

1904.
(SECOND SESSION.)

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
NEW SOUTH WALES.

ABORIGINES PROTECTION BOARD.

(REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1903.)

Printed under No. 9 Report from Printing Committee, 24 November, 1904.

Sir,

Office of Board for Protection of Aborigines,
Sydney, 31 May, 1904.

In accordance with the established practice, we have the honor to submit, for the Chief Secretary's information, the following Report regarding the work undertaken by us during the year 1903, together with information as to the number, location, and present condition of the aborigines throughout the State, and the means adopted by us for their relief, so far as the funds at our disposal would admit.

Meetings have been held, weekly, by the Board, and have been well attended.

Mr. Thomas Garvin, J.P., on his transfer to Sydney as Assistant Inspector-General of Police, was appointed as an additional Member of the Board.

On the 31st December, Mr. Edmund Fosbery, C.M.G., upon relinquishing the office of Inspector-General of Police, also found it necessary to retire from the position of Chairman, though he will continue to occupy a seat on the Board. Mr. Fosbery was appointed Chairman when the Board was first constituted, and has presided over its meetings for upwards of twenty-one years, and on his vacating that office the following resolution was passed by the members :—

“That the Members of the Board for Protection of Aborigines desire to place upon record their high appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the Board by Edmund Fosbery, Esq., C.M.G., during his occupancy of the position of Chairman. That a retrospect of the position of the aboriginal population of the State at the time of the formation of the Board, and a consideration of their present condition, will show conclusively that much has been done to ameliorate the sad condition in which they were found when the Board was formed, and also to raise their moral and physical state. That considerable praise is due to Mr. Fosbery in this connection, the Board fully recognise, as he has at all times manifested the deepest interest in the welfare of the aborigines, as well as having maintained a continuous supervision over the work of the Board during the past twenty-one years.”

Mr. Fosbery's successor in office (Mr. Thomas Garvin) was subsequently, at the desire of the members, appointed as Chairman of the Board.

The following gentlemen were appointed during the year to fill vacancies, or as additional members, on the Local Boards, viz. :—

Brungle	...	...	...	Mr. Robert Daniel French.
do	...	...	...	Mr. Hojel, Sub-Inspector of Police.
Gulargambone	...	...	...	Mr. Charles Clarence Garling.
Wallaga Lake	...	...	...	Mr. Robert M. Bate.
Warangesda	...	...	...	Mr. Samuel A. Pethybridge.

The Board regret to report the death of Mr. William McCormack, J.P., a member of the Local Board at Grafton. Dr. Donald Luker, on leaving the district, resigned from the Local Board at Brewarrina; Mr. A. McGruer and Sub-Inspector Jones from the Board at Brungle; Mr. Pattemore from the Board at Wallaga Lake; and the Rev. G. R. F. Nobbs from the Board at Warangesda.

The statistics of the aboriginal population (*see Appendix A*), compiled from information collected by the police, on the 16th October last, show a total of 2,786 full-bloods and 4,148 half-castes throughout the State,—making a total of 6,934.

As compared with the previous year, these figures exhibit an increase of 106.

The deaths among the full-bloods exceeded the births by 65, the numbers being 142 and 89 respectively. On the other hand there were 78 more births than deaths among the half-castes, there being 167 births and 89 deaths.

These figures show an increase of 13 instead of 106, the discrepancy being probably due to the difficulty of taking a correct census in the remote districts, owing to the migratory habits of the race and by the border tribes crossing into other States.

The number of full-bloods is gradually decreasing, as last year's census shows that there are now only 2,786, as against 6,540 in 1882, when the first census was taken, though the half-castes have increased from 2,379 to 4,148.

A total sum of £19,755 13s. was expended by the Government on behalf of the aborigines during the year (*see Appendix B*). This includes £15,146 5s. 8d. expended by the Board; £878 7s. by the Chief Medical Officer of the Government; £1,273 8s. 6d. by the Minister of Public Instruction; £2,405 3s. by the Stores Supply and Tender Board, from the Vote for Stores; and £52 8s. 11d. by the Chief Secretary's Department for burials.

A statement of the Produce and Sale Store accounts will be found in Appendix C.

