

1903.
—
VICTORIA.

THIRTY-NINTH REPORT

OF

THE BOARD

FOR THE

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

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

By Authority:

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REPORT.

Melbourne, 8th October, 1903.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines have the honour to submit for Your Excellency's consideration this, their Thirty-ninth Report on the state and condition of the Aborigines under their care, together with the reports of managers of the different stations, and accounts for the past financial year, which have been duly audited and certified by the Auditor-General on the accompanying balance-sheet.

1. The Board have held twelve ordinary and three special meetings during the past year, and the greatest care was at all times bestowed on all questions for the welfare of the Aborigines of this State.

2. The Board desire to express their profound regret at the death of Dr. Alexander Morrison, M.A., late Principal of the Scotch College, who had been a most active member of the Board for many years, and took a deep interest in the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Aborigines. Through his death the blacks have lost a true, wise, and warm-hearted friend, and the Board a most able member in all deliberations for the good of the Aborigines.

3. The Board wish to record their pleasure that the Government promptly filled up the vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Morrison by the appointment of the Hon. W. A. Watt, M.L.A., and that left by the withdrawal of D. McLeod, Esq., late M.L.A., by the appointment of H. P. Keogh, Esq., M.L.A., leaving only one vacancy for the present, namely, that left by the death of the late A. A. C. Le Souëf, Esq., formerly Director of the Zoological Gardens.

4. The number of Aborigines and old half-castes under certificates who have resided and are belonging to the stations and various depôts has decreased, as will be observed from the attached reports of managers, and is as follows :—

	Lowest Number.	Total Number.
Coranderrk	60	76
Condah	30	48
Ebenezer	16	16
Framlingham	17	26
Lake Tyers	42	62
Ramahyuck	44	46
Depôts	95	95
Industrial Schools and Orphanage	13	13
Total	382	382

It may be of interest in connexion with the foregoing statement of the numbers of Aborigines belonging to the various stations to explain that there are a number of them who have their homes on the stations, and have a right to receive their clothes and rations, but who now and then prefer to lead a wandering life, and to enjoy their liberties in hunting native game and in fishing, which is especially the case with the old people.

5. The returns of marriages, births, and deaths on the different stations and depôts have been as follow during the past year :—

	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.
Coranderrk	2	3	1
Condah ... ..	...	...	1
Ebenezer ... ..	...	...	...
Framlingham ... ..	...	...	1
Lake Tyers... ..	1	1	1
Ramahyuck ... ..	...	2	2
Depôts ... ..	...	...	6
Totals	3	6	12

Total decrease, 6, leaving only in this State 382 at this date, although, there are about 12 in the neighbouring States of New South Wales and South Australia, who may return to Victoria, their native State, at any time.

6. In compliance with the rules and regulations of the Board, rations, clothes, blankets, and other comforts for Aborigines, and those half-castes who still reside under the Board's certificates at the stations, have been regularly supplied through managers of stations and authorized agents at the depôts throughout the State of Victoria. Medical attendance and medicines have likewise been provided in every case when required. Unforeseen or special cases have always received careful attention, either through the Board's agents, or during the regular visits of the General Inspector.

7. Regarding the land originally set aside by the Government as reserves for the use of the Aborigines, the Board desire to state that, through the constant decrease of the blacks, the whole of the reserves were not required any longer, for which reason the Board handed back to the Department of Lands 12,543 acres, as will be observed from the following particulars:—

Land given up.				Reserves still occupied.			
Coranderrk	...	...	2,000 acres	Coranderrk	...	...	2,400 acres
Condah	...	...	1,700 "	Condah	...	...	2,000 "
Ebenezer	...	...	2,000 "	Ebenezer	...	...	2,600 "
Framlingham	...	...	5,000 "	Framlingham	...	...	548 "
Dergholm	...	...	180 "	Colac	...	...	40 "
Lake Tyers	...	...	200 "	Lake Tyers	...	...	4,000 "
Ramahyuck	...	...	1,400 "	Ramahyuck	...	...	750 "
Steiglitz	...	...	63 "	Lake Moodemere	...	...	8 "
Total given up	...	...	12,543 acres	Still occupied	...	...	11,346 acres

