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PENSIONS FOR ABORIGINES

Beware the Hangers on!

Several aborigines are now in receipt of pensions at Boggabilla. The important thing is that these pensioners can live with the relatives on the Station and no longer have to leave the Station to live a sometimes unhappy and doubtful existence as in the past.

The pensions, as issued are—two old-age; one widow's and two for invalids. All these people have received a lump sum of arrears of about £60 and it is gratifying to note that without exception they have used their money wisely. Money spent went on such comforts as blankets and rugs for the winter. Also sheets and pillow slips were bought. Items of furniture including kitchen cabinets, tables and chairs, and a couple of inner spring mattresses were purchased. One pensioner secured a small battery radio for £9, and in these days such things are no longer a luxury, but a necessity.

As all of the people were at one time assisted and dependant on the Board for their welfare it has been necessary to point out to them that their future depends entirely on themselves. From years of having food and clothing doled out to them at regular intervals by the manager, they now have to think for themselves. Besides keeping themselves in food each week they should put a little money away for clothing, especially with regard to winter clothing, as they have to wear more of it and it is more expensive.

Unfortunately one pensioner, appears to be falling down on the job, or to be more truthful he is being dragged down by his poor type of no-hoper fellow men. The fact that he gets a regular cheque does not go unnoticed by these types, who batten on him on these occasions. Their behaviour has been noticed by the police so we hope that this will make the old fellow "wake up" to himself, as the saying goes.

However, if the old folk carry on as well as they have done so far, this kind of "independence" to do what they please with their allotment should be for the benefit of them all in matters of managing for themselves and self reliance.