

Native Affairs Branch,
DARWIN.

9th July, 1940. 3

Patrol Officer Strehlow

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES, NT REGION
CA 1070 ADMINISTRATOR, N.T. (11)
CRS F1 ITEM: 42/40

The Director of Native Affairs instructed me recently to complete an investigation into the Aboriginal Trust Account, with a view to abolishing the payment to Trust Account of the prescribed portion of wages by employers, and having such payment made direct to the employee.

My submission in this regard has been approved by the Director, and is appended for your information and favour of comment as to whether its import is applicable to conditions prevailing in Alice Springs.

In brief, it is considered that the Trust Account, as far as aboriginals employed in Town Districts are concerned, in most part creates work of a redundant and abortive nature, which would be eliminated if employers were required to pay the full amount of wage direct to the employee.

You have already been furnished with a circular memorandum instructing Protectors to discontinue the payment to Trust Account of wages due to Police trackers.

Attached also for your information is a copy of a memorandum to the Accountant, which introduces new procedure in the matter of payment of wages to Government employees. This submission has also been approved.

You will observe that it is not intended to abolish the Trust Account in toto.

It is the desire of the Director that this new procedure should be introduced at Alice Springs, but before submitting a definite recommendation to him I would request that you confer with the District Officer, the authorised Protector, and Sergeant Koop, and favour me with the result of your deliberations.

A draft Ordinance is being prepared to give effect to the proposed amendments as outlined in the Crown Law Officer's opinion contained in my memorandum above referred to.

V.J. White
(V.J. White)

Secretary, Native Affairs Branch.

VJW:ET

7
Copy for - The District Officer,
ALICE SPRINGS.



Native Affairs Branch,
DARWIN.

12th June, 1940.

The Government Secretary,
DARWIN.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES, NT REGION
CA 1070 ADMINISTRATOR, N.I. (11)
CRS F1
ITEM: 42/40

Aboriginal Trust Account.

Appendix I. describes the growth of the Account from 1.7.29 to date; Appendix II. indicates relevant sections of the Ordinance and Regulations thereunder; and Appendix III. outlines the history of the Account.

A summary of the operation of the Account was furnished in my memorandum of 18th May, 1940.

Aboriginal Trust Accounts operate at Darwin and Alice Springs respectively.

A recent thorough review of the Account from all conceivable aspects raises the question, whether any good purpose it may serve supports its retention in toto, or whether the cost of operation, and doubtful good and minimized benefits accruing from it - brought about by changed conditions amongst the aboriginal and half-caste population - call for modification or abolition of the whole system, including legislation relating thereto.

A discussion with my Director authorises me to inform you that drastic modification is indicated, especially in regard to the Account's ramifications as affecting the employment of aboriginals and half-castes (a) in town centres, (b) as Police trackers, (c) in Government departments, and, (d) in the pastoral industry.

It is considered that the reforms which will be recommended for your consideration and endorsement will neither act to the detriment of the native population, nor assail the spirit of protection designed by the Aboriginals Ordinance. On the other hand, it is thought that a cumbersome system of accounting, serving little or no practical protective good, will be virtually abolished, with a consequent reduction in expenditure on staff, and that the Branch will be relieved of an irritation, caused by employer and employee alike, which has hitherto severely impeded efficiency and progress.

The objects which the creators of the Account sought to achieve in its early history are somewhat obscure. It would appear that the payment to the Trust Fund by employers of a proportion of wages payable to aboriginals and half-castes was regarded as a measure to protect "myall" and unsophisticated employees from exploitation. It could be said that the Fund afforded this protection in the past, especially when the supply of native labour exceeded the demand - a situation which enabled an unscrupulous employer to readily dispense with the services of an employee who demured at either being underpaid or not at all.

During the first years of the Fund's operation, half-caste and native education was in the embryo stage, and Government institutions, with inadequate facilities, were regarded

simply as recruiting camps for ignorant native labourers. Unrestricted migration of bush aboriginals was also permitted. All these factors tended to make the employee a fit subject for exploitation.

A comparison of these conditions with those existing now reveals a marked change, which nullifies, in most part, present policy as a protective measure. Education, a keener knowledge of the value of money, long and continued contact with civilization, and an acute shortage of native labour are the most outstanding causes of this speedy transition.

Practically all natives, whether employed or not, who reside in town centres are now detribalized and sophisticated. They are also keenly aware of their economic worth. In fact, they have displayed a tendency to assert themselves in an endeavour to obtain higher wages from their employers, who, in many cases, have acceded to their demands, to retain their services.

The native labouring class is diminishing in Darwin, whilst employers are increasing. In consequence, the status of the employee has improved, and he experiences little difficulty in obtaining employment, oftentimes at rates higher than that prescribed by regulation, which is only a minimum rate (see Regulation 21).

It follows then that a native would not work for less than the stipulated rate. His continued close contact with European mode of life has produced a keen appreciation of amenities, such as the cinema, ice cream, better clothing, objects of adornment, and cosmetics to aid his conception of hygiene, etc. Even the most conservative mind could not term these purchases - so essential to the modern native life - as extravagant.

The wage required to be paid direct to the native by an employer is insufficient for his immediate needs, and he becomes dependent upon the Trust Account to meet the deficiency. In consequence, employees make continual application for withdrawals, and display displeasure should their requests be refused. Oftentimes moneys paid to Trust by employers are withdrawn by employees immediately after collection. An analysis of transactions in town centres confirms this statement.

As a compulsory savings measure the fund, as far as town centres are concerned, has proved ineffective. Protectors endeavour to impress upon employees the wisdom of saving, but resentment is the usual reaction to such advice.

Diverse opinions have been expressed as to whether the authorized Protector should refuse applications for withdrawals. In recent years the accumulation of a credit of £2.0.0. was observed to ensure that employees could purchase food, ect, for their annual "walk-about". These "walk-about", however, are comparatively infrequent now, as the towns, with their attractions, are deemed more preferable to the hardships of bush life.

No provision exists in the Ordinance to compel an aboriginal to accumulate credits, neither is a Protector authorised to refuse an applications for the withdrawal of a reasonable amount.

Responsibilities of a Protector can be summarized thus :-

- (a) To protect an aboriginal against imposition and fraud - Section 5 (f)
- (b) to ... expenditure from moneys paid to Trust - ... (6) .

Considerable difficulties beset the application of these safeguards in reference to moneys handled by aboriginals, whether such sums be paid direct to him by the employer or through the Trust account.

It would be impossible for this Branch to supervise the expending of cash by natives in Darwin, unless they were compelled to trade solely with the Government store, which has been deemed in the past as interference with private enterprise.

The accumulation of considerable credits, enabling an aboriginal to withdraw amounts such as £2. or more, enhances the possibility of his being exploited by unscrupulous merchants, where as, if he were permitted to expend his weekly wage of 5s., such an opportunity would be lessened, for reasons that he has a sense of value in respect of small amounts, and an appreciation of their purchasing power of essentials indicated previously in this submission.

