

1879.
—
VICTORIA.

FIFTEENTH REPORT
OF
THE BOARD
FOR THE
PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES
IN
THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

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R E P O R T.

Melbourne, 1st July 1879.

MY LORD,

The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines has the honor to submit for your Excellency's consideration their Fifteenth Annual Report on the condition of the Aborigines of the Colony.

2. The number of Aborigines now settled on the several stations according to the latest returns are as follows :—

Coranderrk, under the superintendence of	Rev. F. P. Strickland	113*		
Lake Hindmarsh, „ „	Rev. W. Kramer	... 91		
Lake Tyers, „ „	Mr. Bulmer	... 88†		
Lake Wellington, „ „	Rev. F. Hagenauer	... 83		
Lake Condah, „ „	Rev. J. H. Stähle	... 81		
Framlingham, „ „	Mr. W. Goodall	... 67		

3. The Board held twelve ordinary and nine special meetings during the year.

4. The number of births, deaths, and marriages at each station during the year is as follows :—

			Births.		Deaths.		Marriages.
Coranderrk ... ..	...	...	6	...	6	...	2
Lake Condah ... ..	...	...	3	...	2	...	3
Lake Wellington ... ..	...	...	3	...	7	...	1
Lake Tyers ... ..	...	...	0	...	9	...	0
Lake Hindmarsh ... ..	...	...	2	...	2	...	0
Framlingham ... ..	...	...	4	...	0	...	2

5. The general state of health on three of the stations has been good, but the death rate on the whole has been larger than last year. Lung disease is the chief cause of death among the Aborigines, who, when once affected, very seldom recover. The death rate on Lake Tyers Station has been exceptionally heavy, but most of those who have died were old people. The Board has recently called the attention of the Government to the serious mortality among the natives, and it also contemplates calling in the aid of Dr. W. Thomson, of South Yarra, who has devoted much attention to this branch of disease.

6. The gross proceeds of the product of the various stations are as follows :—

						£	s.	d.
Coranderrk ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	559	4	7
Lake Condah ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	57	5	10
Lake Hindmarsh ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	336	7	1½
Lake Wellington ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	183	18	2
Lake Tyers ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	52	0	10

The hop crop this year at Coranderrk (and in Victoria generally) has been small, which, added to a fall of about 3d. per lb., has reduced our income from Coranderrk very considerably. The hops realized the highest price of any sold in the Melbourne market.

7. The number of children attending school is as follows :—

Coranderrk	...	...	...	...	...	30
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	...	6
Lake Condah	...	...	...	...	...	24
Lake Wellington	...	...	...	...	...	22
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	...	...	21
Lake Hindmarsh	...	...	...	...	...	19

* Several Aborigines have removed to Lake Hindmarsh during the year for the benefit of their health.
 † 120 attend this station, but some are at present away on leave in the Maneroo district.

8. Messrs. Le Souef and Curr were deputed in May to visit and report on the two Gippsland stations, and their report will be found in Appendix VII. In it reference is made to the Coranderrk station near Healesville, which they consider should be broken up, and the blacks distributed among the other stations. The Board fully coincides with Messrs. Le Souef and Curr, and has since brought the matter under the notice of Sir Bryan O'Loghlen when Acting Chief Secretary. The Board also drew his attention to the great want of additional land for pastoral purposes at Lake Hindmarsh Station. A promise was made by the Government, in 1869, of sufficient grass to feed 3,000 sheep, but although repeatedly brought under the notice of succeeding administrations, the promise has not yet been fulfilled. (Appendices XII. and XIII.)

9. The reports from the managers of the different stations will be found in the Appendices, and are very satisfactory.

10. In January of this year the Revs. F. Hagenauer and W. Kramer, missionaries respectively at Lake Wellington and Lake Hindmarsh, took, at the request of the Board, a long journey to the Lower Murray, to see what could be done in the way of bringing in to the station the wandering blacks in that part of the country. Their mission was very successful, about thirty Aborigines having gone to Lake Hindmarsh, and others have promised to go to Lake Wellington in the coming spring. The report of these gentlemen will be found in Appendices VIII. and IX.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

HENRY JENNINGS,

Vice-Chairman.

To His Excellency
The Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G.,
Governor of Victoria, &c., &c.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

SIR,

Coranderrk, 22nd July 1879.

In compliance with your request, I have the honor to report that, during the nine months of my superintendence of this station, steady, though slow, progress has been made in general improvements both in place and people.

A much-needed bridge has been erected over the Badger Creek, near the station, by the Government. Two well-arranged timber coverings over creeks have been formed by the station hands, under the direction of the farm overseer.

Posts and rails have been split, and about one mile and a quarter of fencing put up. Grubbing and clearing has been steadily carried on to a considerable extent, entirely by the colored people. The home garden has been thoroughly put in order and greatly improved. The superintendent's residence has been thoroughly overhauled and made tenable.

Two new well-built cottages have been erected, to be occupied by two of the oldest and largest families on the station. The labor portion of these cottages has been partly done by black men who are to occupy them, under the direction of a skilled carpenter. All going on well, Coranderrk will soon represent a well-arranged village, as most of the housekeepers are clean in their habits.

Forty thousand bricks have been made on the station, for present and future use.

Seven tons and a half of good potatoes have been harvested for the use of the people on the station. Twelve tons of hay were grown on the station, which, I hope, will carry us over the winter.

Cattle, when mustered in February last, numbered 346. The current winter has been and is most destructive to stock cattle in these parts, hundreds having died from cold and hunger.

We are much in need of farm horses to carry on the work properly, the bullocks being too weak to labor. Two stock horses are much needed.

The health of the Aborigines is, I fear, much affected by the cold and damp climate; scarcely any of them are sound, as they are the subjects of phthisis, which is much promoted by their innate indifference to exposure to all kinds of weather.

Proximity to a township, with its adjuncts, militates much against the moral culture of the people. The fish or birds, which are in their seasons easily obtained, can be as easily disposed of, and the results as easily spent. No amount of vigilance on the part of any superintendent can obviate this, as the natives will wander far away from the station to dispose of their game, &c. The consequence has been that, on two occasions, men have returned much excited, which has necessitated their being summoned before the magistrates and sent to gaol, as a punishment to them and a warning to others.

