

1888.

VICTORIA.

TWENTY-FOURTH 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.

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REPORT.

1st November, 1888.

SIR,

The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines have the honour to submit for Your Excellency's consideration their Twenty-fourth Report on the condition of the Aborigines of this colony, together with the reports from the managers of the stations, and other papers.

1. The Board have held one special and ten ordinary 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	...	...	...	94
Lake Condah, " "	Revd. J. H. Stähle	...	...	...	95
Lake Wellington, " "	Revd. F. A. Hagenauer	...	...	...	58
Lake Tyers, " "	Mr. Bulmer	...	...	...	62
Lake Hindmarsh, " "	Mr. Bogisch	...	...	...	37
					437

Others visit the stations and reside periodically for a time.

3. Eighty half-castes who lately resided on the reserves are now earning their own living, or are being supported by their parents away from the stations.

Of this number, seven girls and six young men have good situations, and are doing well. Two married couples are also at service. Five married couples, with large families, are living on their selections, or on rented farms; and two children have been sent to the Brighton Orphanage.

The Board are happy to say that the hiring out of half-caste girls as servants has, so far, been a success; and they have little doubt that other girls who are now being trained on the stations for the same work will give like satisfaction to their employers.

Rations and clothing are (and will for a time be) supplied to those of the above half-castes who, according to the "Amended Act," "satisfy the Board of his or her necessitous circumstances."

The Board have not yet been successful in apprenticing youths to trades, neither the boys nor the parents being very favorable to it, the former preferring a more open air occupation.

The Board are of opinion that during the short time the "Amended Act" has been in force the results as to the half-castes are satisfactory.

As after the 31st December, 1889, no rations will be issued to half-castes under 34 years of age, many who now cling to the stations will have to leave and provide for themselves. The numbers on the various stations will then be greatly reduced, in view of which the Board are considering the advisability of doing away with one or more stations.

4. The marrying of half-caste girls to pure blacks is a subject that has been brought under the notice of the Board. The Board are of opinion that such marriages should be discouraged as much as possible. The "Amended Act" was framed to merge the half-caste population into the general community; by *encouraging* the intermarriage of blacks and half-castes that point would not be attained.

As many of these girls are almost white, and have been well brought up, they will probably find husbands among the white population.

Return showing (1) The total expenditure on each station; (2) The net income derived from each; (3) The actual cost of each:—

Station.	Total Expenditure.			Net Income.			Actual Cost.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Coranderrk ...	2,660	15	1	948	12	6	1,712	2	7
Framlingham ...	2,560	7	0	...	...	...	2,560	7	0
Lake Condah ...	1,652	12	10	215	12	5	1,437	0	5
Lake Wellington ...	641	2	4	207	12	8	433	9	8
Lake Tyers ...	945	10	11	34	8	9	911	2	2
Lake Hindmarsh ...	1,134	2	11	101	7	3	1,032	15	8

NOTE.—The salaries of the missionaries and teachers at Lakes Condah, Wellington, Tyers, and Hindmarsh do not appear in the return, they being paid by the Church Committees or the Education Department.

Return of births, marriages, and deaths during the year:—

Name of Station.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
Coranderrk ...	6	1	1
Framlingham ...	2	1	0
Lake Condah ..	5	1	2
Lake Wellington ...	1	0	3
Lake Tyers ...	4	1	0
Lake Hindmarsh ...	1	2	6
	19	6	12

There are about 300 (three hundred) Aborigines, including half-castes, who prefer to roam about the country, and will not settle down upon any of the stations. They are supplied with clothing and rations at depôts in different parts of the colony. (See Appendices XVI., XVII., XX.)

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

ALEX. MORRISON,
Vice-Chairman.

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

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I.

SIR,

Coranderrk, 30th June, 1888.

I have the honour to forward you my annual report on the condition of the natives and work of this station, &c., dating from 1st July, 1887, to 30th June, 1888.

I am very thankful to be able to report that the health of the people generally during the whole year has been really good. Although, among the white people, in the neighbouring townships of Lilydale and Healesville, much sickness and many deaths occurred from typhoid fever and diphtheric croup, yet we had not a single case of suffering from those dreaded maladies. A few have suffered from bronchitis and other ordinary ailments of the natives, but only one death has occurred during the whole year, and that was a child suffering from teething and bronchitis.

The behaviour and conduct generally has been as good as could be expected; but while some continue to live quiet, sober, and industrious lives, there are others whose inclinations lead them to live very differently, and are at times, in consequence, less or more troublesome.

They all, however, ought to be very comfortable and happy, for they have all the necessaries of life regularly supplied to them. Our ration list contains bread, meat, tea, sugar, rice, oatmeal, salt, soap, candles, pepper, and mustard, and other articles, when necessary, as medical comforts. With a regular supply of the above, together with milk, potatoes, and vegetables, and the ever-bracing mountain air and pure water, it would be strange if there was not health at Coranderrk.

Those who fenced in and made gardens for themselves last year are, I am glad to say, keeping them in really nice and good order.

The work of the station has been carried on as in former years. Religious services have been held on the station morning and evening every Sunday for all, and Sunday school for the children in the afternoons.

Religious instruction, too, has been given to the children in the day school every morning by Mr. Mackie, the schoolmaster, before proceeding to the programme of secular instruction of the Education Department.

Our hop crop, which is the principal one of the station, was got in in good order, and realized satisfactory prices in the market.

We had about 14 acres of land ploughed and sown with oats for hay, and a very good crop was the result, which enabled us to feed the horses and milking cows all through the winter months.

