

1871.
VICTORIA.

SEVENTH 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.

By Authority :

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT.

	£ s. d.	
Preparation—Nil.		
Printing (1000 copies)	..	44 0 0

REPORT.

MY LORD,

Melbourne, 1st August 1871.

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

The numbers of Aborigines now settled on the several stations, according to the latest returns, are as follows :—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Coranderrk—under the superintendence of Mr. John Green ...	55	52	107
Lake Hindmarsh—under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Hartmann ...	49	31	80
Lake Tyers—under the superintendence of Mr. John Bulmer ...	52	35	87
Lake Wellington—under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Hagenauer ...	39	35	74
Lake Condah—under the superintendence of Mr. Joseph Shaw ...	46	35	81
Framlingham—under the superintendence of Mr. W. Goodall, jun.	38	25	63

It will be seen from the statements hereto appended that on these central stations the Aborigines are living in comfort ; that many of the families are in possession of valuable property and have good houses ; that they diligently till the ground which has been set apart for their use ; that their children attend the schools with regularity ; and that their progress in learning and the useful arts is more rapid than could have been expected.

Every opportunity is afforded for imparting religious instruction to the natives, but the Board has kept strictly to the duties imposed on it by the commission under which it acts ; and has used the moneys placed at its disposal solely for the purpose of ministering to the physical wants of the Aborigines, in furthering their moral improvement, in educating them, and in encouraging them to follow industrial pursuits.

There are good grounds for the hope that in a short time the Aboriginal Station at Coranderrk, and perhaps the stations in Gippsland, will, from the sale of the produce raised by the Aborigines, be to a great extent self-supporting, and require but little help from the Government.

It is the earnest desire of the Board that the central stations should soon be in this condition, because it would prove that the Aborigines living on these stations are not only civilized but equal to the performance of the duties which civilization imposes ; that the liberality of the Legislature in contributing to their wants has not been abused ; and that the system in operation has been successful.

The several reports in the Appendices show that the children are pursuing a course which is likely to lead to satisfactory results, and that even the aged amongst the adults are sensible of the advantages which are offered at the places appointed for their residence.

There is still a large number of Aborigines not directly under the control of the Board. These are living near the homes of the settlers in various parts of the colony. They labor occasionally ; some are employed as stock-riders, some as shearers, and a few are living with the whites as domestic servants.

There are also, near such stations, many aged persons who need food and clothes, and sometimes medical attendance, and it has been the constant care of the Board to minister to the wants of the latter, and to keep some watch over the conduct of the Aborigines employed by the settlers. In these labors the Board has been willingly assisted, as heretofore, by the local guardians.

Unless an Aboriginal deliberately forsakes the home, which is always accessible, there is no fear of want, or of suffering which can be alleviated ; but near the goldfields and large towns, where intoxicating liquors are easily procurable, cases of destitution and misery inevitably occur, and there are occasionally sudden deaths amongst the Aborigines.

Accounts.

The statements hereto appended give full information relative to the distribution of the moneys placed under the control of the Board.

Supply of stores.

The system under which stores are supplied to the several stations is satisfactory. The delays which formerly created so much suffering amongst the Aborigines, and dissatisfaction to the local guardians, do not now exist; and a large saving—equal to more than one-tenth of the vote—has been effected under the better arrangements made by the Board.

Number of Aborigines.

There is no reason to believe that there has been any great decrease in the number of Aborigines during the last few years.

It is wrong to suppose because tribes are broken up and dispersed that all the members of these tribes have perished. Tribal relations and family ties are much interfered with by the whites, who now occupy the whole colony, and gladly avail themselves of the services of the blacks. Men of the Lower Murray take service in Gippsland, and men and women of the Gippsland tribes are found in the Western District. At Coranderrk there are men, women, and children, all living amicably with members of the Yarra and Goulburn tribes who have been gathered from the Upper and Lower Murray, from Gippsland, and from the north and south-western parts of the colony.

During the past seventeen months the births and deaths reported by the superintendents of the principal stations are as follows:—

	Births.	Deaths.
Coranderrk	9	7
Lake Wellington	5	3
Lake Condah	2	2
Lake Tyers	3	6
Lake Hindmarsh	3	7
Framlingham	—	1

It is not easy accurately to ascertain the numbers of the Aborigines, but the Board does not hesitate to declare that the oft-repeated statement that the race is rapidly disappearing is by no means in accordance with fact. In the years 1868–9 Mr. Green collected the names of 1514 Aborigines and estimated the total number at 1834.

Former and present condition of the Aborigines.

The Board may with some satisfaction direct your Excellency's attention to the present condition of the Aborigines of this colony, as contrasted with that which formerly brought upon our race much deserved reproach.

A great number are now under careful guardianship, and those who are not living at the central stations are not neglected. The local guardians minister to their wants; and so close is their supervision that a record of the crimes and offences of the Aborigines ceases to create distrust of them, and indeed leads to the hope that—if the wicked practice of selling intoxicating liquors to them be prevented—they will appear as the least criminal of any class in this community.

That they are capable of acquiring knowledge and all the arts that civilized men practice is sufficiently proved by the evidence which the Board now submits for your Excellency's perusal, and if the lands which they occupy with advantage to themselves and to the State be secured to them, the Board confidently anticipates the best results.

The Act to provide for the Management and Protection of the Aboriginal Natives of Victoria, and the Regulations and Orders made under the Act, give new powers to the Board, and confer additional duties on them, and we beg to assure your Excellency that this measure and these rules will, as far as regards the powers and duties of the Board, be administered in the spirit intended by the regulations, and with the view of improving the condition and protecting the rights of the Aboriginal natives.

I have the honor to be, my Lord,
Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant,

THEO. JNO. SUMNER,
Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency

The Right Honorable Viscount Canterbury, K.C.B.,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c., &c.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

MR. GREEN'S REPORTS.

ECHUCA, MOUNT HOPE, AND GUNBOWER.

SIR,

Coranderrk, 16th July 1870.

I have the honor to inform you that I visited Echuca and Mount Hope on the 5th and 9th instant. I could not get to Mr. Smith's of Upper Moira, owing to the high flood.

At Mount Hope I saw 3 half-caste women, 1 half-caste lad, and 5 children (one of them only six days old), 1 half-caste, and 4 three-caste white.

I was going to bring them all to Coranderrk, and they all seemed willing to come when I spoke to them about going the night I arrived, but next morning they were all gone (hid). I found them during the day among the rocks, but too late to start for Echuca that night, and now they were not willing to go without one man (Sam), who was not there. I stayed all night again, hoping to induce them to go with me, but in the morning they were not to be found. I think some of the white men who cohabit with them assisted them to get away. I left notice with Mr. Green to write to the Central Board when they came back with Sam, and that I would return and take them (with some others who are at Gunbower) to Coranderrk.

Mr. D. Mathews informed me that he was taking steps to establish an Aboriginal school in the New South Wales side of the river, near Echuca; he told me that he was going to give twenty acres of land to build on, &c. He asked me if the Central Board would give any assistance; I told him that I did not think so, in the way of money to build with; but I told him that it was possible the Central Board might give him some supplies if he had any of the Aborigines belonging to this side of the river. I also told him that I was going to take all the children to Coranderrk, as I considered they would be better to be removed away some distance from their old haunts. I would recommend the Central Board to remove every one of the children at once from that neighborhood.

I saw Mr. Munro of Gunbower at Echuca; he told me that there were about 30 Aborigines at his station, but that they had no supplies sent to them this season. He told me that he had been requested to send in returns to the Central Board of the stores he had distributed, but that he had not done so, nor would not. I told him that I had no doubt that that was the reason the Board had not sent any supplies.

However, they have not far to go to Mount Hope, or to Terrick-terrick, where they will go to if they cannot get supplies at Gunbower.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN GREEN

R. Brough Smyth, Esq., Secretary C. B. A.

LAKE CONDAH.

SIR,

Coranderrk, 13th April 1871.

I have the honor to lay before you my report on the condition of the Aboriginal station at Lake Condah.

I arrived there on the 24th and left on the 30th ultimo. On my arrival I inspected all the huts (14) occupied by the Aborigines, and found them all pretty neat and clean, and a few of them pretty comfortable.

There were 65 Aborigines on the station when I arrived, nearly all in good health. On the morning of the 25th the bell was rung at seven o'clock to awake all, breakfast at eight, and prayers at half-past eight, after which the men went to work, some to fencing, some to hut building, and others to bring materials for building, &c.

I, in company with Mr. Shaw, went through the reserve to see the stock, fences, &c.

The stock are in good condition, and are as follows:—18 bullocks, 41 cows, and heifers calved or in calf, 21 calves, 8 steers from one to three years old, 3 horses; in all 91.

There are eighty-two chains of a good substantial four-rail fence put up by Harris and the Aborigines, and one mile of brush fence put up by the Aborigines on the boundary, and about one mile of brush fence enclosing two paddocks, also put up by the Aborigines; the whole will be worth about £150.

In the afternoon I saw Mr. Shaw distribute the stores; he gave them supplies for half the week, viz., 5½ lbs. flour, 2 ozs. tea, and 1 lb. sugar; he informed me that he allowed each adult 10½ lbs. flour, 2 lbs. sugar, and 4 ozs. tea, and some potatoes, weekly.

Area under cultivation about 16 acres:—Wheat 7 acres, yield 11 bushels to the acre; oats 3½ acres, yield 12 bushels to the acre; potatoes, 5½ acres, not yet dug, a poor crop—I think there will not be more than 7 tons. Ground enclosed for cultivation, about 50 acres.

There are 14 huts occupied by the Aborigines, built of slabs and covered with bark, a few of them are lined with canvas and papered; four other slab huts, one occupied by the teachers and four half-caste girls, one as school-room, one as kitchen for Mr. Shaw, and the other as store-room. Mr. Shaw's house is built of bluestone and covered with shingles, is 48 x 17 feet, divided into three rooms.

The new school-room in course of erection is built of bluestone; the walls were finished the day after my arrival. It is well built, the corner stones are all well dressed on the face about three inches, and the whole is built in regular courses all neatly joined. When finished it will be a commodious house; but I think it was a great mistake not to have built some bedrooms adjoining it for the children, as they are urgently required.

On Monday the 27th I examined the children attending school under the tuition of Mr. and Mrs. Hogan. There were 27 in attendance, ranging from three to sixteen years of age; all of them were neat and clean, and appeared to be under good discipline. I heard all the classes read; the fourth class read the lesson I gave them in the Third Book with one mistake only, and made no mistakes in any of the words I gave them to spell. The third and second classes acquitted themselves almost as well. The first class read very well words of one and two syllables; the three first classes did several sums in addition and multiplication, and some of their writing in their copy-books was very good; the first class made figures very well on their slates. Mrs. Hogan was teaching the girls to sew; they showed me their work, and I must say it was very neatly done, showing that she has taken great pains to instruct them, also that they can be taught. There is no class for the adults at present. Mr. Hogan informed me that he had kept a class for them in the evening for some time, but could not get them to attend, owing to there being no fireplace in the school-room. He informed me that he will hold an evening class again as soon as the new school-room is finished.

Mr. Shaw informed me that he had sold the wheat and some of the potatoes grown on the station last year, and that he was going to sell again this year; that he had expended the moneys he had got on the Aborigines, but had not rendered any account of it to the Central Board. He also informed me that he had obtained some cattle and some money for allowing some stock to graze on the reserve.

Several of the Aborigines made complaints against Mr. Shaw, but only two of them were of any consequence, viz., that Mr. Shaw had shot their fowls, and that he had whipped one of them with his riding whip. Mr. Shaw acknowledged doing both; he told me that he shot the fowls because they had too many cocks, and would not keep them out of the wheat. That he struck the man with his whip because he had gone to the fencing with Harris and some of the others without his orders, and left the work he had been sent to do, and gave Mr. Shaw some insolence when asked why he did so. At my request they said that they would forgive him for all past things, and would go on the same as although nothing had happened.

The progress made since Mr. Shaw took charge, on the whole, is very satisfactory. There is a marked improvement in the children; they are under good discipline, both in school and out of it; the moment the bell rings for school they run from their several huts where they live with their parents or friends to the school door, where they are all marshalled, and then march to and fro for a short time, and then into school. The men went very regular to their work during the few days I was there.