Four half-castes have been sent away, in consequence of insubordination and idleness. Prompt discipline has been practised with beneficial effects.

The people have been liberally supplied with warm clothing and blankets.

Sunday services not so well attended as I could wish.

Sunday school well attended, as the children are more immediately under control.

Day school is attended by an average of thirty children. A good education is given to all who have ability to acquire it. **I have married two couples. There have been six births and six deaths.**

On behalf of the station, I thank the Government for its liberal grant, the Board for its thoughtful management, and you, sir, for your prompt and patient replies to our every reasonable request.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. P. STRICKLAND,

Superintendent of Coranderrk Aboriginal Station.

Captain Page, General Inspector.

APPENDIX II.

Framlingham Aboriginal Station, Purnim, 31st July 1879.

SIR,

I have the honor herewith to forward my report for the year ending June 30, 1879, and to inform you that during that period the number of Aborigines attending the station has been 67, viz., 30 females and 37 males; the average attendance being about 60.

I have to report 4 births (2 males and 2 female children), all strong and healthy; and, for the first time, I have no deaths to record. This most favorable turn in affairs I ascribe to the fact that a very large number of them have entirely abandoned their drinking practices, and adopted total abstinence principles. I reported this circumstance in my last annual report, and am happy to inform you that in nearly all cases they have consistently adhered to their temperance pledge. I have not seen a drunken Aboriginal at or near the station for over a period of twelve months.

I have also much pleasure in adding that, following close on the heels of the temperance revival, there came one of the most earnest, successful, and genuine religious revivals I have had the pleasure of witnessing. The revival lasted over a period of six weeks; the meetings were conducted by two of the Aborigines (W. Good and J. Cussen) and myself, and during that period the whole of the residents, with

the exception of one or two of the old ones, were thoroughly aroused to their condition as sinners and their need of salvation. A very large number of them found pardon and peace through believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, the majority of whom are still remaining steadfast in the faith, and are as earnest and zealous as they were on the day they first accepted the promises of the Saviour; and, as I have already stated, they are enjoying the blessings of a temperate and Christian life in the disappearance of sickness and death from amongst them and the appearance of healthy children to brighten up and cheer their little cottage homes. The buildings on the station at present are—my own residence, school-house, store-room, and twenty cottages occupied by the Aborigines. We have added this season six weatherboard cottages, and two additional rooms for my own accommodation; also one slab hut. Five of the cottages have been erected by the natives and are furnished in a very creditable manner, and have added much to the appearance of the station and comfort of the Aborigines.

Although we had a large area under cultivation, our returns are the smallest yet received, owing to the extraordinary dryness of the season, seed and horse-feed being about all we can take off, and in this we were more fortunate than many of our neighbours, many of whom did not get back their seed.

The cattle and horses remain the same as last year, 20 having been killed for food and 12 of the old cows died during the winter.

The improvements (permanent) include the cottages above mentioned and a mile of log fencing. We have also replaced the fencing destroyed by the bush fires. I have also had a number engaged clearing dead timber and ringing trees. About one hundred acres have been cleared during the year, and they are still proceeding with the work.

A very pleasing ceremony took place here a few days ago, when two young couples were united in marriage, after which 7 adults presented themselves for baptism, which was duly administered by the Rev. W. Coombs, from Warrnambool. Four children were also presented for baptism at the same time. After all these ceremonies were over, and the young married people had received a shower of old boots for good luck, the whole company repaired to a well-spread repast, and I have seldom had the pleasure of witnessing a more orderly and respectable gathering of a similar nature anywhere. I herewith append some of the remarks recorded in my visitors' book by several gentlemen who have visited the station. His Lordship the Bishop of Ballarat remarks:—"No one could help being struck with the deep religious feeling at present prevailing among the blacks; their manner, their earnest attention at the service held, their happy appearance leave nothing to be desired. May the good word continue to grow and deepen amongst them. I am much pleased with the cottages and gardens, and charmed with the situation of the station."

The Rev. J. C. P. Allnutt, Church of England minister of Portland, adds:—"Charmed with the situation of the place, and with the blacks' huts, which, with the well-kept gardens, surpass anything I have seen before." (Mr. Allnutt has visited several other stations in Victoria.) Mr. W. Linklater writes:—"Was delighted to find many of the blacks professing Christianity, also the neat clean houses provided for them. The situation of the station, in my opinion, could not be surpassed. The kindness shown by the manager particularly took my attention. Was also greatly delighted with the school; the care and patience and perseverance of the governess, Miss Robertson, in teaching, is deserving of praise."

I fully endorse all that has been said by Mr. Linklater with reference to Miss Robertson, for the progress made by the children excels any of my school experiences.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM GOODALL, JUNIOR.

A. M. A. Page, Esq., General Inspector B.P.A., Melbourne.

APPENDIX III.

July	...	...	...	70	January	...	...	...	77
August	...	...	...	70	February	...	...	...	75
September	...	...	...	69	March	...	...	...	76
October	...	...	...	66	April	...	...	...	77
November	...	...	...	71	May	...	...	...	80
December	...	...	...	76	June	...	...	...	81

Two miles of fencing have been erected—one and a quarter post and rail, and three-quarters log fence. The run, which was enclosed last year with a ring fence, has been divided into three large paddocks—fattening and weaning paddocks and general run.

The home station proper has also been fenced in with a substantial post and three-rail fence.

Fifteen acres of ground were cleared and fenced in for cultivation.

A large substantial milking-yard and cowshed have been put up.

One cottage of sawn timber and four of stone have been erected.

The wooden building was put up entirely by the Aborigines themselves; and, with regard to the four stone buildings, I have to state that the walls were put up by a mason, but the stones have been quarried, the sand carted, and the lime burned, as well as all the carpenter work done, by the Aborigines themselves.

The commencement of draining the swamp has been made by blasting the rocks across the creek, and the draining is being carried on vigorously by the Aborigines. When finished this will, if not make the station altogether self-supporting, prove very beneficial.

The total number of cattle is 460. Thirty were killed for meat for the Aborigines and 11 were sold.

The cattle are just now, owing to the wet season, very poor.