On the 31st December there was a sum of £230 5s. 10d. to the credit of the Trust Account. This sum represents the earnings of aboriginal apprentices, which are kept by the Board for their use later on in life. At the present time only the apprentices sent out from Brewarrina Aboriginal Station have their wages banked for them in the Savings Bank, but endeavour is being made to induce the parents of youths and girls apprenticed from other Stations to consent to at least portion of their wages being saved for them.

The usual Christmas dinner was provided for the aborigines throughout the State in receipt of rations, and small grants made to the various Stations and Homes, with a view of keeping the residents at the Stations during the holiday season. Sports were held under the supervision of the respective managers, and from the reports received appear to have been successful in their object.

Three additional reserves, aggregating an area of 490 acres, have been set apart for the use of the Aborigines during the year 1903, viz. :—

County of Gloucester, Parish of Fitzroy	...	...	...	...	...	50 acres.
„ Rous	„	North Lismore	...	...	...	420 „
„ Darling	„	Keepit	...	...	...	20 „

On the 31st December there were 145 reserves for the use of aborigines throughout the State, comprising a total acreage of 25,871.

Some of these reserves have been fenced during the year, the Board supplying the necessary wire and the aborigines themselves providing and erecting the posts. In a number of instances, too, where the soil is suitable, the land has been successfully cultivated, the Board having further assisted by the supply of seed, the cost of which, in some instances, has been repaid after the crop has been reaped.

In view of the desire of many aborigines (especially half-castes) to obtain farm blocks, it is not desirable that many of these reserves should be revoked, especially as large blocks of the public estate are now being alienated to private owners, some of whom will probably debar aborigines from hunting thereon.

Inquiries are being made by the Department of Lands, at the instance of this Board, as to the advisableness of setting apart large blocks of land on the Darling and Lachlan Rivers, with a view of settling the aborigines in those districts thereon, under the control of managers. It has not been possible, however, to do anything definite in this direction, as the necessary funds are not available, and from reports received, it does not appear likely that the aborigines would settle in any one spot for any length of time.

The number of aboriginal children receiving instruction throughout the State was 617 (588 at public schools and 29 at private schools), being an increase of 66 on the previous year. The increase is considered satisfactory, and to be the result of the further efforts made by the Board during the year to encourage

encourage the adult aborigines and half-castes to send their children to school. To this end rations and clothing are provided for the children, and the assistance of the police has been obtained in order to keep up the attendance.

Still, a large proportion of the aboriginal children of school age are not receiving any education at all. They are not permitted by the Department of Public Instruction to attend some of the public schools, where, it is understood, objections have been raised by a few of the parents of European children, though, from the reports furnished, there is nothing to which exception can be taken in their habits or behaviour, and the Board are always ready to see that they are decently clad.

The school at Barrington has been closed, but additional schools for aboriginal children have been established at Roseby Park (near Nowra) and Nulla Nulla Creek (near Bellbrook). If the aboriginal children are not allowed to attend the public schools, the Board would be glad to see special schools for aborigines established at other places where there are a sufficient number of aborigines.

For want of the necessary funds, the Board have been unable to carry out proposals for imparting special industrial training to aboriginal youths and girls. Wherever opportunity offers, however, situations are obtained for them, and they are reported by their employers to make fairly good rough carpenters, fencers, and domestic servants. The matrons at the various stations instruct the girls in plain sewing and domestic matters generally, and on some of the stations the residents gain an insight into farming work. It is hoped, however, that in the near future something may be done to properly train aboriginal youths (and especially half-castes) for work in the interior, giving them, by competent teachers, elementary instruction in such trades as blacksmithing, bootmaking, carpentering, &c., which would enable them to earn a living far better than a purely literary education. In some localities, of course, suitable work is obtainable by the aborigines at certain seasons of the year amongst neighbouring settlers as shearers, &c., and when such work is available the managers have instructions to endeavour to also obtain employment for the younger men.

In view of the limited amount available for the relief of the aborigines of this State, and the consequent necessity of those who are able to do so earning their own living, it is to be regretted that the Commonwealth Government should have imposed restrictions on the employment of full-bloods, and even half-castes, in connection with the sugar industry and the Postal Service.

The police have been successful in obtaining convictions against persons at the following places for supplying aboriginal natives with liquor, viz.:—Tatalla (6), Dubbo, Wollar, Gulargambone, Broken Hill, Grafton (2), and Collarendabri.

