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South



Australia.

REPORT

OF THE

PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1911.

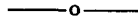


Adelaide:

R. E. E. ROGERS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, NORTH TERRACE.

1911.

REPORT.



Aborigines Office, Adelaide, September 16th, 1911.

Sir—I have the honor to submit for the information of the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, &c., the following report on the working of the Aborigines Department for the financial year ended June 30th, 1911, together with reports from the Sub-Protector of Aborigines for the Far North and the superintendents of mission stations.

The half-caste and quadroon children taken from the blacks' camps in the interior and placed under the care of the State Children's Department are doing well, and give promise of growing up useful members of the community. Recently a quadroon girl, about nine years of age, was taken from the vicinity of Stuart's Creek. She is almost white, and has scarcely a trace of aboriginal features. To have left her to the inevitable fate of all half-caste girls brought up in the blacks' camps in the interior would have been, to say the least of it, cruel. (See photograph attached.)

The half-castes and quadroons are steadily replacing the blacks, who are slowly but surely dying out, and if they are left in the camps it will not be long before we shall have a race of nearly white people living like the aborigines. There are now over 800 of them in the State, a few of whom are girls between the ages of four and 12 years living with the blacks in the interior. These should be removed for various reasons.

According to the census of 1901 the aboriginal population of the State was—

Blacks	3,386
Half-castes	502
Total	<u>3,888</u>

During the year there have been reported—

Births—Blacks, 11; half-castes, 28; total, 39
Deaths— “ 57 “ 11 “ 68

The 10 years 1901 to 1911 show a decrease of 622 blacks and an increase of 188 half-castes; but I have records showing that there are now 817 half-castes and quadroons, and I have no doubt but there are still over 4,000 full-blooded aborigines in the State. To obtain a reliable census of them is almost an impossibility, owing to their nomadic habits, especially in the Far North.

MISSION STATIONS.

Name of Station.	Total Number of Aborigines on June 30th, 1911.	Number of Children on June 30th, 1911.	Births during Year.	Deaths during Year.
Point McLeay	227	90	14	15
Point Pierce	178	35	8	1
Killalpaninna	112	26	2	10
Koonibba	114	40	3	2
Manunka	48	21	3	1
Total	679	212	30	29

The financial returns from these stations show—

	£	s.	d.
Voluntary subscriptions	888	16	6
Proceeds of produce sold	14,088	15	7
Wages paid to aborigines	3,391	9	1

CRIME RECORD FOR THE STATE.

The number of convicted aborigines for the year was—

For Drunkenness	32
“ Disorderly behavior	6
“ Breach of Birds’ Protection Act	1
“ Vagrancy	1
Total	40

And the number of persons convicted for supplying liquor to aborigines was 26.

The amount voted by Parliament for the year was £5,345, and the amount expended was—

	£	s.	d.
Rations, blankets, clothing, &c.	2,216	2	4
Grant-in-aid to Point McLeay Mission	1,500	0	0
Salary	270	0	0
Medical attendance, medicines, and medical comforts	102	18	6
Burial charges	22	7	6
Transport and agency charges	546	10	6
Telephone charges	4	8	10
Postage stamps and telegrams	14	10	0
Printing and stationery	6	13	0
Donation to Adelaide Hospital	10	10	0
Clerical services in Sub-Protector’s Office, Far North	12	0	0
Boats, guns, and repairs to same	5	10	0
Firewood for old and infirm	9	7	6
Sundries and travelling expenses	33	14	0
Windmill for Manunka Mission	97	6	6
Purchase of lease of land for Point McLeay, and rent	443	12	0
Law costs—Defending aborigines	1	1	0
Meals and beds provided for sick and destitute aborigines and neglected half-caste children	39	0	0
Balance to revenue	9	8	4

Total £5,345 0 0

Amount of recoup to revenue, £426 8s. 8d.

The quantity of stores, &c., issued during the year was as follows:—85 tons flour, 10 tons 10cwts. 1qr. sugar, 5,026lbs. tea, 2,999lbs. rice, 793lbs. tobacco, 1,823lbs. soap, 168 lbs. sago, 1,790 blankets, 499 shirts, 1,446yds. dress stuff, 252 tomahawks, 122lbs. netting twine, 1,240 fishhooks, 106 fishing lines, 1,100 needles, 8½lbs. thread, 16 American axes, 108 spoons, 12 quart pots, 417 pint and quart pannicans, 130 billycans, 6 tents, drugs, medicines, &c.

