

1861.

VICTORIA.

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# FIRST REPORT

OF THE

## CENTRAL BOARD

APPOINTED

TO WATCH OVER THE INTERESTS

OF THE

# ABORIGINES IN THE COLONY

OF VICTORIA.

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

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By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 39.



- 4 MAR 1965

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## REPORT.

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Melbourne, 1861.

SIR,

THE Central Board appointed by Your Excellency to watch over the Interests of the Aborigines have the honor to report as follows :—

They held their first meeting on the seventh of June, 1860, and disposed of some questions of a pressing nature, having reference to the management of the Mohican Station, on the River Acheron, and the Aboriginal Station at Mount Franklyn.

Usually a meeting has been held every Monday since the date of the Commission, and special meetings have been held when necessary.

The Central Board and the Local Committees were appointed in the first instance in consequence of a vote of the Assembly, on the motion of Mr. Heales, and the names of the gentlemen composing the Board, and those Committees were, by command of Your Excellency, published in the *Government Gazette*, but no Commission was issued, and it soon became obvious to the Board that it would be necessary to obtain from Your Excellency some clear explanation of the functions which would devolve upon them, and that the duties of the Local Committees should be, in like manner, clearly set forth, or that the constitution of those bodies should be changed.

Communications had been received from many members of the Committees to the effect that it was impossible for them to hold meetings, as some of them (members of the same Committee) lived more than one hundred miles apart.

A letter explanatory of the views of the Board on these points, and requesting that proper control over the moneys voted by the Assembly for Aboriginal purposes should devolve on them, was accordingly prepared, and the matter was finally settled by the issue of a Commission, under the hand of Your Excellency, and the seal of the Colony, clearly defining the duties of the Board, and giving them power to deal with the Votes in aid of the Aborigines.

The Local Committees at the same time were abolished, and Honorary Correspondents were appointed in those districts most frequented by the Aborigines.



Physical wants of  
the blacks.

The Board then cheerfully addressed themselves to their important duties. The imperfect manner in which the physical wants of the blacks had been previously attended to, as shown by the letters received from the honorary correspondents in all parts of the Colony, immediately after the appointment of the Board, the small amount of information available as to the numbers and distribution of the Aboriginal population, and the necessity for prompt action at that period of the year in the furnishing of stores and clothing, left but little opportunity, in the first instance, to investigate the subject of the management of the blacks generally: it only remained to supply food and rough clothing on the requisitions of the correspondents, as far as the funds at the disposal of the Board would allow. As soon as the most urgent demands for supplies had been attended to the Board issued a circular letter to the several honorary correspondents, wardens, police magistrates, and respectable settlers throughout the Colony, asking for information as to the numbers, condition, and location of the Aborigines, and inviting suggestions as to the best means of permanently improving their position. This letter was published in the newspapers; it attained a wide circulation, and the attention of all classes was directed to it. Answers were received in nearly every case, and a mass of information was accumulated which has been of great utility to the Board. An approximate table of the Aboriginal population, compiled from those letters, and the replies to the more important questions will be found in the Appendix to this Report.

Establishments.

On commencing their duties, the Board found the following establishments in existence, namely:—

An Aboriginal Station on the Acheron River,  
An Aboriginal Station at Mount Franklyn,  
A Missionary and Aboriginal Station on the Wimmera, and  
A Missionary and Aboriginal Station at Yelta, on the River Murray.

These were provided for in the Appropriation Act for 1860, as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries of Guardian and Teacher of Aboriginal School at Mount Franklyn ...	750	0	0
Expenses of maintenance of Aborigines ...	5,000	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£5,750	0	0
	<hr/>		

The salaries were appropriated, and the Board were unable to deal with them in any way, and of the amount voted for rations, clothing, &c., they found that there were only £3,317 available; this sum they used as economically as possible, but it was quite inadequate to supply the pressing physical wants of the various tribes, and left no room for providing for aboriginal and half-caste children, or for training schools.

Acheron Station.

The Acheron Station appeared to be under the charge of Trustees, who were also Honorary Correspondents of the Board, and to these gentlemen the care of it was committed. On their recommendation the old station was abandoned, and at the first meeting of the Board they were placed in possession of the papers relating to the purchase of Jones's Station, in its vicinity. Having no personal knowledge of the localities, and under the impression that the removal would be beneficial to the blacks, the Board, on consideration of the evidence submitted to them, advised the Government to purchase Jones's Station (an arrangement all but completed when first brought under their notice), and Mr. Hickson, the superintendent, took possession of it accordingly. The Board regret to have to state that the change has not proved beneficial. Whether due to improper management, or to the unsuitableness of the site, or both combined, it is certain that the blacks