8. The Board are pleased to observe that their desire to close Ebenezer Station, near Lake Hindmarsh, will be carried out by the Government without delay, in accordance with their statement in paragraph No. 12 of their last year's report. Arrangements for the removal of the blacks to their new homes, and the future care regarding rations, &c., have already been completed. As soon as Parliament has passed the required Act, this once fully-populated and useful home of the blacks will forthwith be closed, whereby a considerable saving will be effected. The income on the stations through the great reduction in the quantity of land has been greatly reduced, as will be observed from the reports of managers of the different stations, except at Coranderrk, where the income has been raised from £421 14s. 3d. to £625 17s. 10d., which was duly paid into the Treasury.

9. The funds granted by Parliament for the use of the Aborigines have been carefully and liberally administered, but through the constant decrease of the pure blacks, and the merging of the half-castes into the general population of Victoria, the amounts of the vote have been greatly reduced, as will be observed from the attached statement.

STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS VOTED BY PARLIAMENT, OF REVENUE RECEIVED, AND OF NET COST OF BOARD FROM 1891 TO 1903.

Year.	Amount voted.			Amount expended.			Unexpended Vote.			Revenue from Sale of Produce, &c., paid into Treasury.			Net Cost of Board.			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
1891	...	8,883	0	0	8,692	4	5	190	15	7	1,061	3	5	7,631	1	0
1892	...	7,800	0	0	6,745	6	7	1,054	13	5	1,124	1	3	5,621	5	4
1893	...	6,788	0	0	5,578	0	5	1,208	19	7	487	0	3	5,091	0	2
1894	...	5,600	0	0	5,596	7	10	3	12	2	414	2	8	5,182	5	2
1895	...	5,630	0	0	5,515	19	9	114	0	3	560	15	4	4,955	4	5
1896	...	5,501	0	0	5,459	17	3	41	2	9	409	10	6	5,050	6	9
1897	...	5,497	0	0	5,407	7	5	89	12	7	442	11	7	4,964	15	10
1898	...	5,515	0	0	5,451	14	10	63	5	2	215	10	0	5,236	4	10
1899	...	5,523	0	0	5,080	17	4	442	2	8	301	13	1	4,779	4	3
1900	...	5,483	0	0	4,845	0	4	639	19	8	181	14	6	4,663	5	10
1901	...	5,300	0	0	4,704	12	9	595	7	3	326	10	11	4,378	1	10
1902	...	5,182	0	0	4,633	7	7	548	12	5	431	5	3	4,202	2	4
1903	...	4,870	0	0	4,810	4	7	59	15	5	630	11	4	4,179	13	3

Of the sum voted for the past year, £59 15s. 5d. has been unexpended and lapsed to the Treasury, and £630 11s. 4d. from produce was paid into the revenue, leaving a net expenditure of £4,179 13s. 3d.

10. The total amount of expenditure of each station from the vote has been as follows:—

Coranderrk	£1,188	2	0
Framlingham	250	3	11
Condab	596	12	4
Ramahyuck	605	15	8
Lake Tyers	646	0	10
Ebenezer	501	19	9
Melbourne—Depôts and Industrial Schools	1,021	10	1
Total	£4,810	4	7

PAID INTO THE REVENUE.

From Coranderrk—			
From Stock	£111	5	0
From Sale of Hops	512	12	10
From Grazing Stock	2	0	0
From Framlingham—			
From Grazing Stock	4	13	6
Total	£630	11	4

11. While the Board faithfully adhere to their rule that all able-bodied Aborigines shall do a fair amount of work for the supplies of rations, clothes, medical attendance, and comfortable homes granted to them by the Government, they find that the results from such labours are gradually decreasing through the diminishing numbers and failing strength of the Aborigines.

12. The small tribe on the bank of the River Murray, who reside in six cottages on a piece of land granted by the Shire Council of Mildura, are doing very well under the care of Constable A. Carter, and the Board still hope that ere long all the blacks from Ned's Corner, Kulkyne, Euston, and Yelta will come and settle down with their friends below Mildura.

