162.

Food and clothing.—In this respect, as far as natives employed on stations are concerned, they appear to be fairly treated; and I have received no complaints from natives.

I know of no births having taken place during the year, but four deaths were reported—three males and one female.

Indigent.—There are at the present time 21 destitute natives in the district, including four children. Thirteen of these are at Onslow, in receipt of Government rations. The remainder, including four children, are at Winning Pool.

There were only three charges brought against natives in the Onslow Police Court during the year; and these were all charges of theft—against male natives. Only one white man was charged with an offence against aborigines—under Section 45 of the Act, and a fine of £20 and costs was imposed.

(Signed) JOSEPH FOGARTY,  
Constable 696.

Salvation Army Boys' Home,  
Collie Settlement, July 13, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Perth.*

Sir,

I have pleasure in reporting that the four boys located in the Salvation Army Home at Collie have made satisfactory progress during the year, improving much physically. There have been no serious offences. The boys have been employed in various ways on the farm, and every care has been taken in educating them for situations in the future. It is now thought that each boy will be available shortly to take a situation.

In educational matters progress has been very slow, but some slight improvement has taken place. The whole of the boys have been and are in the best of health

(Signed) JNO. BLAKE,  
Major.

New Norcia Mission,  
July 15, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

Sir,

I beg to state that the number of aborigines in this Mission for the year ended June 30, 1909, was as follows:—

In boys' college	..	..	32
In girls' college	..	..	27
In town	..	..	49
Total	..	..	108

(Signed) H. ALTIMIRA,  
Pro-Superior.

Salvation Army Girls' Home,  
Ward Street, Kalgoorlie.

At the beginning of the year we had in the home 14 half-caste girls. During the twelve months five have been admitted and two passed out, so at present we have 17 girls in the home. One of the girls went to a situation at Collie, where she is giving satisfaction to her mistress, and the other was adopted by a lady. The general health of the children is good. On New Year's Day they were removed from the Girls' Home at Collie to Ward Street, Kalgoorlie. They are getting on very well in every way. A teacher is set apart for their training and education, and they are very anxious to learn; with the result that they are making steady progress. The girls are also trained in general housework, cooking, sewing, etc. We find them very obedient and easily managed. We have to thank Mr. Gale for getting up the school books at cost price from the Education Department.

(Signed) E. J. GOWAN,  
Secretary.

Swan Native and Half-caste Mission,  
Midland Junction, July 12, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

I have to report that two children—a girl and a boy—were admitted to the mission during the year. In July there were 22 cases of measles, all of which recovered without leaving bad effects. The children's eyes were attended to by Dr. Kelsall, who operated successfully on two of the boys at the Perth Hospital. Four girls were sent to the Perth Hospital, and died there from consumption—in July, August, and September. Two of these girls developed the disease while out at domestic service, one was ill when admitted, and the other developed the complaint while in the mission. The health of the children has been excellent, and no medical attendance has been necessary since December, when there were two slight cases of diphtheria. On June 30, 1909, there were 30 children in the mission—20 girls and 10 boys.

(Signed) LUCY H. PRICE,  
Superintendent.

Ellensbrook, July 29, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

Sir,—

I am pleased to inform you that the five children under my care are well, and making good progress in all branches of their training.

(Signed) EDITH BUSSELL.

Sunday Island Mission,  
August 12, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

Sir,—

During the past year we have had nearly 120 natives here. The general health has been unfaillingly good, and there were two births, while two of the natives on the relief list died. Mr. Bird attended to the education of 31 children for the first ten months of the year, but was then called away to Bendigo, and I have not yet replaced him. I am making arrangements for a married couple to carry on the work, and they should arrive about the end of September. The expenditure for the year amounted to £603 14s., and the revenue to £602 11s. 4d., leaving a debit of £1 2s. 8d. Since the middle of May H.M.S. "Fantome" has been surveying this group of islands, and engaged ten adults from the mission for boat work. I am sending all the elder boys, who attended school, for three months' work on the "Fantome," and they will remain until the end of November.

During the year this district has been unusually quiet, as no pearlers laid up in King's Sound, and there was no outside interference with the natives. The health of the natives in the district has been good, with very little sickness.

(Signed) SYDNEY HADLEY,  
Protector of Aborigines.

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Beagle Bay Mission,  
Broome, August 2, 1909.

*The Chief Protector of Aborigines.*

Sir,—

During the twelve months under review the number of children who have been trained in school and the different trading shops has increased to nearly 120; and continual building has been necessary. New schoolrooms, dormitory, and living house had to be provided. About 44 old and infirm people are maintained at the mission, and the total number of natives at the dining-rooms often ran up as high as 200 and over. The work on the cattle station, and also the farm and garden, has been progressing.

