

1912.
—
VICTORIA.

FORTY-EIGHTH REPORT

OF

THE BOARD

FOR THE

PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.

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

By Authority:

ALBERT J. MULLETT, ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

REPORT,

Melbourne, 12th November, 1912.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

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

The Board regret to have to record the death of Mr. W. D. Beazley, M.L.A., who died on the 27th June, 1912. Mr. Beazley had been a member of the Board since October, 1907, and had taken a deep interest in the aborigines of the State.

The number of aborigines and half-castes who have been maintained or partly provided for during the year ended 30th June, 1912, was 273, as follows :—

Locality.	Blacks.	Half-castes.	Total.
Coranderrk	29	37	66
Lake Condah	34	27	61
Lake Tyers	57	32	89
Antwerp	2	2	4
Coleraine	—	6	6
Framlingham	3	15	18
Colac	—	6	6
Lake Hattah	—	3	3
Lindenow	1	5	6
Mildura	3	—	3
Swan Hill	2	3	5
Wahgunyah	2	—	2
	133	136	269

During the year two families of half-castes (15 in all) were transferred from Framlingham to Lake Condah Station, and one family of 8 to Coranderrk, in order that the children may be under better supervision than was possible at Framlingham.

The numbers on the 30th June, 1911, were 136 aborigines and 116 half-castes.

The returns of births, marriages, and deaths were as follow:—

Station.	Births.	Marriages.	Deaths.
Coranderrk	2	—	—
Lake Condah	2	—	1
Lake Tyers... ..	1	1	—
Depôts	2	—	6
	7	1	7

The births recorded were 2 blacks and 5 half-castes. Deaths comprise 4 blacks and 3 half-castes.

The following table shows the ages (approximately) of those who died during the year :—

Under 1 year	1
Over 21 years and under 40 years	1
" 40 " " 60 "	3
" 60 " "	2
	7

A tabulated statement showing the amount expended in administering to the wants of the aborigines for the past twenty years is appended:—

STATEMENT OF AMOUNTS VOTED BY PARLIAMENT, OF REVENUE RECEIVED, AND OF NET COST OF BOARD FROM 1892 TO 1911.

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.
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
1906	4,359	0	0	4,324	10	11	34	9	1	359	11	5	3,964	19	6
1907	4,087	0	0	4,078	4	8	8	15	4	512	8	1	3,565	16	7
1908*	4,945	0	0	4,679	0	0	266	0	0	279	3	3	4,399	16	9
1909†	4,104	0	0	3,968	5	9	135	14	6	28	0	10**	3,940	4	11
1910	4,278	0	0	4,226	0	0	52	0	0	—			4,226	0	0
1911	4,681	0	0	4,295	0	0	386	0	0	—			4,295	0	0
1912	4,326	0	0	4,020	0	0	306	0	0	—			4,020	0	0

* Including special vote of £1,000 for buildings, of which only £734 had been expended.

† Including revote of £266 for buildings.

** The revenue from Coranderrk is now received and expended by the Board.

The revenue received from the sale of produce is shown in Appendices V. and VI.

The areas of land reserved for the use of the aborigines are as follow:—

Coranderrk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Acres.
Lake Condah	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,400
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,050
Colac	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,000
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Lake Moodemere	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	548
								21
								9,039

The health of the people at the Stations and Depôts has been good. At Coranderrk and Lake Tyers Stations there were no deaths, and only one occurred at Lake Condah Station. At Lake Tyers there was an outbreak of diphtheria which affected 12 children and threatened to become serious, but immediately the fact was reported the services of a trained nurse were engaged, and steps taken to reduce the epidemic within the narrowest limits.

At Lake Condah and Lake Tyers the children attend the State Schools on those stations, and the children from Coranderrk are instructed at the Badger Creek School. The reports of progress made are satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

W. A. CALLAWAY,

Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency Sir John Michael Fleetwood Fuller, Baronet, K. C. M. G.

APPENDIX I.

Aboriginal Station, Coranderrk,
19th August, 1912.

SIR,

In compliance with your notice, I have the honour to forward you the Annual Report of this Station for the year ending 30th June, 1912.