I cannot see how the Aborigines there should require about 4 lbs. of flour weekly each adult more than they require here at Coranderrk, neither why they should require more clothes. I think they should be encouraged to hunt more; game is plentiful; this would be a saving to the flour, and they could make rugs with the skins for sale, and with the money obtained by themselves some clothes. When game was plentiful at Coranderrk, the Aborigines kept themselves in clothes for several years, by making and selling rugs; and the women here still almost keep themselves in clothes by making baskets for sale.

I would suggest to the Central Board for consideration—

- (1.) That the wheat be always made into flour.
- (2.) That no potatoes be sold unless there are more than can be consumed on the station.
- (3.) That the Aborigines be encouraged to hunt more, and to make rugs for sale with the skins from their game, and the women to make more baskets for sale.
- (4.) That Mr. Shaw and Mr. and Mrs. Hogan get their rations from the Central Board, to prevent any rumors about their using them without authority.
- (5.) That the Aborigines be allowed to keep a fair quantity of fowls.
- (6.) That the following fruit trees be granted:—20 apple, 20 peach, 20 pear, and 20 plum trees.
- (7.) Bedrooms for the children and furniture for the new school; also 25 lbs. of candles for the evening school.

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

R. Brough Smyth, Esq., Secretary C. B. A.

JOHN GREEN.

FRAMLINGHAM.

SIR, Coranderrk, 13th April 1871.
I have the honor to lay before you my report on the condition of the Aboriginal station at Framlingham. I arrived at that station on the 1st and left on the 7th instant. When I arrived Mr. Goodall was not at home; Mrs. Goodall informed me that he had gone to Warrnambool about the supplies.

I visited all the huts (ten) occupied by the Aborigines, and found them pretty tidy, and the women and children well clothed and clean. Nearly all the men, I was informed, were away hunting. On Sabbath (2nd) all (54) on the station assembled to prayers three times; they were all clean and well clothed.

On Monday I, in company with Mr. Goodall, inspected the stock, fences, and cultivation. The stock are in good condition, and are as follows:—5 bullocks, 26 cows, 18 calves, 5 heifers, 3 steers, and 1 horse; in all 58.

There are about three miles of chock and log fence, enclosing about 1000 acres of land. This fence is worth about £90.

There are about ten acres of land that has been under cultivation, but there has been no crop from it this season. The potatoes that they put in, Mr. Goodall informed me, had been all destroyed by the wet and wallabies. The fence round the cultivation is not secure. I told Mr. Goodall that he should get up a secure fence before he put in any more crops.

Mr. Goodall has removed the buildings from the place where they were before (when I last visited this station) to the site that I pointed out to Mr. Clarke some years ago; it is the best site on the reserve. There are eleven good slab huts; ten of them are covered with bark; these are occupied by the Aborigines; the other is covered with shingles, and occupied by Mr. Goodall and family. There is another building in course of erection, being built of palings outside and lined inside with deal, also floored with deal, and going to have a stone chimney; towards this building Mr. Goodall informed me he had got a grant of £20 from the Central Board. There is no store-room. I told Mr. Goodall that he should make the blacks build a slab one at once; the stores at present are kept in one of the men's huts.

There were 5 boys and 7 girls in attendance in Mr. Goodall's house. I heard them read, but only two of them could read in the Second Book, and that but badly; the rest can only read a little in the First Book; they cannot have got much instruction. Two or three of the girls can write a little. Children at school.

There were on the station on my arrival 22 men, 16 women, 11 boys, and 5 girls; 20 of the men are able-bodied, and might do a deal of work; but Mr. Goodall complains that he has not sufficient tools for the men to work with. Number on the station, &c.

Mr. Goodall informed me that he had taken in a good number of cattle to graze, for payment; that he had expended the money received on the Aborigines, but had not rendered an account of it to the Central Board. I told him to render an account to the Central Board, and not to take in any more cattle without the authority of the Board, which I thought he would not get. Stock grazing on the reserve.

None of the Aborigines made any complaints to me against Mr. and Mrs. Goodall; but several of the people in the neighborhood informed me that both of them were very negligent of their duties on the station; that they both frequently left the station together for several days at a time. I heard these things after I left the station, and had no opportunity of speaking to Mr. Goodall on the subject, and only mention them as rumors. Complaints against Mr. Goodall.

I would recommend for the consideration of the Central Board—

(1.) That 6 tons of potatoes be purchased for consumption on the station; they can be bought for twenty-five shillings per ton, and would be a saving to the flour, and good for the health of the people.

(2.) That Mr. Goodall be instructed to pay more attention to the education of the children, &c., on the station.

(3.) That 10 apple, 10 peach, 10 pear, and 10 plum trees be granted.

Mr. Goodall informed me that he gave each adult weekly 7 lbs. flour, 2 lbs. sugar, and 4 ozs. tea. Distribution of stores.

I think this station might become of some note yet, if well managed; but I am still of the opinion that it would be far better to amalgamate it with the Lake Condah station, and am sure that it could be done with a little tact. Remarks, &c.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN GREEN.

R. Brough Smyth, Esq., Secretary C. B. A.

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF ABORIGINES ON THE 31ST MAY 1869.

(FROM MR. GREEN'S RETURNS AND ESTIMATES.)

Districts.	Localities.	Total Number of Men, Women, and Children.
Southern	Coranderrk and Mordialloc	110
South-Western	Geelong and Colac	24
	Camperdown	18
	Framlingham, Warrnambool, Belfast, and Mortlake	62
	Nareeb-nareeb, Wickliffe	69
	Hamilton	46
	Mount Rouse, Condah, and Portland	97
	Casterton and Sandford	28
	Balmoral	22
	Carngam and Talbot	60
		426
North-Western	Mount Talbot	28
	Apsley	17
	Wimmera, Richardson, and Carr's Plains	269
	Mildura, Kulkynne, and Swan Hill	340
	Boort, Loddon	60
	Gunbower and Terrick-terrick	80
		794
Northern	Echuca, Wyuna, and Ulupna	94
	Goulburn Valley	50
		144
South-Eastern	Gippsland	186
North-Eastern	Wangaratta and Tangambalanga	74
	Wanderers (number estimated by Mr. Green)	1,734
		100
		1,834

NOTE.—During his tour of inspection in 1868 and 1869 Mr. Green collected the names of 1514 Aborigines. The returns of the local guardians do not show the number of Aborigines that are as yet unsettled.

The number of Aborigines who reside permanently on the principal stations was as under on the 30th June 1871—

Coranderrk	107
Lake Condah	81
Lake Tyers	87
Lake Wellington	74
Lake Hindmarsh	80
Framlingham	63

APPENDIX II.

REPORTS OF MR. R. BROUGH SMYTH.

GENTLEMEN,

Collins street, 2nd February 1870.

I have the honor to inform you that, in obedience to your instructions, I visited the Aboriginal station at Coranderrk on Friday and Saturday the 28th and 29th January last.

On Friday afternoon I saw the children and examined the huts, and on Saturday spent the whole of the day at the station, and made a careful survey of all the huts and cottages and the cultivated land, and looked at the stock.

The master and matron appear to be zealous and efficient.

The children have improved in appearance, and many of them acquitted themselves very well in reading. Their copy-books were clean, and the writing of many of them is quite as good as would be found in the Common Schools.

Some of the children's pencil sketches surprised me, and I advised Mr. Johnston to give encouragement to such of the boys as showed a desire to acquire instruction in landscape drawing.

When all the Aborigines and half-castes were assembled in the school-room, I had an opportunity of seeing, better than when they were apart, whether their general health and appearance were satisfactory; and I am glad to say that they looked well, and everywhere there was an air of contentment.

I listened to the statements of the men; talked with them in reference to their work, their obligations, and the necessity for forbearance and patience; and the opportunity thus given them of stating what they believe to be grievances was freely embraced; and I am quite certain that if the other members of the Central Board would visit the stations occasionally the Aborigines would profit by their advice and aid.

Many of the men are good laborers, and they are now so thoroughly domesticated that they show an earnest desire to get profit from their labors. The most industrious feel that they are giving their time and their work not only for the partial support of themselves and their families, but also for the benefit of the large number of females and children who are incapable of labor, and they wish to get some remuneration. This, in my humble opinion, is not unreasonable, and I beg to recommend that each laborer be paid a small sum per week in proportion to the amount of work performed.

It is suggested also that laboring men with families be permitted to keep pigs (in a suitable place), and to get the profit of the increase. This would induce them to pay more attention to their gardens, where already they raise vegetables, fruits, and root crops.

They should be allowed, in addition, a plentiful supply of animal food. When they are laboring on the farm they cannot hunt or fish, and strong, industrious, willing men (some of whom work as hard or harder than ordinary Europeans) should be well fed. The stock at present on the station is not sufficient to give a continuous supply of beef. If £100 were expended at once in the purchase of cattle, probably something less than £70 would be sufficient for procuring a supply of butcher's meat for 1870. After that the cattle on the station would, I believe, be sufficient for their requirements.

This is a matter that I beg you will be so good as to consider and determine as early as practicable, as I am convinced the success of the station will be retarded if the men be allowed to believe that their hard labors are unworthy of recognition. The Aboriginal, if well fed, is generally contented and happy, and willing to labor.

In order to show you what the few steady laborers have done, I beg your attention to the following figures:—

There are now under crop in the Eastern paddock	...	...	45 acres of oats,
In the flat	...	...	6 „ of potatoes,
Western paddock	...	...	20 „ of oats,
Western flat	...	...	20 „ of oats,
North paddock	..	...	14 „ of wheat,
Near the school-house	...	...	12 „ of potatoes,
„	„	...	2½ „ of garden.

Nearly all the clearing, fencing, draining, and ploughing have been done by the Aborigines, with assistance from Mr. Green and Thomas Harris, the ploughman. Some parts were cleared under contract, at the expense of the Central Board; but, making all proper deductions, the amount of work performed by the adult blacks is highly creditable to their industry and perseverance.

The fruit trees which were planted at the station during 1868 are looking well, and there is a prospect of abundance of fruit.

The general aspect of the station was highly satisfactory, and I have reason to believe that in a very short time the Aborigines will be able to maintain themselves in comfort.

It must be remembered that Coranderrk is the principal station; the feeble and the sick are sent to it; destitute Aboriginal children and half-castes are gathered together there; and it would be unreasonable to require the few healthy and strong men to support a large number who can contribute nothing to their own support.

The men are still anxious and uncertain respecting the tenure of their land. They feel they may be turned away at any time, and I hope the Central Board will make an effort to get a grant of the land now reserved for the use of the Aborigines. This, more than anything else, would give contentment and ensure the happiness of this people.

Many of the Aborigines gladly employ themselves in their leisure hours in fishing; and the streams near Coranderrk are certainly such as to tempt sportsmen to indulge in this pastime.

There are few native weapons to be found now at Coranderrk. Not without difficulty I got some fire-sticks, and asked one of the men to make fire after the native fashion, in order that a sketch of him and his implements might be made. As showing how small must have been the intercourse amongst the Aborigines in the olden time, I may mention that whilst a southern black was engaged in this employment (twirling the upright stick), a Murray black—a recent arrival at the Coranderrk station—said that he

could make fire much quicker and with less labor. Knowing the method he would employ, which is the same as that practised in many parts of New Zealand by the Maories, I asked him to set to work, and he did so, raising a smoke in a few seconds. This surprised the southern Aborigines, and they were not well pleased to see that one of their own race was somewhat in advance of them.

The women spend the time they can spare from the cares of their households in making baskets, nets, and bags. The forms of the baskets are good, and since I made designs for them they have improved rapidly, and are now capable of fashioning quite intricate patterns.

I was glad to see that the women are careful of their children, and many are very proud of them. One showed me a black infant about three weeks old, arrayed apparently in the same garments as the Europeans use, and the clothes were as white as snow.

Respecting the matters specially referred to me for report, I shall give oral explanations at the next meeting of the Central Board.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,
R. BROUGH SMYTH,
Secretary.

The Members of the Central Board for Aborigines.

SIR,

Collins street, 19th January 1871.

Mr. Green having reported that some of the Aborigines at Coranderrk had deserted the station because they were dissatisfied with the treatment they experience there, I in company with Mr. Jennings, a member of the Central Board proceeded to Coranderrk, on Thursday the 12th instant, in order to bring them back and to settle, if practicable, any differences existing between the Aborigines and the superintendent of the station.

On arriving at the station at four o'clock p.m., we found that three of the five blacks who had absconded had returned to Coranderrk; and after making a careful inspection of the huts, &c., we made arrangements for a further and complete inspection on Friday.

