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REPORT OF THE ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1944.

Aborigines Protection Board, Adelaide, 1st September, 1944.

To His Excellency, Sir John Mellis Napier, Lieutenant-Governor in and over the State of South Australia, and its Dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia.

May it please Your Excellency:-

We do ourselves the honour to submit the annual report of the Aborigines Protection Board for the year ended the 30th June, 1944.

During the year under review able-bodied male aborigines not actually engaged on active service, or in some other branch of defence work, were employed on farms and dairies, and in pastoral enterprises, flax production, vine dressing, grape picking, railway maintenance work, wood cutting, charcoal burning, etc.

A number of female aborigines were also employed in dairies, vineyards, flax mills, and factories. In addition, a considerable number have been engaged as domestic helps, the demand for such workers greatly exceeding the number available. The aborigines are undoubtedly making a notable contribution to the national war effort.

An unconditional declaration of exemption from the provisions of the Aborigines Act was made in respect of two aborigines, and 11 others were exempted on probation.

Forty-eight persons, having completed satisfactorily a period of three years' probation, were granted unconditional exemption.

Six applications for exemption were not entertained, and, because of unsatisfactory conduct, the limited declaration of exemption previously made in respect of 12 aborigines was revoked.

Additional ration depots were established at Granite Downs, Mabel Creek and Tieyon Stations to enable old and infirm aborigines who, live in those districts to be provided with food, without having to travel outside the boundaries of their tribal territory.

Every effort has been made to safeguard the physical, mental, and spiritual welfare of the aborigines.

The Board is desirous of again recording sincere appreciation of the splendid services rendered in this connection by medical practitioners, police officers, missionaries, and pastoralists, together with the various organizations working in co-operation with the Board for the welfare of the aborigines.

The continuance of the war, with the resultant shortage of building and other materials, has precluded the provision of better housing conditions for the people, and also the development of the lands reserved for aborigines, as provided in the policy adopted by the Board in 1940.

The medical survey commenced three years ago was continued during the period under review. A large number of people were examined at the Chest Clinic, Royal Adelaide Hospital, but happily nearly all proved to be free from disease. Those needing attention were placed in hospital with very good results. Doubtful cases are re-examined periodically.

During the year clothing valued at £260 was distributed to old and infirm aborigines; 1,000 blankets were also distributed, costing approximately £700.

Legal assistance for 12 aborigines charged with serious offences was provided by the Board. The secretary of the Board also attended the court proceedings, and, in cases where the offenders had been living under tribal conditions, suggested that, in determining the degree of responsibility and the penalties to be imposed, consideration be given to the influence of tribal laws and practices on the mind and conduct of the persons brought to trial.

It is considered most desirable that a specially constituted court should hear all charges against tribal or semi-tribal aborigines who live in the remote areas of the State, and have little or no understanding of any law save that of the tribe to which they belong.

The Board has given careful consideration to the question of vocational training for young aborigines of both sexes, particularly in the larger centres of aboriginal population. An investigation is being conducted by officers of the Department of Education, in conjunction with officers of the Aborigines Department, with a view to undertaking a post-war scheme of training boys and young men in plumbing and sheet metal work, saddlery, bootmaking and repairs, carpentry, cement construction, etc., and to instruct young girls and women in dressmaking, millinery, cooking, hair dressing, etc.

Twelve young girls are receiving training in domestic arts at the Salvation Army Girls' Home, Fullarton. The matron has reported that the conduct of the girls is exemplary, and that they enjoy life in the institution to the full. As in previous years, the dux of the school for 1943 was an aboriginal girl, Lila Rigney. Clara Rankine, who completed her training at the end of last year, has been placed in a very good home, and is rendering satisfactory service.

At the request of the parents, several children were placed under the care of the United Aborigines Mission in the Colebrook Home, Eden Hills, and others in the Umeewarra Mission Home at Port Augusta.

The Board has administered child endowment, military allotments, and other trust accounts, when, in the interests of the persons concerned, it has been considered necessary to do so.

The Welfare Officer, Sister P. E. McKenzie, experienced a very busy year, travelling long distances, and making careful inquries in practically every part of the State regarding the physical, moral, and social conditions under which the people live.

In the larger centres of aboriginal population, meetings for mothers and young women were arranged for the purpose of considering methods to secure improvements in the standard of home life. Mothers have also been interviewed in their homes, and urged to give more attention to the provision of suitable and adequate food and clothing for their children.

REPORTS FROM PROTECTORS, MISSIONARIES, AND STATION MANAGERS.