13. The Board have much pleasure in stating that fair progress has been made in education by the children in the different schools in connexion with the Department of Education.

14. The expenses of the Board are steadily decreasing in consequence of the constant decline in the number of the blacks, who may soon entirely disappear; but in the meantime the Board desire that the poor remnant of the original owners of this splendid country should be dealt with kindly, wisely, and generously.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

C. M. OFFICER,
Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency

Sir George Sydenham Clarke, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.,
&c., &c., &c.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

SIR,

Coranderrk,
1st July, 1903.

I have the honour to forward the Annual Report of this Station, and of the state of the Aborigines under my care, for the year ended 30th June, 1903.

I took charge of the Station on 1st April, as Acting Manager for six months during the absence, on leave, of Mr. Shaw. I have pleasure in reporting that Mr. Shaw left everything in good order, and the work in such a forward state, that I had no trouble but to see that the work of each month was carried on as the season advanced. The very wet winter has retarded the work in some measure. But for this, more scrub would have been cut down. There has been no unusual trouble in the management of the people. In this connexion I have to acknowledge the great help I have received from Miss Shaw. The comparative peace and quietness of the three months I have been here are largely due to her untiring energy and forethought. During the winter—owing to the wet—we have had a good deal of sickness, and this has entailed much additional work and anxiety on Miss Shaw. One death has taken place during the year, that of Jemima Major, on 22nd June. I am pleased to say that all the others are in a fair way of recovery.

1. The number on the Station in each month of the year has been as follows:—

1902.		Highest Number.	Lowest Number.	1903.		Highest Number.	Lowest Number.
July	..	60	58	January	...	60	60
August	...	58	57	February	...	61	61
September	...	61	57	March	...	61	60
October	...	60	62	April	...	60	60
November	...	61	60	May	...	60	59
December	...	61	60	June	...	60	59

The total number belonging to the Station is 74.

2. (a) There have been two marriages during the year:—22nd August, 1902, Frank Blair and Mrs. Sam Hamilton, married by the Rev. J. Heyer, of Healesville; 5th February, 1903, William King and Bella Woods, married by the Rev. J. Heyer, of Healesville.

(b) BIRTHS.

Date of Birth.	Name.	Sex.	Parents' Names.	Colour.
26th September, 1902	Cameron Edward	M.	{ Woodford Robinson Christina Robinson	Black.
3rd October, 1902	Clara Eva	F.	{ Thomas Fenton Elizabeth Fenton	Black.
16th October, 1902	Alice Rhoda	F.	{ Thomas McLellan Rosanna McLellan	Black.

(c) DEATH.

Date.	Sex.	Name.	Cause.	Age.	Colour.
22nd June, 1903	F.	Jemima Major	Enteritis, syncope	64	Black

3. Religious services have been regularly kept on Sundays at eleven a.m., and Sunday School at two p.m., also regularly every week-day morning, and the attendances have been good.

4. All children on the Station of school age attend the State school about a mile from the Station, and are making good progress. Joseph Wandin, a half-caste, reared and educated on the Station, and mentioned in Mr. Shaw's last year's report, is still doing well as a pupil teacher under the Education Department.

5. The land belonging to the Station consists of 2,400 acres, all fenced and sub-divided into paddocks for grazing and cultivation. The crops grown are oats, wheat, potatoes, and hops. The last being the most important, giving a return for the last season of £512 12s. 10d., being a phenomenal yield of 3½ tons, which realized the highest price in the Victorian market—1s. 6d. per pound.

6. The live stock on the Station is as follows:—

Cows.	Heifers.	Steers.	Bulls.	Horses.	Working Bullocks.
48	59	73	2	9	8

About 10 cows are milked daily for the use of the people on the Station. During the year 25 steers and 2 cows have been killed to supply meat. Sales of cattle and produce, including hops, have realized about £625 17s. 10d.

7. The number of buildings on the Station is 25, and, with two exceptions, they are all occupied, and all kept in fair repair.