In the present state of the law it is, however, recognised that the police can do but little to prevent the sale of liquor to the aborigines, especially in view of the decision of the Supreme Court that the term "Aboriginal Native of Australia," as contained in the Liquor Act, 1898, must be construed to include none but full-blooded aborigines, so that licensees and others may with impunity supply half-castes with strong drink, and they, in their turn, can very easily hand it to the full-bloods. The Board trust that the Government will see their way to amend the law in this respect at an early date, in view of the terrible curse the use of intoxicating liquors has been to the natives. The matter has already been specially brought under the Chief Secretary's attention with a view to a clause being inserted in the proposed new Liquor Act.

The Board also feel that the time has arrived for the introduction of other much-needed legislation giving them power to extend their operations in the best interests of the aboriginal inhabitants of the State. Much has been done to improve their condition, but in the absence of necessary legislation (which, it may be pointed out, has for many years existed in other States) the Board's powers are but limited. Information is being collected regarding the enactments in force in the other States, and also in Canada and New Zealand, regarding the aboriginal races, with a view to drafting a Bill for the consideration of the Government.

With the comparatively small sum at their disposal, the Board have been prevented from doing much that they desire for the aborigines, and in view of the reduction of their Estimates as submitted for the consideration of the Government by over £2,000, they have had to further curtail the supply of meat rations, and to issue instructions for the strictest economy to be exercised; even then it is feared that the sum provided will not suffice to cover absolutely necessary expenditure.

In the month of September, a letter was received from Mr. R. Scobie, M.L.A., inviting attention to the provisions of the Native Animals Protection Bill, then before the Legislative Council, and suggesting that the aborigines of the State, who to a large extent depend on native game for their food and livelihood, should be exempt from the operations of the Bill, when passed into law. Though it was foreseen that there might be objections to this course, the communication was forwarded for the consideration of the Government.

From

From the reports of the Medical Officers throughout the State, it would appear that the health of the aborigines generally has been good, and that there is a marked improvement in the sanitary conditions of the various stations and camps, as compared with past years. Owing to the frequency of the reports indicating the prevalence of lung trouble among the race, the Board have instituted inquiries with a view of making representations, if necessary, in regard to the establishment of cottage homes for consumptive aborigines.

During the year, Mr. Norrie, one of the members of the Board, visited the Aboriginal Stations at Cumerogunga and Grafton; another member (Mr. Trenchard) paid a visit to the Wallaga Lake Station, while Mr. Dowling visited Brungle Station and several camps of aborigines on the South Coast.

BREWARRINA STATION.

Several meetings were held during the year by the Local Board at Brewarrina, who also visited the Station from time to time, when, they report, everything was found to be in thorough order, the houses and surroundings clean, and the conduct of the residents generally good. The aborigines are, it is stated, with one or two exceptions, well satisfied with the treatment they have received, and complaints made in this respect were found to be groundless. The School Inspector's report was a very satisfactory one, but the Local Board again draw attention to the "absolute necessity" for increased school accommodation, "as," they say, "the present building is not large enough to receive all the children of school age now on the Station."

The Station was visited during the year by the Premier (Sir John See)—who is a member of the Central Board—accompanied by the Attorney-General (Mr. Wise).

The Manager, in his report, states that the year bears favourable comparison with the previous one, as the paddocks were well covered with grass or herbage, resulting in an improvement of the stock, which are now in a first-class condition. Unfortunately, there was a scarcity of work in the district, the men having to travel long distances in search of employment. The able-bodied were not encouraged to remain on the Station, but the aged and infirm, and also the women and children, were provided for as usual. The work done during the year comprises the erection of one-third of a mile of brush fencing on the river bank, repairs to gates and existing fences (including new posts where required), new wash-shed, new calf-shed, horse and sheep yards repaired, addition of verandah and picket fence to one cottage, and a quantity of clearing and suckering.

The number of residents on the 31st December was ninety-two, and the daily average during the year was eighty-five, of whom ten men, twenty-three women, and forty-four children were in receipt of rations. The attendance at school has been very regular, and of thirty-eight on the roll the average attendance was 37.2. There were four births (all half-castes), two marriages, and six deaths (three full-bloods and three half-castes). Two hundred and thirty lambs were added to the flock, which on the 31st December totalled 830; there were also eleven cattle and seven horses on the Station at that date.

BRUNGLE STATION.

