

759

S/VIC-
ABO-
WEL-

1905.
VICTORIA.



FORTY-FIRST REPORT

THE BOARD

FOR THE

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

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

By Authority:

ROBT. & BEAN, GOVERNMENT PRINTERS, MELBOURNE.

No. 58—(2d.)—11877.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THE PROTECTION OF ABORIGINES.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Chairman.
 F. R. Godfrey, Esquire, Vice-Chairman.
 W. Anderson, Esquire.
 G. H. Bennett, Esquire, M.L.A.
 Mrs. A. Bon.
 The Honorable E. H. Cameron, M.L.A.
 H. P. Keogh, Esquire, M.L.A.
 W. E. Morris, Esquire.
 The Honorable W. A. Watt, M.L.A.

APPROXIMATE COST OF REPORT.		s. d.
Preparation—Not given.		
Printing (400 copies)	- - -	7 10 "

REPORT.

Melbourne, 12th October, 1905.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

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

1. The Board have held twelve ordinary and one special meeting during the past year for the carrying on of the usual business and the greatest care and consideration has at all times been bestowed on all questions for the welfare of the Aborigines of this State.

2. The Board recognises with great pleasure the action of the Government in filling up the vacancy caused through the death of A. A. C. Le Souef, Esq., by the appointment of Mrs. A. Bon, who has taken a deep and active interest in the welfare of the Aborigines for many years.

3. The number of Aborigines, and those half-castes under certificates, who reside at and are belonging to the stations and different depôts have remained exactly the same as last year, the number of births having been equal to the number of deaths, which has not been the case for many years. The numbers at the various places are as follow :—

				Lowest Number.		Highest Number.
Coranderrk	...	...	...	65	...	80
Condah	...	...	...	32	...	47
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	43	...	63
Ramahyuck	...	...	...	45	...	45
Framlingham	...	...	...	24	...	24
Wimmera Depôts	...	...	...	23	...	23
Murray River	...	...	...	79	...	79
Orphanage and Industrial School	...	...	...	4	...	4
Total	...	...	...		...	365

As stated in former reports, some of the old people, and even some of the younger, still enjoy to visit occasionally their former birth-places, but generally after a short stay return with real pleasure to their more comfortable homes on the stations, from which it would be very hard to remove them.

4. The numbers of marriages, births, and deaths were :—

				Marriages.		Births.		Deaths.
Coranderrk	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	2
Condah	...	...	...	—	...	2	...	3
Lake Tyers...	..	..	...	—	...	4	...	3
Ramahyuck	...	...	...	—	...	4	...	2
Depôts	...	...	...	—	...	1	...	2
Totals	...	...	...	2	...	12	...	12

5. In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Board, rations, clothes, blankets, and other comforts have been regularly supplied through the managers of stations and duly authorized agents at the depôts throughout the State. Medical attendance has likewise been provided in every case when required. In unforeseen and special cases, the Board's agents and the General Inspector have at all times bestowed prompt and proper attention to those who were in need of it.

6. The Board desires to repeat a former statement regarding the various reserves of land formerly under its charge, that through the constant decrease of the aborigines several reserves at the depôts had been handed back to the Department of Lands, and likewise portions of the reserves at the stations, of which the following table shows the particulars :—

Land given up.			Reserves still occupied.		
Coranderrk	...	2,000 acres	Coranderrk	...	2,400 acres
Condah	...	1,700 "	Condah	...	2,000 "
Ebenezer	...	4,600 "	Framlingham	...	548 "
Framlingham	...	5,000 "	Colac	...	40 "
Derholm	...	180 "	Lake Tyers	...	4,000 "
Lake Tyers	...	200 "	Ramahyuck	...	750 "
Ramahyuck	...	1,400 "	Lake Moodiemere	...	8 "
Steiglitz	...	63 "			
Total	...	15,143 acres	Total	...	9,746 acres

The Board considers its policy in this respect a wise one, and proposes to continue the same.

7. The education and training of the children on all the stations have been carried on with fair success, both in secular and religious branches, and should bear its fruit in due season.

8. The Board has faithfully adhered to their old rules that all able-bodied aborigines should do a fair amount of work for their supplies of rations and clothes, besides paying them a small allowance for their work. The work they do is very little, except at Coranderrk, where there are more able young men to carry on the station work.

9. The Vote granted by Parliament for the use of the Aborigines has been carefully and liberally administered, but through the constant decrease of their numbers and the merging of the half-castes with the general population, the expenses have been reduced from year to year, as will be observed from the attached statement, which is as follows :—

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
1904	4,708 0 0	4,406 15 9	296 4 3	622 18 9	3,783 17 0
1905	4,569 0 0	4,152 18 0	416 2 0	354 16 3	3,798 1 9

Of the sum voted for the past year, £416 2s. was unexpended, and lapsed into the Treasury, and £354 16s. 3d. (received from Coranderrk produce, less 12s. from Framlingham) was paid into the revenue, leaving a net expenditure of £3,798 1s. 9d.

