

South



Australia.

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# REPORT

OF THE

# PROTECTOR OF ABORIGINES

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1912.



**Adelaide:**

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

1912.

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# REPORT.

Aborigines Office, Adelaide, August 30th, 1912.

Sir—I have the honor to submit the following Report of the working of the Aborigines Department for the financial year ended June 30th, 1912 :—

The Aborigines Act, No. 1048, came into force in December last, and it is hoped that it will be of great benefit in protecting and controlling the aborigines. Under its provisions the camps which existed about the city have been broken up, and the old, disreputable natives transferred to Point McLeay, where they are well-provided for by the department, and are much better off and happier than while begging and drinking about the city.

The passing of the Act, if much good is to follow, will necessitate a complete change of the control of the aborigines. This matter has been dealt with in a separate report—copy attached.

The half-caste and quadroon children rescued from the aborigines' camps and placed under the control of the State Children's Department are doing well, and have apparently forgotten their former wretched surroundings. They give promise of developing into useful members of the community instead of growing up vagrants, and are spoken highly of in the report of the State Children's Department. (See extract appended).

I think the good work of rescue should be vigorously continued, especially in regard to the young girls. I have already dealt with this matter in three previous annual reports and several others.

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

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

During the year there have been reported—

Births—Blacks, 16 ; half-castes, 30 ; total, 46
Deaths— “ 60 “ 11 “ 71

The 11 years, 1901 to 1912, show a decrease of 666 blacks and an increase of 207 half-castes, but my records show there are now 836 half-castes and quadroons, and I estimate that there are still about 4,000 full blacks in the State. It is impossible to obtain a reliable census of them, especially in the interior.

## MISSION STATIONS.

Name of Station.	Total Number of Aborigines on June 30th, 1912.	Number of Children June 30th, 1912.	Births during Year.	Deaths during Year.
Point McLeay .....	349	136	14	16
Point Pierce .....	184	83	9	4
Killalpaninna .....	98	23	2	8
Koonibba .....	99	48	7	4
Total .....	730	390	32	32

The financial returns from these stations show :—

	£	s.	d.
Voluntary subscriptions .....	1,366	8	7
Proceeds of produce sold .....	10,343	6	11
Wages paid to aborigines .....	3,475	18	7

## CRIME RECORD FOR THE STATE.

The number of convicted aborigines for the year was :—

For Drunkenness .....	35
“ Vagrancy .....	3
“ Riotous and indecent behaviour .....	5
“ Resisting police .....	2
“ Larceny .....	1
“ Lunacy .....	2
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	48

And the number of persons convicted for supplying liquor to aborigines was 15.

The amount voted by Parliament for the year was £5,756, and the amount expended was—

	£	s.	d.
Rations, blankets, clothing, &c. ....	2,328	6	2
Grants-in-aid to Point McLeay Mission .....	2,128	16	11
Salaries .....	342	9	4
Medical attendance, medicines, and medical comforts .....	103	5	8
Burial charges .....	42	17	0
Transport and agency charges .....	570	15	0
Telephone charges .....	4	19	9
Postage stamps and telegrams .....	9	10	0
Printing and stationery .....	22	2	9
Donation to Adelaide Hospital .....	10	10	0
Clerical services in Protector's Office, Far North	12	0	0
Boats, guns, and repairs to same .....	15	3	6
Firewood for old and infirm .....	7	19	0
Sundries and travelling expenses .....	44	1	1
Rent of lease of land for Point McLeay .....	43	12	0
Law costs—Defending aborigines .....	1	19	0
Meals and beds supplied to sick and destitute aborigines and neglected half-caste children	51	7	9
Balance to revenue .....	16	5	1
Total .....	£5,756	0	0

The amount of recoup to revenue, £403 4s. 6d.

The usual quantities of blankets, clothing, rations, and medical comforts have been sent to the various depôts.

The season has been a trying one in some parts of the north, owing to want of rain, which necessitated the sending of more rations than usual.

As time goes on the natives are becoming more dependent on Government help owing to the destruction of their natural food supplies by the advance of settlement, and a larger amount of money will be needed to carry on the department, especially if the half-caste and quadroons in the settled districts are not provided with a means of earning a living.

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY.

During the last two years the duty of caring for the aborigines of that part of the Northern Territory south of Powell's Creek has been thrown on me, and stores costing the Commonwealth Government about £1,000 have been sent out.

One aboriginal suffering from tertiary syphilis has been brought down and is still under treatment in the Adelaide Hospital; no doubt there are numbers of others suffering from the same complaint.

I have, &c.,

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

The Hon. Commissioner of Public Werks, Adelaide.

