

1895.
—
VICTORIA.

THIRTY-FIRST 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.

By Authority:
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No. 78.—[9d.]—8344.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR THE PROTECTION OF ABORIGINES.

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F. A. Hagenauer, General Inspector and Secretary.

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REPORT.

Melbourne, 29th October, 1895.

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-first Report on the state and condition of the Aborigines of Victoria, together with reports of managers of the various stations and statements of accounts, &c., &c.

1. The Board have held eleven ordinary and two special meetings during the past year.

2. The number of Aborigines and half-castes under certificates belonging to the different stations is as follows:—

Coranderrk, from	...	...	...	...	...	57 to 72
Condah	„	...	...	...	...	60 to 83
Ramahyuck	„	...	...	...	...	66 to 82
Ebenezer	„	...	...	...	...	29 to 57
Lake Tyers	„	...	...	...	...	41 to 56
Framlingham	„	...	...	...	...	31 to 36
Depôts, and away from stations	...	...	...	...	...	106 to 106
Total	...	...	...	...	...	492

3. Returns of marriages, births, and deaths during the past year:—

	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.
Coranderrk ...	2	2	1
Condah ...	...	3	4
Ramahyuck...	1	4	4
Ebenezer ...	...	2	...
Lake Tyers...	...	1	1
Framlingham	...	...	...
Depôts, and away from stations	...	...	12
Total	3	12	22

Decrease during the year, 10.

4. The Board have been able, through the managers of stations and authorized agents at the various depôts, to supply regularly with rations, clothes, blankets, and other comforts all the Aborigines and half-castes who were in need. Medical attendance has also been provided in every case when necessary. Unforeseen or special cases are always attended to either by the General Inspector during his periodical visits, or by the agents of the Board at the different localities where the blacks reside.

5. Owing to the distribution of a considerable number of half-castes among the general population, the decrease of the pure blacks, and general economy in the management of stations, the Board have been able to reduce the annual expenditure during the past six years from £11,000 to £5,500, and that, too, without lessening the usual supplies to the remaining Aborigines, or in any way interfering with their comfort.

6. At the request of the Minister for Lands the Board relinquished from the reserves at Coranderrk, Framlingham, Ramahyuck, and Dergholm 8,000 acres of good land, and the income from the stations indicated has been reduced in proportion, as stated in the reports of the managers.

7. The following table gives particulars (1) of the total expenditure ; (2) the net income ; and (3) the actual cost of each station :—

Name of Station.	Total Expenditure.			Net Income.			Actual Cost.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Coranderrk*	1,184	18	1	560	15	4	624	2	9
Condah	920	6	4	174	6	9	754	19	7
Ramahyuck	820	14	8	41	11	11	769	2	9
Ebenezer	614	17	6	61	5	11	553	11	7
Lake Tyers	627	5	6	31	7	2	595	18	5
Framlingham	436	7	7	...	...	...	436	7	7
Melbourne and Ten Depôts	1,330	1	9	...	...	...	1,330	1	9

* The income from Coranderrk is always paid into the Revenue.

8. In conclusion, the Board have much pleasure in stating that the general health of the blacks throughout the colony is good, and fair progress has been made in education by the children in the various schools in connexion with the Department of Education.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient servant,

C. M. OFFICER,

Vice-Chairman.

His Excellency

The Right Honorable Lord Brassey, K.C.B.,

&c., &c., &c.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

SIR,

Coranderrk Aboriginal Station,
30th June, 1895.

I have the honour to forward you my usual Annual Report of this station, and of the Aborigines in connexion therewith, dating from 1st July, 1894, to 30th June, 1895.

1. The total number of Aborigines daily resident or attending the station during the year has been as follows:—

		1894.		1895.				
		Lowest Number.	Highest Number.	Lowest Number.	Highest Number.			
July	...	59	62	January	...	62	...	63
August	...	59	61	February	...	62	...	64
September	...	58	61	March	...	63	...	63
October	...	58	61	April	...	65	...	66
November	...	61	63	May	...	63	...	66
December	...	61	63	June	...	63	...	67

2. TABLE OF BIRTHS.

Date.	Name.	Sex.	Parents' Name.	Colour.
11th July, 1894	Lilian	F.	{ Jane Donnelly Alick Donnelly	Black
5th September, 1894	Rose	F.	{ Alice Logan Otto Logan	Black

TABLE OF MARRIAGES.

12th March, 1895	...	W. Robinson married Christina Terrick	...	...	Black.
31st May, 1895	...	E. Foster married Betsy Banfield	...	...	Black.