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

Coranderrk	£1,070	7	10
Framlingham	270	11	8
Condah	552	10	7
Ramahyuck	548	17	11
Lake Tyers	615	16	5
Lake Hindmarsh	81	10	4
Melbourne	811	14	6
Depôts	195	8	9
Total	£4,152	2	0

PAID INTO THE REVENUE.

From Coranderrk Station—			
Hops	£243	14	3
Stock	105	10	0
Wattle Bark	5	0	0
			£354 4 3
From Framlingham—Grazing			0 12 0
Total			£354 16 3
1904-5—			
Unexpended balance	£416	2	0

11. The accounts of the Mission Stations, being separated from the Government statements, as reported by the managers of those stations, are duly examined and audited by the Board's General Inspector during his periodical visits of inspection.

12. The Board are pleased to report that the conduct of the Aborigines has been generally satisfactory, and the year passed away in comparative peace and contentment.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

F. R. GODFREY,
Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency
The Honorable Sir Reginald Arthur J. Talbot, K.C.B.,
&c., &c., &c., &c.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I.

Coranderrk Aboriginal Station,
1st July, 1905.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward you herewith my Annual Report of this station and of the work and condition of the Aborigines connected with it for the twelve months ended 30th June, 1905.

1. The number of people resident and belonging to the station was 73, and the number living at the station in each month during the year was as follows:—

1904.			Highest.	Lowest.	1905.			Highest.	Lowest.	
July	65	...	65	January	...	64	...	64
August	64	...	64	February	...	64	...	64
September	63	...	63	March	...	66	...	65
October	63	...	62	April	...	67	...	66
November	63	...	62	May	...	65	...	65
December	64	...	63	June	...	65	...	65

2. (a) There have been two marriages celebrated on the station during the year, both being on the same day, 27th June, 1905. Edward Foster was married to Mrs. Rosanna McLellan and Albert White to Mrs. Dinah McDougall. The bridegrooms were widowers and the brides widows, the former having two children and the latter three.

Great interest was taken in the marriages, and our little church was crowded to overflowing with blacks and white people from the surrounding district. The Reverend James Spittal of Healesville, performed the marriage ceremony.

(b) BIRTH.

Date.	Sex.	Name.	Parents' Names.	Colour.
1st November, 1904	F.	Florence Mabel	{ William King ... Bella King ...	Black.

(c) DEATHS.

Date.	Sex.	Name.	Colour.	Cause of Death.	Age.
10th Aug., 1904	M.	William Victor King	Black	Gastritis	10 months.
24th April, 1904	M.	Thos. McLellan	Black	Phthisis	52 years.
3rd June, 1905	F.	Mabel F. King	Black	Gastritis	7 months.

3. The usual religious services have been held on Sundays and week-day mornings, and Sunday School for the children, and, as a rule, have been generally well attended.

We have had a collection every alternate Sunday for the support of Foreign Missions, and the sum of £4 1s. 8d. has been collected and forwarded to the Secretary of the Mission Committee, Melbourne.

4. All the children of school age continue to attend the State school, which is about a mile from here, and they are making fair progress. Several have passed the standard required by the Education Act, and obtained the usual certificate.

5. The reserve still consists of about 2,000 acres, although it should be stated that nearly one-half is liable to be flooded at any time, and during the winter months is frequently covered with water 3 or 4 feet deep, hence the necessity of some high and dry land being always available for the cattle when the floods appear.

About 30 or 40 acres are generally under cultivation, consisting of oats, wheat, potatoes, and hops.

Owing to the dry and unfavourable season, our hop crop was not quite so good as usual, but the net proceeds realized the sum of £243 14s. 3d., which, together with £107 10s. from the sale of cattle, made a total of £351 4s. 3d., all of which was paid into the Treasury.

6. The stock on the reserve at present consists of 53 cows, 6 calves, 36 heifers, 47 steers, 2 bulls, 6 working bullocks, and 10 horses—total, 160. About 12 or 14 cows are generally milked daily for the use of the station. Twenty-three steers and 6 cows were killed for meat for the station.

7. The number of buildings is the same as last year—25—and all, except one, are occupied at present, and are generally kept in good and clean condition.

8. The able-bodied men do all the work of the farm and station, except at hop-picking time, when some hop-pickers from outside have to be employed, so as to get the hops harvested in good condition. Besides attending to their domestic duties, the women make mats and baskets for sale, and in this way obtain a good deal of money from visitors.