The health of the natives throughout the State has been good, and their conduct, as shown by the crime record, creditable.

NORTHERN TERRITORY.

Since the transfer of the Northern Territory to the Commonwealth on January 1st, 1911, the work of supplying the aborigines as far north as Powell's Creek with stores has been carried out by me, which has considerably added to my duties. This work was previously done by Mr. F. E. Benda then Secretary to the Hon. Minister controlling the Northern Territory. By request of the Hon. Minister for External Affairs I have forwarded to the depots between Charlotte Waters and Powell's Creek stores as follows:—22 tons 100lbs. flour, 2,870lbs. sugar, 696lbs. tea, 393lbs. rice, 222lbs. soap, 393 lbs. tobacco, 370 blankets, 120 tomahawks, 480 shirts, 302 yards dress stuff, 84 pairs mole trousers, 108 quart pannicans, 8lbs. thread, 1,200 needles, 12 billycans, 200 fishhooks, 576 clay pipes, and some medicines, which, when the accounts are all in, will cost the Commonwealth Government about £1,000.

W. G. SOUTH, Protector of Aborigines.

To the Hon. Commissioner of Public Works, &c., Adelaide.

FAR NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta, July 23rd, 1911.

Sir—In submitting my annual report upon the condition and general conduct of the aborigines in the Far Northern Division for the year ending June 30th, 1911, I have the honor to state that the general health of the aborigines has been good. The season being of a dry nature, the natives have been very free from colds or serious ailments generally compared with the previous year. Eleven aborigines were received at the local hospital for treatment, two succumbed, and nine were sent back to their country apparently cured. The diseases consisted of hydatids, consumption, pleurisy, ophthalmia, and liver trouble. The humane treatment and unremitting attention extended to the sick aborigines in the Port Augusta Hospital by Dr. Riddell and the nurses is worthy of special mention.

The general conduct of the aborigines has been good. No serious offences have been committed, and very few otherwise convicted for lesser offences. Two natives (male and

female) suffered death (one near Oodnadatta and the other at Blood's Creek) at the hands of their countrymen, owing to disputes, it is supposed, between different tribes, according to their tribal laws. One member of the attacking tribe was killed in revenge for the death of the lubra. It was deemed unwise to take any action to punish the ringleaders, as the deaths were considered a tribal affair. Last May an old lubra was supposed to have died from injuries received at the hands of a native boy at Mount Gason. The police at Mungeranic made every inquiry, but could not obtain sufficient evidence to sustain a charge against the suspected offender.

Fourteen persons were convicted for supplying liquor to the aborigines, and heavy fines were inflicted. The issuers of the various ration depots have all carried out their work in a satisfactory manner, and the natives have had no complaints to make.

The death roll was as follows:—Blacks, 12 males and 3 females, total 15; half-castes, one male and one female (an infant), total 2.

The natives, as a rule, receive every kindness and consideration from the Europeans; but one exception was recorded this year, when a mail contractor was fined £2 and costs for ill-treating a native boy in his employ. The information was laid by the police.

I have, &c.,

R. G. BIRT, M.C., 1st. C.,

pro Sub-Protector of Aborigines (absent on sick leave).

The Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

POINT McLEAY MISSION STATION.

August 30th, 1911.

Sir—I have the honor to submit this my annual report for the year ending June 30th, 1911.

The average number of resident natives was 227; last year it was 251; this is owing to a number going out to work and removing to other districts. Fifty additional natives came to the mission from outside for assistance, making a total of nearly 300 who are helped by the mission in various ways.

The births during the year were—blacks, 5; half-castes, 9; total, 14. The deaths during the year were—blacks, 7; half-castes, 8; total, 15. Marriages, 3.

The addition of 1,014 acres to our holding, owing to the Government having purchased "Baker's" block (now named "Wirrilda," which means "the place of wattles"), will be a boon to the natives, and we have lost no time in getting to work there, and have already cleared 220 acres of thick yacca preparatory to cultivating next season. We have also erected a mile of fencing on the land, keeping in view the preservation of the young sheoaks for future requirements; the cost of the work done on the block is £120, but it is well spent.