DEATHS.—I have no deaths to report as having occurred at the station during the year; but old Tommy Avoca, aged 70 years, died in the Melbourne Hospital from injuries received by a fall down some steps in North Melbourne when on a visit there, particulars of which were duly reported to the office.

3. Religious instruction has been given to the children daily every morning throughout the year, and divine services have been regularly held every Sunday, and also Sunday school in the afternoon. The attendance has, generally, been very good, and satisfactory progress made in every way.

4. The day school is under the control of the Education Department, as also is the teacher, and according to the inspector's reports good progress has been made in the subjects taught.

5. The quantity of ground now belonging to the station is about 2,400 acres, and it is all fenced in and divided into fourteen paddocks, varying in size from 4 to 380 acres. About 20 acres have been ploughed and put under crops of oats and potatoes, and very fair results were obtained. Our hop crop, too, turned out well, and, as has often been the case in past years, realized the highest price in the Victorian market. A little maize was tried again, but it does not ripen here very well owing to the cold and wet weather.

6. The kinds and number of stock are as follows, viz:—67 cows, 4 calves, 81 heifers, 93 steers, 2 bulls, 8 working bullocks, and 15 horses—total, 270. About 12 cows have been milked on an average during the year, and all the milk and butter consumed on the station. The following have been killed for meat for the station, namely:—40 steers, and 4 cows—total, 44. 60 head, all kinds, were sold, realizing £154 19s., which amount was paid into the Treasury.

7. The sale of the hop crop realized £405 16s. 4d., which amount was forwarded to the Treasury. The total proceeds from sale of produce netted £560 15s. 4d.

8. We have had no new buildings erected during the past year, so the number remains the same, namely, 24, eighteen of which are occupied by the natives; the others consist of the church, school, manager's, and teacher's houses, stable, &c.

9. The blacks are generally employed in all kinds of farm work and in the hop garden. The women still make baskets and mats for sale, and attend to domestic matters. The bigger boys and girls are also taught to make themselves useful in various kinds of work when out of school.

10. Very little is now done by the blacks in hunting for native game, as most of the country here is now owned and occupied by Europeans, and the natives are regarded as trespassers on their land. They therefore look for and regularly receive weekly their full supply of meat from the station.

11. Some of the blacks, but not all, obtain intoxicating liquors whenever they can, but all reasonable and lawful means are used to prevent them obtaining it.

12. Some 60 half-castes who came under the operation of the law have had to leave this station and endeavour to obtain their living elsewhere. There are none here at present under the usual certificates, nor are any apprenticed as servants on the station.

13. I am thankful to say that the supply of rations and clothing granted by the Board have usually been of good quality; and on behalf of the blacks I beg to thank you and the Board for the kind and very prompt attention to all the requirements of the station.

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

The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer,
Board for Protection of Aborigines, Melbourne.

JOSEPH SHAW.

APPENDIX II.

Mission Station, Lake Condah,
9th September, 1895.

SIR,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report with reference to the management and condition of the Aborigines at this station for the year ended 30th June, 1895.

1. The average number of Aborigines attending the station during each month of the year was:—

July	72	January	67
August	76	February	67
September	70	March	67
October	65	April	67
November	60	May	69
December	64	June	76

2. BIRTHS.

Name.	Date.	Parents' Names.
Elizabeth Hewitt ...	18th March, 1895 ...	{ Frederick Carmichael (black) Sarah Carmichael (black)
Agnes Mabel ...	9th April, 1895 ...	{ Frank McLeod (black) Mabel McLeod (black)
Annie Rose ...	2nd June, 1895 ...	{ Robert Turner (black) Janet Turner (half-caste)

DEATHS.

Name.	Colour.	Date.	Cause of Death.	Age.
John White	Black	17th August, 1894 ...	General decay	70 years
Lucy White	Black	30th September, 1894	Pneumonia	1 year
William King	Black	16th November, 1894	Congestion of lungs ...	67 years
Agnes C. Carter ...	Black	17th March, 1895 ...	Whooping-cough	14 months

3. As was the case in former years, we had service twice every Sunday, as well as Sunday school for all the children on the station, and those of half-castes in the neighbourhood; while at the morning and evening prayers, which are held during week-days, religious instruction is also imparted to young and old residing on the station.

4. The school is under the Education Department, and the children are carefully and well instructed; but owing to the frequent changes of teachers, the children do not make as much headway with their lessons as would otherwise be the case.

5. The ground belonging to this reserve is 3,700 acres, 1,700 of which are quite useless, as they consist chiefly of stones. This only leaves 2,000 acres, some of which is good grazing land, but the greater part is of an inferior quality. It is all securely fenced in and subdivided into different paddocks. 15 acres are under cultivation. The oats sown for hay yielded a splendid crop, but the potatoes failed to pay for the labour, as they were few and inferior in quantity. We had, however, a good supply of vegetables and fruit, which were much appreciated by the blacks. All the hay which was grown on the station was made use of for the working horses and milking cows.