On March 23 the Rev. Father Traube and the Rev. Father Droste, with Brother Brinkman, arrived, to offer to help to civilise the natives at the mission.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) JOSEPH BISCHOFFS,  
Superior.

*Copy of Chief Protector's Report, submitted to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, relative to the Native Murders at Ida H. Mine, Laverton.*

*The Under Secretary.*

For the Hon. Minister's information, relative to the eight natives found dead at Laverton, I beg to report as follows:—

On the 10th November it was reported by W. H. Lister to Mr. Campbell Shaw, manager of the Ida H. Mine, seven miles from Laverton, that the dead bodies of eight aborigines, in a highly decomposed state, had been discovered about a quarter of a mile from the main camp. This matter was reported at once to the Police, and Mr. Campbell Shaw (who was the acting Coroner) and three jurymen went out to view the bodies, accompanied by Dr. Pitcher, D.M.O. After viewing the bodies the Coroner gave orders for their burial, and adjourned the inquiry to the 18th instant.

On the 18th November before Mr. Campbell Shaw (acting Coroner) and a jury consisting of W. H. Robins (foreman), A. N. Doyle, and J. McKechnie, the adjourned inquiry into the death of the eight aborigines found dead in the bush near the Ida H. Mine on the 11th instant was held. After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict that "On or about the 3rd day of November, 1908, the eight deceased aboriginal natives came to their death by being murdered by other natives unknown, in accordance with tribal custom."

On receipt of the evidence taken at the inquisition, further reports were asked for and received from the Police. Having commented on this evidence and suggested that further light should be thrown on many of the points contained in the said evidence and reports received from the Police, specially in regard to—

- (1.) The position of the bodies when discovered.
- (2.) Medical evidence that no bones were fractured, although there was evidence of nullahs having been forcibly used.
- (3.) The native dogs being found dead alongside the bodies.
- (4.) The burning of the bodies.

I was instructed by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to visit Laverton and inquire into all the points raised, and go into the question generally. The first thing I did after my arrival was to question the Police officers on all points of the evidence given by them and other witnesses at the inquest. I interviewed Dr. Pitcher, who gave the medical evidence at the inquest, and as his evidence has been questioned on several points, I attach a report which he gave to me on the question; *inter alia*, he states—

"Before leaving for the scene of the murders, I discovered that it was being freely rumoured that the blacks had been poisoned by cyanide, which had been laid as a bait by some white or whites. The idea that they had been done to death by some other blacks was scarcely mentioned, so that I journeyed to the place fully imbued with the idea that cyanide was probably the cause of death, or at all events that there was a strong presumption of such being the case. I went there with a full determination of discovering the exact state of affairs, and to make as thorough an examination as possible, in order to settle, one way or the other, the report which was being carried around. On arrival I discovered the bodies lying in various attitudes, as related in evidence. Lying near the bodies were the carcasses of three dogs. I at once



saw that these dogs gave no bearing to the death of the blacks, for the reason that they were quite fresh; whereas the bodies of the blacks were highly decomposed. I made a very exhaustive examination of the bodies; it occupied me fully an hour and a half. Many holes there were in the bodies, but such was the quantity of vermin that it was impossible to say whether any of these holes had been started with spears or not. For a long time I failed to find any definite cause of death, and was beginning seriously to think of recommending the analysis of the contents of the internal organs, when suddenly I discovered in one of the bodies a hole which at once took my attention as being different from the others. This hole had evidently escaped the ravages of the vermin; to my mind it gave clear evidence that it was a spear wound. On turning over the body of the woman Judy, who was about 100 yards away from the others, and ripping open the clothes, the first thing that presented itself to my notice was the barb of a spear; it fell out into my hand as I opened the clothes. This discovery, following on the discovery of the spear wound in the other native, decided me in my decision, and in the making of it I had not the slightest shadow of a doubt. I felt that I could, unhesitatingly, give my opinion. The matter looked too plain to admit of any doubt. The blacks had evidently been crept on and killed while they slept, with the exception of one woman, who had evidently been aroused and was making off for the village, when she was overtaken and speared in the back."

I examined all the exhibits produced at the inquest, in the shape of spears, nullahs, etc., found on the ground where the natives met their death. There was a fair number of the former, and most of them were shattered as if having been forcibly used. The nullahs were also shattered, and also bore evidence of having been forcibly used. On one I found hair attached to the splintered part, which on being submitted to Dr. Pitcher, D.M.O., was pronounced human hair. I examined the native women who identified the bodies of the deceased, and other natives who were in town, and closely questioned them as to the cause of the death of their friends. They all unhesitatingly stated that some Darlot natives had killed them; although I tried to put their thoughts into a groove of suspicion that death was caused otherwise, they were all very positive that the natives were killed by spearing at the hands of some of the Darlot tribe, and I was absolutely unable to shake their statement. Not a shadow of a suspicion appeared to lurk in their minds that foul play at the hands of whites had taken place. In confirmation of the statement made by them to me, the men pointed out the broken spears produced at the inquest, and they positively asserted that one of these was from a far away country, and was made of wood that did not grow in the district surrounding Laverton.