The floods of last year washed away about one-half of our potato crop; but what was left was good, although not sufficient to supply the whole station all the year through.

The improvements made consist of the erection of an additional large yard to the stock-yard, and the enlargement of the hay shed.

About a mile and a quarter of post and wire fence, with one top rail, has also been put up in a very creditable manner, entirely by the natives themselves. A considerable amount of ringing of trees and cutting down of scrub has also been done, which will greatly improve the grazing capabilities of the land. Other improvements of more or less importance have been effected about the station, and all by the natives themselves without the employment of Europeans.

The number of residents has been as follows:—

	Average.	Total.		Average.	Total.
July	90	96	January	96	102
August	91	95	February	97	102
September	88	95	March	105	115
October	85	95	April	93	95
November	84	96	May	92	92
December	90	97	June	84	86

The above may be divided as follows, viz.:—28 males, 20 females, whose ages vary from 14 to 60 years. Children under 14 years, 25 boys and 20 girls. Of the adult males, there are only a few who can be regarded as able-bodied men; and the half-castes have always to do the heaviest and most work.

The following tables will show the number of births and deaths:—

TABLE OF BIRTHS.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Names of Parents.	Colour.
September 16, 1887	Jemima Campbell	F.	{ Alick Campbell	Half-caste.
			{ L. Campbell	Half-caste.
December 9, 1887	John Rowan	M.	{ Dick Rowan	Half-caste.
			{ M. A. Rowan	Half-caste.
February 21, 1888	Frank Wandin	M.	{ Robert Wandin	Half-caste.
			{ J. Wandin	Half-caste.
February 27, 1888	John Terrick	M.	{ Abel Terrick	Half-caste.
			{ S. Terrick	Half-caste.
March 29, 1888	Mary E. Hamilton	F.	{ William Hamilton	Half-caste.
			{ A. Hamilton	Half-caste.
April 3, 1888	Mary Russell	F.	{ William Russell	Half-caste.
			{ L. Russell	Half-caste.

TABLE OF DEATHS.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Age.	Cause of Death.	Colour.
February 22, 1888...	Freddy Banfield ...	M.	1½ years ...	Bronchitis	Black

There has only been one marriage on the station during the year. Abel Terrick and Sarah Edmond were married on the 25th February.

The number of stock has increased since last year, and now consists of the following:—81 cows, 72 calves, 60 heifers, 11 steers, 8 Hereford bulls, 8 working bullocks, and 12 horses; total, 247.

The number of half-castes now earning their own living away from the station is 8—5 females and 3 males. A young married couple were away for a month or so, but have returned again to the station, and are awaiting a suitable opening.

Before I conclude this report I would beg to urge upon the Board the necessity of issuing, with the sanction of authority, the regulations that were submitted last year for the consideration of the managers. I am sure they would meet with general approval.

When the natives were less enlightened there was little or no need of regulations, as they never thought of calling in question the authority of a manager; but now they are ready enough to do so, and hence the necessity of recognised and printed regulations, particularly as to the issuing of rations and clothing, &c., and which, no doubt, would result in the better and more uniform management of the different stations.

In conclusion, I must thank you, sir, for your ready and prompt attention to the requirements of the natives whenever I have had occasion to bring them before you.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH SHAW.

Capt. Page, Secretary and General Inspector of Aborigines, Melbourne.

APPENDIX II.

SIR,

Aboriginal Station, Purnim, 30th June, 1888.

I have the honour herewith to forward my report for the year ending June, 1888.

Again it gives me much pleasure in reporting favorable progress in the work done on the station, and the general improvement in the conduct of the inhabitants of the station.

The attendance during the year has varied between 95 and 100.

Their attention to their work has been very good, resulting in a considerable amount of fencing and clearing being accomplished.

The cultivation done consisted of about 15 acres of oats and 10 acres of potatoes, from which we gathered a fair yield.

The stock on the station are looking exceedingly well and healthy, better than I have seen them at any previous corresponding period of the year.

There are at present on the station 10 cows, 50 calves, 74 heifers, 14 steers, 2 bulls, 205 ewes, 4 lambs, 4 rams, 10 horses, 9 working bullocks, and 4 foals.

Twenty-six head of cattle and 293 ewes and wethers have been killed for meat for the station.

The station is now subdivided into 9 paddocks, the areas ranging from 20 acres up to 1,800. The material for subdividing the larger paddocks is split and ready for erection, which work will be proceeded with almost immediately.

The health of the people has been fair, with the exception of a few cases of long standing; no deaths have occurred during the year.

Two births and one marriage during the year.

Date.	Name of Child.	Sex.	Names of Parents.	Description of Parents.
November 1, 1887 ...	Mary Gibb ...	F.	{ John Gibb ... { Lolo Gibb ...	Black. Black.
November 29, 1887...	Alice Clarke ...	F.	{ Frank Clarke ... { Alice Clarke ...	Half-caste. Half-caste.

The marriage celebrated was between Dinah Brown and Governor Baxter, an aged couple, and the last of their respective tribes.

The children are making marked progress under the able tuition of Miss Powell, the percentage of results being equal to most schools in the districts, and surpassed by only a few.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM GOODALL.

A. M. A. Page, Esq., General Inspector B.P.A.

APPENDIX III.

SIR,

Mission Station, Lake Condah, 27th August, 1888.

I have the honour to forward my annual report with reference to the state and condition of the Aborigines under my charge, and the progress of this station with regard to the general management.

The total number of blacks and mixed blood belonging to the station is 120, the average number of those who resided here constantly during the year being 94.