6. Besides a few working horses we have 206 head of cattle and 268 sheep; while 256 sheep and 2 head of cattle were killed for meat during the year; 247 of the sheep which were killed were mostly bought from station income for our meat supply.

7. BALANCE-SHEET, 1894-5.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance from last year ...	37	12 2	General	38	9 2
Hides and skins	25	12 0	Wages	80	6 0
Wool and bark	111	2 7	Miscellaneous	10	18 8
			Stock	49	12 0
Overdraft	£174	6 9			
	4	19 1			
Total	£179	5 10	Total	£179	5 10

8. There are sixteen cottages, all of which are occupied by the blacks, and are fairly well kept. The remainder of the station buildings are church, school, store, mission-house, stable, dormitory, and teacher's house, all of which (with the exception of the two latter), are of stone and substantially built.

9. The men were employed, as formerly, in replacing log fences by post and wire, clearing ground and cultivating it, stripping bark, gardening, and general farm work. The women attend to their home duties, and the girls receive sewing lessons and are trained for other domestic duties. The boys do various kinds of station work between school hours, such as clearing the station ground, chopping wood, gardening, &c.

10. The blacks still are and always will be fond of hunting, and while native game is on the decrease they have ample scope for keeping up their favorite pursuit by hunting rabbits and foxes, the latter being on the increase in this district. During the winter months, when the lake water comes down, they catch a good number of fish, which gives them a nice change of diet.

11. There are only exceptional cases of drunkenness, I am glad to say, and if it is found out who supplied them with drink, the law is set in force to deal with the offenders.

12. The half-castes who are out earning their own living, do not, I am sorry to say, make such efforts as one might wish, yet I gratefully acknowledge that where urgent need existed, and deserving cases were brought under the notice of the Board, the needful help was readily given.

13. All the clothing and supplies were of good quality, and I have to thank the Board and you on behalf of the Aborigines, for all the help and assistance given, particularly in connexion with the replacement of old log fences by post and wire; for this enables us to keep our stock more secure, which could not have been done if the Board had not provided the wire and granted some money to pay for the work. I have also to thank you for the prompt attention and assistance in all other matters concerning the welfare of the Aborigines and the station under my charge.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Yours obediently,

J. H. STÄHLE.

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

APPENDIX III.

Mission Station, Ramahyuck,
5th August, 1895.

SIR,

In accordance with your circular of the 30th ult., I have the honour to furnish you with my Annual Report on the state and progress of the mission work among the Aborigines under my care.

1. The attendance during the year has been as follows:—

	1894.			1895.	
	Lowest Number.	Highest Number.		Lowest Number.	Highest Number.
July	67	72	January	77	80
August	69	76	February	76	82
September	77	79	March	66	67
October	77	78	April	66	68
November	76	79	May	70	71
December	78	79	June	71	73

2. Number of marriages, births, and deaths:—

(a) Marriage: On the 20th August, by Rev. W. Cameron—William Logan, full black—Louise Cameron, full black.

(b) Births: (1) Maggie Hamilton, 12th August, 1894, black; parents—Robert Hamilton, Ellen Hamilton. (2) Aurora Violet Darby, 20th August, 1894, black; parents—Albert Darby, Mary Ellen Darby. (3) John Conolly, 11th September, 1894, half-caste; parents—John Conolly, Louise Conolly. (4) Magdalene Moffat, 24th September, 1894, full black; parents—Nedy Moffat, Florence Moffat.

(c) Deaths: Aurora Violet Darby, 21st November, 1894, bronchitis; Magdalene Moffat, 6th December, 1894, influenza; Maggie Hamilton, 26th December, 1894, whooping-cough; Bessie Cameron, 15th January, 1895, aged 42, heart disease.

3. Religious services are kept daily, morning and evening, and Sunday services twice, which are attended likewise by the neighbouring selectors. Sunday school is carried on twice, and religious instruction for children is given five times a week, and very good progress is made.

4. The day school in connexion with the Department of Education is carried on very successfully by Miss Evans.

5. The total quantity of land belonging still to the Aboriginal Reserve is about 850 acres, which is subdivided into several paddocks and fourteen $\frac{1}{2}$ -acre blocks for gardens, which are all well cultivated.

6. The number of stock of all kinds on the reserve is as follows:—46 cows, 30 heifers, 37 calves, 2 bulls, 55 steers, 6 working bullocks; total, 176.