Again, the withdrawal of comparatively large amounts, whether by cash or order, tends towards extravagant buying of non-essential items.

These observations are intended to apply, in most part, to aboriginals employed in town centres. Those employed in rural districts handle little or no cash.

An analysis of the 1,200 accounts in the Aboriginal Trust Account reveals the following information:-

964.	have a credit of under £5.
95.	" " " " over £5. and under £10.
79.	" " " " £10. " " £20.
46.	" " " " £20. " " £50.
16.	" " " " £50. "

Most aboriginals employed in town districts are represented in the group with credits under £5. The majority of natives with credits over £10. are employed in country districts.

This analysis seems to indicate that, as far as town centres are concerned, the Trust Account should be abolished.

Again, it could be advanced that, in certain cases, the Accounts acts to the detriment of the native, as illustrated by the number of creditbalances which have not been operated on for some considerable time. Factors contributing to the existence of these unexpended balances are :-

1. Refusal by Protectors to approve withdrawals until the amount of £2. has been accumulated, causing the aboriginal to leave his employment on the grounds that he could not obtain the money from the Bank.
2. Aboriginals leaving their employment without applying to the Trust Fund for withdrawall
3. Death of aboriginals.

Such balances would, in most cases, not have occurred had the aboriginal been permitted to receive his wages direct from the employer.

This submission is not intended as a recommendation that the Trust Fund should be abolished. It is considered that it should be permitted to function for the purpose of Section 43, and in respect of the employment of aboriginals in certain capacities in rural districts.

however; if the Director were empowered to dispense with the payment of proportion of wages to Trust in the case of employers in town districts, such authority would eliminate much of the abortive work at present being encountered in the operation of the Account.

In this connection I communicated with the Crown Law Officer as follows :-

" Employment of Aborigines and Female
Half-castes in Town Districts :
Payment of Wages.

Regulation 13 (b) of the Aborigines Regulation requires employers of aborigines or half-castes in town districts to pay a portion of an employee's wages to the Director of Native Affairs.

Forms 5 and 6 in the Schedule to these Regulations stipulate that wages so paid shall be held in trust by the Director for the employee - such provision being dictated by Section 29A (1) of the principal Ordinance.

It is now desired that the Director be authorised to require - if he thinks fit - the payment by the employer of the full amount of wages to the employee, thus obviating the payment of portion of wages to the Director to be held in trust for the employee.

This suggested amendment would, it is thought, require :-

The insertion of, after the word "pay", where first occurring in Regulation 13 (b), the words "if directed by the Director of Native Affairs".

The insertion of, after the word "pay", where first occurring in the final paragraph of Regulation 13 (b), the words "if directed by the Director of Native Affairs."

It is thought that Forms 5 and 6 would not require any amendment should it be determined that it would be permissible to delete therefrom the stipulation that sums are required to be paid to the Director or Protector in trust, etc.

This suggested amendment will not conflict with Section 29A (1) which provides that "The Chief Protector may direct an employer to pay to him such portion as is prescribed, etc."

On the other hand, the alteration of the Forms of Agreement by the deletion of certain passages thereon may conflict with the requirements of Regulations 11 (2) and 11 (3) and Section 26 (1), which might indicate that the forms at present on the Schedule are prescribed forms and do not permit of alteration.

However, Regulation 42 provides that strict compliance with such forms is not required, and substantial compliance shall suffice.

The Crown Law Officer's opinion was :-

" I have perused your memorandum of 7th June, 1940, relative to the proposed amendment of the Aboriginal

Regulations with a view to limiting the obligation on the part of the employer of paying to the Director a portion of the aboriginal's wages to such cases as the Director may require, and desire to state that in my opinion the proposal can be effected in the manner suggested, namely, by inserting after the word "shall" (first occurring) in paragraph (a) of Regulation 13, and after the word "shall" in the proviso to the same paragraph, the words "if required by the Director of Native Affairs."

I do not think that the prescribed forms referred to, namely Forms 5 and 6, need any amendment, as the latitude allowed by Regulation 42 would in my opinion permit of any alteration, consequential on the above amendment of the Regulations, being made.

I would, therefore, recommend that the suggested amendment be adopted and action taken to have it promulgated at the earliest possible opportunity.

If it is desired to reduce the work on the Account immediately, it is suggested that this Branch be advised to anticipate the approval of the suggested amendment, to enable employers to be informed early in the new financial year.

As stated previously, the cost of the operation of the Account is considerable, and such sum is likely to be increased if the Fund is permitted to continue.

In 1934-35 the staff on the Trust Fund comprised one permanent clerk (maximum salary £460.), assisted by a typist. This clerk was responsible only for the internal accounting. He had no connection with applications for labour, the issuing of licences, agreements, etc. Receipt during that year were approximately £4,500., and expenditure was £3,500., approximately.

In 1938-39, when one full-time clerk was employed, assisted by a machinist and a typist, credits amounted to £8,400., approximately, and expenditure to £7,500. approximately.

Figures for the present financial year - see Appendix 1. - represent a considerable increase on the transactions above quoted, and to efficiently conduct this Account it will be necessary to employ an experienced clerk and an assistant, and the part-time services of a typist.

The abolition of the collection of wages from employers in town districts will reduce the work on the Account by 90%.

The introduction of further contemplated reforms as regards the payment of wages to aboriginals employed by the Police, Government departments, etc. will enable the work to be carried out in conjunction with other duties. However, some little time must elapse before all outstanding matters are adjusted, and the services of a full-time clerk will be required until then.

Aboriginals employed in Rural Districts. The Director of Native Affairs has power to exempt an employer from paying wages to the Trust Account if the employer maintains the dependents of the employee. In consequence, very few accounts operate in respect of aboriginals employed in pastoral districts. Most of the more important Pastoral Companies, such as Bovril Estates, Alexandria, Brunette Downs and Alroy Station managements pay their natives direct.

In the absence of an efficient field Staff, little supervision can be exercised over the payment of wages to aboriginals employed in the buffalo-shooting industry, etc.

Half-castes employed in town centres. In recent years the influence of the Trust Fund has diminished as regards half-castes employed in Town Centres. Only a few female half-caste children come within its scope at the present time and even these persons derive no benefit from it. 42/40

The following factors have contributed to the change :-

- (1) by legislation empowering the Director of Native Affairs to exempt half-castes from the provisions of the Aborigines Ordinance.
- (2) by their admittance to the local industrial organizations;
- (3) by their closer contact, by marriage and other influences, with the European population;
- (4) by the diminishing number of half-castes in Government institutions;
- (5) by the increasing number of half-castes born in wedlock of half-caste mothers and fathers who enjoy citizenship rights in the town; and
- (6) by the educational facilities afforded half-castes, that is, their education in institution schools and in the public schools and convents at Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Pine Creek respectively.

The Regulations pertaining to wages as affecting half-castes are obsolete. As far as female half-castes are concerned, the regulation wage is regarded as ludicrous by the girls themselves. In the case of male half-castes, their money cannot be diverted from the Trust Account unless they are:-

- (a) half-caste apprentices, or
- (b) persons declared by the Director of Native Affairs as being capable of managing their own affairs.