[*Extract from the Report of the State Children's Council.*]

“Early in the year the question of dealing with the neglected half-caste aboriginal children in various parts of the State became pressing, and after some considerable delay the Council succeeded in receiving one young girl from the usual degrading conditions of life in an aboriginal camp. She is now rapidly advancing in the usual public school curriculum. Her appearance has changed from the heavy, hopeless look with which she came to Adelaide to one of bright alertness, and promises to become a useful woman. The other children of this class previously cared for are also making good progress.

“It was with some degree of anxiety that the council undertook the work of training neglected half-caste aborigines, but the result has so far justified the course adopted, and has made the council the more anxious to proceed. Those taken are all doing well. One little fellow is the pet and joy of the whole family and of his schoolfellows. One girl who came to the department a rough, uncouth, heavy child,

is now a bright, intelligent-looking girl, who is rapidly assimilating the rudiments of an education. If she goes on as at present she will become a clever woman. Another young child who, when first received, was painfully emaciated and shy, is now a happy little girl and a favorite with her playmates."

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Aborigines Office, Adelaide, July 23rd, 1912.

Sir—I have the honor to submit the following Report and suggestions for the future working of the Aborigines Department:—

For some years I have been making a close study of the present system which has been in operation for a great number of years, and have come to the conclusion that the divided control of the aborigines, between the Department and the Mission, is most unsatisfactory, especially since the Aborigines Act has become law.

The natives on Point Pierce and Point McLeay, who are now chiefly half-castes, are very discontented, and are constantly asking me to do what I can to induce the Government to take over the control of these stations and work them as industrial institutions for the able-bodied ones and as homes for the old and infirm.

At Point Pierce there are 17,298 acres of Government land, which I value at over £60,000. The natives who frequent there number about 160, nearly all half-castes and quadroons.

At Point McLeay there are 5,513½ acres of land, worth about £15,500, and the natives who frequent there number about 340, 75 per cent. of whom are half-castes and quadroons.

On these stations the natives have been maintained in partial idleness, especially on Point McLeay, which unfits them for any employment; and, as they know they can live at the stations without much exertion, the majority of them turn out idle, useless people. The children, after passing through the schools, are allowed to grow up in comparative idleness, consequently they develop useless, lazy habits. Nothing else could be expected of them. White children brought up under similar conditions would turn out but little better.

If the stations were under Government control this could be altered, as the system of giving rations and clothing for nothing, as far as the able-bodied ones are concerned, would be discontinued and wages paid instead. The old and infirm should be better maintained than at present. The children could be apprenticed to useful trades, and, after serving their indentures, expected to maintain themselves off the stations.

I do not anticipate that the taking over of these stations would be more expensive than the present system, as at Point Pierce I estimate to raise produce worth at least £9,000 per annum, and at Point McLeay

a herd of 300 milking cows could be kept, which should produce cream worth about £2,500 per annum. Pigs and poultry also could be kept in large numbers, and would pay well.

In advocating the taking over of these two stations I am not moved so much by the desire of saving the taxpayers' money as by a wish to raise the constantly increasing number of half-castes, quadroons, and octoroons from the idle, thriftless habits of the black to the level of the white race. This I regard as most important, as in the settled districts the blacks are rapidly dying out and being replaced by a race of half-castes, quadroons, and octoroons, who in turn must inevitably be merged in the general population. It is therefore desirable that nothing should be left undone that will help to convert these people into useful members of the community instead of allowing them to grow up dependants.

If the half-castes are given a fair chance I have great hopes of them ; but so long as they are reared as hitherto there is no hope of their rising much above the level of the ordinary aboriginal.

The system of working which I propose for the future is as follows :—

1. To resume the lands comprising Point Pierce and Point McLeay and convert them into two aboriginal industrial institutions.
2. Provide shelter, food, and clothing for the old and infirm on a reasonable scale, so that these old people shall be made comfortable and happy for the remainder of their days.
3. Abolish the charity system of rations, clothing, &c., as far as the able-bodied natives are concerned.
4. Classify the able-bodied natives and half-castes and pay them wages in proportion to the number of their dependents, so that they can live decently on the stations if they elect to do so, giving them the right to seek outside employment.
5. Pay the young single men and women such wages as will simply keep them, but much less than they can earn elsewhere. which will encourage them to seek outside employment and thus become self-supporting. There is plenty of employment for them if they like to take it, but while they can live at ease on the Mission they will not do so.
6. As soon as the children leave school provide them with employment, either on the stations or apprentice them to suitable trades, so that they can support themselves when grown up, after which they should not be allowed the right of employment on the stations.
7. Establish a Lock Hospital, as provided for in the Act, on Wardang Island (now part of Point Pierce), where all natives suffering from loathsome, communicable diseases

could be isolated and treated. All buildings could be of galvanized iron, and a doctor could visit it regularly, say twice a week, and have private practice on the mainland, which would be much cheaper than having a resident medical officer. The Lock Hospital is urgently required, as there are numerous cases of venereal disease all over the State.

