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 FERRERS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.
### APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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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:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coranderrk</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Hindmarsh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tyers</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wellington</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagenauer</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Condah</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framlingham</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 shearsers, 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.

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:—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>Births</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coranderrk</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wellington</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Condah</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tyers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Hindmarsh</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framlingham</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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,

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. Greene 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 Echuca 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 Gunbower 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 if they cannot get supplies at Gunbower.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
R. Brough Smyth, Esq., Secretary C. B. A.

John Green

LAKE CONDAH.

SIR,

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) nuts, 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 Stock.

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 Fences, &c.

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., Distribution of:

- 3½ 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, Farm.
yield 12 bushels to the acre; potatoes, ½ acre, 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 buildings 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 second and third 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 monies 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.

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.

FRAMLINGHAM.

Coranderrk, 15th April 1871.

I have the honor to lay before you my report on the condition of the Aboriginal station at Framlingham. I arrived at this 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 1, 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 £20.

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; six 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Localities</th>
<th>Total Number of Men, Women, and Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Coranderrk and Mortialloie</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Western</td>
<td>Geelong and Colac</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camperdown</td>
<td>Framlingham, Warrnambool, Belfast, and Moriallo</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nareeb-nareeb, Wickliffe</td>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton</td>
<td>Mount House, Condah, and Portland</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casterton and Sandford</td>
<td></td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballarat</td>
<td>Carngamah and Talbot</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-Western</td>
<td>Mount Talbot</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apelley</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wimmera, Richardson, and Carr's Plains</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mildura, Knitkyno, and Swan Hill</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Boort, Loddon</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gunbower and Terrick-terrick</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern</td>
<td>Rebma, Wynna, and Ulupma</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geelxbar Valley</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Eastern</td>
<td>Gippsland</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-Eastern</td>
<td>Wangamatta and Tangerabasluca</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wanderers (number estimated by Mr. Green)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,834</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note.—During his tour of inspection in 1868 and 1869, Mr. Green collected the names of 1,734 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coranderrk</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Condah</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Tyers</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wellington</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Hindmarsh</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Framlingham</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
REPORTS OF MR. R. BROUGH SMYTH.

GENTLEMEN,

Collins street, and 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 24th and 25th 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Acres/Quarters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There are now under crop in the Eastern paddock</td>
<td>45 acres of oats,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the flat</td>
<td>6 &quot; of potatoes,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western paddock</td>
<td>20 &quot; of oats,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western flat</td>
<td>20 &quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North paddock</td>
<td>14 &quot; of wheat,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near the school-house</td>
<td>12 &quot; of potatoes,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25 &quot; of garden.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 feebly 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 get 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

APPENDIX II.

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" North paddock... 14" of wheat, Near the school-house... 12" of potatoes, 25" of garden.
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. Willow, free growing creepers, &c, would make the place not only more attractive, but, if kept within proper limits, also healthier.

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 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,

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

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APPENDIX III.

DR. GIBSON'S REPORTS.

CORANDERRK.

Sir,

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 boys, 6 girls
- Under 5 years: 7 boys, 4 girls

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 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., M.R.C.S. Ed.
Secretary to Central Board for Protection to Aborigines.

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Sir,

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

- Males under 5 years: 10
- From 5 to 16 years: 16
- " 16 to 21 ": 3
- " above 21 years: 19

48

Females under 5 years: 4
- " from 5 to 16 years: 9
- " 16 to 21 ": 5
- " above 21 years: 20

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,

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 all 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 pottasi; 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 progress.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

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,

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

Six, 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 Aboriginals. They may be classified as under:

- 21 male adults.
- 23 female adults.
- 15 boys between 12 and 16 years.
- 4 girls " 12 and 16 "
- 7 boys " 5 and 12 "

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 these 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 doorkeepers, including beds and bedding, are excellent. 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, 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 inspected the medicine chest; it is in good order, but the undermentioned medicines are required:—Acetum scillae, 2 lbs.; liquor ammonias 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.

1 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.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that I visited the Aboriginal station at Coranderrk on the 1st 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 116 Aborigines on the place. 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. Elisha 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; 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.

In conclusion, 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.

Flemington, February 18th 1871.

Sir,

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 of these are under 5 years. There is no case of serious illness at present. Simon, whose health has been delicate, is still suffering from weakness in the chest. Maria, his wife, is also suffering from lumbago. Aggie Hobson has had an attack of fever from cold, but is in a fair way of recovery. Caroline is suffering from serious 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 conclusion, 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.

Flemington, 8th December 1870.