Inspector P. J. Bourke, of the northern and western police districts, states that able-bodied aborigines have been employed on sheep and cattle stations, and in trapping wild dogs, foxes, and rabbits. A number were also engaged in cutting firewood.

The health and conduct of the aborigines were fairly good; practically all the offences committed by them were due to the effect of alcoholic liquor supplied by unscrupulous white men, several of whom were apprehended and dealt with in the Police Court.

Inspector Bourke stresses the urgent need for the establishment of training centres conducted by missionary organizations and situated some distance from the railway line, particularly with reference to the aborigines at Ooldea and Oodnadatta.

Umeewarra Mission, Port Augusta.—The sisters-in-charge of the mission, Misses Simmons and Cantle, report that there are now 31 inmates of the Children's Home. An average of 23 children attended the special school for aborigines, where steady progress has been made. The younger children attend the kindergarten class for two hours each day.

The aborigines in the hospital and in gaol are visited regularly by the sisters. Discharged patients and prisoners are provided on behalf of the Aborigines Protection Board with meals pending their return home.

The Port Augusta branch of the Country Women's Association, and also the Girl Guides, provided a party for the children during the Christmas season.

A number of local residents, led by Mr. Riches, M.P., have completed the erection of a medical hut, and have shown great practical interest in the work of the mission. The hut was furnished and equipped with medical appliances by the Aborigines Protection Board.

The sisters-in-charge of the Umeewarra Mission are rendering valuable service to the aborigines of Port Augusta and surrounding districts, especially in providing such an excellent home for the children, and giving them every opportunity to become good citizens.

A charitable bequest of £250 received during the year forms the nucleus of a fund to establish an urgently needed stone building to be used as a Children's Home and living quarters for the sisters-incharge of the mission.

The medical superintendent and staff of the Port Augusta Hospital have given of their best in the interests of native patients both in hospital and at the Children's Home.

Ernabella Mission (Presbyterian).—The superintendent, the Rev. J. R. B. Love, reports that, although there are considerably more than 700 tribal aborigines in contact with the mission, the highest number present on any day during the year was approximately 280.

The conduct of the people on the whole has been satisfactory.

Mrs. W. Ternent Cooke and Mrs. Harvey Johnston, the lady members of the Board, paid an official visit to Ernabella during the period under review, and presented an interesting and practical report on the work of the mission

Dr. Trudinger also visited Ernabella during the year, and, in addition to attending to sick aborigines at the mission, carried out a medical patrol into the reserve for aborigines adjacent to the mission.

The prolonged drought in this area is causing great concern. The rain which fell in the early part of 1944 was too light to renew supplies of good drinking water. During the year a new well was sunk and equipped with a windmill, etc. Further efforts are being made to improve the water supply.

The erection of a larger store building is also contemplated, as it is desired to keep sufficient stocks of food on hand in case of emergency due to transport difficulties.

The aborigines destroyed a large number of wild dogs. The amount paid to them during the year for dog scalps amounted to approximately £650. This money was expended mainly in purchasing supplementary foodstuffs.

Mr. R. Trudinger continued his work in the special school for aborigines. In addition to the usual subjects, instruction is given in gardening, and also in the use of various kinds of tools. The older boys are taught to manage horses and other livestock, and the young men being trained in the art of shearing have shown great aptitude for the work.

Meetings are held regularly for the purpose of giving religious instruction.

Rations and medical supplies for old and infirm aborigines are provided by the Aborigines Protection Board.

Lutheran Mission, Koonibba.—The superintendent, the Rev. R. H. Traeger, reports that a number of the young men previously serving in other sections of the Defence Forces have, at their own request, been transferred to the Australian Imperial Forces, and are now in the forward areas.

The matron in charge of the Children's Home, Miss Jericho, has had a strenuous year on account of a depleted staff, but additional help has now been secured. There are 46 inmates in the home at present, mainly children whose parents are employed elsewhere.

There is plently of work available in the district. A number of families have established themselves at various places along the railway line, and in other parts of the West Coast. Supervision of native people scattered over a wide area has proved rather difficult, but the superintendent reports that efforts have been made to provide for regular religious services for all the people concerned.

The local school for aborigines, which is attended by 77 children, is in charge of Mr. O. B. Lange, who is an advocate of vocational training for native children. In addition to the usual school curriculum, instruction is given in woodworking, cement construction, etc.

Dr. Gibson, of Ceduna, is in charge of the medical work of the mission.

Sister Hitchcock, as matron of the Koonibba Mission Hospital, has rendered excellent service in nursing and caring for the sick people of this large district.

Rations, medical supplies, blankets, etc., for old and infirm aborigines and dependent children, were provided by the Aborigines Protection Board.

