

The Aboriginal History Project Newspaper Archive

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WOMAN FROM CENTRE PRAISES ABO. REPORT

Widow of Police Officer DOES NOT THINK NATIVES CAN GOVERN THEMSELVES

Mrs Robert Stott, widow of the late Sergeant Stott, who before his death last year, was stationed at Alice Springs, in charge of the Central Australian police district for many years, expressed general approval today of the report of the Queensland Protector of Aborigines (Mr Bleakley), which was tabled in the House of Representatives yesterday. The report dealt with the status and conditions of living of half-castes and aborigines.

While she was at Alice Springs Mrs Stott had plenty of time to study the position and needs of the natives. She nursed many of them before the Australian Inland Mission hospital was founded at Alice Springs.

Mrs Stott said that she had gained the impression that Mr Bleakley had done his work very thoroughly and very well. The proposed segregation of all wandering natives was an excellent idea, as also was the recommendation for the establishment of native cattle stations and the compulsory education of half-caste children.

She agreed that regular inspection for bush blacks was necessary. She did not think that the natives would ever be able to govern themselves, and to that extent she disagreed with the section of Mr Bleakley's report dealing with a native state for the aborigines, with ultimate self-government under a native administrator.

STANDARD TOO LOW

She did not think that their standard of mentality would permit them to govern themselves.

It was most important that the right men should be sent to fill Government positions in Central Australia.

Considerable tact was required in handling the natives. If the right sort of man was on the job the use of force was very seldom required. Regarding Mr Bleakley's recommendation that married men should be appointed police protectors, preferably men with some experience in nursing, Mrs Stott said that a great deal would depend on the type of woman who went to Central Australia with her husband. Not a great many women were fitted to stand up to the work and make a success of life in this part of the Commonwealth.

Mrs Stott left for Adelaide today.