We spent nearly the whole of Friday at the station. We caused the adult Aborigines to assemble in the school-room, and we listened to their complaints. Those who had returned after having temporarily withdrawn from the station, informed us that they and their families were not sufficiently supplied with butcher's meat and clothing; and their appearance sufficiently proved that as regards clothing their complaint was well founded.

On referring to Mr. Green, he stated that he had in pursuance of his system refused clothing (except absolute necessaries) to those who did not do a fair amount of work. Further enquiries satisfied us that the complainants had not worked as they ought to have done; but the reason for this neglect was found in the fact that no stated remuneration was given to the laborers. All the men complained that they were not paid for their work, and they seemed to think that the suggestion made in my Report of the 2nd February 1870 should have been adopted by the Central Board. I agree with them; and regret that the Board did not consider and deal with my Report when it was presented. If it had been dealt with, all the existing difficulties and differences would, in my humble opinion, have been avoided. Mr. Jennings and I concur in recommending that the laborers be remunerated at rates to be fixed, and that the superintendent be required to submit a scheme and a scale of remuneration for consideration. If this system be adopted the superintendent should be required to report monthly, showing the amount of work done by each laborer, and the sum proposed to be paid to him in accordance with the approved scale.

When we had transacted business with the adult Aborigines we requested Mr. Green to send for the women and children, and they very quickly assembled. Their appearance was indeed highly satisfactory. The children were well clothed and healthy.

We saw the cattle, about 180 head, and inspected also all the huts, the dairy, the cheese-room, the store-room, and the gardens. The latter are in a good state; but much more might be done to make the station healthy and attractive.

We beg to submit for consideration the following recommendations:—

1. That Mr. Joseph Wilson be employed as a teacher for one month on trial, and that he be paid at the rate of £70 per annum.
2. That fifty young cows be purchased at a cost not exceeding £200.
3. That there be purchased for the station six geese, six ducks, six turkeys, and twelve pigeons.
4. That a white laborer be employed to form footpaths in the village; to make covered drains; to take up and repair the old drains; and to repair the road through the home paddock to the station at a cost not exceeding £10.
5. That in the winter the following trees, seeds, &c., be sent to the station:—

10 apple trees.	10 pear trees.
10 plum trees.	50 gooseberry bushes.
50 assorted black, white, and red currants.	
6. That Mr. Green be required to furnish at once a list of all stock (horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, fowls, &c.) at present grazing, or running, or feeding on the Aboriginal reserve, giving the names of the owners, and if there be any stray animals, particulars regarding them.
7. That Thomas Bamfield, Arnot, and all the working men be at once supplied with clothing suitable for themselves and families, as well as tea pots, tin ware, iron pots, &c.
8. That Mr. Green be required to cause all the old disused huts to be pulled down, and the paths near the village to be cleared; and to encourage the Aborigines to attend to their gardens and fowls. Willows, free growing creepers, &c., would make the place not only more attractive, but, if kept within proper limits, also healthier.

The Aborigines are discarding the use of rough poles and bark in building their houses. The men of better class use sawn timber for the walls and flooring, they paper their rooms, and attend carefully to their little gardens.

We saw some fencing they were putting up for enclosing a paddock; and no Europeans could have done better work than theirs.

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

R. BROUGH SMYTH.

James MacBain, Esq., M.P.,
President of the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines.

APPENDIX III.

DR. GIBSON'S REPORTS.

CORANDERRK.

SIR,

Flemington, 30th June 1869.

I have the honor to report that I visited the station at Coranderrk on the 29th ult. There were on the station 91 Aborigines. They may be classified as follows:—

Above 18 years	...	...	...	21	men	...	24	women.
From 12 to 18 years	...	...	...	11	boys	...	8	girls.
„ 5 to 12 years	...	...	...	10	„	...	6	„
Under 5 years	...	...	...	7	„	...	4	„
				49			42	= 91

The health of the station is good, no serious case of illness having occurred for some time. The superintendent being absent, I was accompanied in my inspection by Mr. Lang, his assistant.

The children appear happy and contented and read and write well, and several of the older ones are well advanced in the simple rules of arithmetic. The adults also appear cheerful and contented, and several of the females seem very industrious at basket making, and some of the men are good field laborers. The boys are also made very useful in milking and many minor operations on the farm.

The huts are in a fair state of order the greater part of them continue to show considerable improvement, while two or three of them are quite tidy. Some improvement however might be made in the young men's hut as it is in a very dilapidated condition.

The dormitories for the children, including beds and bedding, are clean and in good order. The schoolroom and school furniture are also in good order.

The stores, consisting of flour, tea, sugar, potatoes, beef, *salt and fresh*, are sound and good. There is also a large supply of growing vegetables in a good state of progress for the use of the station. The whole arrangements are in a satisfactory state and are very creditable to your superintendent.

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

R. B. Smyth, Esq.,
Secretary to Central Board for Protection to Aborigines.

J. GIBSON, M.R.C.S. Ed.

SIR,

Flemington, 30th September 1869.

I have the honor to report that I visited the Aboriginal station at Coranderrk, on the 29th ult. There are eighty-six Aborigines on the station. They may be classified as under:—

Males under 5 years	...	10	Females under 5 years	...	4
„ from 5 to 16 years	...	16	„ from 5 to 16 years	...	9
„ „ 16 to 21 „	...	3	„ „ 16 to 21 „	...	5
„ above 21 years	...	19	„ above 21 years	...	20
		48			38

The station is in a very satisfactory state as regards the health of the Aborigines, although they have suffered considerably during the past two months from influenza, which has been so prevalent around Melbourne at the same time. Four of them are still sick but the cases are comparatively slight, and only one (a boy) is confined to bed. Caroline, a married woman, is suffering from enlargement and inflammation of the glands of the neck in addition to influenza. The glandular affection is a renewal of an old attack, and although aggravating the fever, still, with the attention she is receiving, a short time will be sufficient to restore her. Clark, a married man, is another of the four. The attack with him has been severe, but he is now in a fair way of recovery although still suffering from bronchial irritation. Collin, a boy about ten years old is in bed in the early stage of the fever, but by no means a severe case. His bed and bedding are clean and comfortable, and he is in a large and well aired room, and with the care he is getting, I have

every confidence in the result. Martin, a boy about eleven years old, is the fourth, and has been ill for a week, but not so much as to be laid up, and with a little restraint indoors, as well as medicine, he will be quite well in a few days.

I visited all the huts on the station. Three new ones have been built, or at least finished since my last visit, and are now inhabited by the three couples lately married. These new huts are built with paling and are a very great improvement on the original bark sheets, or even slabs which have been in use hitherto. One of them is floored with boards of native timber, sawn by the owner and laid down in a very tradesmanlike manner, and is a comfortable two-roomed cottage.

The huts are all in a fair state of cleanliness, and several are very comfortable. The appearance of the Aborigines is cheerful and contented.

I also inspected the children's dormitories, including beds and bedding, and found them clean and orderly.

I examined the stores consisting of flour, tea, sugar, beef, bacon, potatoes, rice, and salt. They are all sound and good.

I may just add that the growing crops look well, and the general appearance of the station is highly creditable to your superintendent.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. GIBSON, M.R.C. Surg. Ed.

R. B. Smyth, Esq.,

Secretary Central Board for Protection to Aborigines.

SIR,

Flemington, November 6th 1869.

I have the honor to report that I visited the Aboriginal station at Coranderrk yesterday.

There are eighty-one Aborigines on the station, being five less than at my previous visit. That difference is accounted for by five of the men having obtained leave to go to the Goulburn to shear. There are four of the adults sick. Caroline, mentioned in my last report, is still suffering from the glandular affection of the neck which is now running. It will be necessary to give her wine and a liberal supply of fresh meat. With these, in addition to her medical treatment, I still anticipate a favorable result. Adam Clark, also mentioned in my last report, continues weak and ill. The bronchitis from which he was then suffering has resulted in congestion of the lungs, and keeps him feeble. He will also require a liberal supply of fresh meat in addition to his medical treatment. Norah, a married woman, is suffering from enlargement and congestion of the liver. I prescribed for her relief. Helen, a girl of about sixteen years, is ill of remittent fever, the result of exposure in the bush, having run away from the station for eight days during the late stormy weather. She will also require wine in addition to her medical treatment.

I visited all the huts on the station, they are in a fair state of cleanliness and order. Several of them have small plots of kitchen garden attached, which are in a very commendable state of cultivation. I also inspected the children's dormitories including beds and bedding, they are all clean and in good order. The children are also clean and tidy. I would, however, suggest that the next supply of clothing for the children should be a little lighter in color, so that it can at once be seen whether or not it is clean. The children are all in good health and look cheerful. Indeed all on the station are so, and reflect much credit on your superintendent.

I inspected the stores consisting of flour, tea, sugar, rice, and salt meat. They are all sound and good. I may just add, however, that the sugar is at present a shade too dark.

I also inspected the laundry accommodation. It is in a very miserable state and totally unfit for the requirements of the station. A new room should be built for the purpose, and I would suggest that it be placed a little nearer to the dwellings than the present one, care being taken that the drainage from it may not contaminate the creek where there is any likelihood of water being taken for the use of the station. I may also say, that the boiler at present in use is too small, and that for the new laundry one double the size should be provided.

I also inspected the medicine chest, and the under mentioned medicines are required:—1 oz. of quinine; 1 lb. of sulphuric acid *in stoppered bottle*; 8 ozs. oleum crotonis; 4 ozs. iodidi pottassi; 4 lbs. gentian root; and 6 bottles of port wine.

I was accompanied throughout my inspection by Mr. Green, and also by Mr. Johnston your newly appointed master, who seems well fitted as well as anxious to fulfil the duties assigned to him, and I can conclude by congratulating the Board that the station is in a very satisfactory state of progression.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. GIBSON, M.R.C. Surg. Ed.

R. B. Smyth, Esq.,

Secretary Central Board for Protection to Aborigines.

SIR,

Flemington, December 10th 1869.

I have the honor to report that I made a special visit to the Aboriginal Station at Coranderrk on the 29th ult.

Willie Parker (adult, married), while riding after stock on the previous Tuesday, ran against a tree and was knocked off his horse, sustaining severe injury to the chest, and is in a precarious state. When I arrived on Monday morning I found him suffering from congestion of both lungs, with extensive pleurisy and unable to move. The case, although highly dangerous, is still hopeful. I prescribed for his relief.

Of the four cases of sickness reported in my last, one died (Ellen Hobson) since.

Caroline (a married woman), also one of the four, is much better, and I expect her to be very soon off the sick list.

Adam Clark, another of the four, is better, although still an invalid.

Norah (the fourth) is quite recovered.

There have been seven new arrivals since I last reported; one woman and six men. One of these, Tommy Tooth, came up from the Melbourne Hospital on the Friday prior to my visit. He is suffering from inflammation with suppuration of the glands of the neck which has reduced him very much. Mr. Green informed me that there was some bottled stout on the way for his use, and until its arrival I requested him to have some of the port wine recently forwarded. Although the progress of this case may be slow, I anticipate a favorable issue, and his removal from an hospital will very materially hasten that result.

I also made an inspection of the station; the huts are clean and orderly, and many of them very comfortable. The younger portion of the community—I mean the working men and their wives—are clean in their persons, and for their class pretty well clothed, and have an air of content in their appearance, although some of the very old cannot get beyond their original slovenly habits.

I saw the children's dinner served; it is under the superintendence of the master and matron. The whole was a model of cleanliness and arrangement, and highly creditable to them.

The kitchen and dairy accommodation Mrs. Johnson complains of, and not without cause. The present kitchen being of slabs, and many years in use, is getting dilapidated, and the fireplace and chimney being also of wood is highly dangerous. The present dairy is only a good makeshift under Mr. Green's house, and has become far too small for the requirements of the station.

The children were clean and orderly. I inspected their dormitories which were also in a very creditable state. I examined the stores consisting of flour, rice, tea, and sugar, they are all sound and good.

I may just add that the growing crops (wheat and oats) are in a high state of promise.

I was accompanied through my inspection by Mr. Green and Mr. Johnston, and I can again conclude my report by congratulating the Board on the continued satisfactory state of the station.

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

J. GIBSON, M.R.C. Surg. Ed.

R. B. Smyth, Esq.,
Secretary Central Board for Protection to Aborigines.

SIR,

Flemington, 31st March 1870.

I have the honor to report that I visited the station (Aboriginal) at Coranderrk on the 3rd instant. There are on the station 91 Aborigines. They may be classified as under.