1. The number of aborigines attending the Station during each month and the daily average was as follows :—

1911.			Highest.	Lowest.	Average.	1912.			Highest.	Lowest.	Average.
July	...	...	53	52	52	January	...	...	50	47	48
August	...	...	52	50	51	February	...	...	53	49	50
September	...	...	53	52	52	March	...	...	49	47	48
October	...	...	55	51	53	April	...	...	78	49	61
November	...	...	53	46	49	May	...	...	58	55	57
December	...	...	55	40	45	June	...	...	66	57	63

2. BIRTHS.

Date.	Sex.	Name.	Parents' Names.	Colour.
30th January, 1912	Female	Agnes Rosalene Mabel	Alexander Mullett ... Violet Mullett...	Black
13th March, 1912	Male	Stewart Alexander	Alex. McRae ... Mary McRae ...	Black

3. DEATHS.

Nil.

4. MARRIAGES.

Nil.

5. Religious services are held every Sunday morning, alternately by the Rev. J. Spittal and myself. Sunday school is conducted every Sunday afternoon by my wife and myself, and a service of song every Sunday evening for over an hour. This service is much enjoyed by the natives, as they are fond of music. A short service is held every morning during the week, except for a few weeks in midwinter, when the weather is wet and cold. The services on the whole are well attended.

6. The children of school age (seven in number) attend the Badger Creek State school, about 1½ miles distant from the Station. They are accompanied to and from school by one of the natives. The children make little or no progress; having to attend a school away from the Station amongst the whites they are naturally shy, and dislike going to school away from their home.

7. The land reserved for the use of the natives is 2,400 acres, inclosed with post and wire fence, the greater part of which is in seven large grazing paddocks. The balance is subdivided into nine paddocks, varying in size from 3 to 20 acres. Three of the medium-sized paddocks are used for growing the various kinds of crops required for the use of the Station. Eight acres were under oats for hay, which turned out remarkably well—10 tons of hay were harvested. Two acres were planted with potatoes—the yield was light. One acre was sown with pumpkins, which yielded about two tons. Another acre was planted with a variety of vegetables, from which the natives received a generous supply during the summer and autumn months. The potatoes and pumpkins are given out during the winter.

8. About 12 cows on an average are milked daily for the use of the Station. During the spring and summer months, when there is plenty of grass and the cows are in full milk those willing to milk, as well as the old and sick, receive butter. There have been killed for meat—1 cow, 7 heifers, 14 steers; total, 22. Meat is given out twice weekly; each adult receives 1 lb. per day, and children a small allowance. The stock on the Station on 30th June was as follows :—66 cows, 19 calves, 75 heifers, 97 steers, 1 bull, 8 working bullocks, 14 horses; total, 280.

9. The number of buildings is 29, inclusive of church, store-room, school-room, hop kiln, and Manager's house. The cottages are in fair state of repair; the stabling and other outbuildings are very old, and require a great deal of attention to keep them in order.

10. During the year the natives have erected 3 miles 16 chains of boundary fences, which completes the whole of the renewing of the boundary fences on the Station, totalling 7½ miles. Seventy-four chains of new subdivision fences have also been erected. In the autumn some very effective burning-off has been done on the flats, which enables the Station to carry more stock. All the necessary works are carried out by the natives. A number of the homes have received an interior painting, which has given them a bright appearance, and made them more wholesome.

11. The natives still do a little hunting and fishing, which I encourage from a health stand-point in the first place, as during the warm weather the families camp down by the river and keep healthy and happy. From an economical stand-point the rabbit pest is being destroyed—and the output of meat lessened.

12. The conduct of the people on the whole has been fair. This Station being only 3 miles from the township of Healesville, which, being a tourist resort, offers attractions to which the natives are so easily drawn. The women and children are satisfied with the picture shows, &c., but the men who can and will get drink, by the help of the outside half-castes who do not come under the Aborigines Restriction Act, often give me a deal of trouble. The health of the natives has been good. There has been less sickness this year than for many years past. My wife inspects the homes regularly and sees to the general health and cleanliness of the people, attends personally to the sick, and instructs the girls in domestic duties. There are seven half-castes living here under licence.