I then proceeded to the Ida H Gold Mine (seven miles from Laverton), and visited the scene of the tragedy, and found that the camp of the deceased natives was made in mulga scrub, growing on ironstone country. I saw evidence of what must have been an extremely heavy downpour of rain which occurred, I was informed, some two days after the supposed date of the murders, and which was heavy enough in my opinion to obliterate any tracks made in the hard surrounding ground. I was also informed by Mr. Campbell Shaw that a body of strange natives passing some of the outlying camps of those engaged

on the mines were seen in the early hours of the morning of the supposed murder, also that a noise at the deceased natives' camp was heard shortly after on the same day. This is confirmed by the sworn evidence of William Henry Lister, an employee of the Ida H. Mine, who says—

"I was told by William Rodgers that on Tuesday morning, the 3rd instant, he saw a crowd of black going towards the natives' camp about daybreak. They were in their native state, and carrying implements with them. He (William Rodgers) stated that he had to go to work on the mine early this morning, hence his seeing them."

This evidence is further confirmed by that of Francis Banks, who states on oath at the inquest that "He saw nine strange natives on the 5th November, five days before the bodies were discovered, between Burtville and the Ida H. Mine."

I was also informed by two men engaged at the mine that with the assistance of a third, whom I was unable to see, they shot three dogs attached to the natives' camp, shortly after the discovery of the bodies. The names of the men who shot the dogs were T. Godley, M. Roberts, and T. Foster, and their motive in shooting them was because the dogs after molesting the bodies by tearing at the decomposed flesh were foraging around the workmen's homes (*vide* telegram attached).

This statement is confirmed by Dr. Pitcher's report (attached) that the bodies of the dogs, when examined by him, were not in a state of decomposition. I also ascertained that nearly all of the deceased were either cripples or in such a bad state of health that they would fall an easy prey to a band of hostile natives; the strongest and healthiest of the lot was the woman Judy, whose body was found about 60 yards from the others, in the direction of the main camp of the whites, and evidently according to the medical evidence, had been speared in the back while trying to escape for protection.

The explanation given to me by Mr. Campbell Shaw, manager of the Ida H. Mine, why the bodies were not discovered before they were in such an advanced state of decomposition, although only 150 yards from the nearest camp, was that sanitary regulations were enforced at the mine different to those obtaining at ordinary bush camps; consequently there was no occasion for anyone to go in the direction where the bodies were found, and if the wind had not changed and blown in the direction of the mine, the discovery would not have been made as soon as it was.

After my examination of the scene of the tragedy, I again closely questioned the natives as to the cause of the murders, and ascertained from them that about (as far as I could make out) four months ago some Laverton natives had gone to the Lake Darlot country, and at a spot between Lake Way and Ashton had killed three natives and two gins of that tribe, and that they attributed the murders of their countrymen and women, at the Ida H. Mine, in the Laverton district, to one of revenge. Bearing in mind the medical evidence given at the inquest, that no bones were broken, and yet the nullahs found about the dead bodies bore evidence of having been forcibly used, I was particular in examining the native men on this point. They explained to me, however, conclusively, to my mind, that the nullahs had been used across the neck; a method used when seeking to disable the attacked party. I again questioned them relative to

the spears found near the bodies, which, although shattered, still had one barb intact. Notwithstanding that I tried to convince them that it was almost impossible to inflict mortal wounds without breaking the barbs, yet they satisfied me by their graphic description that, incredible as it may seem, it could be done.

Up to this point I had satisfied myself, from the evidence gathered, that the reports which appeared in the public Press were somewhat misleading, especially to the public living hundreds of miles away from the scene of the tragedy. In the first place it was reported that three dogs had been found dead alongside the bodies. If it had also been stated, which is an undoubted fact, that the three dogs had been shot on the morning of the discovery of the bodies, it would have been known that the death of the dogs gave no bearing on the death of the natives. Also the report about the bodies being discovered side by side, with arms outstretched as if sleeping peacefully, no doubt caused suspicion of foul play having occurred at the hands of white men. The photographs attached to this report do not altogether bear this statement out, and it must be borne in mind that these deaths were caused by a tribal murder, and not by a tribal fight.

Conflicting reports were also published relative to the burning of the bodies. The official report in the *West Australian* of the 17th November contained a misprint whereby the word "buried" was twice substituted for the word "burned," and which led to some misunderstanding.