At the present time it can be truthfully stated that, economically, the half-caste population of Darwin, because "boom" conditions are existing, enjoy the same conditions of employment as the European population.

Even in country districts, where a male half-caste attains the age of 21 years, he no longer comes under the control of the Department, thus rendering it illegal for the Director to interfere in his financial affairs. I quote the case of Stokes and Hayes at Alice Springs where, although there was moral justification for interference, such was quite illegal.

Thus the suggested amendment to the Aborigines Regulations will not affect the half-caste population in Town Districts.

The Director of Native Affairs will submit in the future a draft Native Labour Ordinance which will provide adequate supervision of employment and proper ameliorative measures for native labour.

Recommendations :

- (1) That the Trust Account be abolished insofar as the payment to it of proportion of wages of aboriginal and half-caste employees is concerned.
- (2) The Account to continue to function as a Suspense Account, for the purpose of Section 43 of the principal Ordinance and other allied causes.
- (3) All outstanding credit balances be diverted to the aborigines concerned.

Recommendations (continued)

- (4) All unclaimed credit balances be paid to an account similar to that operating in connection with unclaimed Commonwealth Savings Bank deposits.
- (5) All Commonwealth Savings Bank books be handed to the half-caste or aboriginal concerned. A modification of this recommendation will be necessary in the case of an aboriginal whose account exceeds £20.0.0
- (6) The Canteen be permitted to trade on a cash basis only at the Compound - its patronage by the aboriginals or half-castes being purely optional.
- (7) Present accrued profits (?) of Canteen be paid to Revenue.

APPENDIX 1.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES, NT REGION
CA 1070 ADMINISTRATOR, N.T. (II)
CRS F1 ITEM: 42/40

D A R W I N .

Financial year. 1929-30.

Credits	£ 1,868.15. 2
Debits	£ 1,456. 9.11

Financial year. 1934-35.

Credits	£ 4,522. 0. 0
Debits	£ 3,458. 5. 0

Financial year. 1938-39.

Credits	£ 8,365. 9. 0
Debits	£ 7,461.18. 5

Financial year. 1939-40.

Credits	£ 8,200. 0. 0
Debits	£ 11,000. 0. 0

-:-:-:-

HISTORY OF THE ACCOUNT.

As far as can be ascertained in this Office, the Treasurer approved of the establishment of a trust Account in October, 1915, the account being entitled Aborigines Trust Account, the purpose of which was defined as follows :-

For the purchase of food, clothes and other necessaries for the natives of the Northern Territory.

(See memorandum dated 18th October, 1915, from the Department of the Treasury.)

Subsequent history, culminating in the introduction of the present system, as provided for in legislation outlined in Appendix 11., is contained in memoranda as follow :-

From the Secretary, Department of the Interior, to the Secretary, Commonwealth Treasury - 19th August, 1933.

From the Acting-Secretary, Commonwealth Treasury, to the Secretary, Department of the Interior - 4th September, 1933.

From the Secretary, Department of the Interior, to the Secretary, Commonwealth Treasury - 4th October, 1933.

From the Secretary, Department of the Interior, to the Secretary, Attorney-General - 3rd October, 1933.

These memoranda were appended to a communication to the Chief Clerk and Accountant, Darwin, from the Chief Clerk, Department of the Interior, on 10th November, 1933.

Further important correspondence was contained in a memorandum dated 3rd August, 1934, from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, to His Honour, the Administrator, and a further memorandum from the Secretary to the Administrator, dated 22nd August, 1934, to which was appended the Solicitor-General's opinion on certain aspects of the Account.

A memorandum dated 17th September, 1934, received from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, by The Administrator, enclosing an opinion of the Secretary of the Treasury, dated 4th September, 1934, would appear to be the final decision on all previous representations, which, in effect, authorised the Director to operate the Trust Account in accordance with Section 29 (a) of the Ordinance.

On 10th October, 1934, the Acting-Account, Sub-Treasury, Darwin, notified the Chief Protector of the Transfer of moneys standing to the credit of the old Treasury trust account to the Commonwealth Savings Bank, Darwin, on account Trust Fund, Aborigines, Northern Territory. From that date, the authorised Protector was required to certify all expenditure from the Trust Account.

Prior to 10th October, 1934, all accounting was controlled by the Chief Clerk and Account, the Chief Protector

ABORIGINAL SAVINGS BANK TRUST ACCOUNT - ALICE SPRINGS.

RECONCILIATION AS AT 31st OCTOBER, 1948.

Balance as per Pass Book 31/10/48	2904 18 10
" " " Individual Pass Books 31/10/48	2617 0 8
Cash on hand	11 8 8

CHIEF CLERK'S OFFICE (ADMIN)
15 NOV 1948
DARWIN N.T.

£5433 8 8

Less Outstanding Cheques:

066941	2	0	0
993	12	8	0
067020	7	0	0
27	27	0	0
33	11	13	0
35		10	1
38	10	17	11
41	8	10	9
42	8	10	9
43	8	10	9
44	14	0	0
46	8	3	1
48	8	13	3
49	3	12	4
50	2	19	6
51	6	0	6
52			

129 14 11

£5303 11 3

Total Current Cards:

3364 5 11

Cards not operated on:

1900 2 8

Deceased Cards:

41 17 8

£5306 5 9

Less Deficiency - Cards in Debit:

2 14 6

£5303 11 3

The Accountant,
N.T. Administration,
DARWIN. N.T.

Copy for your information.

ACCOUNTANT
PLEASE NOTE AND SEND TO

Revised F & R/S.

J.R. Prewett
(J.R. Prewett),
Accounts Officer,

ALICE SPRINGS, 11th November 1948.

del 15/11. total 4. del 16/11.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
CRS: F 1 ITEM: 48/67

SUMMARY

ABORIGINALS TRUST ACCOUNT - ALICE SPRINGS.

RECONCILIATION AS AT 31ST OCTOBER, 1948.

	Dr.	Cr.
Cards in operation:	2 14 6	747 6 3
Cards Individual Pass Books:		2617 0 8
Total Current Cards:		<u>£3364 6 11</u>
Cards not operated on		1900 2 8
Deceased Cards:		41 17 2
	<u>£2 14 6</u>	<u>£5306 5 9</u>

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
CRS: P 1 ITEM: 48/67

ABORIGINALS SAVINGS BANK TRUST ACCOUNT - ALICE SPRINGS.

RECONCILIATION AS AT 31ST OCTOBER, 1948.