UNITED ABORIGINES MISSION.

Ooldea.—The superintendent, Mr. H. E. Green, reports that the work of the mission, particularly in the Children's Home and in the school, proved rather difficult on account of staff changes during the year. Several of the older boys, whose school days had ended, were discharged from the home and provided with work on pastoral holdings, where they appear to be giving very satisfactory service. The admission of other children brought the total number of inmates in the home to 42. These children attend the local school for aborigines.

The young adult males organized hunting expeditions and destroyed a large number of wild dogs and foxes. Proceeds of sales of skins and dog scalps enable the hunters to maintain themselves in comparative comfort during a very dry season.

The assistance of the flying doctor was frequently sought by radio, and the help, which was readily given, proved invaluable in treating sick aborigines.

Religious services, which were held regularly, were well attended.

The Boys' Brigade is a popular organization, and caters for the needs of the young people.

Nepabunna.—The superintendent, Mr. F. Eaton, reports that steady progress has been made with the work of the mission. Miss Loone has been appointed teacher of the mission school.

The dry season necessitated the sinking of wells to improve the water supply. Good water was obtained, and the Aborigines Protection Board equipped the well with a windmill and pump.

Rations, medical supplies, school books, blankets, etc., were provided by the Aborigines Protection Board.

The aborigines generally are in good health, and their conduct satisfactory.

Finnis Springs.—The superintendent, Mr. A. J. Pearce, reports that the mission house was completed during the year, and also quarters for the newly appointed nursing sister.

A medical hut, providing accommodation for two patients, a store room, and an additional school room were also erected.

Lack of sufficient water suitable for domestic use is a serious problem at the mission. With a view to solving this problem, and to permit the admission of a number of children from surrounding districts to the school dormitory, a new storage tank of 25,000gall, capacity is being constructed.

The school children, at present numbering 30, are provided with three meals each day, and, as the result, have shown marked physical and mental improvement. One child, who has completed the primary school course, is now doing good work as monitor assisting the teacher. Domestic arts and sheet metal classes have been established, and good work is being done in these classes.

A four-boy woodworking outfit was provided by the Aborigines Protection Board.

Rations, medical supplies, school books, etc., were also provided by the Board.

The efforts made to instruct the people in moral and spiritual principles elicited a gratifying response.

The missioner has attended to the medical needs of the people under the direction of the flying doctor at Broken Hill, who also made two trips to the mission by aeroplane to remove patients to hospital.

Colebrook Home, Eden Hills.—The Government provided a grant of £200 for the Colebrook Home during the year to cover the cost of sinking a well with a view to improving the water supply at Quorn. Unfortunately, the water obtained proved unsuitable, and, as a result, it became necessary to close the home temporarily. The inmates, with necessary equipment, were transferred to Eden to Karinya Hall, which was made available by the Government. A lease of the property, which contains 19 rooms, has been arranged for a period of 10 years. A teacher has been appointed, and the children are instructed in class-rooms on the property.

The matron, Miss Hyde, reports that, during the year, 14 children were admitted, and three were discharged, two of whom were provided with work on northern pastoral stations. There were 35 children in the home at the end of the year.

Arrangements have been made by the Aborigines Protection Board for the medical supervision of the inmates

Swan Reach.—The superintendent, Miss E. P. Edwards, states that there are approximately 80 aborigines in residence at the mission. The able-bodied men are employed along the river, fruit-picking, shearing, wood-cutting, etc.

No. 20.

A number of the younger women were also employed in the vineyards during the harvest period.

There are 12 children attending the special school for aborigines.

Regular services are held in the local church. The aborigines seem to appreciate the efforts made to provide religious instruction. The health of the residents has been fairly good, and their general conduct satisfactory.

One of the aborigines residing at the mission has been appointed a special constable, and does good work in helping to maintain order on the settlement.

Point McLeay Station.—The manager's report indicates that there were 16 births and 12 deaths during the year, the population on the 30th June, 1944, being 295.

The health of the aborigines under the care of Dr. Lloyd and Sister Rowlands was very good, due largely to the products of the garden being made available to the people at a very small cost.

During the year additional equipment and an improved water supply were provided at Point McLeay Hospital.

In spite of a long dry summer, during which the stock was hand fed, the returns from the dairy herd were satisfactory. The herd was tested during the year, and found to be free from tuberculosis—a most satisfactory result, in view of the large quantities of milk distributed daily to every family on the station.

The garden also yielded good returns of almost every type of vegetable. The aborigines employed in the garden manifest great interest in their work. During the year 100 apricot trees and a number of plum and citrus trees were planted.