The Local Board at Brungle met twice during the year, and transacted general business for the welfare of the Station.

Twenty-three acres were ploughed and sown with wheat, and one paddock of 27 acres was left, having every appearance of bearing a good self-sown crop, which expectation was fully realised, as from the whole crop some 85 tons of hay were obtained. The shed is full of hay for winter use, and 3 tons of chaff have been cut for the station horses; in addition, there are three stacks well thatched and perfectly secure from rain, which will be disposed of when a favourable opportunity offers. Two acres were also ploughed and sown with maize. Three additional houses have been erected to meet the demands of residents, 250 posts have been split, and 100 rods of fencing erected to Brungle Creek road. A new dam has been excavated on Reserve Hill, 100 yards of earth being taken out. This was rendered necessary, as there is no other water available for the stock. The work of repairing buildings and fences, grubbing, and general station work was also carried out. All the houses are now reported to be in a fair state of repair and comfortable.

The Station was visited during the year by the Federal Capital Site Commissioners and a number of other prominent gentlemen. Mr. Dowling (one of the members of Central Board) also visited the station, and furnished a report for the Board's information. Among other things he suggested, with a view to proper economy and efficiency, that the Aboriginal School should be amalgamated with the Brungle Public School, which is held in the adjoining paddock, but the Minister for Public Instruction could not see his way to adopt the suggestion.

At

At the instance of the Local Board, and again after Mr. Dowling's visit, application was made to the Lands Department to have the block of land known as Reserve Hill, adjoining the Station, set apart for the use of the aborigines for grazing and water supply much needed by them. The Minister, though not granting the request, decided that the land should still remain on permissive occupancy. The Local Board also recommended that Water Reserve No. 2761 of 640 acres should be acquired on which to run cattle for ration purposes, but in view of the distance from the station (5 miles), and the large outlay needed for fencing, &c., no action was taken in the matter.

It was found necessary to expel three half-castes from the Station for misconduct, and also to refuse admission to a number of young half-caste men. Otherwise, the conduct of the residents has been exceptionally good, and there has been but one case of a resident being locked up for drunkenness. Gambling has greatly diminished, and the men are more amenable to discipline, but little difficulty being now experienced in getting the men to work about the Station. The health of the aborigines generally has been good, and their morality is also on the upward grade, there having been but one case of illegitimacy on the Station. The sanitary arrangements of the Station are carefully attended to, and the matron instructs the women and girls in cutting out their clothes and in the use of the sewing machine; she also has young girls in her house teaching them domestic duties, and in addition advises the women in the management of their own homes. Altogether, there is a marked improvement in the appearance of the residents, who are happy and contented, and the men now spend a fair share of their earnings from shearing upon their wives and families.

On the 31st December there were 109 aborigines on the Station, and the average number of residents during the year was 98,—81 of whom were in receipt of rations. There were two births (both half-castes) and five deaths (two full-bloods and three half-castes). The instruction of the children was interrupted for a time early in the year, owing to the illness of the teacher. Every endeavour is made to induce them to attend regularly, the average attendance for the year being 21.2.

CUMEROONGUNGA STATION.

The Local Board at Cumeroongunga report that five meetings were held during the year. The work on the Station consisted of the erection of three new cottages, new stable, buggy-house, and harness-room, two new gates, erection of forty-one chains of posts for wire fence, 1,000 pickets cut, and 5 chains of picket fencing erected, 170 acres cleaned up and burnt off, 680 acres suckered, 45 acres sown with oats, and 135 with wheat. Forty-five acres of oats were cut for hay, and yielded 90 tons, and 15 acres of wheat (station crop) yielded sixty bags.

The early portion of the year was very dry, the fishing was very poor, and there was no game on the lakes, even the rabbits being poor and diseased. The aborigines were as usual encouraged to seek employment away from the Station.

Representations having been made that some of the residents were not contented, Mr. Norrie (a member of the Central Board) paid a visit to the Station, accompanied by Mr. Cameron, Superintendent of Police for the district, and held an exhaustive inquiry into the management. Although he considered the management generally satisfactory, Mr. Norrie pointed out a number of matters where improvement might be effected, and his recommendations were adopted. It was found necessary, too, to caution some of the residents that any future complaints of a frivolous character would be severely dealt with by the Board. One gratifying result of Mr. Norrie's visit is that situations have since been found in the locality for a number of young girls who were living in idleness on the Station, and are now in receipt of good wages. Before sending them out, the Board directed that they should be provided with proper clothing.