ABEY	A.2	14	0	0
ALEC OR ALEX	A.10		18	8
ALEC PEPPERELL	A.12	-	-	-
ALEC	A.14	1	0	0
ALEX	A.17	2	5	0
ABBOTT TED	A.18	9	12	0
ALEX	A.21	1	0	0
ARCHIE	A.23		12	6
ANNIE PEARCE	A.26	9	10	0
BARNY	B.3	3	16	0
BARNY	B.6	6	0	0
BILL (BILLY) RILEY	B.8	3	0	0
KING BILLY	B.29	4	15	0
BLUBY	B.37	3	0	0
BOB NO.1	B.39	1	10	0
BRUCE	B.47	6	5	0
BULLER	B.52	2	8	0
CHARLIE ALICE	C.4	4	1	10
CHARLIE	C.21	3	15	0
CLARRIE	C.25	2	5	0
CHUCKITA	C.27	2	8	0
COOPER J.	C.31	6	4	0
DAN (Police Tracker, Hatches)	D.1	11	12	3
DAN	D.2	2	10	0
DENNIS	D.12	1	9	0
DINNY O'KEEFE	D.20	1	5	0
DINNIE	D.22		10	0
EMMA WALKER	E.3	9	0	0
EMILY	E.7	1	18	4
EPAPHRAS	E.8	2	8	0
FRANK	F.9	9	14	0
FRED	F.12	3	4	0
GEORGE	G.2	1	7	6
GINGER	G.10		12	6
GEORGE	G.14	5	0	0
HENRY	H.18	2	3	10
JAMES MULDOON	J.19	2	19	4
JACK	J.29	1	14	0
JACKY	J.31	1	13	8
JIM NO.2	J.45	4	4	0
JIMAJA	J.46	1	4	0
JIMMY	J.47	19	12	6
JIM NO.1	J.90	7	16	6
JOHNNY KING	J.92		10	0
JIMMY	J.97		10	0
KITTY	K.3	1	4	0
LILY	L.2	1	0	0
LESLIE	L.11	5	4	0
MALVERN	M.8	5	0	0
MARY PALMER	M.11	33	17	10
MICK (Tracker (F/O Clough))	M.24	9	0	9
MICK	M.28	14	19	5
MICK NO.2	M.32	1	4	0
MCIX	M.36		10	0
MAGGIE DAVIES	M.54	24	15	8

Carried forward

£283 18 1

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
CRS: F 1 ITEM: 48/67

- 2 -
Brought forward

283 18 1

MAUDIE	M.55	1	4	0
NELSON	N.1	-	-	-
NORMAN POLICE	N.11	9	0	0
NARBOO	N.19	2	2	0
PADDY OR HAPPERBY PADDY	P.4		17	6
PETER ALICE	P.28	4	18	2
PHARLAP (Gaol)	P.39		12	6
POLLY	P.44	1	4	0
POMPEY	P.50	1	0	0
PETER	P.61	2	15	0
HILDA RACE	R.1	5	10	0
ROSIE I. LOOSLEY	R.9	48	15	0
RODGER	R.12	25	0	0
RUFUS	R.14	3	2	0
RUBY	R.16	1	0	0
SAMMY	S.1	1	4	0
SAMBO	S.9	3	0	0
SNOWY	S.13		12	6
SARGENT	S.15		10	0
SHORTY	S.19	2	10	0
SID (Tracker)	S.23	13	10	7
SMILER MAJOR (Tracker)	S.29	1	17	1
SONNY	S.30	5	7	1
SANDY (GRAHAM)	S.39	6	15	0
SULIM	S.40	1	0	0
TED	T.7	5	17	10
TIM	T.8	3	0	0
TIM	T.9		10	0
TIM RILEY	T.10		1.14.6 dr.	
TOBY	T.15	4	17	6
TOBY (Gaol)	T.23		12	6
TOMMY	T.25	1	5	0
TOMMY	T.27		5	0
TOMMY	T.47		1. 9.0 dr.	
TENZER	T.50	1	0	0
TOJI	T.54	1	0	0
WILLIE	W.21	3	0	0
WALLAHY	W.27	5	4	0
WILLIAM ALLEN	W.28	36	5	9
WILLIE	W.30		10	0
WILLIAM TURNER	W.31		6	4
INTEREST ACCOUNT		120	10	5
UNCERTAIN PURPOSES ACCOUNT		57	6	5
STORES SUSPENSE ACCOUNT		72	17	6

£2.14. 6 £747 5 3

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
 ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
 CA 1070, ITEM: 48/67
 CRS: P 1

BALANCES AS AT 31/10/48.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
 CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
 CRS: F 1 ITEM: 48/67

<u>INDIVIDUAL PASS BOOKS:</u>	<u>PASS BOOK NO.</u>	<u>AMOUNT:</u>
FISHHOOK	610	31. 8.10
MYRTLE KENNEDY	613	309.18. 6
ALEX	696	21. 5. 9
BARNEY	697	21.13. 3
BARNEY	698	31.12. 4
BARNEY	699	22.11. 3
BERTALOO BILL	700	166. 1. 3
BILLY Troubleda	701	21. 0. 3
BILLY HENDERSON	702	26.16. 7
BOB Amean	703	62. 2. 8
BRADY Eiganungaroo	705	63. 8. 5
CONKABERRY	706	39.18. 8
CUPATEA	707	10.16. 8
CURLY Mooloo	708	25. 6.11
DALY	709	26. 8. 5
DARBY	710	19.16. 7
DAVIE ungarrie	711	53.13. 5
DAVIE	712	48. 4.10
FRED Dingearrie	714	79.14.10
FRED	715	40.15. 3
FULCHE	716	64.19. 7
GEORGE WICKHAM	717	36. 4. 4
GEORGE	718	59. 4. 5
GILBERT	720	35. 4. 0
JACKO Yacmo	721	49.18. 4
JIMMY CROUCH	724	20.13. 7
JOE Bungangie	725	26.11. 3
JOE CLEANSKIN	726	22. 2. 7
JOE SCRUTTON	727	27. 6. 1
JOHNSON	728	21. 3. 7
LARRAKIN	730	57.19. 9
MALCOLM	731	59.13. 8
MICKY	732	20.10.11
MONDAY	733	43. 2. 5
NORMAN	735	44.12.11
PADDY Sanum	736	24.13. 8
CROCODILE PADDY	737	28.17.10
PADDY HENDERSON	738	26.16. 7
PETER ONCAWLEY	739	24. 7. 1
PETERSON	740	46. 8.11
PHAROH	741	63. 2. 9
PHAROH	742	36. 3. 7
PHAROH	743	22.12. 5
POWDER	744	44. 5. 5
SAMBO	745	30.17. 0
SIMON	746	46.13. 0
SNOWY	747	28. 9. 9
TIGER	748	15.13. 8
TOBY	749	29.10.10
TOBY Budburra	750	20.18. 7
TOBY	751	23. 3. 1
TOM Muttey-curungie	752	25. 1. -
TOMMY Chillarogal	753	26. 6. 8
WALLAHEY Unga	754	71. 9. 6
WILLIE	755	35.19.10
MARY GLENORMISTON	1155	24. 4.11
FRED GLENORMISTON	1156	199.19. 5
MICK WALBAN	1157	9. 3. 1

£2617. 0. 8

CARDS NOT OPERATED ON - 1939 TO 1947.