21 male adults.	8 girls between 5 and 12 years.
23 female adults.	9 boys under 5 years.
13 boys between 12 and 16 years.	6 girls " 5 "
4 girls " 12 and 16 "	—
7 boys " 5 and 12 "	91

The general health of the station is good, although there are several cases of sickness, but, with one exception, not serious.

Adam Clark (male adult) has been for some time past suffering from phthisis, and is gradually succumbing to that disease, although everything that can be done is being done for him.

Caroline (female adult) is suffering from acute sciatica.

Punch (male adult) is suffering from bronchitis.

Norah (female adult) is also suffering from bronchitis.

Maggie (female adult) is suffering from erysipelas of the breast.

Lily (female adult) is suffering from boils in the arm pit.

I advised for the management and relief of those cases, and with the exception of Adam Clark, who is declining, I anticipate in all a favorable result.

Willie Parker, mentioned in my last report (Dec. 10th 1869) as seriously injured while stock-riding, is quite recovered.

Tommy Tooth, also mentioned in my last as received from the Melbourne Hospital, has gone to the Murray district.

I examined the houses and huts; they are all clean and fairly tidy, with one or two exceptions of the older and less civilized portion.

There are four new houses in course of erection, and three of them are nearly finished, and are quite superior to any already on the station.

The school-room and furniture are clean and in good order. I saw the children (20 boys and 15 girls) at tea in it. The meal was served up by the older children, and was clean and comfortable. The master and matron presided, and the order was good. The dormitories, including beds and bedding, are clean. The boys bedsteads had been taken to pieces, and were being thoroughly washed in the yard. The children were clean in their person and clothing, but I would suggest to your Board the propriety of giving the boys caps. Many of them have so much hair on their heads that it is hardly possible that they can be at all times clean. Of course the hair could not be safely cut short without a cap, but it would be a great comfort to the children as well as an ease to the matron in preserving cleanliness. A good useful cap could easily be made on the station, and I feel confident that your Board would supply the material. Should the matron require a pattern, one (in paper) could easily be forwarded from Melbourne. This would afford more work to the girls; and indeed I would suggest the propriety of employing the females more freely, as many of the young wives have really nothing to do for a large portion of their time, and if they gave two or three hours sewing to the children daily it would do themselves much good.

I inspected the medicine chest; it is in good order, but the undermentioned medicines are required:—Acetum scillæ, 2 lbs.; liquor ammoniæ fort., 2 lbs.; this to be sent in a stoppered bottle; tincture of rhubarb, 2 lbs.; and tincture of iron, 2 lbs.; also in stoppered bottle.

I also examined the stores, consisting of flour, rice, tea, and sugar; they are all sound and good.

The grain crops have been got in, and are in good order and abundant; the potato crop is still in the ground, and also seems abundant.

The whole arrangements of the station are in good order, and are highly creditable to your superintendent.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. B. Smyth, Esq.,
Secretary Central Board for Protection of the Aborigines.

J. GIBSON, M.R.C. Surg. Ed.

SIR, Flemingington, 8th December 1870.

I have the honor to report that I visited the Aboriginal station at Coranderrk on the 6th instant.

Mr. Green, the superintendent, was absent on official business at the Murray, and Mrs. Green was in charge of the station. There is at present 2 Aborigines on the place. They consist of 48 adults (19 men and 28 women) and 54 children; 15 these are under 5 years. There is no case of serious illness at present. Simon, whose health has been long delicate, is still suffering from weakness in the chest. Maria, his wife, is also suffering from lumbago. Maggie Hobson has had an attack of fever from cold, but is in a fair way of recovery. Caroline is suffering from strumous rheumatism, but in a mild form, although occasionally the pain is very severe. She is a debilitated person, the result of vicious living. Harry is suffering from intestinal irritation, and Bradley from irritable stomach. I prescribed for their relief.

The children are clean and orderly, they are in good health and appear contented and cheerful. The adults also have the same look of comfort and cheerfulness about them, and their huts are also clean and in a fair state of order. Several of the houses have boarded floors, glass windows, and good doors, and are really comfortable.

I inspected the children's dormitories; they are clean and in good order. I also inspected the stores, consisting of flour, tea, sugar, and meat. The tea, sugar, and meat are sound, but the sugar is very dark in color. But I desire to call your attention specially to the flour lately supplied. It is a very inferior article, and quite unfit for the station. Many of the children have been repeatedly ill from *its use*, and I have desired Mrs. Green to discontinue *its use* for them at least. It is quite unfit for children's food, and is very much inferior to any flour I have ever seen on the station.

In concluding this, I have the honor to state that the station is in good order and progress, and highly creditable to the industry of your superintendent.

I was accompanied throughout the inspection by Mrs. Green, who, and the governess, are the only whites at present on the station.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. B. Smyth, Esq.

J. GIBSON, M.R.C.S. Ed.

SIR, Flemingington, February 28th 1871.

I have the honor to report that I visited the Aboriginal station at Coranderrk on the 1st instant. There are at present 116 Aborigines on the station. They consist of 55 adults (23 men, 32 women) and 61 children; 17 of these are under five years of age.

Five of the adults are suffering from bronchitis. Alfred has been ill for a week, but is getting better. Ned has not been at work for eight days, but is about and improving. Donald has been ill about a fortnight, but is now nearly well. Eliza had been ill about the same time (a fortnight), but is in a fair way of recovery. Maggie has been unwell for several weeks past, but has passed the worst of the disease, and with care will do well.

I examined the children's dormitories, including beds and bedding; they are clean and in good order. The school-room is also clean. At the time of my visit the children were at breakfast in this room. The meal was good, and served out clean and comfortably, and the children were taking it in an orderly manner, and evidently with relish. One of the older boys was presiding and maintaining order, and he did this in a very creditable manner.

I inspected all the houses of the adults, and found them all in a fair state of cleanliness and order. Several of the younger people's houses are very tidy and comfortable, and have small plots of vegetables in a fair state of cultivation attached.

The people have a contented appearance, and, with the exceptions already mentioned, are in good health.

I inspected the stores, consisting of flour, tea, sugar, rice, salt meat, and tobacco. They are all sound and good. The flour complained of in my last report has been removed, and that at present on hand is a sound good article, and makes excellent bread.

I examined the medicine chest; it is in good order, but the undernoted articles are required:—Acetum or say vinegar of squils, 1 lb.; strong liquor of ammonia, 1 lb.; tincture of rhubarb, 1 lb.; tincture of iron, 1 lb.; calomel, 4 ozs.; Dover's powder, 8 ozs.; James' powder, 1 oz. N.B.—The strong ammonia must be in a stoppered bottle.

The kitchen arrangement is still requiring improvement, as, in addition to its being dangerous for fire, its construction being only that of a large hut, there is no means of teaching the girls that cleanliness and order so essential for them as well as for the comfort of the station.

Before concluding I may add that, through Mrs. Green's management, a large number of cheeses have been made lately. This I have no doubt will be a valuable product, as well as give more employment to the girls.

In conclusion I have only to say the station continues to be in a very satisfactory state, creditable alike to the Board and its superintendent, Mr. Green.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. B. Smyth, Esq.,
Secretary Central Board for Protection of Aborigines.

J. GIBSON, M.R.C. Surg. Ed.

SIR,

Flemington, 29th June 1871.

I have the honor to report that I visited the Aboriginal station at Coranderrk on the 6th instant. There were on the station 108 Aborigines in all. These may be classified as under :—

23 adult males	33 boys	}	108
22 „ females	30 girls		

I inspected the houses and huts on the station, and have much pleasure in certifying that they continue to merit commendation for their cleanly and orderly condition. Since my last inspection the few remaining bark huts, complained of as getting dilapidated in a previous report, have been taken down, and the houses now lining both sides of the street on the station are built—some of strong slabs, but the greater part of strong paling, and three of them have deal floors. There are still five nomadic huts on the station, made of sheets of bark laid together; but these belong to elderly blacks, whose habits are difficult to deal with; but the interior of these is as clean and orderly as the circumstances will allow.

I inspected the dormitories of the children. They were clean and orderly, including beds and bedding. The school-room is clean, and the furniture and maps in good order.

I inspected the medicine chest; it is in good order, but the following medicines are quite out, and should be supplied immediately :—Dover's powder, 4 ozs.; aqueæ ammoniæ fort., 1 lb.; tincture of iron, 1 lb.; quinine, 1 oz.; ipecac. wine, 1 lb.; calomel, 4 ozs.; jalap powder, 1 lb.; rhubarb powder, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.; blistering plaster, 1 lb.; turpentine, 1 gallon; acetum scillæ, 1 lb.; olive oil, 1 gallon.

The general health of the station is good, although two of the Aborigines (adult males) are very seriously ill.

Tommy Bonfield is suffering from pleurisy, but is in a satisfactory way of recovery. Donald, the other referred to, is in an advanced stage of phthisis. I prescribed for the relief of both, but Donald's is a hopeless case. The others look cheerful and healthy, especially the children, and they appear in buoyant spirits and in orderly training. I was present when the children were served with tea in the evening, and it was a comfortable meal, and served in a cleanly tidy manner; the whole arrangement, including the conduct of the children, reflecting credit on the general management.

I examined the stores, consisting of flour, tea, sugar, salt, beef, potatoes, rice, and tobacco. They are all sound and in good order.

There is a new kitchen in the process of building, which, when completed, will be a great comfort and convenience; and I would here repeat a suggestion already made, that a laundry alongside of it would add greatly to the convenience of supervision by the matron, the present erection being placed at an inconvenient distance from the main buildings, and its present state is such that it requires rebuilding, as it is scarcely a shelter in good weather, and is quite useless in wet or stormy weather. In making this alteration a small pump would be necessary for a supply of water, but this would be of great service to the whole station.

In concluding this report I have great pleasure in testifying to the efficiency of the management and the present satisfactory condition of the station.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. B. Smyth, Esq.,

Secretary to Central Board for Protection to Aborigines.

J. GIBSON, M.R.C. Surg. Ed.

APPENDIX IV.

CORANDERRK.

The number of blacks on this station during the year ending 31st July 1869 was, on the average, 77, and the average daily attendance was 74.

The number of adults and children who attended the day and evening school was, on the average, 37, and the average daily attendance was 27.

Mr. John Green, who has charge of the Aborigines at Coranderrk, writes as follows :—

I have the honor to lay before you my report of the progress, &c., made on this station during the twelve months ending 31st July 1869.

The general health of the Aborigines was good; there were five deaths—two of these were of men belonging to Gippsland, and were here only on a visit.

There were five births, and five couples married.

The children have not made so much progress in their learning as I should have liked, except in singing; in this they have made good progress.

The adults, on the whole, have kept more steadily at their work on the farm, and have taken a lively interest in its progress. They have cleared and fenced in 50 acres of new land, and built three new huts, besides the general work on the station.

The crops, as a whole, were good; there were 200 bushels of wheat, and 600 bushels of oats, and 30 tons of potatoes. The value of the crops, and cattle, pigs, &c., would be about £646, viz :—

	£	s.	d.
200 bushels wheat, at 5s.	1000	0	0
600 bushels oats, at 4s.	2400	0	0
30 tons potatoes, at £5	1500	0	0
14 cattle killed for beef	80	0	0
12 pigs killed	18	0	0
62 pigs sold, at 7s.	434	0	0
20 tons straw, at 40s.	800	0	0
16 hides	6	0	0
Baskets and rugs, say	100	0	0
Fruit, say	30	0	0
Butter, say	30	0	0
	£645	14	0

There has been an increase of cattle, by calves, of 50; decrease by death 4, and of killed for beef 14; this leaves a net increase of 36. Of pigs there has been a net increase of 16 over and above the number sold and killed; 21 is the number last year, and there were 37 on the 31st July 1869. Of horses there has been 1 of increase, and the property of the Central Board, belonging to the Aborigines 5.

I have had a good deal of trouble with some of the men about money. Some of them think that they should get all the money that is realized for the produce, &c., as soon as it is sold, to do with it as they like. I have expended £106 6s. 4d., during the year, amongst them, and, as a rule, the best working have been satisfied with this way of expending the money, namely, to buy them anything I saw they were in need of. A few of the men work steady, and should get more than the others, but, up to this time, I have not been able to make much difference. It is the lazy ones that give me the most trouble about money. I think that, after this season's crops have been sold, it will be well to allow the good steady workers a little money, monthly or weekly, just to encourage them. I have also had some trouble with them about the small quantity of meat I give them; this also is with the lazy ones; in fact it is with the lazy ones that I have any trouble.