Seven acres of potatoes were planted, and seven acres of oats sown for hay. The potatoes were small and few, and the hay was very short, owing to the dry summer season.

The hops, of which two acres are under cultivation, were small and few.

The arrowroot dried up entirely during the summer.

Money received during the year was as follows:—Hops, £18 13s. 4d.; potatoes, £3 15s.; cattle, £30 5s.; hides, £4 12s. 6d.;—total, £57 5s. 10d. The money for cattle was forwarded to the Aboriginal Board, and the remainder was used for paying incidental station expenses.

The general conduct of the Aborigines has been and is, I am happy to state, most favorable. We had no drunkenness nor quarrels amongst the Aborigines during the whole year, and through the amount of work done by them, as already stated, it will be seen that they become more and more industrious. We have, in fact, a good number who set forth good examples with regard to moral and Christian principles.

The Aborigines have been greatly encouraged to persevere in their work by the money which was kindly granted by the Board and paid out to them as wages, as well as by the money granted for the purpose of building comfortable houses for them, which were greatly needed.

For all this, as well as for the excellent supply of clothing, blankets, &c., sent up, I desire to express my sincere thanks to the Board, and I trust that the Aborigines may prove themselves truly grateful for the great liberality and the warm interest in their welfare shown by the Board and you.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Captain Page, General Inspector and Secretary
of Aboriginal Stations, Melbourne.

J. H. STÄHLE.

APPENDIX IV.

SIR,

Ramahyuck Mission Station, 15th July 1879.

I have the honor to forward to you my annual report on the state and progress of this station and the condition of the Aborigines under my care.

1. The total number of Aborigines belonging to this station is 85, but some have often been absent, so that I can only give their general and occasional attendance in accordance with the monthly returns, from July 1878 to the end of June 1879:—

Month.	Total.	Average.	Month.	Total.	Average.
July ...	81	76	January ...	85	76
August ...	80	78	February ...	80	75
September ...	68	68	March ...	91	82
October ...	86	69	April ...	80	72
November ...	78	69	May ...	82	68
December ...	86	68	June ...	69	69

2. The number of births during the past year has been 3; the number of deaths, 7; the number of marriages, 1. I am sorry to say that the state of health is not very good; several young people are suffering on consumption, and the doctor, who attends to them, gives no hope of their recovery.

3. The total number of children on the roll of our State school is 30, of which number 8 are white children, who come to school from the neighborhood. The last examination of the children by the inspector of State schools showed rather a decrease of percentages, which may have its local reason, and it is to be hoped will be higher again in future. All the children of the Aborigines in the district attend the school regularly.

4. The whole land belonging to the reserve is now fenced in with a good three-rail fence. The last part of 66 chains was completed during the year, through the assistance of the Board, as was also the case with the erection of a new stockyard. There are now the following well fenced and stocked paddocks:—A, paddock of 1,800 acres, used as a general cattle run; B, 200 acres, for milking cows, working bullocks, and horses; C, 320 acres, for calves and young cattle; D, 4 acres, fenced and subdivided into gardens for the natives; E, 4, fenced with palings or slabs, for the cultivation of hops, and a few smaller paddocks for potatoes and arrowroot. The past season having again been dry, neither the cultivation of hops nor arrowroot has given satisfactory returns, and lately the high floods have destroyed a great many hop plants.

5. The total number of cattle belonging to the station has increased to 354, so that the land is now or will soon be fully stocked for its carrying capability. This land not being good enough to fatten cattle, we shall do our best to turn out store cattle, in order to make the station soon self-supporting. During the

past year 25 head have been killed for station supplies, besides which we killed 45 sheep during the hot season. There are about 40 milking cows on the station, and any black family who wishes can milk as many cows as they please, provided they care for the cows and calves. We sold 26 surplus store cattle, which are accounted for below. One cow was lost, and 2 died. After deducting all these, there is still a clear increase of 57 from last year.

6. The number of buildings on the station has only been increased by the erection of one good three-roomed weatherboard cottage. The building expenses for the same are included in the general station accounts. Another very good cottage with four rooms has just been commenced, and will be counted in next year's report. The orphan house has been quite finished, and is very comfortable to all the inhabitants, and is an ornament to the station. We have also been enabled, through the kind assistance of the Board, to build an underground water tank, and hope to add one or two more during the coming year, so that the whole station will be supplied with good fresh water at all times. The whole work of building cottages and sinking the tank has been done, under my direction, by the Aborigines themselves.

7. The total amount of money received and expended during the year, including the temporary overdraft still due on building hop kiln, is as follows:—

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.					
		£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
From bullock hides	11	1	5	Balance of overdraft due Na-	...	49	17	7
„ arrowroot	25	9	0	tional Bank ...	...	118	14	3
„ store cattle	97	7	9	Wages account ...	...	87	15	6
On account of hops	50	0	0	General station account, in-	...	23	13	8
Balance due	96	2	10	cluding buildings...	...			
					Hop picking account	...			
Total	£280	1	0	Total ...	...	£280	1	0

I am sorry to state that our hops from the past season have not been sold yet, and also that the arrowroot crop was a failure, on account of the very dry season in this district, for which reason the overdraft is so high at present, but may be reduced at any time when the hops get sold. As usual, all the original vouchers are carefully numbered before they are entered into the station book, and the accounts audited and kept ready for inspection at any time.

9. Some of the Aborigines are still fond of hunting and fishing, and thus contribute towards their own support.

9. As formerly, so now, I have still to complain of occasional drunkenness, although it is very little than what it used to be in former years.

10. It gives me great pleasure to express our best thanks for the kind support received from the Board for the blacks. The stores and clothes have been of very good quality, and are a great comfort to the natives. I beg especially to express my best thanks to the Board and the Inspector-General for all the prompt attention laid before them in all matters belonging to the station or the welfare of the natives in general.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Captain A. M. Page, Inspector-General, Melbourne.

F. A. HAGENAUER.

APPENDIX V.

SIR,

Mission Station, Lake Tyers, Gippsland, 19th July 1879.

I have the honor to forward my report of the progress of the station during the past year.