SHEET NO.1	381	6	6
SHEET NO.2	291	3	4
SHEET NO.3	218	11	7
SHEET NO.4	418	1	3
SHEET NO.5	314	5	9
SHEET NO.6	223	3	5
SHEET NO.7	53	10	10

£1900 2 8

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
CRS: F 1 ITEM: 48/67

CARDS NOT OPERATED ON - 1939 TO 1947.

ABBIE	A.1	6. 0
ACTIVITY	A.3	3. 5.10
AGNES	A.4	8. 0
ALBERT	A.5	15. 0
ALBERT	A.7	1.15. 0
ALBERT	A.8	12. 0. 0
ALBERT	A.9	2. 3. 4
ALBIE	A.11	8.10
ALEC Wunbubbia	A.13	5. 0. 0
ALEC McNAMARA	A.15	1. 4.11
ALEX SIMPSON	A.16	12. 0
ALEX	A.19	7.10. 0
ALFIE	A.20	2.15. 0
AMOS	A.22	2. 0. 0
ANGUE	A.24	2. 8. 0
ANGUS BRICKLER	A.25	12. 0. 0
ANTHONY BRITTON	A.27	8.17. 0
ARCHIE	A.28	3.17. 6
ARCHIE	A.29	11. 8. 3
ARCHIE	A.30	12. 0. 0
ARNOLD	A.31	7.15.10
ALMA	A.33	12. 0. 0
BANDY	B.1	10. 0. 0
BARNBY	B.2	2. 7. 6
BARNBY Megilgie	B.7	12. 0. 0
BEASLEY OR TOMMY BEASLEY	B.11	7. 5.10
BEN	B.13	11. 6. 0
BEN Colerlon	B.14	17. 0. 0
HILL Wameok	B.18	16. 6. 3
BILL	B.20	6.18. 5
BILL	B.21	10. 0. 0
BILLIE or BILLY	B.24	4.19. 8
BILLIE Armarjee	B.25	12. 0. 0
BILLY Chubidi	B.26	5. 0. 0
BILLY	B.27	2.14. 6
BILLY	B.28	3. 0. 0
BILLY Albert Lalga	B.30	5. 0. 0
BINANA	B.34	5. 0
BINGAPORE J.	B.36	4. 8. 9
BIRDWOOD	B.36	12. 0. 0
BOB	B.38	2.10. 0
BRADON LINDSAY	B.41	2. 0. 0
BRANDY	B.43	12. 0. 0
BRANDY PETERMAN	B.44	1. 1. 2
BROWN	B.45	11.15. 8
BRUCE	B.46	4. 0. 0
BUTCHER	B.48	12. 6
CABBAGE	C.1	2. 6. 6
CECIL	C.2	7.18. 2
CHARCOAL	C.3	12.16. 0
CHARLIE or CHARLIE JACKARA	C.5	1. 9. 0
CHARLIE Chubimar	C.6	2. 0. 0
CHARLIE	C.7	3.17. 0
CHARLIE	C.8	3.16. 9
CHARLIE Gul-jar-raron	C.9	7. 9. 9
CHARLIE Chumbulk	C.10	8. 0
AULTHANS CHARLIE	C.11	18. 7. 0
CHARLIE Waffe-lu-gurfil	C.12	10.12. 0
CHARLIE	C.13	15.13. 8
CHARLIE CAREW	C.14	1.10.11

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
 CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
 CRS: F 1 ITEM: 48/67

£381. 6. 6

CHARLIE Neragonda	C.15	9. 0. 0
CHARLIE	C.16	11. 1
CHARLIE	C.18	18. 9. 8
NEWCASTLE CHARLIE	C.19	8. 9. 0
CHUGGUDAY	C.23	2. 0. 0
CLAUDE	C.26	2.10. 1
CLIFFER	C.28	6. 0. 0
COLIN	C.29	12. 0
CORRIGAN	C.32	1. 0. 0
CURLY	C.35	5. 0. 0
DARLIE	D.6	4. 7. 3
DARLIE	D.7	4. 2. 5
DARLIE	D.8	2.10. 0
DAVEY	D.9	10. 0. 0
DENNIS	D.13	15. 6
DIAMOND	D.14	1.18. 4
DIAMOND	D.15	3. 8. 0
DICK	D.16	7.13. 9
DICK PADURA	D.17	12. 0. 0
DIXIE	D.24	6. 0
DOLLY	D.25	2. 0
DOM CAMPBELL	D.26	5. 0. 0
DOM DINNIE	D.27	2.15. 7
DONALD	D.28	12.16. 0
DONEGAL	D.29	9. 7. 2
DONOVAN	D.30	2. 1. 6
DORA	D.31	1.11. 5
DENNIS	D.34	5.10. 0
ELDEN	E.1	12.16. 0
EMMA	E.2	1. 0. 0
EUGEN	E.5	1. 0. 0
EVA	E.6	15. 0
FELIX	F.1	4. 8. 0
FRANK JUNGLE	F.3	1.10. 0
FRANK	F.4	2. 0. 0
FRANK	F.6	11.13. 1
FRANK MORTON	F.7	1.19. 2
FRANK	F.8	2. 0.10
FRIDAY	F.15	7. 4. 0
GABLE	G.1	3.10. 0
GEORGE WORKS	G.3	5. 0
GEORGE	G.4	14. 7
GEORGE	G.6	1. 2. 0
GEORGE	G.7	16.16. 0
GEORGE	G.9	4.10. 0
GEORGE SAVILLE	G.11	12.12. 0
GEORGE	G.15	10. 0. 0
GEORGE	G.18	15. 0
GEORGE Japunga	G.17	2.18. 4
GILBERT	G.20	12. 0. 0
GINGER	G.21	16. 8
HAROLD THOMAS	H.1	14. 7
HARRY BENNETT	H.2	5. 5
HARRY Coomalarrie	H.3	9. 0. 0
HARRY	H.4	2.18. 0
HARRY	H.5	1. 2. 6
HECTOR Whitebull	H.6	14.12. 0
HECTOR Geodargie	H.7	7. 5
HENRY	H.8	4.15. 0
HENRY HAYES	H.9	4.16. 0
HENRY WORKS	H.10	10. 0

£291. 8. 4

3. /

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
 CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
 CRS: F 1 ITEM: 48/67