In conclusion, I beg to say that, as a whole, and considering what the state of the Aborigines was when the Central Board first took them in hand on this station, namely, drunken, diseased, and wandering-about creatures, I consider that they have made good progress, and that neither the money expended on them, nor the labors of the Central Board, have been in vain. And I trust in a few years more they will be an honor to the Central Board and to the State.

1. The average daily attendance during the seventeen months ending 31st December 1870 was 98.8. At present there are 107 on the station. Number of Aborigines.
2. The weekly consumption of flour, tea, and sugar by each:—Flour, a little under 5 lbs.; tea, a little over 2 ozs.; sugar, a little over 1 lb. Consumption of stores.
3. The number of adults who can read and write, and boys and girls:—Nine males can read, seven of them can also write; eight females can read, five of them can also write; eighteen boys can read and write, fifteen of them are also well advanced in arithmetic; seven girls can read and write; six of them are also pretty well advanced in arithmetic; eight more girls can read, and are learning to write, also four boys. The number that can read, &c.
4. The quantity of land fenced in and under cultivation has been about 130 acres; but the yield has been poor, especially the wheat. The quantity of produce, &c., sold during the seventeen months is as follows:— Cultivation, &c.

	£	s.	d.
Oats, 689 bushels	129	10	6
Straw, 1 stack	4	7	0
Young pigs, 76	33	9	0
Hides, 27	13	2	10
Total money received	£180	9	4

This money has been expended in purchasing boots and clothes, &c., for the working men and lads on the station.

5. The stock on the station at present consists of 121 cows, 35 one-year-old heifers and steers, 32 three-year-old steers and heifers, 49 two-year-old steers and heifers, 30 bullocks, 80 calves, 49 horses, and 12 pigs. There were 29 cattle belonging to the station and 15 bought cattle killed during the seventeen months for beef for the Aborigines. Twenty-five cows milked during that time; this summer 70 have been milked. Stock.

6. Six new huts were built; two of them for new married couples, and four as improvements on the old ones. These are built of paling, put up like weatherboards. Four of them are covered with shingles, and are lined with canvas and paper. The Aborigines did all the building themselves. There are 22 huts in all continually inhabited by the Aborigines. Sixteen are occupied by married couples and families, three single men live in one, two in two others, and the other three are occupied by four widows. As a rule they keep them clean and tidy. Huts.

The adults still hunt and fish. Two days in the week are generally set apart for this, but game is getting very scarce near the station. Hunting, &c.

There has not been one case of any of those on the station getting intoxicating drink, that I have known of, during the seventeen months. Drink.

As a whole, the health of the Aborigines has been good. During the seventeen months seven died from inflammation of the lungs, consumption, and one of them from old age. Health of the Aborigines, &c.

There were nine births, thus making an increase of two during the same time. Births.

The Aborigines are really beginning to appreciate the comforts of a settled life. As a whole, the improvement on them, both physically and morally, is great. A few years ago the same people were poor, miserable, degraded creatures—those of them who had wives giving them to white men for money to get drink with, and those who had daughters the same. But this is now a thing of the past, at which they now blush when they hear about it. Improvement on the Aborigines, &c.

There have been five marriages. One of these was a half-caste to the white laborer on the station (Thomas Harris). Another was a half-caste to a black from the Lake Condah station, at which station she is now living with her husband. Marriages.

Eight of the young lads who have been on the station from the commencement are real good farm servants; one in particular (McRea), a lad about seventeen, can plough, sow, and make cheese; in fact he can do anything that is required to be done on a farm or in a dairy. Another, Willie Parker, about twenty-one, is very handy at carpenter's work. These boys milk the cows in the morning, and during the day work on the farm, and in the evening go to school. The girls do all the cooking, washing, mending, and cleaning for forty children who are orphans, or have not their parents here. Boys and girls and their work.

I was in hopes that before this time to have this station self-supporting, but have failed to succeed. This is owing a good deal to the bad influence of Europeans, who tell them that they are only working for the Government, and it (the station) will be sold. But this evil will be partly remedied when they are paid for the amount of work they do. I purpose trying the cultivation of tobacco, which will be lighter work for them than the usual farm work, and, I trust, will pay better than growing so much grain. And I trust that, in the course of two years more, this station will be self-supporting. Remarks.

In conclusion, I beg to say that the improvement, although not so much as I should have liked to see, intellectually, physically, and morally, is sufficient to convince the most sceptical that they can be improved, and that the race may be perpetuated.

MISSION STATION, LAKE HINDMARSH.

The Rev. A. Hartmann gives the following particulars respecting the general condition of the Aborigines at Lake Hindmarsh:—

1. The number of blacks attending the station during each month for twelve months ending the 31st July 1869 and the average daily attendance:—

	Present at all.	Daily Average.		Present at all.	Daily Average.		Present at all.	Daily Average.
August ...	64	44	December ...	66	48	April ...	67	55
September ...	60	39	January ...	69	45	May ...	54	40
October ...	49	37	February ...	82	67	June ...	60	51
November ...	66	53	March ...	73	68	July ...	53	43
Average for the year ...								
	63	49						

2. The number of adult males and adult females and male and female children who can read or read and write:—

	Men.	Boys.	Women.	Girls.	Total.
Read pretty well	8	3	9	2	22
More or less advanced in spelling-books	11	2	3	5	21
Write pretty well	7	3	7	4	21
Learning to write	12	2	4	3	21

3. The quantity of ground fenced in and under cultivation, &c.:—The whole of the reserve is fenced in. Three acres of land are under cultivation for growing hay for the horses. The kind of hay grown is wheat and oats. Two gardens, covering about two acres, one belonging to the blacks, the other to us, are also fenced. The produce of these gardens, obtained by irrigation, is consumed on the station.

4. The kind and number of stock, &c. —There are on the reserve at present—Sheep, 956; horses, 6; working bullocks, 6; milking cows, 2; young cattle, 7. There have been killed and consumed on the station—Sheep, 600; cows, 2; heifers, 2. Three cows died. A good many of the sheep for killing were given by some of the neighboring squatters.

5. The number of huts built, &c. —Number of huts belonging to the blacks, 18; 2 store-houses, 11 substantial log huts, 2 inferior ditto, 3 bark huts. All in good condition except 2 bark huts. Total number of buildings on the station, including church, mission-house, school, store, &c., 28. Twelve of the huts are continually inhabited each by a married couple; 1 by a single man and 1 by a widower. They are all kept clean with the exception of 4. Our blacks, with the exception of a few camp people, hunt but seldom, but try to provide themselves with meat by working the station. The little money they earn is spent by them in useful clothes and utensils. The blacks at our place do not indulge in intoxicating drink.

1. The number of blacks attending the station during each month for the seventeen months ending 31st December last and the average attendance at the station for each month during the same period is as follows:—

1869.	Present at all.	Average Attendance.	1870.	Present at all.	Average Attendance.	1870.	Present at all.	Average Attendance.
August ...	61	31	January ...	60	54	July ...	59	50
September ...	44	31	February ...	61	58	August ...	62	49
October ...	57	40	March ...	63	58	September ...	46	44
November ...	72	55	April ...	55	49	October ...	58	46
December ...	63	52	May ...	69	49	November ...	63	59
			June ...	38	30	December ...	55	50

2. The number of adult males and adult females and male and female children who can read or write:—

	Read and Write.	Learn to Read and Write.
Adult males ...	6	4
Adult females ...	7	4
Male children ...	3	5
Female children ...	5	5

3. The quantity of ground fenced in and under cultivation, the kinds and quantities of produce—wheat, oats, potatoes, &c.—grown on the station, and how it has been disposed of; whether it has been consumed by the blacks or sold:—All except the land just granted by Government is fenced in. Land under cultivation—5 acres for hay and 3 acres for garden ground. All the produce is consumed on the station.

4. The kinds and number of stock; whether any of the cows at the station give milk, and, if so, how many; whether any of the stock has been killed for food during the seventeen months ending 31st December last, and, if so, how many and of what kind:—There are 6 horses on the reserve, of which 2 belong to the mission, 2 to the station, and 2 to the Aborigines; also 6 working oxen, 2 cows, 5 young cattle. None of the cows give any milk at present. There is a flock of sheep, numbering at present about 970. The number of sheep killed during the last seventeen months is nearly 940. The net profit from the sale of wool and skins has been £101 os. 6d. But for the gift of sheep by a few kind friends, this amount could not have been realized. The reserve hitherto occupied could not carry the needful number of sheep for mutton. The number of sheep given by a few friends during the last seventeen months is 711. The income from this source is expended for the Aborigines and for improving their station.

5. The number of huts built and their condition, and the total number of buildings now on the station; whether each is inhabited, by how many, and if occasionally or continually, and whether they are clean and well kept:—

	Mission Premises.	Dwellings of Natives.
Church (log) ...	1	
School-house (log) ...	1	
Mission dwelling-house (stone) ...	1	
Kitchen (stone) ...	1	
Native girls' dwelling-house (stone) ...	1	
Store for Government supplies (log) ...	1	
Tool-shop and cart-shed (log) ...	1	
Harness-room, &c. (log) ...	1	
Fowl-house ...	1	
Number of huts already built ...	20	
In course of erection ...	3	
(Including 14 substantial log houses, 2 stone buildings, and 7 superior bark.) With one or two exceptions clean and well kept		
A substantial woolshed in course of erection by the natives ...	1	
Total number of buildings ...	33	

Number of natives living in the above-mentioned huts:—44.

Number of children living in school-house:—In boys' house, 6; in girls' house, 8. Three of the huts are occasionally inhabited, the rest permanently.

The natives here hunt native game or fish but occasionally. Their chief occupation is in the way of sheep farming. It suits the natives well, as they can most readily by it procure those comforts they are in need of. Some of the natives away from the reserve still indulge in intoxicating drink. The behaviour of the greater number of natives settled at this place is exemplary. They are diligent, and striving to better themselves, and ought therefore to have all the support the Government possibly could give them.

MISSION STATION, LAKE TYERS, GIPPSLAND.

The Rev. John Bulmer, who has charge of the Aborigines at this station, reports as under:—

1st. I find the average attendance for the twelve months ending 31st July 1869 has been as follows:—

1868.—August ...	60	1869.—February ...	17
September ...	60	March ...	16
October ...	60	April ...	20
November ...	70	May ...	20
December ...	50	June ...	20
1869.—January ...	20	July ...	45

Or an average attendance of thirty-eight Aborigines.

2nd. The number of adult males who can read tolerably is four; females none; male children who can read simple narratives five, and who are also getting on with writing, girls five; three of them write very good hands; I enclose a specimen* of their performances. I may state that, having hitherto had no regular teacher, the children have not progressed so much as they otherwise would have done; but I believe it is the intention of the Committee of the Church Mission to apply for assistance to the Educational Board, when we may expect a teacher. I can assure you my time is fully occupied in attending to the general work of the station; at present I have a night school, when many of the young men attend. Mrs. Bulmer teaches the children for a short time daily, but, as she has to attend to all household matters, her time is necessarily limited.

3rd. The quantity of ground at present fenced in is about four acres, which are now under crop. The kinds of produce grown are potatoes, cabbages, onions, peas, turnips, maize, beans, carrots, parsnips, and other vegetables, which have hitherto all been consumed on the station. I may state that this year I put up a log fence, which contains an area of ten acres; this I did intend to have planted with potatoes; but my having no seed, and the state of my finances being low, I

* The samples of writing are in the office of the Board.

was unable to buy any, so I put in about half an acre of maize, which I hope to be able to turn to good account, with the help of a steel mill. I have no doubt it will make a good wholesome food for the children.

The blacks are now clearing a patch of ground of about six acres, so I hope next season to get in a crop of grain as well as a large quantity of potatoes.

4th. There are no cattle on the station belonging to the Government.

5th. The number of huts in which Aborigines at present reside is two; these I may state are kept clean; but there are four huts in course of erection, which will shortly be finished; they are built of wattle and dab, and when finished will be comfortable dwellings. The total number of huts on the station, including those unfinished, is six, which, with the school-house, our dwelling-house, and the store, and a small hut in which the girls at present sleep, makes a total of ten buildings. The blacks, I am happy to state, are now showing signs of improvement; they are nearly all contemplating the erection of dwelling-houses for themselves, and I trust that in a few months the station will assume a more prosperous appearance. The blacks who have huts generally sleep in them and regularly sweep them out.