1. The number of Aborigines who have attended the station is as follows:—

January ...	...	70	July ...	...	69
February ...	...	53	August ...	...	70
March ...	...	60	September ...	...	64
April ...	...	60	October ...	...	74
May ...	...	70	November ...	...	75
June ...	...	70	December ...	...	73

Average, 67.

I may state that the number of blacks in this district who attend the station is about 120, but many of them went up into the Maneroo district, and they have not yet returned.

2. We have had no births during the year. The number of deaths is nine (9); these were mostly old people, over the age of 50 years; one was a little boy of 5 years of age. I have found the past season to be a very trying one both to blacks and whites, from what cause I cannot say, but we have had more sickness during this year than at any other time during our residence here.

3. The number attending school is twenty-one (21), of which number 13 can read and write; the rest are young children who have not been many months in school.

4. The whole of the reserve is fenced; the quantity of land fenced for the cultivation of arrowroot, &c., is about 20 acres. During the year we have had four (4) acres under crop, three of which are under arrowroot; the other acre was planted with potatoes, but, owing to the exceptionally dry season, both crops were a failure. We will not be able to manufacture any arrowroot this year, as the bulbs are only fit for seed, for which purpose they will be used. The potatoes, owing to the dryness of the ground, were completely spoiled for food.

5. The stock on the station consists of 10 head of cattle, which are all healthy, in spite of the very hard season they have had to go through.

6. There are now 14 buildings on the station, eight (8) of which are for the use of the Aborigines. The others are used as follows :—1. The missionary's residence ; 2. The residence of the teacher ; 3. A very large and handsome church, which will seat about 120 persons ; 4 is a school-house ; 5. A store ; 6 is a building used for the Aboriginal children. We are now about to build some more buildings for the blacks, from funds supplied by the Board. It is also intended to build a large school-house, from funds to be supplied by the committee of the Church of England Mission, as the present building is old and dilapidated. When these new buildings are erected the station will be as complete as it will be required for many years to come.

7. The money received and spent up to date is as follows :—

			£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
By Wool and Skins	...	...	20	19	2	By Wages, &c.	...	...	60	7	0
Arrowroot	...	...	31	1	8						
			<hr/>						<hr/>		
			£52	0	10				£60	7	0

APPENDIX VI.

SIR,

Aboriginal Station, Lake Hindmarsh, 9th July 1879.

In accordance with your request I have the honor herewith to forward a brief statement as to the working and progress of the station, and the condition of the Aborigines connected with it.

The average attendance during the past twelve months has been a fraction over 65, as against 52 last year. The monthly attendance fell as low as 47 in July 1878, but rose to upwards of 100 in April and May of the present year, mainly owing to a considerable number of new arrivals from the Murray and other places which were visited by the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer and myself, in accordance with instructions received from the Board, with a view of inducing the natives to settle on the stations. Two births are to be recorded, and an equal number of deaths, viz., Mary Puntty, a girl about 15 years of age, who arrived here in an advanced stage of consumption, and died 14th March, 12 days after her arrival ; and Chrissie Officer, a young woman of about 19, who died of dropsy, 13th May. With these exceptions, and two or three cases of chronic disease, the general health of the natives has been remarkably good during the whole of the period under notice. I ought not to omit to acknowledge the kindness of the committee of the Horsham Hospital in charitably and kindly admitting into that institution the patients sent down from here. Some five or six severe cases were taken down last year, all of whom returned either cured or greatly relieved.

There has been an accession to the children of school age, the number being 23 as against 19 last year. The Rev. P. Bogisch is still in charge of the school, and states that fair progress continues to be made in most of the subjects taught. Outside school hours the lads find suitable employment in the garden or in cutting away scrub and other work of a light description.

The number of cottages remains the same as last year, viz., 12. A stone cottage is in course of erection, Pelham Cameron, who exhibits much skill in stone masonry, being the contractor. Two or three more cottages of a similar description are to follow, when all requirements in that line will be fully satisfied. I beg to acknowledge the kind liberality of the Board in granting £150 for permanent improvements, which enables me to erect these substantial structures. One of the old cottages has been improved by a good roof of galvanized iron in place of bark ; others have been ceiled and otherwise improved. Some of the old ones are capable of further improvement in point of roofs and chimneys, which being of bark detract from their appearance and are otherwise objectionable.

The number of sheep shorn at last shearing was 1,410, but I regret to say that a very great reduction has since taken place in that number. In common with the whole district the station has passed through a very trying season of drought and scarcity of feed. The poor sheep fell away in condition till they resembled living skeletons more than anything else, and when the cold and wet weather of winter set in they were not able to stand it, and perished in great numbers ; the losses in sheep alone would hardly be less than 500, if not 600, and will be sadly observable at shearing in the decrease in the quantity of wool. I should have been in great straits in regard to the supply of meat for the natives had not the Board most liberally come forward to our assistance by granting a sum of money for fat sheep. Of other stock, one cow, one heifer, and four calves have also died, and all that remain are four cows, one heifer, and one calf. There are four horses belonging to the station which are in good condition.

As regards cultivation I have to state that the yield in hay did not come up to expectation, for though there were 24 acres under crop, the yield was barely sufficient to last three horses six months.

About 12 acres of ground are being cleared in close proximity to the station, which will be fallowed in August, and put under crop next year. Very little fencing will be required to securely enclose this piece of ground against the inroads not only of cattle and sheep, but of rabbits also. These little pests have of late years become very numerous and destructive, not only to grass but to crops, and have even found their way into the garden, where they committed mischief amongst the vegetables. As they carry on their work of destruction after nightfall, the utmost vigilance is necessary to cope with this nuisance. It has, however, been greatly abated of late, the natives having killed great numbers of these little pests, and poisoning them having proved very successful.

There has been a great deal of useful and substantial fencing done. Station premises, garden, and burying ground have all been enclosed with good paling fences, the palings being of the natives' own splitting. As regards the garden, I beg to say that a powerful pump and horsework have been erected at the expense of the Board, by whom also a good serviceable horse to work the pump and do station work generally has been purchased, for which I beg to tender my warmest thanks to the Board.

Four of the men have enclosed the space round their cottages with neat paling fences, laying it out as flower and vegetable gardens, displaying a good deal of taste and skill in so doing. They have also procured and planted some orange and other fruit trees.

