

1887.  
—  
VICTORIA.

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TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

OF

THE BOARD

FOR THE

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES

IN

THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

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

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# REPORT.

1st November, 1887.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines have the honour to submit this their Twenty-third Report of their proceedings, together with the reports from the managers of the various stations, and other papers, &c.

1. The Board held ten ordinary meetings and two special meetings during the year.

2. The average number of Aborigines and half-castes who have resided on the various stations during the year is as follows:—

Coranderrk, under the management of	Mr. Shaw	...	...	...	91
Framlingham,	Mr. Goodall	...	...	...	90
Lake Condah,	Rev. J. H. Stähle	...	...	...	98
Lake Wellington,	Rev. F. A. Hagenauer	...	...	...	63
Lake Tyers,	Rev. J. Bulmer	...	...	...	60
Lake Hindmarsh,	Mr. Bogisch	...	...	...	51
					453

There are about 100 more who visit the stations occasionally.

3. The number of depôts (in charge of local guardians) where provisions, clothing, &c., are issued to those Aborigines who do not belong to any of the stations, is twelve. (See Appendices XVI. and XVII.)

4. Return of births, marriages, and deaths on the various stations during the year:—

Name of Station.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
Coranderrk	4	2	3
Framlingham	4	0	4
Lake Condah	5	1	1
Lake Wellington	3	0	3
Lake Tyers	6	0	12
Lake Hindmarsh	5	0	2
	27	3	25

5. The gross proceeds of the products of the various stations are as follow:—

	£	s.	d.
Coranderrk *	891	13	9
Framlingham	327	4	11
Lake Condah	396	16	2
Lake Wellington	252	6	10
Lake Tyers	39	9	5
Lake Hindmarsh	60	17	2
	£1,968	8	3

Since the last Report was submitted to Your Excellency, Parliament has passed a measure for merging the half-castes among the general population of the colony. For a long time the Board had been urging this policy on the attention of the country, It seemed to the Board unreasonable that the State should continue to support able-bodied men who were well able to earn their own living. They were supplied at the public expense with houses, food, and clothing, with all the necessaries and many of the comforts of life. Under these circumstances, no habits of self-reliance were cultivated in them, and the great body of them were quite satisfied with their dependent position.

\* The income from Coranderrk is paid into the Treasury.

No sooner was the Act passed than the Board set itself to carry out its provisions, which were carefully explained to all the half-castes to whom the law applied, and already the Board has made a fair beginning of a policy which is the beginning of the end, and which, in the course of a few years, will leave only a few pure blacks under the care of Government.

The total number of half-castes on the various stations coming under the provisions of the Act is 233.

No fewer than sixty half-castes have already been well placed and are now earning their own living.

While the Board desire to carry out the Act in its spirit as well as in its letter, they find that great care must be exercised to prevent cases of individual hardship, and they are anxious to interfere as little as possible with family life. Every case will receive individual attention.

I have the honour to be  
Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

ALEX. MORRISON,  
Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency  
Sir H. B. Loch, K.C.B.,  
&c.,           &c.,           &c.