8. The young and able-bodied men do all the work of the farm and Station, also of the hop garden, except during the hop-picking, when some outside labour has to be employed, in order to save the crop. The women, besides their home duties, make mats and baskets, for which they earn a good deal of money. The boys and girls are taught to be useful in some kind of work when not at school.

9. The men seldom hunt for native game, there being no necessity for this, as they are regularly supplied with beef or mutton.

10. Some of the men have at times got into trouble through drink, but there has been no trouble on that account during the time I have been here.

11. The half-castes have been dealt with as the Act directs, and the half-caste children, as they come to the age fixed by the Act, are required to earn their living outside.

12. In concluding, I beg to express my warm thanks to the Board and to yourself, for the kind consideration you have shown to me during the time I have filled Mr. Shaw's place, and the ready response you have always given to any request or suggestion tending to the well-being and comfort of the people under my charge.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN MACKIE,
Acting Manager.

To the Rev. F. A. Hagenauer,
Secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines, Melbourne.

APPENDIX II.

Mission Station, Lake Condah,
28th July, 1902.

SIR,

In accordance with your request of the 23rd July, I have much pleasure in forwarding my Annual Report with reference to the Aborigines and Station under my charge.

The number of blacks residing here was from 30 to 35 all the year through, the total number belonging to the Station being about the same as last year, viz., 48, inclusive of those who were permitted to return from Lake Tyers.

There were no marriages and no births, but one death occurred, viz., that of Bella Mobourne, full black, aged 42, the cause of her death being valvular disease of the heart.

Religious and moral influence has been exercised among the natives without intermission, and the regular attendance on Sundays and week days at prayers and divine service sustains our hope that our efforts were not without good results; their daily life and conduct bearing evidence to that effect.

The school is, as in former years, under the Education Department, and the results obtained, when the frequent changes of teachers is taken into consideration, are satisfactory.

The total area of the reserve is 2,000 acres; the whole is securely fenced in and subdivided into seven paddocks by substantial post and wire and wire netting fences. Some of the ground is used for cultivation, but the greater portion for grazing and raising stock.

We had 15 acres under crop for hay, which turned out very well. Also 15 acres under rape. We sowed the latter with the intention of fattening sheep, but the floods which came about Christmas covered the flat and destroyed the rape, so that it turned out quite a failure. We had a large supply of fruit and vegetables, which were all very acceptable to the blacks here. They could also milk cows for themselves, so as to have milk and butter for their families.

The stock on hand is as follows:—Ten cows, 28 calves, 37 heifers, 21 steers, 1 bull, 244 sheep, and 6 horses.

The Station income and expenditure are as noted on balance-sheet herewith attached.

1902—1903.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Cash balance, 1st July, 1902	4	5 5½	General	59	12 8
Wool and bark	30	2 8	Wages	35	15 6
Hides and skins	13	18 10½	Stock	77	16 0
Stock	232	12 9	Miscellaneous	6	7 7½
			Cash balance	101	7 11½
Total	£280	19 9	Total	£280	19 9

With reference to cash balance, I wish to say that some of it has already been expended for erecting new fences of post and wire; the material and work being paid from it. The remainder will be used for buying more sheep and paying wages for station work, &c.

The number of buildings remains the same, viz., 27, inclusive of church, school-house, and mission house. Owing to the decrease in the number of blacks, half of the cottages built for them are now empty, and sundry repairs will be needed before they can be inhabited again.

The men have been employed in gardening, clearing ground, fencing, hay-making, shearing sheep, &c. The women make a few baskets occasionally, but as most of them are now far advanced in years they do little besides looking after their domestic affairs.

There is very little native game here now, but the Aborigines use all their spare time in exterminating rabbits and foxes.

No case of drunkenness has come under my notice on the Station, and the health of the people was fairly good; though some of them had severe colds during the cold and wet winter weather.

The school children, who are few in number, are taught to do useful work after school hours.

The 40 half-castes who are out earning their own living, in accordance with the law, are doing fairly well. Most of them strive honestly to provide for themselves and their families.

The rations and clothing for the blacks were all of good quality and very liberal. On behalf of the natives I desire to thank the Board and you for them, as well as for the prompt attention to all affairs which were brought under their notice in connexion with the management of this Station.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer,
General Inspector and Secretary, B.P.A., Melbourne.