The natives, as a rule, have been well behaved and contented. Only one or two cases of drunkenness have come to my knowledge. They have again been allowed their usual summer and winter holidays, and much enjoyed them. They are fond of the station, evidently regarding it as their home. Several of them, when away from the station, keep up a correspondence with me, and I think they would, with very few exceptions, prefer remaining here to going abroad in search of work, if sufficient inducement could be held out to them. There is a brass band, taught by Mr. Bogisch. Some of the men have a good talent for music, and, through persevering, have attained considerable proficiency in the art.

Mr. Macredie will have the goodness to lay the accounts for 1878 before the Board for inspection.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

C. W. KRAMER.

Captain Page, General Inspector of Aborigines, Melbourne.

APPENDIX VII.

Melbourne, 21st May 1879.

To the Vice-Chairman and Members of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines.

GENTLEMEN,

We have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with the wishes of the Board, we have lately visited Ramahyuk and Lake Tyers Mission Stations, in Gippsland.

We spent two days at the former station, and inspected both the homestead and the reserve. At Lake Tyers we were only able to remain a night and portion of the day following, but we walked over a part of the reserve, and satisfied ourselves as to the condition of the establishment generally.

We think well of the management of both stations; the natives appeared happy and contented, and the discipline, education, and routine work is satisfactory.

We observed, however, with deep regret, that consumption, or lung disease, here as elsewhere, was very prevalent, and the natives are rapidly decreasing in numbers; few of those born on the stations seem likely to attain the age of thirty years. The disease is always, sooner or later, fatal, and it has been for many years a terrible scourge among the blacks, thousands having no doubt died from its effects in the last thirty years. The complaint was most likely engendered in the first instance by an entire change of life, consequent on coming into contact with the whites.

We recommend that the Government be asked to appoint a board of the best medical talent procurable, to investigate the disease, and, if possible, point out how it may be mitigated or prevented in the future. From inquiries we made it seems to us a form of lung disease peculiar to the natives.

We noticed that both reserves are very much understocked, and we recommend that 800 sheep should be sent to Ramahyuk, and 100 sheep and 100 cows to Lake Tyers; the latter station is very inadequately supplied with meat, the present stock only consisting of 40 head of cattle.

We are of opinion that Lake Tyers is by far the best situated of the two stations, its comparative distance and isolation, and immediate proximity to the lake, being very much in its favor. We advise that an additional 8,000 acres of land should be applied for, as an addition to the reserve, which would then consist of 12,000 acres. This land forms a peninsula, Lake Tyers being on either side, and a fence two miles in length would include the whole station. We also think the Government should be asked to reserve the lake for the use of the blacks, and prohibit white fishermen from using nets in its waters.

We consulted Messrs. Hagenauer and Bulmer with reference to Coranderrk, and both unequivocally condemned it as an Aboriginal reserve, Mr. Hagenauer stating that he considered it utterly impossible for any one to manage it satisfactorily. As we have always held the same opinion, we recommend the Board to request permission from the Chief Secretary to disband and break up both it and the Framlingham Station, and distribute the natives now living on them among the other four stations. Framlingham we consider to be too near to the Mission Station at Condah, and the natives having decreased in numbers very much since the formation of the stations, six are no longer required.

There are about 80 natives, young and old, at Lake Wellington Station, and about 120 on Lake Tyers when there is a full muster.

We have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

EDWARD M. CURR, Member.

ALBERT A. C. LE SOUEF, Member.

APPENDIX VIII.

SIR,

Ramahyuck Mission Station, 17th March 1879.

I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with the resolution of the Aboriginal Board to visit the blacks on the Lower Murray and to see what can be done in the way of bringing them to the stations, the Rev. C. W. Kramer and myself left our respective stations for Melbourne on the 23rd January, and after some needful arrangements with the Board, proceeded to Ebenezer, in the Wimmera district. At that station we remained for several days in order to converse with the blacks, and to make observations in regard to the best means of destroying the numerous rabbits on the Aboriginal reserve.

We left Ebenezer on the 15th of February, in company of an intelligent black man, and, in order to carry out the Board's instructions in the most effective way, we visited every place mentioned in the last annual report of the Board where Aborigines had been living at that time, both in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the Wimmera and likewise of the Murray districts, from Fish Point, near Gunnawarra, down to Yelta, below the junction of the Murray and Darling rivers. With the kind assistance of the magistrates, police, local guardians, and settlers, as well as some of the natives, we have been enabled to meet with nearly all the blacks in these large districts, and have been very successful in regard to our mission from the Board to the blacks, to come and settle down on the stations established for that purpose.

In the accompanying list I give all the names, ages, and sex and locality of residence of the blacks, during our visit on both sides of the river Murray, from which it will be observed that the total number (through the country we visited) now away from the stations is 158, and 11 who had already arrived at Ebenezer. There are only two old people left on the Richardson River and 4 men at Moreton Plains, but none on the other places of the east and north-east of the Wimmera district. Among the total number given, we found 38 very old people, of whom 7 are totally blind, 2 marked with pock holes, and several very near their end. There are only 42 females now alive, of whom 17 are very old, and several ill of consumption. There are only four young female children; few young women, the others being all of middle age and not looking very healthy.

There are 6 children belonging to Victoria, 4 to New South Wales, and 4 belonging to both colonies. Two having already gone to Ebenezer and 4 are soon to follow.

In accordance with the statements of the blacks themselves, there are 92 of the above number belonging to Victoria, and 66 to New South Wales, who only come across the Murray on particular occasions.

Regarding the health of the Aborigines, we found that a number of young people seem to suffer from consumption, and some of the very old ones are near their end on account of old age, but, in addition to that, we were informed that several lately died through strong drink, a young half-caste woman having been burnt to death in a state of intoxication, and another one died in consequence of drink.

In reference to our mission from the Board, I am happy to state that we have been very successful. Our statements were generally and everywhere received with expressions of great joy, and before we reached Swan Hill on our return journey from Wentworth, 21 had already left to go to Ebenezer. A few sick youths would return in the conveyance with Mr. Kramer, and a number, even of old ones, said that they would soon follow their children to the station.