8. The Act provides for the allotment of land to aborigines and supplying them with stock and implements.

In carrying out these provisions great care will need to be exercised, as but few of the natives are, owing to their bringing up, capable of managing a farm on their own account. Many of them require training first. This could be done on the station under Government control, and they could then be gradually settled on blocks.

9. I would suggest that the £1,000 and all special grants-in-aid to the Aborigines' Friends' Association, Incorporated, be reduced to £250 per annum, and that a similar grant of £250 be made to the Yorke's Peninsula Society, together with the free use of the church buildings and a residence for the missionary on each station.

These grants to be made conditionally on the societies handing over the stations, say, on the 1st day of January next, with all assets and liabilities, to the department.

10. I would suggest that the present so-called superintendents at Point McLeay and Point Pierce be continued in office and appointed superintendents under the Act. I do this as I fully recognise their ability and experience which will greatly facilitate the effective carrying out of the scheme.

If the above scheme is adopted I feel sure that it will soon solve the aboriginal problem, which is yearly becoming more difficult and expensive, as will be seen by the annexed statement of the grants-in-aid to Point McLeay, to which may be added quite £500 per annum for stores, medical attendance, transport charges, and assistance to aborigines and half-castes living in the district.

In conclusion, I wish to say that I fully recognise the kindly and good work done by the Missions during past years, and have no wish to prevent them still carrying on the spiritual work on the stations and elsewhere, and every facility and encouragement should be afforded them for so doing, but I consider it the duty of the department to provide for the maintenance of the old, and the industrial upbringing and training of the young natives and half-castes, as is done in New South Wales and Victoria. These States have long ago taken over the work, and the stations are Government institutions.

I have, &c.,

W. G. SOUTH, Chief Protector of Aborigines.

Statement showing amounts paid in Grants-in-aid to Point McLeay Mission between January, 1859, and June, 1912 :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
From January, 1859, to June, 1876, at £500 per annum .....	8,500	0	0			
Special grant in 1875 .....	700	0	0			
	<hr/>			9,200	0	0
July, 1876, to June 1912, at £1,000 per annum ..	36,000	0	0			
Special grant in 1907-8 .....	500	0	0			
“ “ 1910-11 .....	500	0	0			
“ “ 1911-12 .....	1,128	16	11			
Purchase of lease, land hun. Baker, and rent in 1910-11 .....	443	12	0			
Rent of same for 1911-12 .....	43	12	0			
	<hr/>			38,616	0	11
				£47,816	0	11
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N.B.—In addition to the above the Point McLeay Mission has cost the department over £350 per annum in the shape of stores, transport charges, medical expenses, burials, boats, guns, &c. During the three years ended June 30th, 1912, these things have cost an average of £500 per annum. During the last few years the school has been under the Education Department at an annual cost of about £170.

July 23rd, 1912.

W. G. SOUTH, C.P.A.

### FAR NORTHERN DISTRICT.

Police Inspector's Office, Port Augusta, July 18th, 1912.

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, 1912, I have the honor to state that the health of the aborigines has been generally good. Special inquiries have been made from all the issuers of ration depôts regarding venereal diseases that may exist amongst the different tribes, and I find a few cases of this complaint exists, viz. :—Three at Hergott Springs and three in the Mungeranie district; also there are three natives suffering from cancer in this district, and one in the Hergott district from the same complaint. There are three consumptives at Mungeranie and two at Hergott Springs; also two cases of syphilis at Oodnadatta (a male and a female), but both patients are receiving treatment from Doctor Kennedy. With the exception of cases mentioned the natives are reported to be in good health, except for a few colds.

The brutal operation of subincision is still performed in the outlying districts, but the police have been instructed to take immediate action where any native is subjected to this operation against his will and desires the protection of the law.



The spirit of gambling is reported to be coming very strong amongst the civilised natives, who often spend most of their time in their camps gambling amongst themselves.

The general conduct of the aborigines has been good ; no serious offences have been committed.

Ten persons were convicted for supplying liquor to the aborigines and fined sums varying from 20s. to £7 10s. and costs. It would be of great assistance to the police in keeping down this class of offence if an amendment to the Licensing Act of 1908 could be passed making it punishable for dealers in liquor or colonial wines to have aborigines upon their premises.

