

## FINE WORK OF MISSIONS

# Special Offerings to Aid Aborigines

Noble work among aborigines will be supported tomorrow by special offerings in Churches of Christ throughout Australia.

The churches support two aborigine mission stations at Carnarvon and Norseman, Western Australia, besides subsidised work at Mooroopna and Fitzroy, Victoria.

The board responsible for leadership in this work has a policy to provide a home for orphan children, or those neglected or forsaken by their parents.

In these homes the children receive the best of care from a fine band of missionaries. They are given a good Christian training, and are educated until they can earn their living, either as farm hands or domestic helps, or in some other useful employment.

Farmers, in particular, have shown a great interest in this after-care; they have highly praised many of the children, who have become good workers.

Properties of the board, built over a period of 10 years, are valued at many thousands of pounds. This has been contributed not only by freewill offerings of church members, but by voluntary labor of many men of the West Australian churches, who have given up their annual leave.

The Federal Council of Churches has appointed the board to sit in Perth, because the largest number of native people is in W.A.

### Bad Conditions

The congregation of the Australian Church, Russell-street, last Sunday, passed a resolution expressing great concern at the conditions under which aborigines are living in Victoria.

The congregation urged the Government to provide proper living conditions for all aborigines, and special health services for the children, particularly those in country districts.

The resolution followed a report from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Australian section of which was founded by the late Dr. Strong, of that church.

church.

### No Shelter

The report, by a special committee of the league visiting some of the camps, said the rate of mortality among the families in East Gippsland area alone was attributable to exposure and malnutrition.

It stated winter accommodation is likely to be a disused shed in a sea of mud, or even a few sacks nailed up under a bridge over a river, with no real shelter or warmth, and no cooking or bathing facilities.

Some of the places visited were described in the report as follows:—

Three families, including 14 children, living in a large disused maize or pumpkin crib, the sides enclosed with old

bags and hessian, either torn or rotting . . . roof of bark and floor of earth . . . no facilities for washing or bathing.

Couple with five children living in galvanised iron shed . . . mother has T.B. . . . all cooking and washing done on open fireplaces . . . water to be carried half a mile, as there is no tank.

Several families living in disused dairy, with cement floor . . . young mother, aged 27, has had seven children, two of whom had died . . . she had cared for both parents till they died, also for her younger sisters and their families . . . she struggles on, worn out and bewildered.

### Other Work

Rev. A. Crookes Hull, State secretary of the Methodist Overseas Mission in West Australia, visiting Melbourne, tells how the church there has opened a large mission station, Magumba, 100 miles north of Perth, where it has 100 abo-

Magumba, 100 miles north of Perth, where it has 100 aboriginal mixed bloods, and hopes eventually to have a self-supporting Christian co-operative settlement for the natives.

Here, also, is the only native creche in the State. And, in the hospital, the mis-

sion cares for some old and incapacitated natives.

Superintendent is Rev. E. A. Clarke, who was 24 years in the Pacific, and led a pioneer party to the Highlands of New Guinea to establish a mission.

Rev. T. J. Fleming, missionary in charge of the Baptist aboriginal mission at Yuendumu, N.T., in Victoria on deputation work, and will preach at Newport tomorrow morning and Sandringham in the evening.

He will be showing throughout Victoria a new colored movie film, *In the Wake of the Wallbri*, an aboriginal tribe in the Yuendumu area.

The annual conference of the World Council of Churches (Australian section) will be held at Gilbulla, near Sydney, from February 11 to 14.



**DODOO and MERVINE, members of the 1st Ooldea Coy. Boys' Scout Brigade, South Australia. It is obvious these children well repay the care given them.**