At Kulkyne, the Cliffs, and Fish Point or Lake Boga, a number of young people promised to go to Ramahyuck if I would fetch them, when they could go in the steamer, as otherwise they could not make the long journey. I promised to fetch them to Ramahyuck, which will be preferable, as there is useful employment and sufficient supply of meat and other kinds of produce for as many as may choose to settle down.

In respect to the very old ones, who cannot be removed on account of ill-health and old age, but who need greatly some attention before they pass away, I would most respectfully suggest that the Board, in connection with the Missions Committees, should send a missionary for some time to the Lower Murray, who could attend to all the wants of these poor old people.

It may be of interest to the Board to know that there are several families near Lake Boga, who have taken up selections under the present Land Act. The first selection belongs to Steward, a half-caste man, who has taken up and paid the survey fee and first instalment of rent for 320 acres. He has erected and lives with his family in a log hut, but has not done anything yet to the land. The second selector, M. Orr, a black man, has only taken up 20 acres, and seems to be confident of success. He also has erected a substantial log hut, in which he lives with his wife. Another one, Morrison, will also select 20 acres, but has not done so on account of want of funds. We encouraged these men to do their best to get on successfully on their land.

In conclusion, I beg to state that our whole journey from 23rd January to the 15th of March has been very pleasant, and that also our black driver and guide deserves every praise for his faithful services.

Being pressed for time, I left at Swan Hill direct for Melbourne and Gippsland, but Mr. Kramer continued along the Murray and through the Wimmera district to travel for another week, and has promised to send in a separate report, but, I feel sure, of the same kind of an encouraging nature.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

F. A. HAGENAUER.

Capt. A. M. Page, Inspector-General of Aborigines, Melbourne.

APPENDIX IX.

SIR,

Aboriginal Station, Lake Hindmarsh, 19th March 1879.

I have the honor to report that, in accordance with the Board's instructions, I, in company with the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer, visited all those places where natives were most likely to be met with, including Warracknabeal, Donald, Charlton, Towaninnie, and the various places on the banks of the Murray. The number of natives found will be submitted by Mr. Hagenauer, who took down their names; it does not, however, exceed 150-160 on both sides of the river.

Their condition is, for the most part, deplorable in the extreme, living as they do in vice, want, and filth; and the desire of the Board that, if possible, all should live on the stations is certainly very good. We tried to the best of our ability to acquaint them with the views and wishes of the Board, and to persuade them to go and live on the stations. The result of our endeavours has been most gratifying, for

almost immediately about 20, including 4 children for the school and one very delicate young man, started to go to Lake Hindmarsh, some of whom have arrived since, while the others are expected in a day or two. A number of young people were found willing to accompany Mr. Hagenauer to Gippsland at some future date, when, the steamers running, travelling shall be less difficult.

A great number of the old ones expressed their willingness to come and live here, were means of travelling provided to convey them here. This refers more particularly to those in the Swan Hill district, who either know this place or have friends or acquaintances here. I therefore respectfully recommend the Board to make provision for their reception and support here, so that those who are willing may, in accordance with their wish, be removed to this station, where, removed from the temptation to drink, their few remaining days may be rendered as pleasant and comfortable to them as possible.

At no point on the Murray are the blacks found in sufficient numbers to warrant the establishment of another station, those in the vicinity of Swan Hill—the largest number by far—amounting only to about 60, mostly old and infirm people.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain Page, General Inspector of Aborigines, Melbourne.

C. W. KRAMER.

APPENDIX X.

STATEMENT of the Total Cost of all Clothing, Provisions, &c. (including the Transport thereof), Paid for, for the use of the Aborigines, from 1st July 1878 to 30th June 1879.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
Coranderrk	...	...	...	1,527	1	3	Swan Hill	...	...	...	319	3	2
Framlingham	...	...	...	797	19	0	Wyuna	...	...	...	67	18	4
Lake Condah	...	...	...	607	16	2	Wangaratta	...	...	...	79	17	7
Lake Wellington	...	...	...	377	4	6	Casterton	...	...	...	21	5	11
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	594	6	7	Towanninie	...	...	...	13	13	7
Lake Hindmarsh	...	...	...	485	8	2	Durham Ox	...	...	...	7	10	1
Melbourne	...	...	...	3	3	0	Mount Hope	...	...	...	26	16	4
Kulkyne	...	...	...	141	2	2	Camperdown	...	...	...	5	15	3
Mildura	...	...	...	21	17	0	Wirmbirchip	...	...	...	50	7	7
Ned's Corner	...	...	...	14	0	0							
Geelong	...	...	...	17	10	10					£5,179	16	6

APPENDIX XI.

ACCOUNT showing the Amounts Voted for the Aborigines and the Amounts Expended from 1st July 1878 to 30th June 1879.

				£	s.	d.					£	s.	d.
Unexpended balance, 30/6/78	...	...	...	78	15	11	Medical attendance, medicines, &c.	...	...	...	371	1	10
Deposit	...	...	...	15	0	0	Potatoes, seeds, &c.	...	...	...	87	1	8
Unadjusted advances for petty cash, 30/6/78	...	...	...	15	0	0	Permanent improvements and stock	...	...	...	2,613	1	11
Votes for 1878-9	...	...	...	10,500	0	0	Superintendent, Coranderrk	...	...	...	203	16	10
Meat, Coranderrk	...	...	...	12	13	2	Matron, Coranderrk	...	...	...	50	13	7
Cattle, Condah	...	...	...	28	14	9	Schoolmaster, Coranderrk	...	...	...	120	0	0
Proceeds, hops	...	...	...	508	17	3	Stores, clothing, provisions (including transport)	...	...	...	5,179	16	6
Grazing fees, Framlingham	...	...	...	10	0	0	Hardware	...	...	...	237	15	10
							Hop-growing, Coranderrk	...	...	...	519	0	2
							Wages other than in hop garden	...	...	...	139	18	1
							Other expenses in cultivation other than hops	...	...	...	161	4	9
							Travelling expenses, removing Aborigines, and inspecting stations, &c.	...	...	...	129	10	0
							Horse-feed	...	...	...	4	5	8
							Harness and saddlery, &c.	...	...	...	23	6	3
							Farm implements, tools, &c.	...	...	...	9	6	6
							Corn sacks	...	...	...	3	6	8
							Blacksmith's work	...	...	...	57	11	7
							Repairs to vehicle, Coranderrk	...	...	...	8	0	0
							Law expenses	...	...	...	20	9	6
							Master, Framlingham	...	...	...	120	0	0
							Schoolmistress, Framlingham	...	...	...	55	19	9
							General Inspector and Secretary (including travelling allowance)	...	...	...	487	10	0
							Clerical assistance	...	...	...	12	10	0
							Rent of office	...	...	...	24	13	0
							Allowance, local guardian, Swan Hill	...	...	...	12	10	0
							School books and stationery	...	...	...	49	8	11
							Incidental expenses and sundries	...	...	...	15	12	1
							Cultivation other than at Coranderrk	...	...	...	30	11	3
							Wages, Condah	...	...	...	50	0	0
							Expenses of Messrs. Hagenauer and Kramer collecting blacks on Murray	...	...	...	100	4	4
							Burials	...	...	...	8	17	6
							Insurance	...	...	...	21	13	9
							Cattle, Framlingham	...	...	...	10	0	0
							Firewood, Swan Hill	...	...	...	15	0	0
							Aboriginal weapons	...	...	...	4	2	6
							Unexpended balance of vote	...	...	...	0	18	11
							Balance available for next year	...	...	...	195	1	9
							Deposit	...	...	...	15	0	0
											£11,169	1	1