From reports furnished by the manager, it transpired that some of the farm block holders had let their farms for agistment purposes to a number of Indian hawkers, much annoyance being caused through these hawkers coming on the Station property. The Board decided that, as the farm block holders had permissive occupancy only of their respective holdings, the agreements could not be recognised, and directed that any stock belonging to strangers should be forthwith turned off the Station lands.

The average number of residents on the Station during the year was 250, 231 of whom were in receipt of rations. There were 15 births (1 full-blood and 14 half-castes), 2 marriages, and 5 deaths (1 full-blood and 4 half-castes). The average attendance of the children at school was 50.4, and the manager reports that the children were kept comfortable and tidily-clothed. A good supply of medicines was kept on hand and the dispensary well stocked.

Early in the year Dr. T. Orde Smith left the district and resigned his position as Medical Officer for the Station, Dr. R. Bindon Stoney being appointed in his stead.

GRAFTON

GRAFTON HOME.

Twelve meetings were held by the Local Board at Grafton during the year, and the Home was visited monthly by the members; in addition, the Chairman visited and inspected the Home on other occasions when in the locality. The year was one (says the report of the Local Board) of peace and quietness, there being no quarrels and no cases of intemperance; and the aborigines keep their huts remarkably clean and send their children regularly to school. The tribal differences and jealousies, too, are fast disappearing.

A great deal of work has been done during the year in the shape of clearing and fencing, the aborigines working regularly and well. One hundred and fifty rods of two-rail fencing were split and erected to divide off the grazing area, 44 acres of grazing land were cleared of logs, stumps, and trees; the fences, roads, culverts and yards were kept in repair, and a fence erected around the manager's house. Unfortunately, the maize crop was almost a total failure on account of the severe drought, and where there should have been some 1,200 bushels, only 150 bushels were realised. There was a good crop of potatoes, which gave a clear return of £23, which is considered satisfactory, seeing that quite a number of farmers had little or no return on account of the glut in the Sydney market. The total receipts from all sources amounted to £60 18s. 2d. A quantity of Hungarian millet was also grown for winter feed, and at the end of the year the whole of the farm, with the exception of 3 acres to be planted in January, was under crop. Wherever possible, the repairs to station tools and implements, harness, &c., are now carried out on the Home by the aborigines.

The loss of the services of Mr. William McCormack, J.P., is deeply regretted; this gentleman was never known to miss a meeting or a visit to the Home when well enough to attend.

The number of aborigines at the Home has been well maintained, and the number on the roll increased from 66 (in January) to 74 (in December), the average daily number being 55.1. All the children of school age attend the school, which is excellently conducted, and one of the pupils took first prize at the Grafton Show for the best exercise book, in competition with the scholars of the public and private schools in the district. There were three births (one full-blood and two half-castes) and one death (a half-caste.) The health of the residents has been good.

On the 31st December there were fifty-five head of cattle on the Home, all in fair condition. Two head of cattle died, and twenty-one were slaughtered. As at other Stations, the meat supply was considerably reduced, and now that slaughtering is carried out on the Home, the cost is much less than when meat was purchased under contract.

RUNNYMEDE HOME.

Considerable progress has been made at the Home for aborigines at Runnymede. About 10 acres of new land were brought under cultivation, and altogether 26 acres were planted with maize and 1½ acres with pumpkins. In addition, 10 acres were cleared and grubbed ready for ploughing, 80 acres were enclosed with a three-wire fence, and a pig-run and sheds for pigs constructed. Slabs and posts were obtained for additions to the barn and for three new houses; great difficulty was experienced in procuring these, as most of the good timber has been removed from the locality. There was also a considerable amount of work done in repairing fences and yards.

The visiting Medical Officer (Dr. Rutherford) in reporting, says that the out-door farm work helps to keep the men out of town, and that there is a good crop of corn and a number of improvements to show for the year. Most of the married men now have vegetable gardens, which they work in their spare time, and have grown some fine vegetables; one of them also has a number of pine-apples and peach trees in his garden, which are doing well.