HERBERT LAUGHTON
 HETTY HAYES
 HOWARD STEVENS

H.11 4. 5
 H.12 4. 0
 H.15 4.16. 0

IVY

I.2 7. 0

JACK
 JACK
 JACK Landi
 JACK Sabani
 JACK Choolum
 ORLANDO JACK
 JACK
 JACK Wee-biddy
 JACK Tooly-arrie
 JACK Mortinget
 TEMPE JACK
 JACK Wange-gulla
 JACK Brigabine
 JACK
 JACK
 JACK CLOUGH
 JACK HAZE
 JACK LEWIS
 JACK TAYLOR
 JACK WORKS
 POLICE JACK
 BIG HEAD JACK
 TYCON JACK
 JACKY Mulla
 JACKY JACKSON
 JACKY LOWE
 JAMES GAIL
 JAMES STIRRING
 JERRY BRUMBY
 JERRY
 JESSIE
 JIM Koolama
 JIM POUND
 JIMMY
 JIMMY Arldigbah
 JIMMY MCNAGHAN
 JIMMY Choolum-ma
 MULGA JIMMY
 JIMMY
 JIMMY
 JOE
 JOE Juda-arrie
 JOE.Might-be
 JOE
 JOEY
 JOHN CURTIN
 JOHNNIE
 JOHNNY
 JOHNNY
 JOHNNY
 JOHNNY Chusbeolja
 JOHNNY Charbull
 JOHNNY
 BARROW CREEK JOHNNY
 JOHNNY
 JOHNNY

J.1 6.18. 3
 J.2 7.11.10
 J.3 11
 J.4 1. 0. 0
 J.5 1. 3. 9
 J.6 3.19. 3
 J.7 5. 0
 J.8 7. 3. 0
 J.9 12.16. 0
 J.10 11.13. 1
 J.11 3. 1. 0
 J.12 6.16. 0
 J.13 4.19. 4
 J.14 3. 3. 9
 J.15 1.10. 0
 J.18 6.14
 J.20 1. 0. 0
 J.22 6.10
 J.23 1. 5
 J.24 10. 0
 J.26 1.15. 0
 J.27 4. 1.11
 J.28 1. 6. 8
 J.32 1. 3. 0
 J.33 1.17. 3
 J.34 14. 8. 0
 J.35 2. 1. 3
 J.36 2.10.10
 J.39 1. 5. 0
 J.40 6. 0. 0
 J.42 10. 0
 J.43 12. 0. 0
 J.44 4
 J.48 5. 7. 0
 J.49 7.15. 2
 J.50 15. 0
 J.51 2.19. 3
 J.52 4. 5. 0
 J.53 3.13. 8
 J.56 1.10. 0
 J.57 2. 7. 0
 J.58 14.16. 0
 J.59 5. 0. 0
 J.61 2. 3. 4
 J.64 5. 0
 J.65 6. 0. 0
 J.66 3. 4. 0
 J.67 9. 7. 0
 J.68 7. 4. 4
 J.69 5.13. 6
 J.70 3. 0
 J.71 3.10. 0
 J.74 5. 0
 J.75 1. 2.10
 J.76 2. 0. 0
 J.78 9. 1

£218.11. 7

4. /

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
 CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
 CRS: F 1 ITEM: 48/67

JUMBO N.	J.84	12. 0
KITTY	K.2	3. 5. 0
LADNY Nun-in-mah	L.1	12. 1. 4
LARRY Wilbroe	L.5	13.10. 0
LARRY	L.6	2.12. 0
LEADER	L.7	12.13. 0
LEO	L.8	15.10. 0
LEO	L.9	10. 6. 2
LEO Ill-ung-urry	L.10	7. 0. 0
LEVA	L.12	2. 0. 0
LILY ROSSIFNOL	L.13	7. 0. 0
LINDSAY NO.1	L.14	9. 0
LOFTY	L.17	15. 4. 0
LORNA	L.18	19. 0
LOUIE	L.21	15. 0
MABEL	M.1	2. 0
MACK	M.2	7.10. 0
MAGGIE	M.3	16. 0. 0
MALCOLM	M.4	2. 0. 0
MALCOLM	M.6	5.14. 0
MALCOLM	M.7	4. 8. 2
MARNEY	M.9	7.10. 0
MAKHA WALKER	M.10	11.15. 6
MASHER	M.12	11. 0. 0
MATINAJARA EROS	M.13	2.16. 2
MAUDIE	M.14	2. 0. 0
MICA ALLEN	M.15	13.10. 0
MICA FRED	M.16	13.13. 6
MICA HARRY	M.17	12. 3. 6
MICA SONNY	M.18	16.13. 6
MICA TOMMY	M.19	10. 0. 0
MICK BULLION	M.20	3.15. 4
MICK Mollata	M.22	3. 5. 0
MICK STONE	M.23	4. 9
MICK WOODFORD	M.25	5. 0
MICK TARPOT	M.29	6. 0. 0
MICK	M.30	10.0
MICK	M.31	2.10. 0
MICK	M.33	4.15. 0
MICKY	M.39	12. 0. 0
MICKY	M.38	9.12. 0
MICKY	M.39	3. 4. 1
MOLLY	M.42	8. 5. 0
MONKEY	M.44	15. 0
MONKEY	M.45	4. 2. 0
MUMPY	M.48	5.10. 0
MURPHY	M.49	5. 0. 0
MURPHY	M.50	6.16. 0
MUSSOLINI	M.51	6. 0. 0
MCCARTHER MICK	M.52	5. 0. 0
MCGINTY	M.53	6.16. 0
NED Prinselgay	N.2	5. 0. 0
NIPPER	N.6	16. 2
NORMAN	N.8	12. 0
NOTHING	N.12	11.10. 9
NUGERMAN	N.13	12. 9. 2
NUGGET BLACEMORE	N.14	2.15. 0
NUGGETT	N.15	12. 0. 0
NUGGET	N.16	13. 0. 0
NUGGETT	N.17	6.16. 0
NUGGET	N.18	6. 0. 1

£418. 1. 3

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
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5.

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
CRS: P 1 ITEM: 48/67

PADDY BARROW
PADDY
PADDY OR LONG PADDY
PADDY WARREN
PADDY Woofay
PADDY
PADDY
PADDY
PADDY
PADDY
PADDY
PADDY
PADDY
PADDY
PANSY
PAUL Kaballda
PAUL
PAUL
PERCY
PERCY
PERCY
PRETTY PERCY
PETER CHUIAT
PETER Wengoli
PETERA
PETER TRENCH
PETER
PETERMAN JACK
PETERMAN PETER
PINKIE
POLLY
POMPEY
POMPEY
POMPEY No.3
POTATO Colombo
POWDER Binjalong
POWDER Nudu-dung-unga
POWDER
PRENTICE
PUDDIN Won-bu-gurra
PADIY

QUARTPOT

RATTLER
REDBANK
RICHARD
RILEY
RILEY HULLION
RONNIE
RODERICK
RUIE
SAM OR SAMMY
SAM
SAM
SAMBO
SAMBO
SAMMY
SANDY BOND
SANEY
SATURDAY WORKS
SHANNON, MRS. J.
SHOVELLOW
SHULAMREN
SIDNEY
SKIPPER
SLOBER Laroo