The facts of the case are as follows:—The undertaker is the contractor for the burial of all paupers in the Laverton district, and it was no doubt with the object of being paid the sum of £72, for the burial of these native bodies, that he sent me, before I left Perth, an absolutely incorrect statement, viz., that all those portions of the bodies he was able to remove were buried by him, and that he only burnt the refuse remaining, having been instructed to do so by the health inspector at Laverton. During my investigations at the scene of the tragedy I gathered quite sufficient evidence to satisfy me that all the bodies had been cremated, and on interviewing the contractor with this evidence in my possession he confessed having done so, and that the only portions that he buried were the bones that did not go to ashes. This statement I obtained in writing from him, and is now attached.

The following police reports are submitted as evidence of the motive of the murder, and all clearly indicate that it was a tribal murder, as an act of revenge.

On the 7th November, three days prior to the discovery of the decomposed bodies, Sub-Inspector Duncan, of Menzies, wired to the Commissioner that he had received a report that the battery-house of Dwyer's Mine (near Erlistoun), 55 miles from Laverton, had been attacked by a party of 60 natives, armed with rifles and guns, who fired several shots which penetrated the building. The offending parties were supposed to be Darlot blacks, who were after some local natives who had taken refuge in the mine.

Police Constable Malone, in charge of Laverton station, together with three other constables and two native trackers, were instructed to proceed to the scene of the disturbance to inquire into the trouble, and if possible to arrest the offenders. He reports that on the 8th instant he saw Mr. Milne, licensee of

the Cork Tree Hotel, who informed him that about 70 natives had camped within 200 yards of the hotel on the night of the 4th instant, and that on the following morning they went into his garden and stole some vegetables. Mr. Milne followed them over to their camp with a gun, with the object of frightening them, and on arrival at their camp seven of them got up and showed him guns and rifles; at the same time informing him that he need not be frightened, that they did not want to kill him, but they wanted to kill some blackfellows. They also informed him that the Laverton blackfellows had gone over to their country, and killed some of their tribe, and that they had now come over to this country to kill some of the other fellows' tribe. After visiting Dwyer's battery to inquire into the alleged offence by natives, mentioned above, on the 10th instant, they followed the natives' tracks in the direction of Darlot. On their way they met Mr. McNie's black boy, at Davies Pool. He informed them that he had met a large number of Darlot and Lake Way tribes of natives, and that one of them informed him that they had killed six blacks and two gins, close to the Ida H. Mine, near Laverton, and said they had done it because some of the Laverton tribe had been over to Darlot and killed some of their tribe, and they were having revenge. The information given them by this native, at Davies' Pool, regarding the death of the blacks at the Ida H. Mine was the first information that he had received of the murders, and he did not believe it at the time. Constable Malone returned to Laverton on the 13th November, at 7 p.m., when he learned that the report was true.

Report by Constable Richardson, stationed at Mt. Sir Samuel, who, writing to Sub-Inspector Duncan on the 19th November states as follows:—

"On the 13th November last H. G. B. Mason, of Sir Samuel, reported that four native women had been killed and two native women wounded, and left for dead by some Laverton natives."

Police Constable Donaldson, of Lawlers Police Station, on the 10th December, reported as follows:—

"Whilst on duty at Darlot on the 4th instant, it was reported to me that some three or four bodies of aboriginal natives were lying exposed about 40 or 50 miles north of Darlot. Acting under instructions I proceeded to Darda cattle station, with the object of finding and burying the bodies. Although I searched the bush for three days, I was unsuccessful. From the information I gleaned from various sources, I am of opinion that the Laverton tribe of natives visited Darlot and the country north of Darlot, about the end of September last, killed the natives, whose bodies I was searching for, and returned to the Laverton district. The Darlot tribe then retaliated by gathering together members of the Lawlers, Wiluna, and Sir Samuel tribes, assisted by some from Peak Hill, the result being the murder of several natives near the Ida H. Mine, in the Laverton District, by them about the beginning of November last. These natives returned through Darlot, and are now on their way to Peak Hill, where another tribal fight is to take place shortly."

Although I visited Laverton with the idea impressed in my mind that there was a suspicion that the natives' deaths occurred in a manner opposed to the verdict of the jury, I have now, I am pleased to report, come to the conclusion, after reviewing all the evidence and information gathered by me during

my visit, that the deaths of the eight natives found near the Ida H. Mine, in the Laverton District, were caused by a band of hostile natives from another tribal district, and that the verdict of the jury, viz., "That the eight aboriginals on or about the 3rd of November came to their deaths by being murdered by other natives unknown, in accordance with tribal cus-

tom," is a correct one, and that there is not a shadow of suspicion left in my mind that their deaths were caused in any other way.

C. F. GALE,  
Chief Protector of Aborigines.

3rd January, 1909.

**Report of the Chief Protector of Aborigines for the year ending 30th June 1909**

Corporate Author: Western Australia. Chief Protector of Aborigines

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