

1887.

(SECOND SESSION.)

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Legislative Council.

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**PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES.**

(ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD.)

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*Ordered by the Council to be printed, 5 July, 1887.*


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**The Aborigines Protection Board to The Honorable The Colonial Secretary.**

Office of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines,

Sir,

114, Phillip-street, Sydney, 3 May, 1887.

In accordance with the usual practice, we have the honor to furnish a Report of the proceedings of the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines for the year 1886, and details of expenditure of the Parliamentary vote placed at our disposal, together with information regarding the present condition of the Aboriginal race in New South Wales.

During the past year we have been deprived of the valuable services of the Honorable W. J. Foster, M.P., who found it necessary to retire, the pressure of his other public duties preventing him from devoting the attention he desired to the work of the Board, though taking a deep interest in it.

Dr. Tarrant has accepted a seat on the Board, being appointed thereto on the 20th July, 1886.

A weekly meeting of the Board has been regularly held, but matters requiring immediate attention have been dealt with at all times by the Secretary, after consulting the Chairman or other members of the Board.

The statistics of the Aboriginal population have been collected, as usual, by the police, and the subjoined tables will show the figures in the month of October last, and the changes during the preceding twelve months.

We have continued to gather information regarding the habits and means of subsistence of the tribes and families of Aborigines scattered throughout the country, and have endeavoured to the extent of the means at our disposal to render substantial assistance and comforts to them within the limits we have prescribed for our guidance, and to alleviate any real distress which has been reported to us by magistrates and other residents, or by the police, who continue to act cheerfully and ably as the agents of the Board, and without whose assistance it would be difficult for the Board to perform its duties.

The indiscriminate granting of assistance in the shape of clothing, food, and tobacco, which is commonly advocated, is by no means warranted nor advisable, there being no reason why able-bodied Aborigines should not work for their living. It is of course difficult to induce them to work persistently or to obviate the difficulty which constantly occurs by reason of the male adults of working capacity idling about the camps and consuming the rations which are supplied by the Board to the women and children, the aged, sick, and infirm of both sexes.

One of the chief objects we have had steadily in view is to afford every facility and inducement for the young of full blood and the half-cestes to attend the public and private schools. There are now

384 children so attending, and it is hoped that by the instruction thereby obtained they might acquire habits of industry which would fit them to earn a livelihood amongst the community generally; but we fear that any marked success cannot be looked for in this direction, as from the nomadic habits of the people they are as a rule averse to remain for a long continued time in any fixed place or occupation, and however comfortably situated or kindly treated, will, without any apparent reason, quit their service and make for the nearest camp or join some wandering tribe.

From the experience gained from the Warangesda and Maloga Stations, we are of opinion that the establishment of Asylums or Homes for the Aborigines in many districts would be an advantage by thus providing them with retreats for the sick and aged, schools for the young, and homes for the women, furnishing the means for secluding the latter from the intrusion of depraved Europeans. They would also remove some of the facilities for obtaining intoxicants, which, under present circumstances, it seems almost hopeless to restrain thoughtless or evil-disposed persons from supplying to the Aborigines.

It is much to be desired that arrangements, too long delayed, may shortly be perfected for forming such an Asylum on the reserve consisting of 5,340 acres, granted for the purpose near Brewarrina, and also on the nine reserves on the Clarence and Richmond Rivers, consisting in the aggregate of 1,150 acres, and, further, that the requisite funds will be forthcoming for their establishment and maintenance.

We would respectfully advert to the interest exhibited by his Excellency the Governor, and by the Ministry, in the work of the Association for the Protection of the Aborigines at Warangesda and Maloga; we express our wish to co-operate with that Society, and to perform whatever duty in relation to it in addition to the dispensing the annual Parliamentary vote in aid thereto which the Government may desire.

We append hereto a statement in detail of the expenditure for the year 1886, not including the supply of blankets issued annually from the Government stores, and also a census taken in the month of October, 1886, which shows that there are 260 children, of full blood, less in 1886 than in the record of the previous year; whilst there are but thirty-four additional children in the half-castes. The chief deficiency in the full blood will probably be accounted for by the transference to adults of a larger number of individuals whose places have not been filled up by corresponding births.

