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OUR AIM

April 16, 1942

BALAKLAVA.

A home for Northern Territory Aborigines in South Australia.

The Native Affairs Branch of the Northern Territory have with great solicitude sought to provide for the half-caste population of the Territory. Many of these are very dark; they are really the Aborigines who live largely as white people and could not now subsist in the bush.

Mr. Chinnery, Administrator of Native Affairs, arranged to meet the Director in Sydney and expressed his desire that the A.I.M. should continue their work amongst those of the people who came from their stations, and her visit to Adelaide was in connection with this.

Mr. Penhall, of the South Australian Aboriginal Department, co-operated with Mr. Chinnery, and they were successful in securing the racecourse at Balaklava, 67 miles North of Adelaide, for the housing and care of the evacuated dark people. Mr. Penhall, too, was gratified that we were prepared to continue our work as Missionaries at Balaklava.

We have been deeply thankful for the whole-hearted care of these gentlemen in authority for the Native people. No detail seems to be overlooked by them in their own personal service for the welfare of these people dependent upon them. The same can be said of Mr. White, the Deputy Administrator in the Territory, and the other members of the staff.

Miss Shankelton and Miss Law are now at Balaklava and Miss Shankelton writes:

"Mr. Penhall rang me on Monday morning and asked me to call at the office, and asked if I would come to Balaklava. He also said he was ringing Mrs. Sweeney to see if she would be willing to come also. I went into the office and he explained that over 100 people arrived from Katherine on Saturday afternoon and, having nowhere to place them, he brought them out to Balaklava and the V.S.D. looked after them over the week-end. They were just wonderful in their service, in fact, all the local people responded well, supplying every need.

Then Mr. Penhall had word of another 67 half-caste people coming through that day, and arranged for them to change at Hamley Bridge and be picked up by Tuesday's train and brought on to Balaklava.

After talking it all over, it was arranged that Miss Law and I come on with Mrs. Sweeney on

Tuesday morning. Oh, the thought of packing again when we had just got our things out! That was completely overshadowed by the desire of coming to our people again and by thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for so arranging things.

The staff building at the head of the ground is fenced off and is ideal for its present purpose. There are large buildings which will serve as dormitories. The refreshment rooms we are using for a dining-room—there are about half-a-dozen long trestle-tables and forms."

Mr. Chinnery says he would have no hesitation in handing over to our care and supervision all who count themselves "our people." The Methodists, the Church of England and the Roman Catholics are taking all who wish to go to them, and the centre will be for those who have no such care for them. Superintendents will be placed here by the Native Affairs Branch.

Miss Shankelton's and Miss Law's address will be—Balaklava Aboriginal Reserve, Balaklava, S.A.

Miss Law tells us of the delight of our people at seeing Miss Shankelton and herself, especially the children from Darwin. Both Missionaries speak highly of the great kindness of the townspeople and the tradesmen to these strangers who have come to their locality.