APPENDIX XII.

Office of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines,
69 Temple Court, Melbourne, 12th June 1879.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines has recently had under its serious consideration the advisability of concentrating the natives on fewer stations than at present. It is a painful fact that the Aborigines throughout Victoria are rapidly decreasing in numbers; the total numbers being now, probably, not more than 800, including half-castes.

The Board, after much careful and anxious consideration of the whole question, has come to the conclusion that four stations instead of six are now sufficient for the remnant of the native population, and beg to recommend that steps be at once taken for the purpose of giving up Coranderrk, on the Upper Yarra, near Healesville, and Framlingham station, situated about twelve miles from Warrnambool, in the Western district. Several of the present members of the Board have always held that Coranderrk was originally badly selected as an Aboriginal home, on account of its climate being too cold and wet; and so far back as August 1875, Messrs. Godfrey, Curr, and Le Souef recommended that it should be abandoned as unfit for its purpose. There are other and grave reasons, namely, its close proximity to the township of Healesville and other surroundings, that make it, in the unanimous opinion of the Board, extremely desirable to break this station up. Framlingham is also now too closely environed by townships and selections, and as the Lake Condah Mission Station is only 50 miles distant from it, the Board considers that it would be advisable to relinquish this station.

It is proposed, if you agree with the Board in the advisability of the course which it has now the honor to recommend, that the feelings of the natives resident on the two reserves shall, as far as possible, be consulted in the selection of their future home on any of the other stations.

If this proposal is carried out, it will necessitate an additional expense on the remaining establishments, as more huts will have to be erected on each, and other charges incurred for the increased numbers, but ultimately there will be a considerable saving in the yearly expenditure. It is estimated that at least £2,000 will be required for the above-mentioned purpose.

The reserves of Coranderrk, 4,800 acres, and Framlingham, 3,500 acres, which the Board wish to hand over to the Government, are of great commercial value, and would probably realize by auction an average of £4 per acre, or £33,200.

In the event of this arrangement being carried out, an additional area of about 8,000 acres of land will be needed at Lake Tyers Mission Station in South Gippsland. The land is of very inferior description, but is suitable for the purpose required. I may mention that the Board considers this reserve the most valuable under its control; it is isolated, situated in poor country never likely to be thickly populated; and there are good hunting and fishing grounds in its immediate vicinity; and I may here explain that the more remote an Aboriginal station is from a European population the better adapted it is for the natives.

The Ebenezer station on the Wimmera, near Lake Hindmarsh, also requires considerable extension, as well on account of a number of natives that have lately been located under the influence of Messrs. Hagenauer and Kramer, as of those that would have to be sent there under this present proposal.

This station ought to be increased so as to be able to carry 3,000 sheep. This is also a very valuable reserve, as it has a suitable climate and is in the midst of a poor district. The Board anticipates that ultimately the last of the Victorian natives will be gathered on these two stations, Ebenezer and Lake Tyers. In conclusion, I may state that the Board has appointed two of its members to wait on you on this subject.

Attached is a schedule showing the area of land at Coranderrk and Framlingham, together with a list of improvements, also a plan showing the extension required at Lake Tyers and Lake Hindmarsh.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

(Signed) HENRY JENNINGS, Vice-Chairman.

APPENDIX XIII.

Office of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines,
69 Temple Court, 12th June 1879.

SIR,

The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines feel themselves under the necessity of urgently directing your attention to the subject of the health of the unfortunate remnant of the tribes under their care. It is with much regret we find that the steps which have been taken to arrest the terrible death rate prevalent for many years on our stations have proved completely futile. That the reduction in the numbers of the tribes under our care is not attributable in the main to intoxication and debauchery, as it has now become clear that the sober and moral fare nearly as ill as the drunkard. It is also important to notice that whilst the individuals of 30 or 35 years of age who take up their residence on our stations, as a rule, preserve their health, are able to work hard, and bid fair in many cases to live to 60 or 70 years of age, those who are born on or enter our establishment in childhood, on attaining a suitable age are unable to work for any time without inducing spitting of blood, and for the most part die between their twelfth and twenty-fifth years, and seem in few cases likely to reach 30. From this it happens that instances are daily becoming more frequent of parents who have buried two, four, or six children, and occasionally been left childless.

We have further the honor to bring under your notice the very important fact that death in most cases is the result of a disease of the lung peculiar to the natives, which ends fatally in every case—that no cure has ever been known, nor, as far as we can judge, does medical attendance seem to have ever retarded the fatal catastrophe. In view of these facts it seems to us that there is strong reason for concluding that the cause of death, whatever it may be, is intimately connected with the daily life of these people, and it has been stated at one of our meetings that a similar mortality has prevailed on an establishment in Queensland. In that the case was successfully met by making a great reduction in the clothing used, and keeping the children (there are no adults in the establishment) as much as possible in the open air, day and night.