There is an improvement in the physical and moral condition of the residents of the Home, there being less drunkenness, though some of them have been supplied with liquor at Kyogle, and it has been found necessary to obtain the assistance of the police, with a view to prevention of the practice. The able-bodied men obtain employment in the locality, and return to the Station at night-time or at the week-end, and are now far more settled in their habits.

There were eighty-three aborigines on the Station roll during 1903, and the daily average number of residents on the Station was fifty-three. There were three births (all full-bloods) and three deaths (also full-bloods). The school attendance has almost doubled, the average attendance now being sixteen, and satisfactory progress has been made. The children are also taught sewing. The stock on the home on the 31st December comprised two horses, two cows, and eight pigs.

WALLAGA LAKE.

The Local Board at Wallaga Lake, report that eleven meetings were held during the year, four at the Station and seven at the Court-house.

Two

Two additional houses have been erected during 1903, and one infested with white ants pulled down and re-erected on another spot. Two rooms have been added to another dwelling, and the school-house lined inside. The new store has been painted, and that building and the Manager's residence fenced in. A small paddock was sown with oats, which was cut for hay and stored for winter feed for the cattle. 2,000 Paspalum roots have been planted on some of the barren portions of the Station, and 10 bushels of other grass seeds sown, all of which are doing well. Continuous attention has also been given to the rapid growth of briars on the Station lands.

During the year the Station was visited by Mr. Trenchard, a member of the Central Board, and at his instance it was decided to put a stop to the rapid destruction of timber on the Station and also plant the ground with grass seed. Mr. Trenchard also suggested that the block of land adjoining the present holding should be acquired for cultivation purposes, the land now held being very barren except on a few small plots, but upon inquiry it was ascertained that the owners were unwilling to part with the property. The matter of the need for providing a permanent water supply was also brought under notice, but nothing could be done for want of funds.

The young men on the Station are not encouraged to remain on the Station, and they are able to obtain suitable employment at certain times of the year at the farms in the district, and from one of the Managers' monthly reports it appeared that forty-seven men from the Station were engaged in work of various kinds off the Station, earning from 15s. to 30s. per week.

The average number of residents on the Station was 144. There were 6 births (all boys), 2 deaths, and 3 marriages. The school attendance was 225.

The older girls and the women are instructed by the Matron in sewing, &c., and the aborigines generally are taught the need for keeping their houses neat and clean, with satisfactory results.

WARANGESDA.

Seven meetings were held by the Local Board at Warangesda during the year, and the Board also paid visits of inspection to the Station.

The resignation of the Rev. G. R. F. Nobbs, as Honorary Secretary to the Board, having been accepted, the Rev. J. L. Winn kindly consented to act in that capacity, and he has visited the Station on a number of occasions.

Miss Hyde, Dormitory Matron, having resigned on account of illness, Miss Jessie Reid was appointed to the vacancy, but she too resigned later in the year, and the position has not since been filled.

The work of burning off and suckering was continued, 400 acres being cleared during the year. Five additional houses were erected, also a store-room, butcher's shop, and tool-house. A two-roomed house was also removed and re-erected. 1,750 fencing-posts were split, and 4,500 pickets cut, and the yards of the various houses were enclosed. Burnt clay was also put around the Manager's residence and dormitory, which are below flood level. The season being very unfavourable, very little cultivation was attempted, and the Station was so devoid of grass that the horses had to be sent to Gundagai.

Sub-Inspector Grugeon, of Hay, visited the Station, at the Board's request, during the month of May, and reported that everything was progressing satisfactorily.

The sanitary condition of the Station is reported to be good; the house refuse is destroyed by fire, and sanitary matters are carefully attended to. Generally speaking, the health of the residents was good, but there were some cases of consumption and hydatids. The conduct of the residents has been remarkably good, there not being one case of drunkenness or misbehaviour.

The average number of residents on the Station during the year was 1424. There were 5 births (all quarter-castes), and 5 deaths (1 full-blood and 4 half-castes). The school attendance averaged 385.

LA FEROUSE.

There are still a large number of aborigines resident on the Reserve at La Ferouse. In order to keep visitors to Botany Bay off the Reserve it was suggested that a higher boundary fence should be erected round it, but the matter had to be postponed for want of funds. The police were requested to continue their efforts to induce the aborigines there to go back to their native districts, but, notwithstanding all efforts to keep down the numbers, visitors are constantly arriving from the country.