J. H. STÄHLE.

APPENDIX III.

Ebenezer Mission Station, Antwerp,
10th July, 1903.

SIR,

In answer to your request, I have the honour to forward herewith my Annual Report for the above Station for the past year ended on the 30th of June. The particulars of which are as follows:—

1. The number of aborigines residing and attending the station during the past year, as reported in my monthly returns, has been as follows:—

The lowest number was 17.

The highest number was 25.

Besides these blacks, a number of half-castes have been residing on the reserve living in camp, but have not received supplies in rations, and their names are not included in the numbers given above.

2. A.—Marriages: Nil.

B.—Births: Nil.

C.—Deaths: Nil.

3. Divine services have been held regularly on Sundays and daily during each week, and have been well attended. Religious instruction is given daily after morning prayers to the black children, and these have likewise been taught at Sunday school by Miss V. Bogish and Miss Perry, our lady teacher.

4. The day school is under the Department of Public Instruction, attended by black and white children, and good progress has been made under the tuition of Miss R. Perry.

5. The reserve consists of 3,607 acres, the land is divided into several paddocks for grazing of stock and cultivation for hay. We had a good supply of fruit and grapes in the garden, of which the blacks received their share.

6. The kinds and number of stock are now 4 cows, 3 calves, and 222 sheep. We have killed for meat 1 calf and 136 sheep during the year ending 30th June.

7. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Produce (Wheat, Wool, and Skins) ...	46	4	2	General ...	17	14	2
Balance from last year ...	4	1	4	Wages, &c. ...	15	9	11
				Cash Balance ...	17	1	5
	<u>£50</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>£50</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

All accounts are duly examined and audited by the General Inspector of the Board.

8. The number of buildings is thirteen, including church, school, and missionary's house, all built of stone, and were erected by the Moravian Mission Board. Several cottages of the natives are built of weatherboards erected by the Board for the Protection of Aborigines, and are all under the Board's control.

9. The blacks are employed in garden work, attending to stock, and other station work. The women have their work at home.

10. The blacks hunt rabbits and hares, and are supplied with mutton from the station.

11. The supply of rations and clothing, &c., granted by the Board has been of good quality and sufficiency, for which I return best thanks to you and to the Board on behalf of the aborigines.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. BOGISH,
Acting Manager.

The Secretary, B.P.A.,
Rev. F. A. Hagenauer,
Melbourne.

APPENDIX IV.

Woodford,
11th August, 1903.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward you herewith my Annual Report on the condition of the blacks and station at Framlingham, from 1st July, 1902, to 30th June, 1903.

The average monthly attendance at the station was as follows :—July, 20 ; August, 20 ; September, 20 ; October, 19 ; November, 19 ; December, 17 ; January, 17 ; February, 18 ; March, 19 ; April, 14 ; May, 19 ; June, 19.

Births, nil. Marriages, nil. Deaths, one, an old black man named Jimmy Weir died on 24th October, 1902, at the Warrnambool Hospital.

Religious services are held once each Sunday, and are well attended by the blacks. No other religious instruction is given the children. Secular education is obtained at the State school, Purnim, and is satisfactory.

The station reserve contains 500 acres, fenced and permanently watered, divided into ten paddocks, and occupied as follows :—General reserve, 212 acres, John Brown, 80½ acres ; William Good, 84 acres ; John Wyselaskie, 84 acres ; Frank Clarke, 40 acres. The persons named take in cattle to graze from the public, for which they receive fees. The general reserve is chiefly fed off by wandering stock, which find admittance owing to the insecure condition of the boundary fences, and is of but little use to the natives, who are too old to take an interest in the place. No cultivation is carried on by the blacks. There is one cow, which is used to supply milk for the blacks, and a heifer calf (progeny of same) on the reserve ; they are the property of the Board. There are six cottages, all continually inhabited, and in a fair state of cleanliness, but are old and much worn. The blacks earn a few pounds hop-picking at Timboon during the season, some go shearing, and the women make baskets, which find a ready sale. One family engage in dairying, and supply milk to the Purnim factory.