13. In conclusion, and on behalf of the natives, I desire to thank the Board for the liberal supply of clothing, rations, medical and other comforts necessary for their general welfare. All the supplies have been satisfactory and of good quality.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. A. ROBERTS.

The Secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines, Melbourne.

APPENDIX II.

Aboriginal Station, Lake Condah,

24th August, 1912.

SIR.

The Annual Report being due with reference to the management and condition of this Station and the aborigines and half-castes residing thereon under my charge, I have the honour to report as follows :—

1. The daily attendance for each month during the year was :—

Daily Average.			Total.	Daily Average.			Total.
July ...	...	45	45	January ...	...	45	49
August ...	...	46	47	February ...	...	45	49
September ...	...	46	47	March ...	...	44	48
October ...	...	46	47	April ...	...	43	47
November ...	...	46	48	May ...	...	43	48
December ...	...	47	49	June ...	...	53	61

2.

BIRTHS.

Date.	Sex.	Name.	Parents' Names.	Colour.
21st August, 1911 ...	Male	Victor Albert	{ Albert White { Dinah White	Black Black
29th November, 1911 ...	Female	Dorothy Pearl	{ Henry Albert { Maggie Mobourne	Half-caste Black

DEATHS.

Date.	Sex.	Name	Cause of Death.	Colour.	Age.
8th May, 1912 ...	Male	Samuel Mobourne	Pneumonia and dropsy ...	Black ...	54 years

MARRIAGES.

Nil.

3. Religious instruction was imparted as usual. Church services were held twice every Sunday, and Sunday school in the afternoon; also daily prayers in the school-house. All were well attended by young and old during the whole year. Celebration of Holy Communion was held at certain intervals, and the average attendance was from 25 to 32. The musical talent which our people possess—particularly the younger generation—is still developing, and adds much to the elevation of the whole community. The natives now possess two pianos and two harmoniums of their own, and quite a number of girls play hymns and pieces, not by ear only, but from notes.

4. The day school is under the Education Department, and the pupils progress fairly well with their lessons.

5. The land belonging to the station consists of 2,050 acres. All is fenced in with post and wire fences, and about 500 acres are inclosed with wire netting. Most of the fences, being now over 30 years old, are constantly in need of repair. The reserve is divided into 10 paddocks, viz. :—5 grass paddocks of various dimensions, and 5 for cultivation.

6. The orchard yielded a good supply of fruit, which was specially appreciated and enjoyed by the large number of children now resident here. The vegetables, which were grown and used by the natives, were ample and healthful as an addition to their food supply. Fifteen acres of ground were under cultivation with oats for hay for the horses. The return was good, and now there are 18 acres under crop again, with every prospect of a good harvest.

7. The number of cattle, sheep, and horses on hand on the 30th June was as follows:—44 cows 49 calves, 49 heifers, 31 steers, 1 bull, 25 ewes, 7 wethers, 8 horses. Any family can have a cow if they are willing to do their own milking; and, when milk is plentiful, the milkers, the old people, and the sick are supplied with butter. We had a good clip of wool, and a good return from wattle-bark. The sheep, as recommended by the Inspector of Stock, were sold, and realized a good figure in the market. All the money for wool, sheep, and bark was sent in to the Board for Aborigines.

8. The buildings are the same as last year, viz., 23, inclusive of church, school-house, teacher's house, and mission-house. The latter four buildings are the property of the Church of England Mission Society, and are maintained by them. The dormitory, which was out of repair, has been renovated and divided into two by a partition, and is now occupied by two large families who were brought here from Framlingham. Some new fences were erected in front of the cottages, to encourage the natives to cultivate a love for flowers with which to beautify their homes. A few more of the old fences still need replacing by new ones.

9. The health and conduct of the people were fair. The men were employed in shearing, stripping bark, hay-making, gardening, stock-riding, fencing and repairing fences, road carting, milking, and keeping buildings in repair. The women attended to their household duties; and the girls, who are under my wife's training, are taught all kinds of domestic work. The people are induced to keep themselves in health and habits of cleanliness; and the children are examined regularly every Monday morning, to see that their bodies are clean and their garments mended. Each child receives a warm bath at least once a week.