Owing to the bad behaviour of some of those at the camp, when travelling to and from Sydney, the Railway Commissioners found it necessary to withdraw the privilege from the aborigines of riding free on the trams.

COWRA

COWRA.

A further attempt was made by some of the residents of Cowra to have the aborigines removed from the vicinity of the township; but, in the absence of any other suitable site, and in view of the fact that there is a school for aborigines at Erambie which the children attend regularly, the Board decided not to interfere in the matter.

ROSEBY PARK.

There is now a large settlement at Roseby Park, the Reserve being well adapted for the purpose, and the aborigines being comfortably housed. The Reserve comprises an area of 32 acres, and there are 65 aborigines camped there. Nineteen adults and 38 children are in receipt of rations, the others supporting themselves by fishing, and some of them obtaining employment in the locality.

A school building was erected by the Board, and the Department of Public Instruction have provided a teacher.

LISMORE.

Nothing further has transpired in connection with the proposed location of the aborigines on the Reserve set apart for them at North Lismore, as they refuse to leave their present camping place nearer the town, and the Board have no power to remove them. The Board are assured, however, of the wisdom of having the aboriginal settlements (where practicable) at a reasonable distance from townships, and further efforts will be made to induce the aborigines to settle on the very suitable block of land available for their use.

YASS.

The Board regret that all efforts to induce the aborigines at Yass to remove from their present camp have proved fruitless, as the camping place is very unhealthy, and there is no wood or water available in the vicinity, and in other respects it is quite unsuitable for an aboriginal camp. Two huts have been erected at Flakney Creek (Pudman Creek), and other dwellings will be provided when the present camp is broken up.

As regards the Reserve at the latter place, it was found that one of the half-castes had leased a portion of the land to a neighbouring settler, claiming that it had been set apart for his sole use. As there was no doubt, however, that the land had been reserved for the use of the aborigines generally, the same as all other Aborigines' Reserves, the Board declined to recognise the lease.

In conclusion, the Board desire to again express their appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered them by District Boards of Advice, and especially by the members of the police force, in furthering their aims for the amelioration of the condition of a race which, but for this aid, would suffer great privations, and die out at a much greater rate than at present.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed) THOMAS GARVIN,

Chairman.

EDMUND FOSBERY,	} Members of the Board.
J. M. CHANTER,	
JOHN SEE,	
G. E. ARDILL,	
W. C. HILL,	
FRANK NORRIE,	
HY. TRENCHARD,	
EDWARD DOWLING,	
ROBT. SCOBIE.	

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

CENSUS RETURNS, 1903.

Comparison with the year 1902.

	Full-bloods.				Half-castes.				Grand Total.
	Adults.		Children.	Total.	Adults.		Children.	Total.	
	Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.			
By return, 1902	1,194	835	851	2,880	942	841	2,165	3,948	6,828
Do 1903	1,163	793	830	2,786	1,027	887	2,234	4,148	6,934
Decrease.....	31	42	21	94	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Increase .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85	46	69	200	106

Total Increase, Half-castes

,, Decrease, Full-bloods

Total Increase

BIRTHS and DEATHS, 1903.

Full-bloods.		Half-castes.	
Births reported	77	Births reported	167
Deaths reported	142	Deaths reported	89
Increase, Deaths over Births	65	Increase, Births over Deaths	78

APPENDIX B.

Department.	Particulars.	Amount expended.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Aborigines Protection Board.....	Rations, clothing, medical comforts, seed, farming implements, fencing-wire, boats, erection of dwellings, &c., &c. (for the aborigines generally) ...	10,273	7 3
	Expenses in connection with Home for Aborigines, Clarence River (Grafton).....	458	14 9
	Expenses in connection with Home for Aborigines, Richmond River (Runnymede)	459	6 6
	Expenses in connection with the Cumeroogunga, Warangesda, and Brewarrina Stations	3,866	17 2
	Salary of Secretary	88	0 0
			15,146 5 8
Chief Secretary.....	Burial expenses—Aborigines		52 8 10
Chief Medical Officer	Medical attendance and medicines		878 7 0
Stores Supply and Tender Board...	Blankets, clothing, stationery, general stores, drugs, &c.		2,405 3 0
Public Instruction	Salaries of Teachers, repairs to buildings, books, &c....		1,273 8 6
	Total.....		£19,755 13 0

45937

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