7. The total income from the station during the past year has been very small on account of the reduction of the reserve. The particulars are as follow:—

INCOME.			EXPENSES.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance from last year	0	13 3	Wages	17	17 6
Surplus stock	34	17 9	General	20	9 11
Hides, &c.	5	11 11	Balance	2	15 6
Total	£41	2 11	Total	£41	2 11

8. The number of buildings is the same as last year, and are in good order and repair.
9. All able-bodied working men receive a small amount of wages for their labour.
10. Hunting and fishing is carried on as usual.
11. There has been very little drinking reported in regard to our resident blacks.
12. Supplies of rations and clothes have been very good and quite enough for all, for which the best thanks are due to the Government and the Board.

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

G. HAGENAUER, Acting Manager.

The Secretary, B.P.A, Melbourne.

APPENDIX IV.

Mission Station, Lake Tyers,
7th August, 1895.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward my Annual Report for the year ended 30th June, 1895.

1. The attendance at the station was as follows :—

1894.				1895.			
		Lowest.	Highest.			Lowest.	Highest.
July	...	49	49	January	...	48	48
August	...	44	44	February	...	46	46
September	...	32	47	March	...	46	46
October	...	41	47	April	...	44	44
November	...	47	47	May	...	44	44
December	...	47	47	June	...	43	45

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

(a) Marriages: Nil.

(b) Births: Norman O'Rourke, 22nd September, 1894; parents—Ned and Eliza O'Rourke.

(c) Deaths: Lambie, died 18th January, 1895, aged about 80 years; cause of death, senile decay.

3. Religious services have been held daily, both morning and evening, during the year, also regular Sabbath services, which have been very well attended. Religious instruction has been given to the children daily by Miss M. Bulmer.

4. The day school is now under the care of Miss A. Wall, who was sent to replace Mr. J. W. Platt, resigned. She is a very capable teacher.

5. The quantity of ground connected with the station is 4,000 acres; 2,000 acres are fenced, besides which there are about 70 acres divided into useful paddocks.

The cultivation, owing to the very light rainfall, was a partial failure, the potatoes not returning the seed sown. The apple crop was not equal to previous years.

6. The stock on the station consists of 125 head of mixed cattle and 68 sheep. During the year we have killed for food 12 head of cattle and 253 sheep.

7. The income and expenditure are as follows :—

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Income	...	31	2 6	Wages	...	27	6 9
Balance, 1894	...	0	4 8	General expenditure	...	27	16 6
Overdraft	...	21	16 1			£55	3 3
		£55	3 3			£55	3 3

The accounts were carefully audited by the General Inspector during his visit in June.

8. The number of cottages built for the Aborigines is ten, and are fairly well kept. The total number of buildings is sixteen, which includes the mission house, church, and State school.

9. The blacks are employed in the various works of the station, chiefly cultivation. The cultivation paddock is fenced with strong palings, which were split by William Hayes, a pure Aboriginal.

10. The blacks hunt native game, but every year it becomes scarcer, as there are so many Europeans who employ themselves in shooting and snaring kangaroo, their skins at present being of considerable value. The fish are also taken by the fishermen, and thus the blacks are thrown upon the resources of the station. They are supplied with meat from the stock of the station.

11. I have not had much trouble through their drinking habits, as those who are given to drink generally stay away from the station.

12. With the exception of the three children of Ned and Eliza O'Rourke, all our half-castes are away from the station. One family is very comfortably settled on a selection and another is employed on a farm at Snowy River.

13. The supply of rations and clothing is ample. With care on the part of the Aborigines, the clothing, &c., should last till next issue. The station has been very well supplied with rations by Messrs. Reid and Norton, of Bairnsdale. On behalf of the Aborigines I beg to tender thanks for the very liberal supply of food and clothing from the Board.

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

JOHN BULMER.

The Rev. F. A. Hagenauer,
General Inspector, B.P.A.

APPENDIX V.

Lake Hindmarsh Mission Station,
16th July, 1895.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward my Annual Report for this station, ending 30th June, 1895.

1. The total number of Aborigines who have been supplied with rations and clothing is 47, including three half-caste families who reside on small farms on the reserve.

The attendance during the year has been as follows, not including the half-caste families:—

1894.				1895.			
		Average.	Total.			Average.	Total.
July ...	...	23	47	January ...	...	31	37
August ...	...	28	29	February ...	...	36	38
September ...	...	29	29	March ...	...	35	37
October ...	...	27	29	April ...	...	34	37
November ...	...	28	29	May ...	...	36	37
December ...	...	27	30	June ...	...	34	38

2. Number of marriages, births, and deaths:—

(a) Marriages: Nil.