The rations and clothing granted by the Board have been of good and sufficient quantity, and have given the people satisfaction.

The sum of £4 6s. 3d. with statements attached, was forwarded to the Board during the year ending 30th June, 1903, for agistment of stock, and this represented the only income for the year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. G. SHOEBRIDGE,
Agent B.P.A.

To Rev. F. A. Hagenauer,
General Inspector of Aborigines,
Melbourne.

APPENDIX V.

Mission Station, Lake Tyers,
9th July, 1903.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward my Annual Report of this station, and of the aborigines connected therewith, from 1st July, 1902, to 30th June, 1903.

1. The number of aborigines attending the station is as follows :—

	Lowest.	Highest.		Lowest.	Highest.
July	41	42	January	36	37
August	41	42	February	37	37
September	44	45	March	44	51
October	48	50	April	56	62
November	40	42	May	46	50
December	43	44	June	45	46

2. The Births and Deaths are as follows :—

BIRTHS.

Date.	Sex.	Colour.	Name.	Parents.
1st March, 1903	M.	Black	Richard Harold	{ William Johnson. Maggie Johnson.

DEATHS.

Date.	Sex.	Colour.	Name.	Cause.	Age.
2nd October, 1902 ...	M.	Black ...	Charles Blair ...	Morbus Cordis—Syncope	58
29th May, 1903 ...	M.	Black ...	Richard Alexander McDougall	Thrush	1

There has been one marriage of pure aboriginals on 10th May, 1903—Thomas Scott and Martha Hood.

3. Religious services are held daily, morning and evening. The children are also given religious instruction by Miss Bulmer. During the week the children attend State school, which is presided over by Miss Endean. I may state that up to a certain point the children are equal to European children, but in the higher branches of education they fail.

4. The reserve consists of 4,000 acres, part of which is fenced; it is also divided into small paddocks. We have cultivated about 10 acres. Our crop of hay was very good, which has been a great help to the stock during the winter. The orchard, in spite of the birds, yielded a fair crop of apples and pears, and the vegetable supply was ample for the station. I am sorry to state that the rabbits have made their appearance, and though they may be a good food for the aborigines, yet they will destroy much of our cultivation.

5: The stock on the station consists of 80 head of mixed cattle, 1 bull, and 217 sheep. 101 sheep and 7 head of cattle have been slaughtered for meat for the station.

6. The total income from the reserve is as follows:—

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance from last year ...	13	18 2	By Timber Account	10	0 3
To Sale of Wool	12	3 0	„ General Expenses	32	8 2
„ „ Timber	38	19 9	„ Wages	11	5 6
			„ Fresh Meat Account	6	9 6
			„ Balance	29	17 6
Total ..	£90	0 11	Total	£90	0 11

7. The number of buildings is the same as last year, though through the kindness of the Board we have been able to improve some of the cottages.

8. The employment of the men consists in gardening and other station work; the improvement of the houses was all done by the aborigines.

9. The aborigines still hunt native game, and though the real native game is rather scarce at Lake Tyers, yet they have learned to appreciate the flesh of the rabbit, which is now plentiful here.

10. I am sorry to say that the drink nuisance troubles us very much. There are many hotelkeepers who refuse to sell spirits to them, but they manage to get unscrupulous white men to secure it for them, and in one instance the drink was stolen.

11. The annual supply of clothing was distributed a little before Easter. All the goods were of good, suitable quality, and the quantity was sufficient. With care they should last the year, though I am sorry to say many of them are not careful. The stores of flour, sugar, &c., have been supplied regularly, the quality of which was excellent.

I have to thank the Board for their uniform kindness to the aborigines in supplying all their real wants.

I have the honour to be,
Your most obedient servant,
JOHN BULMER.

APPENDIX VI.

Ramahyuck Mission Station,
18th July, 1903.

SIR,

In answer to your circular of 15th instant, I have the honour to furnish you with my Report for the past year on the state and condition of the aborigines under my care at this station and the neighbouring district.