We desire also to draw attention to the experiment which is being made in Victoria to enforce the absorption of the half-castes into the general population, and to express our belief that at present such an attempt here would be impracticable, but at some remote period may be effected in detail by means of the benevolent exertions of the Government, and the people of the colony in doing whatever justice can be done to this interesting but unfortunate race.

The honorary secretary of the Aborigines Protection Association has supplied the Board with a statement of population and expenditure connected with the Mission Stations at Warangesda and Maloga, which we transmit as a further appendix to this Report.

EDMUND FOSBERY, Chairman.  
 RICHD. HILL, M.L.C.  
 PHILIP GIDLEY KING, M.L.C.  
 HUGH ROBISON.  
 HARMAN J. TARRANT.

## APPENDIX.

1886.

Locality.	Average monthly.		Period.	Rations, Clothing, Work, &c., done.	Annual expenditure for year.
	Adults.	Children.			
Barrington .....	7	.....	12 months...	Rations and clothing .....	£ s. d. 46 13 3
Breeza .....	4	.....	12 " .....	" .....	14 16 4
Barrier .....	3	.....	12 " .....	" .....	17 15 6
Brewarrins .....	12	2	12 " .....	" .....	94 3 8
Bega .....	7	.....	12 " .....	" .....	45 2 9
Bourke .....	4	2	12 " .....	" .....	35 10 8
Boorooma .....	9	8	12 " .....	" .....	90 2 6
Barrengarry .....	2	.....	12 " .....	Rations and hut built .....	53 8 9
Boggabri .....	2	2	12 " .....	Rations and clothing .....	12 13 9
Ballina .....	2	.....	2 " .....	Rations, boat repaired .....	5 7 2
Cox's River .....	3	6	12 " .....	Rations .....	33 5 0
Coonabarabran .....	2	.....	12 " .....	" .....	21 2 6
Coraki .....	1	.....	12 " .....	" .....	11 6 9
Collarendabri .....	6	1	12 " .....	Rations, clothing, &c. ....	46 0 2
Dubbo .....	11	6	12 " .....	Rations .....	76 17 4
Dandaloo .....	2	9	12 " .....	" .....	7 8 0
Forster .....	5	.....	12 " .....	" .....	25 1 3
Fernmount .....	25	.....	12 " .....	" .....	81 6 2
Grafton District .....	136	95	12 " .....	Clothing and net .....	Gov. Stores. 22 6 0
Gunnedah .....	4	.....	12 " .....	Clothing and rations .....	42 3 10
Gilgunnia .....	5	.....	12 " .....	Rations .....	68 15 3
Goonal (Moree) .....	6	.....	12 " .....	" .....	69 0 5
Goodooga .....	13	.....	10 " .....	" .....	3 1 3
Gundagai .....	2	.....	9 " .....	" .....	16 15 4
Glenorchy .....	2	.....	5 " .....	" .....	3 2 0
Glengie .....	2	.....	4 " .....	" .....	78 13 2
Gulgong .....	7	2	12 " .....	Rations, clothing .....	17 5 11
Iluka .....	5	.....	12 " .....	" .....	130 19 10
Jervis Bay .....	10	26	12 " .....	Rations, clothing, and school requisites .....	12 4 4
Kogarah .....	1	.....	12 " .....	Rations .....	190 3 5
Kempsey and Upper Macleay .....	44	1	12 " .....	Rations, medical attendance .....	30 7 11
Kangaroo Valley .....	6	.....	12 " .....	Rations .....	66 11 5
Kama .....	1	12	12 " .....	Rations, boat, hooks, and lines .....	3 5 5
Lismore .....	2	.....	6 " .....	Rations .....	148 5 10
Mungundie .....	20	.....	6 " .....	Rations and clothing .....	53 18 10
Moruya .....	5	6	6 " .....	Rations, repairs to boat .....	71 1 1
Macquarie, Port .....	11	9	6 " .....	Rations and boat .....	68 13 9
Mogil Mogil .....	6	6	6 " .....	Rations .....	11 17 8
Macquarie, Lake .....	2	.....	6 " .....	" .....	8 9 8
Mungyer .....	1	.....	6 " .....	" .....	49 19 10
Milroy .....	5	.....	6 " .....	" .....	128 2 1
Manning District .....	22	16	6 " .....	Rations and clothing .....	90 15 5
Narrandera .....	3	8	6 " .....	Rations, tools, and seeds .....	9 4 0
Narrabri .....	2	.....	6 " .....	Rations .....	97 16 11
Nambuccera .....	20	5	6 " .....	Boat, rations, hooks, and lines .....	12 1 5
Nowra .....	2	.....	12 " .....	Rations .....	34 8 3
Newstead .....	5	.....	12 " .....	Rations and clothing .....	111 5 2
Perouse, La .....	12	3	12 " .....	Rations, repairs to boats .....	30 18 7
Pudman's Creek .....	4	8	12 " .....	Rations .....	3 1 4
Penrith .....	2	.....	9 " .....	" .....	9 11 5
Quambone .....	2	4	6 " .....	" .....	72 15 7
Singleton .....	18	6	12 " .....	Rations, clothing, powder, shot, &c. ....	142 0 1
Stephens, Port .....	17	7	12 " .....	Rations, sails, oars, paint, rope, &c. ....	67 6 6
Tilba Tilba .....	9	.....	12 " .....	Rations, repairs to boat, oars, sail, &c. ....	63 0 6
Terembone .....	7	.....	12 " .....	Rations .....	17 7 10
Tomboye .....	3	.....	12 " .....	" .....	128 2 1
Taree and Wingham .....	22	16	12 " .....	Rations and clothing .....	90 18 8
Terry-Hi-Hi .....	14	.....	12 " .....	Rations .....	24 12 4
Tomakin .....	3	.....	12 " .....	" .....	73 9 3
Ulladulla .....	5	3	12 " .....	Rations, boat, oars, sail, rope, &c. ....	6 11 7
Ulmarra .....	2	.....	9 " .....	Rations .....	22 8 5
Warialda .....	9	.....	9 " .....	" .....	91 3 8
Wellington .....	9	2	12 " .....	" .....	50 3 0
Warren .....	8	.....	12 " .....	" .....	13 3 0
Wee Waa .....	2	.....	9 " .....	Rations and clothing .....	40 3 7
Windsor .....	18	22	4 " .....	" .....	18 12 8
Wholan .....	2	.....	12 " .....	Rations .....	15 18 0
Wanaaring .....	4	.....	12 " .....	" .....	20 17 9
Walcha .....	3	3	8 " .....	Rations and clothing .....	75 5 5
Yass .....	.....	22	12 " .....	" .....	157 5 8
Yarrabah & Bungate .....	19	7	9 " .....	Rations .....	
Total .....					3,603 13 10