P.1 2. 4. 8
P.2 7.15. 0
P.3 10. 6
P.6 3. 5. 0
P.7 10. 6
P.8 11.19. 4
P.11 12. 0. 0
P.12 10.16. 0
P.13 7. 5. 0
P.14 2. 0. 0
P.15 5. 0. 0
P.20 1. 0. 0
P.21 5. 0. 0
P.22 1. 5. 6
P.23 10. 7. 8
P.24 3.15.11
P.25 1.16. 0
P.26 1. 0. 0
P.27 11. 6
P.29 19. 5. 4
P.30 1.10. 0
P.31 11. 4
P.34 3. 5. 0
P.35 11. 1
P.36 2. 0. 0
P.45 3. 2
P.46 2.15. 0
P.47 6. 0. 0
P.48 4. 5. 0
P.49 6.15. 0
P.52 12. 0. 0
P.54 12. 0. 0
P.55 3. 0. 0
P.56 5. 0. 0
P.57 20.10. 9
P.58 12.16. 0
P.59 1. 0. 0

Q.1 2. 0. 0
R.2 16. 0
R.3 12. 0. 0
R.5 5. 6
R.6 2. 0. 0
R.7 5. 0. 0
R.10 6.19. 0
R.11 6. 0. 0
R.13 2. 5. 6
S.2 15. 0
S.4 1. 4. 1
S.5 2. 3. 4
S.6 5.19. 2
S.10 12.13. 2
S.12 16. 0
S.14 7.15. 3
S.16 6. 0. 0
S.17 10. 0
S.18 14. 6. 3
S.20 6. 8
S.21 5.15. 0
S.22 11. 1
S.25 2. 0. 0
S.27 12.16. 0

2314. 5. 9

6. /

SMILER	S.28	18.11/ 6
SONNY BOND	S.33	1. 4. 3
SPIDER	S.35	16. 0
STIRLING NELLIE	S.37	2. 8. 0
SULLIVAN	S.38	10. 0
TED Choogadi	T.1	2.15. 0
TEDDY NO.2	T.2	2.18. 4
TERRY	T.3	3. 4. 0
YOUNG TIM	T.6	12. 0
TOBY	T.12	10. 0
TOBY	T.13	3.17. 4
TOBY NO.2	T.17	3. 4
TOBY	T.19	4.10. 0
TOBY	T.20	1.13. 3
TOBY	T.21	5. 0
TODMORDEN ALGC	T.24	1. 3. 0
TOM Alyunga	T.26	5. 0
TOM	T.28	1. 0. 0
TOMMY MADDEN	T.29	11. 3
TOMMY	T.30	4. 7. 0
TOMMY	T.31	14. 3
TOMMY NAYLOR	T.34	1. 0. 0
TOMMY Javkargee	T.35	8.19. 0
TOMMY Gigorilla	T.37	12. 0. 0
TOMMY	T.39	1. 2. 6
TOMMY	T.40	9.10. 6
TOMMY Truck-a-big	T.41	19. 5. 0
TOMMY NO.1	T.42	1. 0. 0
TOMMY NO.1	T.43	1. 7. 0
TOMMY NO.2	T.44	1. 0. 0
TOMMY	T.45	2. 5. 0
TOMMY	T.46	10. 0. 0
TOMMY WILLIE	T.49	5. 0. 0
TED	T.53	10. 3. 0
VIOLET COOP	V.2	3. 0. 0
WALLY	W.2	17. 1
WATERLOO JOE	W.4	2.18. 3
WENDA OR QUIDE	W.5	2. 0
WILFRED	W.6	4.15. 0
WILFRED	W.7	3.16. 0
WILLIE	W.9	3. 7. 0
WILLIAM	W.8	1. 0. 0
WILLIE JUGGA	W.10	2.10. 0
WILLIE WAUCHOPPE	W.11	9.18. 0
WILLIE	W.12	14.10
WILLIE Carraba	W.15	6. 0. 0
WILLIE	W.16	13. 5. 0
WILLIE AVALON	W.17	12. 0. 0
MYALL WILLIE	W.19	8.10. 0
WILLIE	W.20	- - -
WILLIE	W.22	6. 6. 0
WILLIE	W.23	5. 0. 0
WONG WAE	W.24	12. 6
WEED CLEARERS	W.26	3.19.11
WEED CLEARERS		15. 0

£223. 3. 5

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
 CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
 CRS: F 1 ITEM: 48/67

BILLY BRAIN
 BILLY DOVE
 BOB TOMMORDEN
 CHARLIE Milligan
 CHARLIE
 DOLLY BROWN
 DOUGBY
 DOUGLAS
 HARRY
 JACK ALICE
 JACK
 JACK LAW
 JIM BARROW
 LOPEY
 MAY HILL
 MICK Malyarra
 MICK
 MICK STUART
 MONDAY
 PETER
 RILEY
 RUBY Ben Barran
 SANDY
 TIMOTHY
 TOKOMAG
 TOM
 TOMMY BURT

39
 42
 60
 74
 79
 632
 97
 112
 160
 186
 186
 201
 222
 259
 10
 290
 277
 292
 301
 359
 373
 27
 395
 437
 446
 447
 457

10. 0
 1.10. 0
 6. 8
 7.17. 6
 15. 0
 10. 0
 1. 2. 0
 1.15. 8
 12. 0
 15. 0
 1.16. 0
 5. 0
 2. 9. 6
 1. 0. 0
 7.14. 6
 2.17. 6
 16. 0
 5.10. 0
 15. 0
 1. 0. 0
 5. 6. 3
 1.16. 0
 15. 0
 1. 5. 0
 3. 0. 0
 2. 0
 1. 9. 4

£53.10.10

DECEASED ABORIGINALS:

Fred Arltunga
 LONG JACK
 TEDDY

2.10
 40.12. 8
 1. 1. 8

£41.17. 8

AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES N.T.
 CA 1070, ADMINISTRATOR N.T.
 CRS: F 1 ITEM: 48/67

Venezuelan troops grab farms from Lord 'Spam' Vestey

By Andrew Alderson, Chief Reporter

(Filed: 09/01/2005)

Troops were preparing yesterday to seize a 32,000-acre ranch owned by one of Britain's richest men as the Left-wing leaders of Venezuela stepped up their controversial "land grab" policy.

The ranch, which is set in rich cattle-rearing land close to the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, is owned by Lord Vestey, whose personal wealth from his family's food empire is estimated at £750 million.

The peer, who is known as "Spam" to his friends, is said by his associates to be saddened and angered by the threat to his ranch. He is, however, understood to be resigned to the Venezuelan government's "illegal" actions.

advertisement This weekend, Lord Vestey, 63, declined to discuss details of the land seizure other than to say: "We've been in Venezuela for over 100 years and we hope to be there for some time yet." Lord Vestey's great grandfather bought the ranch El Charcote in 1903.

Critics of Hugo Chavez, the Left-wing Venezuelan president, have likened his policy to that of President Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe, but his government has tried to justify its policy by describing the process as one of "agrarian redistribution".

Alfredo Toro Hardy, Venezuela's ambassador in London, said last week that the ranch was considered to be "partly idle", and that its property titles were in disarray, and this prompted an investigation in the farm's affairs and action by the authorities.

The situation for foreign owners deteriorated in 2001, when falling oil prices in Venezuela, the world's fourth-biggest oil producer, led to social unrest. President Chavez announced that he would nationalise any agricultural land not being farmed "in the national interest", to combat "selfish individualism".