The harvest returns were satisfactory; farming operations yielded 200 tons of hay and 170 tons of ensilage.

The returns from sales of pigs were satisfactory, the average net price being £4 13s. 9d.

The highest price obtained for wool was 15d. per lb.; the whole clip averaged approximately 12d. per lb.

A scheme for the beautification of the settlement has been inaugurated. At the Central Reserve lawns, flowering shrubs, and ornamental trees are being planted. In addition, 200 gum trees have been planted along various roadways in the village.

The educational work was maintained at the usual high standard. Arrangements have been made for the renovation of the school building during the current year.

Regular church services and also special mission services were held throughout the year.

The Red Cross Committee arranged several functions with satisfactory results.

Point Pearce Station.—The manager reported that there were 20 births and nine deaths during the year, the population on the 30th June, 1944, being 328.

Sister Brasher, the nurse in charge of the medical work, has reported that the health of the natives was fairly good. Twelve aborigines were provided with spectacles, and eight others with artificial dentures.

Work was commenced on a children's playground. A suitable area has been fenced, and four swings erected. Additional equipment will be added in the near future.

Religious services and educational work in the local school for aborigines were maintained throughout the year.

Regular picture shows and other functions were arranged to provide entertainment for the local residents.

The tree planting scheme was continued, a number of trees being planted in the station paddocks.

Owing to insufficient rain, the harvest returns were disappointing, but, notwithstanding the unfavourable season, the returns from sales of livestock were very satisfactory.

The wool clip also was very good, the highest price received being 15½d. per lb.

A statement of receipts and expenditure of the department and income and expenditure statements of the Point McLeay and Point Pearce Stations are appended.

We have the honour to be,

Sir.

Your Excellency's most obedient servants,

M. McINTOSH,
J. B. CLELAND,
CONSTANCE M. COOKE,
A. M. JOHNSTON,
S. T. C. BEST,
CHARLES DUGUID,
LEN. J. COOK,

Aborigines Protection Board.

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE—ABORIGINES DEPARTMENT, YEAR ENDED 30th June, 1944.

RECEIPTS.	£	8.	. d.	£	8.	d.	Expenditure. £ s. c	ł. £	8.	đ.
Point Pearce Station—	0.004						Head Office—	•		
From sales of produce, etc	4,082	0) 9				Salaries			
Point McLeay Station—				10,746	7	8	ance, etc	6		
From sales of produce, etc							ical, dental and optical expenses,	-		
From store sales	3,726		3 11	6,334	3	4	transport, etc 6,149 5 Aborigines Home, North Adelaide . 95 8 1			
Refund of Flour Tax, advances for far				401	17	4	Training half-caste girls for domestic service	0		
Cost of aborigines to the South Aust ment for the 12 months ended 30th				18,494	7	0	Development of reserves for abori-			
							gines			
							Grant towards cost of improved			
							water supply at Colebrook Home, Quorn 200 0			
							1	9,24 0	9	11
							Point Pearce Station— Salaries and wages 6,138 13	R		
							Medical, dental and nursing allow-			
							ance, etc	0 6		
							New cottages 96 10	6		
							Purchases and expenses of store 3,910 2	13,637	3	11
							Point McLeay Station			
							Salaries and wages 5,152 3	1		
							Medical, dental and nursing allow- ance, etc	0		
							Implements, stock, fertilizers, etc 3,707 4 Rent of section, hundred of Baker 41 15	9		
							New cottages 66 12	0		
							Purchase of motor truck	0 6		
							Tarchases and expenses of societies byoth to	13,099	1	6
				£35,97	6 1	5 4		£35,976	15	4

1st September, 1944.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT MCLEAY STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1944.

To Balance—Excess of income over	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.	By Trading Store Assount	£ s.	d.			d. 2
expenditure, account trading							By Trading Store Account			310	17	Z
store				316	17	2	Station Accounts.					
							By Cattle	1,008 18	8			
Station Accounts.							Sheep					
To Farm expenses	_			730	18	4	Pigs	274 8	7			
Horses				92	6	3	_			2,000	4	6
Salaries			7				70 70 1 70 4 10					
Wages	2,303	4					By Balance—Excess of expenditure over					_
-				3,532		9	income—Station accounts			2,535	13	8
Head office salaries and expenses				106		2	Totalitudion Assessed					
RentHundred of Baker					15	9	Institution Accounts.					
Accident insurance	_			28	10	5	By Balance—Excess of expenditure over income			3,759	Λ	^
Depreciation—						0	income			3,709	U	9
Harness				4	0	6						
Institution Accounts.												
To Salaries	429	3	10				1					
Wages	1,240	17	0									
				1,670	0	10						
Head office salaries and expenses				106	6	2						
Accident insurance				14	5	3						
Medical, dental, and optical												
expenses				291		3						
Rations	_			446		0						
Institutional expenses				608		9						
School books and materials				19		7						
Firewood				592	16	6						
Hospital equipment				=	,	3						
Hospital furniture				5	1 13	2						
Acopivat tutinuare			_		10				_			
			c	8,611	16	1				£8,611	16	1

1st September, 1944.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT MoLEAY STATION AS AT 30th JUNE, 1944.