10. The natives still retain their love for fishing and hunting, and so make a little extra money by selling fox and rabbit skins.

11. There was one man who needed correction for drunkenness, but the rest of the people gave no trouble in that respect.

12. A few half-castes reside here who hold licences. They take their fair share in the work of the station, and do not eat the bread of idleness.

13. The supplies of rations, clothing, &c., were liberal and of good quality; and whatever was needful for the comfort and welfare of the natives was granted by the Board for the Protection of Aborigines.

I desire, therefore, on behalf of our natives here, to express my best thanks for all that has been done for them.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. STÄHLE.

The Secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines, Melbourne.

APPENDIX III.

Aboriginal Station, Lake Tyers,

20th August, 1912.

The Secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines, Melbourne.

SIR,

In compliance with your request I have the honour to forward you my Annual Report for the year ending 30th June, 1912.

1. The number of aborigines who attended the Station was as follows:—

1911.				1912.			
	Highest.	...	Lowest.		Highest.	...	Lowest.
July ...	67	...	62	January ...	80	...	76
August ...	68	...	66	February ...	80	...	80
September ...	69	...	68	March ...	78	...	78
October ...	69	...	64	April ...	77	...	76
November ...	79	...	65	May ...	76	...	74
December ...	78	...	78	June ...	75	...	70

Daily average, 73.

APPENDIX IV.

Woodford,
25th October, 1912.

SIR,

In accordance with instructions, I beg to forward the following Report of the state and condition of the blacks at the Framlingham Camp for year ending 30th June, 1912.

1. The number of blacks attending the Station for each month of the past twelve months is as follows:—July, 20 ; August, 20 ; September, 20 ; October, 16 ; November, 16 ; December, 17 ; January, 17 ; February, 18 ; March, 18 ; April, 18 ; May, 19 ; June, 17. Total daily average, 18.

2. Two births (both illegitimate). Two deaths, viz:—Jas. Egan, and illegitimate child of Lena Austin. No marriages during the year.

3. Religious instruction is held on the Station every Sunday, and is well attended by adults and children. No other religious instruction is given the children during the week.

4. For secular education the children attend the Purnim State school, about 2 miles away.

5. The Station reserve contains 548 acres, fenced, and watered by the River Hopkins, divided into paddocks and occupied as follows:—

					Acres,
General Reserve	...	...	...	...	212
Mrs. Lancaster	...	...	...	...	80
Wm. Good	...	...	...	...	84
John Wyselaskie	...	...	...	...	84
Frank Clarke	...	...	...	...	88
					548
	Total	...	...	...	548

The persons named above frequently take in cattle to graze at various fees from the public, and also milk a few cows for themselves. They sell the milk to the local butter factory. The general reserve is used by the blacks of the Station for grazing their horses thereon, and occasionally by the public ; the fees being collected by me as local agent, and forwarded to the office in the usual way. A portion of this land is cultivated by the blacks to grow hay for their stock.

6. There are now on the station 3 milking cows, 1 calf, 1 yearling heifer, and two bulls—the property of the Board. The cows are used by the blacks to supply them with milk.

7. There are seven cottages on the Station, all in use, and in a fair state of preservation. They are kept clean by the occupiers. No stock or produce was sold during the year.

8. Some of the blacks engage in hop-picking at Timboon in the season, and a few of the men find work on the different stations during the shearing. The balance of their time is spent in rabbit-trapping, basket-making, and idling about. The children follow the same line of life as their parents.

9. The adults and most of the children receive an allowance of meat weekly, which they supplement with rabbit flesh. The blacks on the station are now living soberly. C. Austin and Jas. Arden and their families have now been removed to Condah. Harry Rose and his wife and family have also been transferred to Coranderrk, and left here for that place on 29th December, 1911.

10. All the half-castes coming under the operation of the law are still on the station. None of them are apprenticed as servants.

11. The rations and clothing supplied during the year have been of good quality, and given every satisfaction to the people.

12. The health of the people has been fairly good during the year, although most of the old people suffered from influenza during the winter months.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

M. J. GLEESON,

Local guardian B.P.A.

To Wm. J. Ditchburn, Esq.,
Secretary Aborigines Board, Melbourne.