We had a good crop of hay on the home farm and harvested about 80 tons, which was a great benefit to our stock during the dry winter just passed.

Our stock consists of 1,600 sheep and lambs, 155 horned cattle, and 17 horses, all in good condition.

During the winter months we employed 20 natives at wood-cutting and clearing, which lessened our surplus labor; the winter is our worst time, as the natives are forced into the mission for assistance, which does not occur to the same extent during the summer.

The usual routine of work was carried out; the stables have been rebuilt, and the station greatly improved.

The State school, under Mr. Francis, did good work, gaining a percentage of 83 per cent. marks; and the numerous visitors to the mission during the year were pleased to see the work of the children.

Church, band of hope, endeavor, and Sunday school meetings have been held regularly, and were well attended.

The supply of firewood for the mission is a problem of the near future, for, as the settlers clear their land, the wood is fast disappearing, and soon, what was once a forest will be cultivated land.

We have received several visits during the year from the Protector of Aborigines (Mr. W. G. South), and his advice has been of much help in our work.

The blankets, rations, and stores sent by the Aborigines Department have come regularly, have been of good quality, and were a great assistance to the mission. The medical assistance and medicines also.

I believe the mission has been the means of saving the remnant of a race which, but for the kindly assistance given, would now be almost extinct, as far as the lower Murray and the lakes are concerned.

AMBROSE REDMAN, Superintendent.

To the Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

THE YORKE'S PENINSULA ABORIGINAL MISSION.

Point Pierce, August 18th (as June 30th), 1911.

Sir—I have the honor to forward to you the following report for the year ending June 30th, 1911:—

The number of natives on the station is 178, of whom 19 are full blacks.

Births, 8; death, 1; marriages, nil. Number of children in day-school, 35.

The past season has again been favorable for agricultural and pastoral operations. In addition to providing seed, the crops produced 4,842 bags of wheat, 373 bags of oats, 674 bags of barley, and 100 tons of hay. Our wool clip totalled 176 bales. Live stock figures are as follows:—Sheep, 5,400; horses, 47; cattle, 51; pigs, 37.

In addition to work connected with above operations, another underground tank has been built on Wardang Island, capacity about 20,000galls. A new fence has also been erected across the island from sea to sea, cutting off from stock extensive sand drifts. The drifting portion has been largely planted with Marram grass, barley, rye, sheoaks, &c. Another windmill has also been erected on the island. Substantial jetties have been constructed on mainland and island; these have been much needed for many years. A motor launch has been purchased for island work, and has proved most useful in more effective working of this portion of station. Seven huts have been constructed in different parts of station for agricultural work some miles from mission village.

Religious services and Sunday school have been regularly held and well attended. The social side of mission life has been catered for; band of hope entertainments, &c., have been given.

I have, &c.,

S. R. PAGE, Hon. Secretary Y.P.A. Mission Trustees.
The Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

KILLALPANINNA MISSION STATION (COOPER'S CREEK).

Sir—The year ending June 30th, 1911, was a rather trying one in several respects, although not quite without softening features. On January 15th, nine adult natives and two children were received as members into the church through the sacrament of holy baptism. One of them was a half-caste young woman, who had been sent to the station with her quarter-caste child (quadroon) by the police some years ago. She is married now to one of the Christians of the station and mother of two more children. Instructions for baptism had been started with 17 candidates, but eight of them had to be put back, proving not able to learn, and showing no sincere inclination to give up heathenish customs.

Divine services were regularly held and attended. The school work had its regular progress.

The number of natives on the station and in its vicinity averaged about 120. At present we have on the station itself, and on the three out-stations (Kopperamanna, Etadana, and Blazes Well), and on the run as shepherds, 112 natives. Of these, 98 are full-blooded natives, eight half-castes, one quarter-caste, and three quarter-blacks. There were two births, 10 deaths, and two marriages. Some left the station; a few old people sought refuge here, all friends having died or left the district. As we again got no flood in the Cooper the Killalpaninna Lake is getting dry; so the bush blacks cannot find fish at present, and many of them, caring for not much else than food and clothes, disappeared to "walk about" as they did from childhood.

