

1885-6.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.
(ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD.)

Ordered by the Legislative Assembly to be printed, 22 July, 1886.

The Aborigines Protection Board to The Colonial Secretary.

Office of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines,

114, Phillip-street, Sydney, 29 June, 1886.

Sir,

In compliance with the established practice, we do ourselves the honor to submit this our Annual Report respecting the work we have undertaken during the past year, together with information regarding the present condition of the Aborigines, and the means we have adopted to supply their necessities so far as the funds placed at the disposal of the Board would admit.

Subjoined will be found a comparative return or census of the Aborigines for last year, and this exhibiting the changes which have taken place and the diminutions in the race during the period.

	Aborigines--full blood.					Half-castes					General Total.
	Adults.			Children.	Total.	Adults.			Children.	Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.			Males.	Females.	Total.			
By return, 1884	2,440	1,737	4,177	1,512	5,689	596	470	1,066	1,336	2,402	8,091
By return, 1885	2,318	1,653	3,971	1,391	5,362	630	530	1,169	1,453	2,622	7,984
Decrease	122	84	206	121	327	...	...	.....	.....
Increase .....	...	...	...	...	...	34	69	103	117	220	
Total decrease .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..			107

As far as can be ascertained, there are at the present time 520 Aboriginal and half-caste children receiving instruction, chiefly in Public Schools. Many gratifying reports have been received of the progress made by these scholars, which justify a hope that they may eventually be trained to take up their position amongst the industrial classes of the community.

Whilst the Board are not sanguine that there will be any general and permanent alteration in the condition and habits of the Aborigines, the outcome of increased energy of character on their part, there are fortunately many encouraging instances of industry and thrift, where assistance in the shape of land for cultivation and other aid have been advantageously bestowed.

We do not conceive that it is the intention of the Government or the Legislature that the sums voted for the benefit of the Aborigines should be expended in maintaining them, irrespective of age and condition, in a state of idleness. Such a course would, we consider, be productive of increased evils, instead of benefiting the recipients.

Moreover,