The deaths reported for the past year are as follows :—

Blacks .....	11 (Five males and six female. Senile decay, natural causes, consumption, and tetanus)
Half-castes .....	0
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	11
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The births reported are as follows :—

Blacks .....	2 (females)
Half-castes .....	1 (male)
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	3
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Owing to the season being so dry, and natural food being so scarce, most of the natives have been depending largely upon the ration depôts for subsistence.

The natives have received every kindness and attention from the issuers, and have no complaints to make.

Two aborigines, a male and a female, suffering from lunacy, were committed to the Parkside Asylum during the year.

The petty offences committed for the year are as follows :—

For drunkenness .....	18
“ Idle and disorderly .....	1
“ Indecent language .....	1
“ Petty larceny .....	1
“ Resisting police .....	1
“ Riotous behavior .....	2
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Total.....	24
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I have, &c.,

THOS. CLODE, Protector.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

## POINT McLEAY MISSION.

Point McLeay, South Australia.

Sir—I have the honor to submit my Annual Report for the year ending June 30th, 1912 :—

The average number of resident natives was 269. There are also about 80 natives who live on the Coorong and on the Murray, who receive rations from this depôt, making a total of 349 natives receiving help from the Mission in various ways.

The health of the natives has been only fair, there having been many serious cases and several cases of paralysis. Some of the old identities have passed away. Peter Campbell, one of the first Christian converts, died during the year from paralysis.

Number of births during the year were—blacks, 6 ; half-castes, 8 ; total, 14 ; and deaths—blacks, 10 ; half-castes, 6 ; total, 16. Marriages, 7.

A crop of hay was cultivated on the share system with a settler, about 100 acres. This did not supply us with quite sufficient hay for our needs.

Our stock consists of 800 sheep (last year 1,600), 133 horned cattle (last year 155), 17 horses (last year 17).

We have had a large number of workers here during the year and it has been difficult to find employment for all.

We have placed three girls in good situations, and I am glad to say they are giving satisfaction.

*Improvements.*—The farm manager's house has been re-built, a skin shed erected, and a new well sunk, with a good supply of water. The prickly pear and boxthorn hedges have been partially trimmed.

The State school, under Mr. Francis, continues to do good work. The school was examined by the late Inspector Sullivan : 36 children on the roll, 29 examined, 26 promoted. The school gained over 80 per cent., and was classified as "very good." At present there are 39 natives and 5 white children, total 44. The 1912 exam. should take place in August. The same result as last year is not expected, owing, first to the teacher's illness and consequent absence from duty ; secondly because of the large influx of new children during the last six months.

The church meetings and services have been well-sustained.

We have been again assisted by the kindly advice of the Chief Protector at his various visits during the year.

The blankets, rations, stores, and medicines have been regularly supplied by the department, and are of good quality.

DAVID ROPER, Superintendent.

To the Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.

**THE YORKE'S PENINSULA ABORIGINAL MISSION,  
INCORPORATED.**

Point Pierce, August 10th, 1912.

Sir—I have the honor to forward to you the following Report for the year ending June 30th, 1912 :—

The number of natives on the Mission is 184, of whom 19 are full blacks.

Births, 9 ; deaths, 4 ; marriages, nil. Number of children in day school is 36. There was an epidemic of measles amongst the children, prevailing for about three months, with, however, only one fatal result, a baby.

The results of our agricultural operations were as follows, after allowing seed for this season's requirements :—4,971 bags of wheat, 371 bags of oats, 435 bags of barley, 150 tons of hay. All land on mainland suitable for agriculture has now been cleared and cultivated in rotation, except that as far as possible some scrub and trees have been left as a shelter for stock, &c., in each paddock, with the result that the carrying capacity of the land has been considerably increased. Our wool clip totalled 125 bales. Live stock figures are as follows :—Sheep, 5,011 ; horses, 50 ; cattle, 46 ; pigs, 25.

The season has been dry, and consequently feed for stock has been much below the average of recent years. Advantage was taken of the dry season by having our dams cleaned out, and in some cases deepened. Our reticulation plant for carrying water from wells has been taxed to its utmost capacity, and has proved of immense benefit.

Many of our fences have been renewed and new lines of fences erected, increasing the number of our paddocks, which will prove a great help both in cultivation and grazing. The fence erected on Wardang Island shutting off stock from southern portion, with the object of reclaiming same from drifting, is proving effective. Hundreds of young sheoak trees are now growing there, and the marram, rye, and other grasses planted, combined with native grasses, are all helping in the work of recovery of about 3,000 acres of land.

Religious services and Sunday school have been regularly held and well-attended. Every effort has been made to prevent natives from obtaining intoxicants during their visits to neighboring townships for both cricket and football matches. There has been a marked improvement in the conduct of the natives in this respect in consequence.

FRANCIS GARNETT, Superintendent.

The Chief Protector of Aborigines, Adelaide.