## Census, October, 1886.

	Aborigines (full blood).					Half-castes.					
	Adults.			Children.	Total.	Adults.			Children.	Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Total.			Males.	Females.	Total.			
By return, 1885 ...	2,318	1,653	3,971	1,391	5,362	630	539	1,169	1,453	2,622	7,984
Do. 1886 ...	2,172	1,590	3,762	1,131	4,893	698	556	1,254	1,487	2,741	7,634
Decrease .....	146	63	209	260	469	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Increase .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	68	17	85	34	119	.....
Total decrease .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	350

Children attending School ... .. 384. Public, 242; private, 142.

Deaths (reported) ... .. 168

Births „ ... .. 95

73 decrease.

277 not accounted for.

350

## WARANGESDA.—Population, December, 1886.

Adults.		Children.		Total.
Blacks.	Half-castes.	Blacks.	Half-castes.	
25	14	17	21	77

Children attending Public School in December, 1886—28.

Cost of the above Station:—

	£	s.	d.
Management ... ..	545	8	11
Clothing ... ..	115	17	3
Rations ... ..	525	6	3
Building material, tools, and furniture, &c. ... ..	541	6	11

£1,791 11 10

Of the above, £341 8s. 4d. was raised by private subscription; the cost to the Government was, consequently, £1,450 3s. 6d.

## MALOGA.—Population, December, 1886.

Blacks	Half-castes.	Total.
36	99	135

Children attending Public School—82.

Cost of the above Station:—

	£	s.	d.
Management ... ..	521	16	0
Clothing ... ..	134	14	8
Rations ... ..	838	12	8
Building material, tools, &c. ... ..	567	12	2

£2,062 15 6

Of the above, £272 16s. 4d. was raised by private subscription; the cost to the Government was, consequently, £1,789 19s. 2d.

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“Report of the Board/NSW Aborigines Protection Board”

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