I have the honor to report that I visited the Aboriginal station at Coranderrk on the 8th 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 of these are under 5 years. There is no case of serious illness at present. Simon, whose health has been delicate, is still suffering from weakness in the chest. Maria, his wife, is also suffering from lumbago. Aggie Hobson has had an attack of fever from cold, but is in a fair way of recovery. Caroline is suffering from serious 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.

In conclusion, 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.

Flemington, February 28th 1871.

I have the honor to report that I visited the Aboriginal station at Coranderrk on the 28th 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 of these are under 5 years. There is no case of serious illness at present. Simon, whose health has been delicate, is still suffering from weakness in the chest. Maria, his wife, is also suffering from lumbago. Aggie Hobson has had an attack of fever from cold, but is in a fair way of recovery. Caroline is suffering from serious 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.

In conclusion, 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.
Flemington, 19th 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
- 22 " females
- 30 girls
- Total: 108

I inspected the houses and huts on the station, and have much pleasure in certifying that they continue to merit commendation for their cleanliness 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 so 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.; aqua ammonia fort., 1 lb.; tincture of iron, 1 lb.; quinine, 1 oz.; ipecac. wine, 1 lb.; calomel, 4 ozs.; jalap powder, 1 lb.; rhubarb powder, 1 lb.; blistering plaster, 1 lb.; turpentine, 1 gallon; acetum scillae, 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.

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.

The children have not made more progress in their learning than 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 £645, viz:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Price (£ s. d.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 bushels wheat, at 5s.</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>50  0  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 bushels oats, at 4s.</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>240 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 tons potatoes, at 45s.</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>150 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 cattle killed for beef</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>80  0  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 pigs sold, at 7s.</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>84  0  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 pigs sold, at 7s.</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>42  0  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 tons straw, at 10s.</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>100 0 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 hides</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>6  0  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckets and ropes, say</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>30  0  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pots, say</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>30  0  0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter, say</td>
<td>...</td>
<td>30  0  0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: £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, the property of the Central Board, belonging to the Aborigines. 5.

I have 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, especially the men who are in need of. A few of the men work steadily, and should receive 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 more 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 that, in a few years more, they will be an honor to the Central Board and to the State.

The Central Board, belonging to the Aborigines 5.

The stock on the station at present consists of 125 cows, 55 one-year-old heifers and steers, 25 three-year-old stock, 24 two-year-old steers and heifers, 30 bullocks, 4 horses, 9 pigs, and 12 pigs. There were 2 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.

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. There were nine births, thus making an increase of 2 during the same time. The Aborigines are generally beginning to appreciate the comforts of a settled life. At times, the improvement in the general condition of the Aborigines is so great that one would think it was too much for them, both physically and morally. In a few years more the same people would be poor, miserable, degraded creatures—three 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.

There have been five marriages. One of these was a half-caste to a white laborer on the station (Thomas Harris). Marriage.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Present Daily</th>
<th>Present Daily</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At present 56 are on the station.

The number of blacks attending the station during each month for twelve months ending the 31st December 1870 and the average daily attendance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Present Daily</th>
<th>Average Monthly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 others to us, are also fenced. The produce of these gardens, obtained by irrigation, is consumed on the station.

MISSION STATION, LAKE HINDMARSH.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Present Daily</th>
<th>Average Monthly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At present 56 are on the station.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Women</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 others 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, 7; young cattle, 7. There have been killed and consumed on the station—Sheep, 60; cows, 2; hogs, 3. Three cows died. A good many of the sheep for killing were given by some of the neighboring squatters.

5. The kind and number of huts built, &c.—Number of huts built—14; store-houses, 2; 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.

6. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Present Adult males</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
<th>Present Adult females</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
<th>Present Male children</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
<th>Present Female children</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
<th>Present Adults</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
<th>Present Children</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
<th>Present Adult females</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
<th>Present Male children</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
<th>Present Female children</th>
<th>Average Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read and Write</th>
<th>Adult males</th>
<th>Adult females</th>
<th>Male children</th>
<th>Female children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Read and Write</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 blacks or sold:

| Ground fenced | Wheat | Oats | Potatoes | Total
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The number of huts already built:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dwellings of Natives</th>
<th>Number of huts already built</th>
<th>In course of erection</th>
<th>A substantial woolshed in course of erection by the natives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The number of natives living in the above-mentioned huts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of natives living in school-house:</th>
<th>Number of children living in school-house:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in boys' house</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The number of adult males who can read tolerably is four; females none; male children who can read simple narratives five, and who also give reasonable answers; writing girls five; spelling girls five; reading and writing very good hands; I send a specimen of their performances. I may state that, having himself 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 appoint a teacher 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.