LIABILITIES.	£	8.	d.	Assets.	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.
H.M. Government Account				Station buildings	13,775	19	2			
H.M. Government Deposit Account				Cottages and hospital transferred from Pompoota	2,080	10	7			
Sundry creditors				New cottages	1,992					
				Land purchased				17,848 3,630		0
				Improvements				4,940	9	2
				Implements, vehicles, etc	_			1,825		
				Harness				76	7 15	9
				Hospital furniture	_			28	6	7
				Hospital equipment				31	7	2
				Cash on hand				195		7
				Sundry debtors	_			221	14	3
				Stocks on hand—						
				Store	806	0	6			
				Sheep	1,072		4			
				Cattle	1,022					
				Pigs	174 288		0			
				Farm stores, seed, super, fencing	200	U	U			
				material, etc.	766	18				
				Institution stores	251	18	8	4.381	10	5
				Excess of expenditure for the year-	_			4,0 01	10	Ŭ
				Station accounts	2,535					
				Institution accounts	3,759	0	9			
				_	6,294	14	5			
				Less excess of income over expenditure account Trading Store	316	17	2			
					5,977	17	3			
				Excess of expenditure over income brought forward, 1915-43	129,528	2	6			•
				-				135,505	19	<u>.</u>
	£168,775	19	l				:	£168,775	19	1

1st September, 1944.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 1944.

	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.	£ s, d, £ s.	d.
To Balance—Excess of income over expenditure—Account Trading							By Trading Store Account — 226 16 1	. 1
Store	_	-		226	16	11	Station Accounts.	
Station Accounts.							By Pigs	
To Salaries	1,123	10	8				Sheep 3,425 17 11	
Wages	2,657	19	8	3.781	10	4	Polones France of controliture area	в
Farm expenses	_	_		1,196			Balance—Excess of expenditure over income, station accounts 480 11 1	0
Accident insurance		-			19	8	Touristantian A	
Head office salaries and expenses	_	_		106 69	6 10	$\frac{2}{0}$	Institution Accounts. By Rent of school building 47 12	R
Depreciation—					•	Ŭ	Balance—Excess of expenditure	Ĭ
Implements, vehicles, etc	397		$\frac{6}{3}$				over income, Institution accounts — 4,102 18	5
Harness				409	8	9		
Institution accounts.								
To Salaries								
Wages	1,959	9	3	2,311	3	3		
Rations				621				
Accident insurance	_			20		-		
School books and materials	_	-			17	5		
Head office salaries and expenses . Medical, dental, and optical		_		106	6	2		
expenses	_	-		351				
Institutional expenses	-	_		659	4	7		
Depreciation— Hospital furniture	0	1	9					
Hospital equipment			8					
		_		. 1	1	5		
				£9,976	9	2	£9,978 9	2
								_

1st September, 1944.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

BALANCE-SHEET OF THE POINT PEARCE STATION AS AT 30th JUNE, 1944.

LIABILITIES.	£	8.	d.	Assets.	£	8.	d.	£	8.	d.
H.M. Government Account H.M. Government Deposit Account Capital Account	121,881 102 12,930	0		Station buildings	13,823 6,229			20,052	11	g
Sundry creditors	934			Improvements Implements, vehicles, etc. Harness. Hospital furniture Hospital equipment	10	5 19 1 3	9 4	9,937	9	11
				Cash on hand	=			45 234 184	2 6	1
				Store Farm stores, seed, super, fencing materials, etc. Sheep Cattle Pigs Horses Institution store Excess of expenditure over income for the year— Station accounts £480 11 Institution account 4,102 18	5	0 2 0 4 0	5 8 0	11,538	10	2
				Less excess of income over expenditure for the year. Trading Store . £226 16 1 Excess of expenditure over income brought forward, 1915-43	1 4,356 87,964					
				- Stought for ward, 1919-19				92,321	3	(
-	£135,848	7	10				4	£135,848	7	10

1st September, 1944.

W. R. PENHALL, Secretary, Aborigines Protection Board.

By AUTHORITY: K. M. STEVENSON, Government Printer, Adelaide.