6th. The blacks continue to hunt native game; they also catch a large quantity of fish; the women generally go out with hooks and the men with nets; they are generally successful in their fishing expeditions. They also get kangaroo, wallaby, and native bears, and as a rule may always provide for their families; when they suffer is when the weather is unpropitious for a few days. I do not give any beef to the adults, but the children are oft in want of a little.

7th. They do not indulge in intoxicating drinks here; this station is admirably adapted for that, as there are no public-houses near, but there are many who will get drunk when they go near the township. I am not aware that any steps have been taken to prevent the blacks getting drunk, though I believe A. W. Howitt, Esq., the police magistrate, is on the alert to prosecute any publicans who sell grog to Aborigines, though I am sorry to say they manage to find some loop-hole to evade the law.

There are of course many blacks on the station who never indulge in drink.

I am happy to say I can report progress; the blacks are showing greater inclination than hitherto to give up their old ways; they have now given up fighting altogether. Since I sent those war implements to you they have continued to live in peace, and though many things have occurred to irritate them, they have managed to settle the matters with talking over it; in fact we have introduced the practice of meeting in the school-house, when any one offends against the laws of the tribe, and try the offender; this I find puts them all in good humour and prevents bloodshed. This I trust is the beginning of better days for the tribes at Lake Tyers.

1st. The average attendance of Aborigines for the seventeen months ending December 31st 1870 is as follows:—

1869.—August	62	1869.—November	66
September	62	December	54
October	63		

During the months of August and September there were 68 blacks on the station, October there were 70, November there were 72, December there were 60; the average attendance for the whole year was about 40.

For the year ending December 31st 1870 the average attendance was as follows:—

1870.—January	24	1870.—July	67
February	24	August	66
March	23	September	60
April	24	October	66
May	26	November	60
June	46	December	55

The number of adult males who can read and write is 3, females 4; male children 3, females 3.

The quantity of ground at present fenced in for cultivation is about five acres; 1½ acre is used by myself as a garden, 1½ acre was last year cropped with potatoes for the station, and about 2 acres were sown with barley, which, however, did not produce anything, as the ground about here will not grow good grain. The quantity of potatoes grown was about 6 tons, which are now being used by the Aborigines and my own family. We have not sold any produce. I may state that the garden produced a good crop of potatoes and some arrowroot; the latter I am saving for seed for next season, when I intend to plant largely, and if possible manufacture arrowroot for sale.

There are also three pieces of land fenced in which are cultivated by the blacks themselves, but the whole does not embrace more than half an acre; the blacks use them as vegetable gardens; the names of the blacks who cultivate for themselves are William McDougall, Dick Cooper, and Charley Buchanan; the two latter grew a nice crop of potatoes for themselves.

The blacks have during the year fenced in a large paddock; they put up a fence across the reserve from one part of Lake Tyers to another part, about three quarters of a mile; the fence is posts and rails; this encloses an area of about 1000 acres.

At present there are 200 sheep on the station. I purchased them myself, to provide meat for the station; however, I waive all claim to them, and kill them for the benefit of the station. As we have nineteen children under our care, we have to give them a little meat; so I found it the cheapest plan to purchase sheep. Up to December 31st 1870 we killed 20 sheep. There are also, I may state, five pigs on the station, and three milking cows of my own which I keep for milk.

The number of huts built by the blacks is six; they are, I am glad to state, kept in very tolerable order. The total number of buildings is eleven: one is our own dwelling, another is used as a school-house, two are used as stores, and one large building, which is not quite finished, is intended as a residence for the children. The dimensions are as follows:—46 feet by 30 feet, and is divided into four large rooms; one room, 30 feet by 18 feet, is for a dining-room, and the other rooms for sleeping apartments.

The blacks still hunt native game and also fish, and many of them try to provide for themselves and their families. I am sorry to say that some of them still indulge in intoxicating drink, though not any of those who may be said to have settled on the station; but those who may be termed wandering Aborigines are very much given to drink. I have lately had some correspondence with the district Inspector of Police; he very promptly sent a mounted constable to the place where I supposed the blacks got the drink, when I am happy to say the supplies were stopped for a time.

It deserves to be recorded that two young men have kept steadily to their work for some time, viz., William McDougall and Dick Cooper, both married men; they split most of the posts and rails for the paddock fence, and they have also split a lot of material for the large house in course of erection.

You will remember that the Board kindly granted £40 for the house; this was but sufficient to purchase weatherboards and wall plates and windows; the rest of the material has been provided by the blacks. William and Dick have just split 15,000 shingles, 500 battens, a lot of studs and rafters, and now they are splitting palings for lining the inside. I may state that the work done by them would not disgrace a regular bushman. This is very encouraging, and leads us to hope that the future will be brighter than the past, and that some at least are determined to do something for themselves.

I may state also that all who live on the station live orderly and cheerfully attend to their duties; some are now out in the bush splitting posts and rails for another piece of ground for cultivation. I think they wish to make themselves comfortable. I trust this will continue.

LAKE WELLINGTON MISSION STATION.

The following reports have been received from the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer, who has charge of this station:—

1. The number of blacks attending the station during the year ending 31st July 1869:—

	Total.	Average Number.		Total.	Average Number.
1868.—August	66	64	1869.—February	67	66
September	69	61	March	69	63
October	71	70	April	67	66
November	68	66	May	63	59
December	60	48	June	67	66
1869.—January	66	56	July	69	68

2. Number of adult males and females who can read and write :—Five males and seven females. Number of children who can read and write :—Eight boys and five girls.

3. Quantity of ground fenced and quantity under cultivation :—(a) One paddock 200 acres ; (b) one paddock fenced during the past year of 320 acres ; (c) one paddock of about four acres under cultivation of potatoes ; (d) one large paddock of 1500 acres not finished, and which can only be done by degrees. No produce has been sold ; all the potatoes and garden produce are used by the blacks. The cultivation of wheat and barley has been tried for several years, but never has been the return even so great that it reached the quantity of the seed sown, the soil being too poor for cultivation altogether.

4. Number of stock, &c. :—There are now forty-nine head of cattle belonging to Government, mostly young stock, including twelve milking cows, the milk and butter of which is all consumed by the blacks. There are also forty sheep on the station for the benefit of the blacks. During the past year five cows and forty sheep have been killed, purchased not from Government but private funds.

5. The number of houses continually inhabited by forty-five blacks is now ten, but more will be built as soon as funds can be raised. The total number of buildings on the station, including outhouses, is now twenty-four. Several of those buildings are built close together, in order to save building materials. All the houses are kept clean and in good condition.

6. The blacks are still obliged to hunt for native game and catch fish, but all will be glad when the land is once fully stocked that they do not need to hunt any longer.

7. There have still been a few cases of drunkenness, but I am happy to state that great improvements are observable in this respect.

8. It will be of great interest to state that, by the new civilized mode of life, their health has been so much improved that during the past year no serious illness was among them, and no death occurred, but that six little children were born here on the station.

General and Average Numbers of Aborigines on the Station from August 1869 to 31st December 1870.

1. The total and average numbers of the blacks at the station from August 1869 to 31st December 1870 have been :—

	Total.	Average.		Total.	Average.
1869.—August	80	80	1870.—May	67	62
September	80	80	June	67	64
October	80	73	July	70	67
November	73	71	August	80	71
December	75	70	September	80	79
1870.—January	74	73	October	76	76
February	76	72	November	72	71
March	73	70	December	72	71
April	70	63			

2. The numbers of adults and children who can read and write are as follows :—Male adults, seven ; female adults, eight ; boys, eight ; girls, seven.

3. The quantity of land fenced with a good three-rail fence is one paddock of 320 acres, another of 200 acres, and about nine acres for gardens, divided into half-acre lots. A new fence has been erected along the main road of about ninety chains. A small paddock is cultivated for potatoes. This land being unfit for cultivation, no produce can be sold. It is hoped that the blacks will by-and-by cultivate the arrowroot plant for their future use and support.

4. There are sixty-two head of cattle, including eighteen milking cows, on the station. The milk and butter are used for the blacks and nothing can be sold. Six young bullocks and one cow have been killed for station use. There are likewise forty-five sheep on the station, the increase of the same being always killed in the hot season. Twenty-five sheep were killed during the above time.

5. The number of houses permanently inhabited by fifty-six Aborigines is ten, and the total number of buildings, including outhouses, is twenty-four. Some of the houses are large and with a good many rooms. The houses are generally kept clean and in good order. More new and a better class of houses will shortly be erected. The greatest want is for a new school-house, as the children in the boarding establishment are continually increasing.

6. The blacks here are still obliged to hunt for native game and to fish, as the supply of meat from the station is still inadequate for their wants.

7. There has been very little drunkenness among them in this district, and I hope that it will soon cease altogether. In conclusion, I have the honor to state that the progress in school is very considerable, and also that the state of health is very good.

During the past year we have been honored by a visit from His Excellency the Governor, and also from the Hon. the Commissioner of Customs. His Excellency the Governor expressed himself much pleased with the carrying on of this station and the general appearance of the children, &c.

The Inspector of Common Schools, after examining the children, stated that the progress with the lessons of the children was very good.

LAKE CONDAH.

Mr. Joseph Shaw has now charge of the Aborigines at this station.

The number of Aborigines who attended at the station during the year ending 31st July 1869 ranged from fifty to seventy-two, and the average daily attendance was sixty.

During the seventeen months ending 31st December 1870 the average daily attendance was sixty-five.

Regarding the progress and general condition of the Aborigines on this station during the year ending 31st July 1869 Mr. Shaw writes as follows :—

The number of adult males twenty-seven, females twenty-one ; male children fifteen, female nine.

Children who can read and write, five. Three boys and two girls can read words of one syllable, and write on the slate.

Two small paddocks have been fenced in (bush fence)—one consisting of eight acres, the other of about twenty-four acres.

The former is under cultivation ; half of it being sown with wheat, and half with potatoes. All the potatoes that were grown last year have been consumed on the station, and the wheat has been used for seed.

The kinds and number of stock are as follows, viz. :—Five working bullocks, three three-year-old heifers, four milking cows, one two-year-old heifer, three yearling calves. None of the cows are giving milk, nor has any stock been killed for food.

No huts have as yet been built by the blacks, but there are two in course of erection, which will be finished immediately after shearing season.

There are only two buildings on the station—a bark store, and the one I occupy myself.

The blacks occasionally hunt native game, and fish for eels ; but they have no dogs for running down the kangaroos, as they have all been poisoned. I have therefore to assist them in obtaining game. I have just purchased three guns for their use.

Three or four men have been intoxicated once since I took charge of the station, but, as they obtained the grog some three miles from here, I was not aware of it until about a fortnight afterwards. I do not, however, think that they indulge or are particularly anxious about it. It is only when they are away for a time that they get drunk, and when they come in contact with low drunken white fellows, who have no more, and perhaps less, respect for themselves than the Aborigines have.

The health of the blacks on the station at present, except two persons, appears to be pretty good ; but as I have had but a short acquaintance with them, I do not feel prepared to speak of their conduct and character generally. I can, however, say, from what I have observed of them, and from what I see of the land, that, if they can be supplied with the proper and necessary assistance, they are quite willing, and I am sure would be able, ere long, to make the place entirely self-supporting.

I find no difficulty in getting them to work, nor never have done anywhere, when they could be shown that their labor would be remunerative and for their own immediate benefit. But they will not work unless they obtain the fruits of their labors, or are otherwise remunerated.

I may just add that, during the last fortnight, I have had by the blacks alone a large four-rail stockyard put up ; also bale and calf-pen ; and the whole of the work I consider very satisfactorily done. The three acres of potatoes I have referred to have also been put in during the last few weeks ; and if we had horses, or a stronger team of bullocks, we might put in a great deal more ; for, as I have already stated, the blacks will work well enough when they can see that it is for their own interest.

For the seventeen months ending 31st December 1870 Mr. Shaw reports that—

The number of adult males is 20; females, 18; children, 27; children who can read, 9; and read and write, 3.

The quantity of ground fenced in is about 60 acres, and this is divided into four paddocks for convenience sake; 30 acres, or thereabouts, are under cultivation. Crops of wheat, oats, and potatoes have been raised, part of which was sold and part consumed by the blacks on the station. About two miles of a good fence have been put up along the boundary line of the reserve—one mile of post and rails, and one mile of wiley and substantial logs.

Of the kinds and quantity of stock there are three horses, one saddle and two heavy horses; ten milk cows, six giving milk; twenty three-year-old heifers; seventeen steers, from two to three years old; eighteen working bullocks; twenty calves; four killed for food; one old cow and three steers.