MISSION STATION, LAKE TYERS, GIPPSLAND.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Or an average attendance of thirty-eight Aboriginals.

2nd. The number of adult males who can read tolerably is four; females none; male children who can read simple narratives five, and who also give reasonable answers; writing girls five; spelling girls five; reading and writing very good hands; I send a specimen of their performances. I may state that, having himself 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 apppoint a teacher 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, vegetables, melons, 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 to 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.

May, however, had not produced 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.

The blacks use them as vegetable gardens; the names of the blacks who cultivate for themselves.

The blacks who have huts generally sleep in them and regularly sweep them out.

The blacks still hunt native game and also fish, and many of them try to provide for themselves and their families. 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 drink when they go near the township. I am not aware that any steps have been taken to prevent the blacks getting drink, 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.

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; I find this works all in good humour and prevents bloodshed. This I trust is the beginning of better days for the tribes at Lake Tyers.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
<th>Avg. Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of adult males who can read and write is 3, females 4; male children 8, females 5.

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 who 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; I find this works all in good humour and prevents bloodshed. This I trust is the beginning of better days for the tribes at Lake Tyers.

The blacks who have huts generally sleep in them and regularly sweep them out.

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The black
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—Five boys and two girls.

3. Quantity of ground fenced and quantity under cultivation—(a) One paddock 200 acres; (b) one paddock of about four acres under cultivation of potatoes; (c) one large paddock of 1,000 acres fenced, 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 so great that it reached the quantity of the seed sown, the soil being too poor for cultivation.

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 of which is consumed by the blacks. Five cows and forty sheep have been purchased for 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 fifty-four black is now ten, and more will be built as soon as funds can be raised. The total number of buildings on the station, including outbuildings, 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 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 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 as follows:—

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
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<td>October</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>71</td>
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2. The number of adults and children who can read and write are as follows—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult Males</th>
<th>Adult Females</th>
<th>Children Males</th>
<th>Children Females</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
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3. Quantity of land fenced with a good three-rail fence is one paddock of 200 acres, another of 200 acres, and about nine acres for gardens, divided into half-acre lots. A new house 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 be induced to cultivate the arrowroot plant for their future use and support.

4. There are sixty-four head of cattle, including eighteen milking cows, on the station. The milk and butter are used by the blacks; there are no dairy cattle on the station. Most of the potatoes that were grown last year have been consumed on the station, and the wheat has been used for seed.

5. The number of houses permanently inhabited by fifty-six Aborigines is ten, and the total number of buildings, including outbuildings, is twenty-four. Some of the houses are large and have with good many rooms. The houses are generally kept clean and in good order. More new and a better class of houses will be erected during the second year. The greatest want is for a school, and in the bringing the blacks to lessons.

6. The blacks here are still obliged to hunt for native game and fish; by 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 conduct of the 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 the station during the year ending 31st July 1869 ranged from fifty to seventy-two, and the average daily attendance was sixty.

During the seventeenth century ending 31st December 1869 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; males children fifteen, females 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 (each 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:—

- 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.

The blacks 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 suffer very little from it, although, however, there strangers afterwards, I have a particular anxiety about them. 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.

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-pens; and the whole of the work I consider very satisfactorily done. The three acres of potatoes I have refered 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.
The quantity of ground fenced in is about 1000 acres or more. In the year 1869 we had about 8 acres under cultivation, comprising 4 paddocks in all, two of which contain about 15 acres each for agricultural purposes. We had about 4 acres of land planted, 3 of which are planted with potatoes, the remaining acre is for sowing chicory upon, which shall be proceeded with.

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

The number of adult males 15; females 18; children 27; children who can read 9; and read and write 3.

The number of adult males is 15; 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 heavy and substantial logs.

The objects of and kind of stock there are stock there are two horses, one saddle and two heavy horses; ten milk cows, six giving milk; and 15 calves; 100 bullocks; seven creeks; 100 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 consists 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, as we had no kind of protection of these crops.

The number of huts 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 too high.

The men 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.

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.

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 they even care to take spirit nowadays. Some of them earn a little money by selling baskets and mats, and occasionally an opossum rug, and the money 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.

Many of them are very attentive to their religious duties, and seem to enjoy their scripture lessons very much; it has 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.

The blacks continue to occasionally hunt native game, and they occasionally spend a day or two in a week fishing.