1. The attendance has been as follows:—

1902.					1903.				
		Highest Number.		Lowest Number.			Highest Number.		Lowest Number.
July ... ..	...	55	...	49	January ... ..	...	51	...	51
August ... ..	...	56	...	55	February ... ..	...	55	...	52
September ... ..	...	55	...	51	March ... ..	...	49	...	44
October ... ..	...	52	...	49	April ... ..	...	46	...	40
November ... ..	...	51	...	48	May ... ..	...	38	...	37
December ... ..	...	55	...	51	June ... ..	...	48	...	44

The total number who have a right to be here is 56.

2. The number of marriages, births, and deaths :—

(a) Marriages : None.

(b) Births : Two.

BIRTHS.

Date of Birth.	Name.	Sex.	Parents' Names.	Colour.
12th June, 1903	Alexander Louis Moffat	Male	{ Ned Moffat ... Florence Moffat ...	Black.
22nd June, 1903	Charles James Login	Male	{ Thomas Scott ... Martha Scott ...	Black.

3. (c) DEATHS : One.

DEATH.

Name.	Date of Death.	Age.	Parents.	Colour.	Sex.
Mary Arnott	3rd May, 1903	85	Parents Unknown	Black	F.

4. Daily morning and evening services have been kept as usual, and twice every Sunday, and have all been well attended. One adult has been baptized. Sunday school has been well attended, and religious instruction has been given before the school hours for secular lessons.

5. The day school is still successfully carried on by one of our native women. There are now only nine children in attendance.

6. The total quantity of land now belonging to the reserve is only 700 acres, including several miles of fences for roads and likewise some very low-lying morass land. The land is subdivided into several paddocks, and the quality is only of second-class grazing land.

7. There are at present 85 head of cattle on the reserve, being 28 cows, 19 calves, 14 steers, 10 bullocks, 12 heifers, and two bulls. A number of cows are milked when in season, and give milk and butter for the station. It must be again remarked that a considerable quantity of meat is required for the support of a number of people, and generally a beast is wanted every fortnight, besides 20 to 30 sheep. All the work on the station and among the stock is done by ourselves.

8. The total income from this small reserve, besides the fat stock killed for the supply of fresh meat during the last year, has been as follows :—

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
			£ s. d.				£ s. d.
Surplus stock	...	...	21 0 0	Balance due	...	...	1 13 4
Hides, &c.	...	...	5 18 2	General Station Account	..	...	19 19 6
Overdraft due	...	...	2 7 5	Wages, &c.	...	...	7 12 9
Total	...	...	29 5 7	Total	...	...	29 5 7

9. The total number of buildings on the station is still the same as formerly, but several cottages are now unoccupied, and it may be needed that ere long one or two should be taken down, for with the decrease of the blacks not so many buildings will be required.

10. The total number of half-castes who have left the station since the passing of the half-caste Act has been 59, who earn their living by their own exertion, and some of them are doing well on the different localities where they reside.

11. The health of the people has been fairly good during the past year, and only one old black woman died of old age.

12. The question of closing this station and letting the blacks go to Lake Tyers Mission Station has not been settled yet, and we trust that when the matter has been finally arranged, no hardship will be exercised towards them.

13. I am sorry to state that the evil of drunkenness still exists, and a few of the men give great offence by it. The police keep a good look out, which is attended with considerable success.

14. In conclusion I again desire to state that the supplies of rations and clothes have been of good and useful quality, and of liberal quantities. The best medical attendance and medical comfort have likewise been granted, and in the name of our people I herewith present their best thanks to the Board and the Government for the same.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHANNES HAGENAUER,
Acting Manager.The Secretary,
Board for Protection of Aborigines,
Melbourne.

APPENDIX IX.

STATEMENT of Revenue paid into the Treasury for the Financial Year 1902-3.

By sale of stock	£111	5	0
„ „ hops,	512	12	10
„ fees for grazing cattle	6	6	3
„ miscellaneous	0	7	3
Total	£630	11	4

C. M OFFICER, Vice-Chairman.

F. A. HAGENAUER, Secretary.

Board for Aborigines, 8th October, 1903.