The number of buildings on the station, twenty-four, sixteen of which are occupied by the blacks continually, and are pretty clean and well kept. These are all built of slabs, and covered with bark roofs. They consist of two rooms each, and are nearly all lined with bags or forfar, and three or four are papered. In each house there is a table, and wooden stools are substituted for chairs. Some of them have made attempts to put a kind of sofa in one corner, and have succeeded very well. Most of them now have their plates, knives and forks, and cups and saucers, the pannikins being left principally for the old people and little children. The remaining eight buildings comprise my residence, a detached kitchen, the old bark school-room, the schoolmaster's residence, a store-room, the new school (in course of erection), a cart-shed and harness-room, and stables.

The blacks continue to occasionally hunt native game, and they occasionally spend a day or two in a week fishing. They are, however, getting above providing for themselves by hunting and roaming about the bush, as in years gone by; they would prefer, if possible, to obtain their living in a more civilized way, and it is only as a last resource that they fall upon hunting the native game for animal food, which they cannot well nor long do without. I think it would be much better and far more civilizing to supply them with animal food regularly, that they might attend to the work of the station and their own comforts, as well as to that of their families, instead of being obliged to spend two or three days in a week hunting after opossums and kangaroos, &c.

I do not think there is so much indulging in intoxicating drink as there was. Many of them have taken the pledge, and some of them have not yet broken it, nor do not even care to take spirits as medicine.

Some of them earn a little money by making and selling baskets and mats, and occasionally an opossum rug, and the money so realized is generally well laid out in the purchasing of such things as may be required for their domestic comfort. The women cut out and make almost all their own clothing and their children's. Some of them too can make very good bread, and most of them prefer it to 'damper.

Three or four of the men have fenced in small portions of ground in front of their houses, in which they have already grown vegetables, and have planted such flowers and fruit trees as they have been able to obtain.

I find no difficulty in getting them to work so long as they obtain the fruits of their own labors, or can see that they are being applied for their own immediate benefit; but as soon as they perceive it to be otherwise, they will begin to flag, and excuses will not be wanting (even to being sick, &c.) in order to get out of the work; and I attribute the great success of this station, since I took charge of it, to the system which I adopted, and have carried on from the beginning, of applying as direct as possible the proceeds of the station to the immediate benefit of the workers or most industrious; and, in my opinion, after many years' experience amongst them, it is the best and most reasonable way of raising the blacks to be an industrious and self-supporting people.

The health of the young people is generally pretty good, but there is considerable suffering from sickness among the old people.

FRAMLINGHAM.

This station is now under the charge of Mr. William Goodall, junior, under the supervision of the honorary correspondents, Francis Tozer, Esq., of Wangoon, and H. B. Lane, Esq., P.M. of Belfast.

Mr. Goodall reports for the year ending 31st July 1869 that the general condition of the Aborigines has much improved in regard to their manners and habits of living. They are also becoming much more persevering and industrious in their labors.

Mr. Goodall also says that—

The number of the Aborigines who have attended the station is 35, the average daily attendance on the station 28.

The number of adult males 23, adult females 9, the number of male children 1, female children 2.

The number of adult males who can read is 3; two of them can read and write a little. Of the adult females 3 can read and 2 can read and write. One of the children can read a little. Some of them appear very quick in their learning, while others are so dull that you can make no impression upon them. In general I find the half-castes the most intelligent.

Many of them are very attentive to their religious duties, and seem to enjoy their scripture lessons very much; it has a great power over them when all other argument fails. We have about 500 acres of land fenced in and divided into 3 paddocks; two of which contain about 15 acres each, one of which is for agricultural purposes. We have about 4 acres of land ploughed, 3 of which are planted with potatoes, the remaining acre is for sowing chicory upon, which shall be proceeded with. The stock upon the station consists of 8 working bullocks, and 3 horses and 2 foals. The horses belong to the blacks. We have not yet purchased any milch cows or store cattle, the prices at which they have been selling being so high.

There are 8 huts upon the station, including my own and one in course of erection, and 1 mia-mia. They are all clean and well kept, and are always inhabited by two or more Aborigines.

The whole of the blacks who are able hunt native game every Saturday, and sometimes through the week, and fish in the evenings for eels.

There are only two or three of the blacks settled upon the station who indulge in intoxicating drink, and every measure has been taken to prevent them, both by the police, H. B. Lane, Esq., and myself.

For the seventeen months ending 31st December 1870 Mr. Goodall reports that the number of Aborigines attending the station ranged from 28 to 62, and the average daily attendance was 39. He further states—

The quantity of ground fenced in is about 1000 acres or more. In the year 1869 we had about 9 acres under cultivation, consisting of 7 acres of potatoes and 2 acres of chicory. We had about 15 tons of potatoes—a good yield considering the destruction committed by the kangaroos; the chicory was entirely destroyed by these animals. The potatoes were consumed by the blacks. In 1870 about 4 acres were planted with potatoes, but the whole were completely destroyed by the floods, so that we have no kind of produce this year.

The stock upon the station consist of 1 horse, 5 bullocks, 25 cows, 16 heifers, 8 steers, 4 calves. Four of the cows are giving milk; about 12 were giving milk during the greater part of the season. None of the stock were killed for food during the seventeen months ending 31st December 1870.

The number of huts upon the station is 12, and their condition good, and four or five others are in course of erection; they are all inhabited by numbers of from three to six. They consist of two and three rooms; nearly all of them are clean and well kept. The total number of buildings is 18, viz., one two-roomed cottage (my own residence); thirteen huts, and four mia-mias; there would have been a dozen more if it had not been that we were compelled to move from the old site.

The blacks still continue to hunt native game, and devote a day and a half for that purpose every week; they also catch a great number of fish during the season. The men also make opossum rugs, spears, boomerangs, and other specimens of native art. The women also make hats, mats, and baskets, which they dispose of, and purchase numerous little domestic comforts and second-hand clothing, and in various ways do what they can to provide for their own requirements.

Some of the blacks (but comparatively few) still indulge in intoxicating drink; but everything is done that can be done by me and the police to prevent them obtaining it. I was also successful in obtaining the conviction of a publican a few weeks ago, and a penalty was inflicted by the magistrate as a punishment for the offence.

I also thought it would be interesting to the Board to know the value of the improvements placed upon the station since my appointment to the management thereof, the whole of the station being now nearly fenced in. The items are as follows, viz. :—5 miles of spar fencing, of a value of £32 per mile, making a total value of £160; 12 of the Aborigines' huts, of a value of £5 each; 1 hut of a value of £20; and a cottage of a value of £45. The ground which was cleared was improved to the value of £15, making a total amount of £300.

I think, in conclusion, that the blacks of this station may be congratulated upon the progress they have made up to the present time. They are gradually becoming more attached to the station, and feel it is much to their interest to remain on it. I have also remarked a rapid improvement in their moral and religious character and personal appearance.

ABORIGINES UNDER THE CHARGE OF LOCAL GUARDIANS.

Mr. John McKenzie of Wyuna station reports, in October 1869, on the general condition of the Aborigines as follows :—

I consider the stores provided for the Aborigines on this station by the Central Board sufficient for the year 1869. The mode of distribution, &c., are thus :—The stores are kept in a store solely provided for that purpose, under lock and key; my storekeeper has charge of it, and serves the Aborigines out in their own bags with tea and sugar, flour, soap, tobacco, and other necessaries, three or four hours a week, as he thinks they are in want, and enters the same in a book kept for that purpose; a monthly return is sent from said book to the Central Board for their information. I may here state that the book was shown to the president, Mr. MacBain, and Mr. Green, and both seemed to approve of it. The blacks are good fishermen, and catch a great many fish with nets made by themselves of twine; they catch them principally in lagoons; they also catch opossums, and sometimes shoot ducks, but take the ducks and fish right off to where they can obtain intoxicating drinks for them. They make no exertion to provide for themselves with native game; everything they catch that the whites make use of they sell to them for poisonous drinks. They still indulge in intoxicating drink, and no steps have been taken to my knowledge to prevent them doing so. I have employed ten of them during shearing; sheep washing, ten shillings per week and found; shearing, eleven shillings per hundred and found. On Saturday 23rd October, at 5 o'clock p.m., paid them all off. They went direct to a shanty about three miles off, and on Sunday 24th one of them died drunk; one of the best shearers I had in the shed for the last four years. I gave information to the sergeant of police in Echuca, also to the coroner, Dr. Cooper; I am not aware that any notice has been taken of it. Sickness is most prevalent amongst the young, principally chest disease; I have taken some of them into Echuca for medical advice.

In June 1871 Mr. McKenzie reports as follows :—

I have the honor to inform you that eighteen men and ten females receive rations and clothing, supplied by the Central Board at this station; sometimes more and sometimes less. I have always found that the Aborigines can work at anything that there is to do on a station; they will not work without being paid for their work in cash; no sooner do they get their money than they are off to the nearest shanty, and knock it down and fight among themselves; they never think of buying clothes for themselves.

Mr. B. W. Gummow of Swan Hill has charge of the Aborigines in that locality, and he reports as follows in December 1869 :—

The condition of the stores is excellent, but little remains. The mode of distribution is this: I get as many collected here as possible, the aged, the sick, and infirm, and then give out the clothing as I think most advisedly.

Those who live at a distance have been supplied by the police stationed at townships, or where there are any taverns. Food in the same way.

The police furnish me with returns of course. My instructions to them being to feed and clothe only the needy, *not the able-bodied*.

The blacks do hunt game and fish, and obtain a considerable amount of money, stores, grog, clothing; powder and shot, &c., &c. in exchange.

They still indulge in intoxicating liquors whenever they have a chance. The step taken to prevent this is locking them up when we catch them, but they are so cunning that they take it into New South Wales to consume.

The numbers vary very much at present there are only seven. Sometimes a number from New South Wales come from the Edwards and Wackool Rivers. There are also some tribes from the New South Wales side of the Murray, and also from the Loddon and Morton Plains.

The condition of the blacks is better than usual as far as health is concerned.

One of our best black boys was killed on the spot the other day; falling from a horse he broke his neck; and another case was reported yesterday.

There are many of them good workers as long as they are away from townships.

My head man, King Duncan, is away at present; on his return I will furnish you with the information you require regarding the names, ages, &c., of the blacks.

King Duncan is a very quick and intelligent man, but so deaf he could not hear a gun fired near him; but I can converse freely with him; he watches your mouth when speaking.

He has a nice little boy, Pasco, nine years old; if they would only send him to school, but they will not part with him, as they all think he is a prophet.

Mr. Gummow states, in July 1871, that he has much the same as in previous years to report :—

The Aborigines, of whom there are 85 males and 47 females, are still addicted to strong drink whenever the chance occurs.

Prostitution of their women and even their children is continually practised, and promiscuous intercourse a custom, even where it becomes incestuous. The health of them is better, and syphilis is not so frequent, as they have learned to apply for aid before it becomes constitutionally to affect the system. It is a great pity the police have not the power to bring before the magistrates the poor half-caste girls, with a view of either sending them to the Mission Stations or industrial schools. They are prostituted at a very youthful age by the tribes for money, and often become the common property of all, even of their own fathers. They are, for the most part, when young, intelligent, retiring, and modest, which is soon lost through the wretched associations they should be rescued from.

I have not lately heard of any cases of murder, violence, or theft; and they still continue to render assistance on the stations, especially during the shearing.

I recently received a request to apply for land from a half-caste named Steward, living at the Moravian Mission on the Wimmera, his object being to shepherd sheep on it; thinking him better off where he is, I did not recommend it.

But whilst on the subject of land, Mr. Officer of Murray Downs and I are of opinion that a good piece of ground in various places should be reserved for the tribes, as free selection is going on and likely to extend rapidly.

Mr. H. H. Wettenhall of Carr's Plains, in December 1869, reports—

That the food, &c., supplied by the Central Board are all very good, and that they are given out weekly.

Many of the men maintain themselves by working for wages.

Most of them drink whenever an opportunity offers; and by or with the assistance of one "Syntax" I got a conviction against a shanty-keeper, and he was fined heavily.

Between 30 and 40 Aborigines frequent here, with little or no change from last year's report. There have been less deaths than usual this last year.

In June 1871 Mr. Wettenhall says—

There are 24 blacks here in all just now—8 men, 8 women, and 8 children—all in good health. The last twelve months there has been much less drinking and wandering about, and several of the men have been working on the adjoining station. I have one for groom, Donald, and another half-caste girl, Agnes, who always lives at the house, and can read and write; she is married to Donald.