The season was extremely bad. From June, 1910, to July, 1911, we had no rain worth mentioning, and the country became a real desert. Stock-travelling on the stock road to Hergott Springs was quite impossible, and the bore water was used almost only by our own cattle. It is supposed that we lost about 150 head. In July at last we got 1½ in. of rain.

The drought was a hindrance for all regular and necessary work. Some of the black men had to stay at Kopperamanna all the time over to pull cattle out of the bog of the bore water, and in most of the cases to kill them in order to prevent the wild dogs doing it.

A huge number of wild dogs was killed by the natives. Only from November 22nd, 1910, to August 21st, 1911, I paid for 1,148 scalps.

The health of the natives has not been very good. Several times when a cool change set in all the natives, with no exception, had severe colds, and once during last winter we had nine deaths within four weeks; eight of them were old people. Outsiders scarcely can imagine how they, especially the older ones, behave in time of illness, and what sorts and numbers of objections they have against rational medical treatment. If they die off at that rate—and a good many look very weak and infirm—we shall in a few years time only have left the younger people.

Again, one was sent to the hospital at Port Augusta for medical treatment; he returned cured.

I have, &c.,

W. RIEDEL, Superintendent.

The Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

KOONIBBA.

August 22nd, 1911.

Sir—I have the honor to report a successful year among the natives of this mission station.

The number of natives averaged 114, of whom 38 are half-castes and six three-quarter blacks. For the year ending June 30th, 1911, the births were three, deaths two, marriages one.

The church work has gone on steadily. Religious services were regularly conducted and well attended.

There are 40 children in the day school. The attendance is very good, and the result creditable both to teacher and scholars.

The general health of the natives at the mission has been good. I must, however, call the Government's attention to the fact that the venereal diseases are very prevalent among aborigines who are continually loitering in and around the townships. Everyone who has the future welfare especially of our white young men on the West Coast, and the welfare of the natives, at heart does earnestly hope that our lawmakers will realise that something must be done as speedily as possible

for the better protection of the natives and half-castes to prevent the spreading of this loathsome disease, and to check the increase of half-castes.

Our natives have behaved well; of course there are some exceptions. A number of unscrupulous whites have caused some trouble in supplying natives with intoxicating liquor. Several of the offenders have been convicted and fined.

The financial return for the year ending December 31st, 1910, shows that the produce raised on the mission land amounted to over £1,200. Last season we reaped off 850 acres 3,554 bags of wheat and about 50 tons of hay. During the year 1910 over £620 were paid in wages to our natives and free board; the scrub-cutters received no free board.

Last winter we cleared 572 acres of mallee scrub; this winter 700 acres are already cleared. We pay our men 7s. to 7s. 6d. per acre.

All our men have worked satisfactorily under the able and faithful supervision of our manager and his assistant. We experience no difficulty in finding suitable employment for the men. Our Committee has been successful in securing a second manager, who will take up his new duties at the beginning of next year.

Little over 1,500 acres are under crop. Sufficient rains have fallen up to August 22nd, and a successful year is hoped for.

Two large rooms for the girls have been built; three new tanks, holding in all 135,000galls., have been completed; and three up-to-date rooms for the boys will be built shortly.

We still experience great difficulty in obtaining an adequate water supply for the mission. It is, however, necessary to have a reliable and permanent water supply in order to develop the resources of our land and thus keep the natives in the necessities of life. At present we are sinking another well, but have again struck salt water at a depth of 43 ft. We hope that the Government will come to our aid and put one or two bores down on the mission land.

I regret to say that the majority of our natives and half-castes show no disposition to make homes for themselves; they prefer the camp life. Others have asked the mission to build a house for their families; but themselves they prefer to remain in the employment of neighboring farmers.

Our stock consists of 28 horses and 55 cattle.

The superintendent and his staff have worked harmoniously together for the common good of the aborigines.

The stores, blankets, &c., supplied by your department have been of good quality, and we heartily thank you for the same.

We trust that God will continue to bestow His blessing upon our small efforts to do good as in the past.

I have, &c.,

C. A. WIEBUSCH, Superintendent.

The Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

PLATES