Under all the circumstances of the case, having under our care the lives of several hundred human beings, we have thought it our duty to bring the matter under your notice, and to urge that it should be remitted, with the least delay possible, for inquiry and report to some one or more medical men who have already manifested a bias towards investigations of the sort.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.
No. 68.

(Signed)
C

I have, &c., &c.,
HENRY JENNINGS, Vice-Chairman.

APPENDIX XIV.

DISTRIBUTION of Stores Paid for, for the use of the Aborigines, by the Board from 1st July 1878 to 30th June 1879.

By Authority: JOHN FERRIS, Government Printer, Melbourne.

Name of Station.	Blankets.	Serge Shirts.	Twill Shirts.	Buttons.	Yds. Woincey.	Yds. P. H.	Yds. Calico.	Yds. Flannel.	ra. Hoof.	Stockings.	Flour.	Tea.	Sugar.	Ice.	Oatmeal.	Soap.	Tobacco.	Miscellaneous.
											tons.	lbs.	ns. c. qr. lbs.	wt. qr. lb.			lbs.	
Coranderrk .	36	91	13	80	950		486	603	18	19	31½	24	7 17 0 0	11 0 0	9 cw	24 cwt.	230	210 yds. tick, 114 bush. oats, 129 lbs. currants, 59 lbs. raisins, 236 lbs. sago, 80 lbs. maizena, 4½ tons seed potatoes, 40 bush. grass seed, 12 tons coke, 64 galls. kerosene, 235 lbs. candles, 51 felt hats, 1 chaff-cutter, 3½ doz. brandy, 4½ doz. wine, 1½ tons galvanized iron, 240 lbs. nails, 1 counter scales and weights, 2 saddles, 1 bridle, 2 doz. vinegar, 2 doz. tins mustard, 66 yds. shirting, 71 galls. coal tar, 665 posts and rails, 40,000 bricks, 1 Howard's harrow, 40 yds. serge, 2 meat safes, 45 bags lime, 1 barrel cement, 1 cask treacle, 1 wheelbarrow, 125 wool bales, &c.
Framlingham ..	1	30	40	40	298	10	130	275	3	...	13½	960	3 10 0 0	5 0 0	5 "			30 yds. serge, 57 yds. shirting, 37 yds. moleskin, 1 weighing machine, 600 posts and rails, 1 1000-gall. tank, 197 ft. spouting, 29,000 ft. hardwood, 352 ft. deal, 16 galls. kerosene, 25 lbs. raisins, 25 lbs. currants, 6,550 palings, 17 pairs sashes, 224 lbs. nails, 34 bush. seed wheat, 19 panel doors.
Condah		20	...	...	229	15	228	184	4	...	12	654	3 7 1 0	4 1 0	5 "	7 "	166	192 yds. trousering, 231 yds. skirting, 288 yds. print, 160 yds. tweed cloth, 8 galls. kerosene, 500 lbs. candles, 2 doz. brandy, 2 doz. wine, 18 bush. oats, 85 yds. hesian, 85 yds. brown holland, 152 yds. dress material, 1 saddle and bridle, 1 sewing machine, 503 ft. shelving, 2 cwt. white lead, 15 galls. oil, 4 brushes.
Lake Wellington	3	...	...	36	207	...	224	...	...	...	8½	580	2 1 3 0	4 0 0	4 "	8 "	80	12 waistcoats, 113 yds. linen, 42 yds. brown holland, 38 yds. mole, 121 yds. shirting, 120 yds. serge, 6 quilts, 34 lbs. raisins, 32 lbs. currants, 40,000 bricks, 6 casks cement, 10 bags lime, 2 No. 6 Douglas pumps, 20 lengths spouting.
Lake Tyers ..	20	48	102	79	201	...	...	...	...	...	12	600	2 5 0 0	4 0 0	4 "	8 "	120	12 waistcoats, 216 yds. print, 83 yds. shirting, 200 fruit trees, 55 yds. huckaback, 38 yds. moleskin, 212 yds. long cloth, 42 yds. holland, 7 doz. combs, 3 doz. plates, 3 doz. pannikins, 1 doz. spades, 1 doz. brandy, 4 casks cement, 1 Douglas pump.
Lake Hindmarsh	..	12	72	72	37	50	30	60	...	...	16	696	3 2 3 0	4 2 0	1½ "	6½ "	121	105 yds. print, 3½ cwt. treacle, 2½ cwt. split peas, 50 yds. twill, 38 yds. moleskin, 30 lbs. raisins, 30 lbs. currants, 4 doz. tins preserved milk, 3 iron bedsteads, 1 horse-power force-pump, 2 doz. tomahawks, 3 doz. billies, 4 doz. pannikins.
Melbourne ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 caps, 1 boy's suit, 2 pairs stockings, 2 dresses, 4 petticoats, 2 chemises.
Kulkyne ...	24	27	12	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	156	10 3 10	...	...	1½ "	99	12 petticoats, 12 dresses, 1 doz. tomahawks.
Mildura ...	20	12	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 chemises, 1 doz. tomahawks.
Ned's Corner ...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Geelong ...	5	1	1	1	8½	..	7	3	...	...	0½	40	1 0 12	0 0 12	12 lbs	16 lbs.	7	...
Swan Hill ...	100	...	100	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	4½	446	1 8 2 0	...	...	1 cwt.	150	30 petticoats, 60 tons firewood.
Wyuna ...	34	25	26	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 dresses, 15 petticoats, 12 chemises.
Wangaratta ...	20	20	20	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	0½	39	1 2 22	...	...	...	21½	20 petticoats, 20 dresses, 40 hats, 1 doz. tomahawks.
Casterton ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0½	22	2 1 6	...	...	8 lbs.	10	...
Towanninie ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0½	41	1 2 2	...	...	...	...	...
Durham Ox ...	4	3	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 dress, 1 petticoat.
Mount Hope ...	6	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	0½	22	0 2 0	0 0 14	14 lbs	6 lbs.	6	3 women's jackets, 6 dresses, 6 petticoats.
Camperdown ...	3	3	6	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 hats.
Wirmbirchip ...	8	...	8	8	...	...	30	...	...	...	1	80	...	...	...	cwt.	20	3 chemises, 6 dresses.