Mr. James Finley of Towaninnie, in June 1871, reports—

That he considers the condition of the Aborigines under his care very good. Some of the old men are only fit for camp life, and the young men are very sober and work willingly. Some of them attend the mission school, Dimboola, and Mr. Finley considers the progress made by them in learning speaks highly in their favor, and he says he finds the blacks good and faithful servants.

Mr. Alexander Dennis of Tarudwarcoort, near Mount Gellibrand, reports, in November 1869, that the number of blacks belonging to the Colac tribe is fifteen, consisting of eight men, one little boy, five women, and one little girl; and in regard to the general condition of Aborigines he says—

The flour, tea, sugar, rice, and tobacco are of good quality, and, according to the usual rate of consumption, quite sufficient to last until April or May, the months they generally get a fresh supply in; but the clothing supplied by the Board is generally worn out in six months from the time of distribution.

There is no specified condition here for giving them rations except good behaviour. Most of them are generally at the Warryun Hills, either at Dr. Stoddart's or Mr. Murray's stations, and only come occasionally, when they are supplied with rations, which sometimes last them a month or more.

Two of them, Yamwing and his wife Susan, have been generally here the last three weeks; he assists me to wash sheep, and has done so for three and four years.

The Aborigines sometimes catch opossums to make rugs for sale, but not often, and occasionally catch a few fish, principally eels, but they are more frequently engaged killing rabbits, and sometimes cutting thistles for Mr. Murray and Dr. Stoddart, where I should think the strong ones quite capable of getting enough to supply themselves.

There are three or four who indulge in intoxicating drinks when they have the opportunity; one or two of the innkeepers, it is supposed, supply them out of sight of any person who would take any official notice of it, so that it is difficult to prevent them.

I think the best plan is when they work to give them very little money, but supply them with clothing to the amount of their wages, which would conduce more to their comfort and welfare.

In June 1871 Mr. Dennis reports—

That there are 8 men, and 1 little boy probably about 6 years old; 5 women, and 1 little girl about 3 years old, making 15 altogether. The little boy belongs to Jim Crow's wife, whose first husband belonged to the tribe near Warrambool, and died; she was afterwards taken as a wife by Jim Crow, and had a little girl, who is now living, and since then had twins, but they both died in a few months. They have not been about Colac for the last two months, and therefore have not yet had the clothing sent for them. Most of the others are in the district, and have had their clothing, except Dicky Cockacoin, a young man probably about 28, a son to the late king, and brother to the present one, Jackey. Dicky is employed most of his time at Dr. Stoddart's station, between Lake Coranganite and Colac, where I believe he gets a very good living, as I have not seen him for nearly two years, which shows that he has more steady habits than most of them; last year he did not come for his clothing, but his mother or one of his brothers carried them to him. The station where he stays is about 16 miles from here. I instructed his brother Jerry to tell him to come himself for his clothing this year.

Billy also remains a great part of his time at Mr. Andrew Murray's station, and gets well provided with food and raiment, and I expect a portion of wages; he is not so steady as Dicky, as he is sometimes to be seen at Colac in an excited state. Jackey, Jerry, and Jim Crow are generally temperate in their habits. Tom Brown, the oldest of the men, is rather more stupid than the others, but very quiet. Gellibrand and Yamwing, with their wives, are very fond of strong drink. They have not, any of them, been much about here lately, until last week some of them came for their clothes and some rations. Their being on other stations so much, probably where they have had more excitement hunting and shooting rabbits, &c., cause the rations to last much longer than if they were continually here. I have rations at present on hand—800 lbs. flour, 20 lbs. tea, 540 lbs. sugar, 9 lbs. tobacco—which, at the rate they have been using lately, will last them six months longer or more; their soap and rice are all done.

The Aborigines in the vicinity of Vectis are under the care of Mr. Alexander Wilson, and he reports, in November 1869, that—

The stores provided by the Board for the Aborigines are of good quality, and, as far as flour, tea, and sugar are concerned, of sufficient quality to suit their requirements.

The stores are distributed generally twice a week, or oftener, when a lot arrive at any time on the station. The stores are given unconditionally when they state that the rations are used.

As a rule they do not hunt or fish to any extent now; mutton is so plentiful that they get a sheep or piece of mutton when they ask for it.

They still indulge in intoxicating drinks upon every occasion, and it is impossible to get a conviction against any one for supplying them, as they get others to buy the drink and to hand it over in secret.

Two native women have died during the year on this station. The men who frequent the station now are Dick, say 35 years of age; Micky, 30; Eliza, his wife, 25; Sandy, 32; Minnie, his daughter, 3 years old; Laura, 1½, his daughter; also Larry, 28; Stockeeper, 28; Paddy, 33; Charley, 26; Maggie, his wife, 24; Tommy, 28; Jamie bolted with Dick's wife, and has not appeared for some months. Rosy, the half-caste girl, was sent to the Mission Station when her mother, Lily, bolted. Sandy is now looking after his two little daughters himself, as their mother died last summer, and his sister, who had charge of them, died last week. He declines to send them to the Mission Station, or to go with them.

In July 1871 Mr. Wilson reported as follows—

I have to intimate that I endeavored to get the Aborigines to remain as much as possible at the Mission Station at Ebenezer during the season with considerable success. They are much better there than remaining upon any squatting station. They occasionally take a few weeks or months, as the case may be, here for a change. There is only one man here for the last six weeks, Sandy; he informs me that about eight are coming to remain for a time. They have not used much rations last summer, still it is requested that there should be a little to distribute when they do come round.

The Aborigines in the vicinity of Carngham are under the charge of Mr. Andrew Porteous of Pretty Tower, Stockyard Hill, and he reports, in November 1869—

That the stores and clothing provided by the Board for the use of the Aborigines are quite sufficient and of good quality. Each Aborigine that has applied has been supplied with a blanket, and the men with trousers, twill and serge shirts, the women with skirts and jackets. Last year some of the Aborigines disposed of some of their clothing, notwithstanding that they were all branded. This year, before supplying any of them, I requested that each of them should produce the old blanket and show it to me. Some of them, however, were unable to do so, and others borrowed an old one to show. This year I have numbered all the clothing, as well as branded them, and kept a note of each one's number, and told them that, unless they produce the same blanket and other clothing next year, they would get no fresh supply. This, I think, has had some effect, as none of them have, as yet, parted with their clothing. The rations I supply, as usual, to all that are staying here. I give twice a week to each adult about four pounds of flour, one pound of sugar, and two ounces of tea, one fig of tobacco, and a small piece of soap. When they are leaving or make a call, I give them about eight days' supply. I have never heard of any of them parting with rations, but I believe that they would do so if they had a large quantity in their possession.

They still hunt and make a number of rugs with the opossum skins, which they sell at from ten to twenty shillings each, according to size. They also fish, when fish can be had, and sometimes offer fish for sale; they still indulge in intoxicating drink when they can get it, and until some sharp measures are taken to punish the publicans and others for supplying them with drink, and also to punish them for getting drunk, I have little hope of seeing any reform amongst them, as I have already informed the Board that I think a number of the Aborigines, in every tribe, might provide everything in clothing that they require, and also keep themselves for the greater part of the year. This, I think, would tend greatly to check intoxication amongst them. I believe that all the strong, healthy men of each tribe earn as much money during shearing and harvest season as would purchase sufficient clothing and keep them half the year. This is the very money that keeps themselves and the whole tribe for weeks in intoxication, and then they apply for food and clothing from the Board. Were they compelled to provide for themselves, and punished for getting intoxicated, then we may expect to see a change, but not till then.

In June 1871 Mr. Porteous states—

The number of Aborigines upon my book and receiving aid from the Board are as follows:—Seventeen men, aged from 30 to 65 years; thirteen women, aged from 35 to 65 years. The tribe still follow their occupations of fishing, hunting, and making of opossum rugs, which they barter for stores, but often for grog, a habit which they still cling to, and for which they would give everything they possess on earth, so as to obtain the cursed draught. I think what would prove a great check to their intemperate habits, if the police throughout the colony were instructed to arrest under the *Vagrant Act* any Aborigine that they found within the boundary of any city, borough, or town without having a written pass from their local guardian. This would tend greatly to make them keep in the country districts, where the temptation to take grog is not half so great as it is in towns. It is almost impossible to keep them for any length of time from visiting the towns, and yet they have no business to transact in those towns except begging for grog and making themselves liable to be arrested under the *Vagrant Act*. They have no hunting field nor fishing river within those towns, and if they have anything to sell let them apply to their local guardian for a pass for that day, to be within a town to be named in the pass.

The most of the tribe are old and feeble and unable to do any work. The young men of the tribe are able and willing to work, and some of them can do work as well as any white man; but they are like many of the white men, and would spend every shilling they earn upon grog, if they can possibly get it done.

Since I last wrote you I have to report two deaths in the tribe, namely, Mary, aged about 55 years, wife of John King; and Jerry, aged about 65 years. They are both interred in the Beaufort cemetery.

In June 1871 Mr. A. W. Howitt, P.M. at Bairnsdale, reports respecting the Aborigines in that locality, and says that—

No Aborigines permanently reside at Bairnsdale, but at times a considerable number may be found in the neighborhood. I am sorry to say that the most of their earnings is spent in drink, which they appear able to obtain with ease, partly from some of the publicans, and also through the medium of persons who buy it for them. I am not aware of any particulars regarding the conduct of any of them in this township which might be published with advantage.

Mr. M. Leslie, who has charge of the Aborigines in the neighborhood of Kulkyne, writes, in June 1871—

The number of Aborigines belonging to this locality is 36, consisting of 24 males and 12 females (including 3 children and 1 half-caste); 9 of the oldest of them receive rations, &c., from me twice a week, and the remainder provide for themselves.

I am happy to inform you that all the blacks here are in good health at present, with the exception of one old woman.

I have also to inform you that the youngest and strongest of the blacks are employed on this station; they are good riders, good at mustering cattle and sheep, good shepherds, and also good shearers, and they are a benefit to the station as well as the station being a great benefit to them.

Mr. W. Jamieson of Mildura, under whose care the Aborigines in that neighborhood are, states, in June 1871—

That there are no Aborigines receiving aid directly from his station in the shape of rations, excepting those who are engaged as servants.

A few of the older men and women are generally supplied with a little flour, tea, tobacco, &c., in their wanderings up or down the river; but this is only bestowed in the way of charity, and not at the expense of the Board.

The condition of the blacks in the district is much the same as it has been for some few years past. As a race they are generally becoming extinct. The deaths amongst them are much more numerous than the births, and there appears no prospect of altering this sad state of affairs.

In a report dated July 1871 Mr. W. L. Ker, who is in charge of the Aborigines in the vicinity of Killingworth, states—

That the number varies from two to thirteen or fourteen. Whenever they get wearied of Coranderrk they pay this district a visit. When remonstrated with for leaving such comfortable quarters, they generally answer, "Too much sick there." They have a firm belief in the curative properties of the climate on the Goulburn. The secret appears to be that they regard this neighborhood as a home. Two or three seldom leave Mrs. Thom, of Eildon, or her son-in-law, McKenzie. The majority of them are in good health; but when the old and sick are provided with rations, the others seem to think they have a right to share with them.

There were none at Killingworth at the beginning of June, but I found a few about Alexandra, a little further up the river. Their names are, Wellington, Johnny Webster and his wife Betty, Jamie Ludlow, Violet Ludlow, Peggy Cotton, Fat Sarah (late Dr. Billy's wife), and Sally, a widow. There is also an old man from Benalla; he is a white-headed fellow with only one eye, and that in a very bad state.

As a rule they do not care about work except at shearing time, and as they do not work, the white man is not very generous to them, except in the way of grog.

When I told them of your last grant of £10, and how much tea, and sugar, and flour it would buy, their expressions of discontent were not very particularly polite. I hope for the present six months you will be able to allow at least £20. They will not require blankets for this season, your last supply was sufficient.

McKenzie, as well as myself, make every effort to send them to Coranderrk, and refuse as much as possible to supply the able-bodied with rations; but when they won't go, and persist in their demands for flour, what can be done but to give? Whatever I may do, I know that both Mrs. Thom and her son-in-law help them most liberally from their own stores.

As the poor creatures will soon be "things of the past," it would be well to make some regular provision for, say, a standing number of twelve during the year; perhaps a smaller number, as an average, might be named.