Since 2001, illegal squatters have occupied several of Lord Vestey cattle ranches, including El Charcote. His initial response was to boycott a cocktail party for Venezuela's new ambassador to London, standing outside the reception and railing against those who had "done a Zimbabwe".

The Vestey family is used to dealing with personal and political upheaval. The family's food empire, once the biggest family-owned multinational in the world, was founded in 1897, when brothers William and Edmund began importing frozen eggs from China and frozen beef from Australia.

The family became very rich when the business expanded to become an integrated supply chain of ranches, food processors, canning companies, commercial properties and, in Britain, Dewhurst butchers' shops.

Philip Knightley wrote in *The Rise And Fall Of The House Of Vestey* that "They did not live on their income; they did not live on the interest from their investments; they lived on the interest on the interest."

The family's problems in South America have caused the value of the Vestey Group to fall in recent years. The last published set of accounts in 2003 recorded net assets of £78 million – down from £105 million the previous year.

The Venezuelan authorities disclosed last week that they have identified more than 500 farms, including 56 large estates, as "idle". They plan to inspect a further 40,000 farms, the National Land Institute, a government body, said. Private owners will be paid compensation at market

prices for expropriated land, according to the 2001 land law.

El Charcote is run by Agroflora, a subsidiary of the Vestey Group. Last week, Arnoldo Marquez, the Venezuelan agriculture minister, said that the farm's documents "do not guarantee that this is a private land", and has maintained an aggressive attitude towards the Vestey Group.

"You should ask the company when they are going to put their papers in order and hand over the land that is not theirs," he said.

Diana Dos Santos, the president of Agroflora, which operates El Charcote and other farms in Venezuela for the Vestey Group, said yesterday that staff would co-operate with the authorities, even though they rejected the suggestion that they were using state property.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is concerned about land reform in Venezuela, but has made no formal protest. A spokesman for the Foreign Office said: "The British Embassy is in close contact with the Vestey Group in Venezuela and we are continuing to monitor the situation."

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Revolution on Venezuela's estates

By Clive Myrie
BBC News, Washington

One of Britain's richest men, Lord Vestey, says he'll fight the Venezuelan government to stop hundreds of peasant farmers taking over land on his cattle ranches in South America.

The Vestey meat group is one of a number of big land owners affected by President Chavez's controversial reform proposals, which he says are part of a package of measures designed to help the country's poor.

In Venezuela's lush pastoral interior a revolution is under way.

The El Charcote ranch is three hours drive from the capital Caracas.

It stretches as far as the eye can see, and for the best part of a century was the domain of one family.

Very handsome looking head cattle are idling in the midday sun.

The herd is 6,400 strong, the property of an English lord. But the land on which they roam is now being taken away.

Hundreds of peasant farmers have now moved onto the El Charcote ranch and are determined to keep what they say is a birthright.

'Blood, sweat, tears'

Other countries in South America experienced land reform in the 1960s with rich landowners relinquishing their big farms.

Now Venezuela's time has come. The first peasant farmers moved here four years ago.

They say they're not squatters, or land invaders but honest hardworking people.

Jose Pena - who is 67 - spoke to me from the porch of his makeshift home on El Charcote.

"If we were in your land you would have kicked us out. We are claiming what is owed to us: the land of our ancestors."

At the 13,000-hectare ranch, 1,500 people now call El Charcote their home.

The government here unlike in Zimbabwe, says it is willing to pay compensation if the Vestey family can prove it legally owns the land.

Farm manager Tony Richards maintains this is private property bought fair and square more than a century ago, and that the squatters should leave.

"The amount of blood, sweat and tears that has been used on this farm, I mean, to see that being destroyed in front of your eyes every day - and you can't do anything about it - it's heartbreaking.

"This is private property, I think - all over the world - private property should be respected."

Compensation

Respect for convention isn't in the blood of Venezuela's leftist President Hugo Chavez.

The change for more leftist governments throughout Latin America has come about because for the past two decades neo-liberal economics has essentially not delivered its promise of greater economic growth
Dr Gregory Wilpert

He sees himself as a latter day Robin Hood. In a country where less than 5% of the population owns 80% of the land, it was Venezuela's poor who voted him into the Presidential palace.

Johnny Yanez is close to the president and is the state governor in charge of taking over Lord Vestey's land.

He told me that it is the poor who elected him and President Chavez and so we have a responsibility to the poor.

For too long, he said, the rich have had it all their own way - to the detriment of the majority of the people.

"We need to reshape our country, and land reform is an important part of the process."

Johnny Yanez is now a local hero. Earlier this year he handed out official papers to a number of peasant farmers giving them the right to move onto El Charcote.

The government has its eye on two more farms belonging to Lord Vestey and a number of other big landowners now have unwanted guests on their ranches.

They too have no idea if they'll ever be paid compensation.

Wretched slums

Away from the countryside, President Chavez has other big plans to shake up Venezuela.

We caught up with him at a rally for party workers in Caracas where he outlined new plans to help low income families with housing.

He sat at a large desk on a stage with advisors on either side of him.

In the audience filling the hall was a sea of people wearing white tee-shirts and red baseball caps.

His supporters call themselves Chavistas - loyal followers who hold nothing but contempt for those who attack their leader's policies, like those critics among the wealthier classes who have tried unsuccessfully to topple him.

There's also deep anger against those in the Bush administration who see Hugo Chavez as a dangerous left wing, anti-capitalist, ideologue.

But the more their leader is attacked, the more these people love him and spontaneous applause followed pretty much every statement the president made.

The Chavistas point to the wretched slum areas of the capital Caracas as proof that a president like Hugo Chavez is badly needed.

Eighty-three per cent of Venezuelans live below the poverty line, this in one of the world's biggest oil exporters.

The president says he wants to use more of the country's wealth to fund hospitals and schools.

Venezuela's poor believe they have a champion in Hugo Chavez, a man determined to transform society - and he's not alone.

Big question

Across South America, a number of other leaders are implementing controversial policies they say are designed to raise the living standards of millions.

President Chavez along with his counterparts from Argentina and Brazil for example are part of a Continent wide shift in political thought.

Dr Gregory Wilpert is an analyst and author who's just written a book looking at Hugo Chavez's reforms.

"The change for more leftist governments throughout Latin America has come about because for the past two decades neo-liberal economics has essentially not delivered its promise of greater economic growth.

"Latin America has had relatively little economic growth, and inequality has increased."

President Chavez also admires Cuba's Fidel Castro, but says Venezuela's revolution is based on a new kind of socialism, not communism.

Dr Wilpert says: "In many ways the policies resemble typical social democratic policies - social programs of feeding the poor or of providing education to the poor all directed by the state and so on...

"But the government is trying to go beyond that as well."

Old certainties are being tossed aside in a corner of the world notoriously resistant to change.

The big question is will land reform and President Chavez's other proposals, actually make society more equal or simply further divide the nation.

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