The women also make hats, mats, and baskets, which they dispose of, and purchase numerous specimens of native art. The women also make hats, mats, and baskets, which they dispose of, and purchase numerous specimens of native art. The number of adult males is 15; females, 18; children, 27; children who can read, 9; and read and write, 3.

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

The number of the Aborigines who have attended the station is 45; the average daily attendance on the station 28.

The number of adult males is 15; adults females 9; the number of male children 1; female children 2.

The number of adult males is 15; females 18; children 27; children who can read 9; and read and write 3.

The 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.
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 fairly 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 £25; 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 have always found that the blacks of this station may be gratified 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 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:—

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.

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 be done 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 when we catch them, but they are so cunning that they take it into New South Wales to consume.

I have employed ten of them during shearing; sheep washing, ten shillings per week and found; shearing, eleven shillings per week and found. The condition of the shearing is not bad, the blacks having much more experience than they had from the Nepean in previous years. One of our best black boys was killed on the spot the other day; falling from a horse he broke his neck; and another also from the Loddon and Morton Plains.

Mrs. 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 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.

The condition of the blacks is very much much at present there are only seven. Sometimes as many as twenty or thirty of them gather together 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 Murray Plains.

The condition of the blacks is better than usual, 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.

Prostitution of their women and even their children is continually practised, and promiscuous intercourse is almost universal, 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 interfere in the case 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.

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.

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.

The condition of the blacks of this station is very much better than it was last year. 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. Wottonhall 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 has been much less drinking and wandering about, and several of the men have been working on the adjoining stations. The blacks here are of several tribes, to the Colea tribe in 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 ordinary 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 Warrany 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, Yanmung and his wife Susan, have been generally here the last three weeks; he assists me to wash sheep, and has done so for three or four years.

The Aborigines sometimes catch eels as to make rags for sale, but not often, and occasionally catch a few fish, principally eels, but they are more frequently engaged in killing rabbits, and getting them into a trap and killing them in the trap, and supplying them with live fish from the river.

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 keepsmen, 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.

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 conduces 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 Warrnambool, 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 two more, both of whom died in a few months. They have not been about Colea 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 Cockeasoon, a young man probably about 18, 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 Corangamite and Colea, 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 it to him. The station where he stayed is on a small river near here. I instructed his brother Jerry to tell him to come himself for his clothing this year.

Billy also remains a great part of the time at Mr. Andrew Murray’s station, and gets well provided with food and rations, and I expect a portion of wages; he is not so steady as Dicky, as he is sometimes to be seen at Colea in an excited state. Some of the Colea tribe are now generally very good and faithful servants.

Mr. Alexander Dennis of Tarndwarncoort, near Mount Gellibrand, 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, are in sufficient quality to suit their requirements.

The stores are distributed generally twice a week, or oftener, when a lot arrives at any time on the station. The stores are given unconditionally when they state that the rations are used. The Aborigines 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; Mickey, 20; Eliza, his wife, 25; Sandy, 25; Minnie, his daughter, 3 years old; Laura, 13, his daughter; also Larry, 28; Stockkeeper, 23; Paddy, 31; Charley, 26; Maggie, his wife, 24; Tommy, 28; James 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, Lilly, bolted. Sandy is now looking after her two little daughters himself, as their mother died last summer, and his sister, who had charge of them, died last year.

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 endeavoured 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 Yarram are under the care of Mr. Andrew Porter, 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; that the clothing 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 clothing given to them last year, and show a receipt of the same. Some of them, however, were unable to do this, and others brought an old one to show. This year I have branded 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 the 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 alcohol, it is not to be expected that they will entirely give it up. 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 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 keeps themselves and the whole tribe for weeks in intoxication, and then they apply for food and clothing from the Board. This, I think, would tend greatly to check intemorations amongst them. I believe that all the strong, healthy men of each tribe extra 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 writes—

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 keeps themselves and the whole tribe for weeks in intoxication, and then they apply for food and clothing from the Board. 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, but have nothing to sell, and are now so well accustom to white man, but they are like many of the white men, and would spend every shilling they earn upon grog, if they possibly could 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 Beaconsferry 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 Krikxyne, 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 sheares, 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. Two 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 Kilnworth, states—

That the number varies from two to thirteen or fourteen. Whenever they get worried of Coranderrk they pay this district a visit. When roaming with for leaving such comfortable quarters, they generally answer, "Too much sick there." They have a firm belief in the evirudtive 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 Zildon, 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 Kilnworth 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, Pat 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 expression was, "Too much sick there." 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 McKenzie and her son-in-law help them most liberally from their own money during 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.