(b) BIRTHS.

Name of Child.	Name of Parents.	Colour.
Edwin Coombs ...	Albert Coombs ...	Half-caste.
	Edith Coombs ...	Half-caste.
Charles Fenton ..	Henry Fenton ...	Black.
	Kitty Fenton ...	Half-caste.

(c) Deaths: Nil.

3. Religious services have been held daily as well as on Sundays, and have been regularly attended. Religious instruction is also given to the children on week days, and Sunday school is held every Sunday.

4. The school, which is under the Education Department, has 26 children, and is progressing well under the tuition of a lady teacher.

5. The quantity of land belonging to this station is 3,607 acres, which is fenced in by a substantial post, rail, and wire fence. This is divided into several paddocks for pasture of stock, and a 50-acre paddock has been ploughed and sown with wheat and oats. The produce consisted of 50 bags of wheat and 40 bags of oats; part of the wheat has been sold and the remainder kept for seed and feed, one stack of hay for station use, besides vegetables and fruit.

6. The stock consisted at the end of this year of 8 cows, 5 calves, 3 heifers, 1 bull, 918 sheep, and 5 horses. Our people have been regularly supplied with meat from our stock.

7. BALANCE-SHEET OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Wool, skins, and hides ...	...	50	1 0	Balance from last year ...	...	9	15 9
Miscellaneous ...	...	1	19 0	Wages ...	...	26	13 3
Produce ...	...	9	4 11	General ...	...	38	18 7
Overdraft due ...	...	14	2 8				
		<u>£75</u>	<u>7 7</u>			<u>£75</u>	<u>7 7</u>

8. The number of cottages is, as before, eighteen in all, including church, mission house, school, and out-houses, mostly all built of limestone.

9. The blacks have been employed in the work at the station in garden and fields, besides clearing in the bush. The women are sewing dresses for themselves and children, besides doing their domestic work. Children out of school are taught various kinds of useful work.

10. Native game is very scarce; fishes are few and small in size.

11. Very little drinking by our blacks, I am glad to say, has been heard of during this year; they are kept away from town as much as possible.

12. A good many half-castes have left the station; a few boys, however, are spending too much time with all kinds of sports, which should be stopped.

13. The clothes and rations supplied by the Board have been very good and sufficient.

I return my best thanks to the Board and to you, Sir, for all the assistance given to our people during this year.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. P. BOGISCH.

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

APPENDIX VI.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR 1894-5.

		£ s. d.				£ s. d.	
Vote for 1894-5—				Station Accounts		5,515 19 9	
Subdivision No. 1	...	£617	0 0	Unexpended balance of Vote—			
"	2	175	0 0	Subdivision No. 1	...	£0	2 11
"	3	4,838	0 0	"	2	0	15 8
		5,630 0 0		"	3	113	1 8
						114 0 3	
		£5,630 0 0				£5,630 0 0	

APPENDIX VII.

STATEMENT showing the Amounts voted for the Aborigines, and the Amounts expended from 1st July, 1894, to 30th June, 1895.

		£ s. d.				£ s. d.	
Vote 1894-5—				Medical attendance, medicines, &c.		185 1 10	
Division No. 22, Subdivision No. 1	...	£617	0 0	Stores, provisions, clothing, &c., including transport		2,754 9 4	
"	2	175	0 0	Improvements and stock		278 10 7	
"	3	4,838	0 0	Furniture, hardware, and blacksmith work ...		133 14 4	
		5,630 0 0		Seeds, cultivation, and wages to blacks other than in hop plantation		264 15 1	
				Hop-growing, Coranderrk		212 2 10	
				Harness, saddlery, and forage		25 12 6	
				Insurance and guarantee premiums		28 3 6	
				Reward and rabbit destruction		4 15 0	
				Marriage fees		4 1 0	
				Funerals		7 8 0	
				Stationery and office expenses, including fires and caretaker		181 17 8	
				Salaries		1,222 4 0	
				Travelling expenses—			
				Aborigines		£155 10 1	
				Officers		112 14 0	
						268 4 1	
				Unexpended balance of vote—			
				Subdivision No. 1		£0 2 11	
				" 2		0 15 8	
				" 3		113 1 8	
						114 0 3	
		£5,630 0 0				£5,630 0 0	

C. M. OFFICER, Vice-Chairman.

F. A. HAGENAUER, Secretary.

We certify that we have examined the above statement of amounts voted and expended for the year ended 30th June, 1895, and find the same to be correct.

JOHN W. FOSBERY, }
A. MORRAH, } Commissioners of Audit.

Audit Office,
Melbourne, 20th September, 1895.