have almost ceased to frequent the new reserve. They are said to complain of the coldness of the climate; and some old settlers inform the Board that no worse situation for an Aboriginal establishment could be chosen. The old station was selected by the Goulburn Aborigines, and they seemed to like it extremely, and as many as ninety blacks were congregated there at first. Now, at the new station, there are seldom more than twenty-five or thirty, and these are dissatisfied and careless of its success. This extraordinary change called for enquiry, the more especially as one of the Trustees, Mr. Snodgrass, M.L.A., had expressed himself as dissatisfied with the management of the station generally. Mr. Hickson, the superintendent, was accordingly directed to appear before the Board; and from his statements, and those of the gentlemen in the neighborhood, they have come to the conclusion that the new station must be abandoned. It must be remembered that it was selected in the first instance by those who ought to have been well aware of its suitability, or otherwise, for Aboriginal purposes; and the Board only consented to ratify the engagement for the purchase on their representations. The management and general expenses of the establishment have consumed more of the funds placed at the disposal of the Board than the number of blacks frequenting the reserve would warrant, and arrangements are about to be made which, it is hoped, will improve the condition of the natives, and certainly very largely reduce the cost of their maintenance.

The Wimmera Station is in a widely different position. Placed under the charge of the Honorary Correspondents in that district, and watched over by the indefatigable Moravian Missionaries, who have there taken up their abode amongst the blacks, it has proved highly beneficial. The Reverend Mr. Spieseke and the Reverend Mr. Hagenauer have succeeded in forming a school for the adult and young Aborigines, and the accounts of their success, as regards the physical and moral improvement of the blacks, is highly satisfactory. Those gentlemen have the charge of the stores supplied for the use of the natives, and they make careful returns of the distribution of clothes and food. Not to speak of the religious impressions produced by these teachers the moral effect of having pious and devoted men to watch over the interests of the Aborigines is so great, that every endeavor should be made to foster and encourage the self-denying efforts of the enlightened missionary. The average number of blacks attending the Wimmera Station at Lake Hindmarsh is twenty-two, and there are as many as one hundred and forty who visit there when they require food or clothing.

One black mentioned by Mr. Spieseke, has fully appreciated the doctrines of Christianity. He is christianized and enlightened, is of an excellent disposition, and has shewn an earnest desire to improve the condition of the poor savages, his brethren. He has built a hut which he inhabits, and in rainy seasons the poor houseless Aborigines find there shelter and warmth.

The Yelta Station situated at the junction of the River Murray and the River Darling, is under the care of the Reverend Mr. Goodwin. The number of blacks frequenting that locality is from forty to ninety, and these have been liberally supplied with stores, clothing, fishing implements, tomahawks, tools of various kinds, &c.

The Mount Franklyn Station, once of considerable importance, is now little frequented by the black population. A teacher at a salary of £150 per annum has been located there for a long period, but as there are but few natives in the neighborhood the Board have under their consideration means to reduce the cost of the establishment, without in any way impairing its

usefulness. Some of the blacks at Mount Franklyn, thanks to the care and attention of Mr. E. S. Parker (formerly a protector of Aborigines), have learned to cultivate the soil, and it became the pleasing duty of the Board at their first sitting, to approve of the expenditure of a sum of one hundred guineas for the purchase of seed wheat, working bullocks and gear, to enable these intelligent natives to cultivate and sow the land which is indeed their own.

Inspection of  
stations.

After supplying the honorary correspondents and the superintendents of the various stations with food and clothing for the blacks, the Board intended that Mr. William Thomas, the Guardian of Aborigines (who has had experience of the native habits for a period of twenty-two years) should have visited each station and depôt and made a careful report on the numbers and physical and moral condition of the several tribes. This design was, however, frustrated. Long exposure to the weather in accompanying the blacks in their journeys and indefatigable attention to the duties of his office have at last undermined his health, and he is no longer fitted for the arduous duty of inspection. At the request of the Board, and previous to his illness, he visited Gipps Land, and made a careful and intelligent report on the condition of the natives in that part of the Colony, but shortly after that journey he became disabled by sickness, and thus they were left entirely dependent on the honorary services of the correspondents in other parts of the country.

It was not easy to find a gentleman fully qualified for the performance of such duties as those devolving on Mr. Thomas, and the Board anxiously considered in what manner they could obtain such inspection as would be satisfactory. The Board have after much enquiry selected a person who appears to be fully qualified by experience and character to examine and report as to the condition of the blacks, and he is now engaged in visiting the several depôts and stations throughout the Colony. By such means the Board will obtain an almost perfect census of the Aboriginal population, and careful returns will be made of the distribution of all stores supplied for their want. He will also report particularly as to the propriety of affording medical aid, and whether it is possible, regard being had to the habits of the blacks, to mitigate to any great extent, the frightful disorders which destroy yearly so great numbers of the Aboriginal population.

Sale of spirituous  
liquors to the  
blacks.

The attention of the Board was early directed to the necessity of taking strenuous measures to abate the sale of intoxicating liquors to the blacks. They appealed to the Government to use its power to prevent publicans supplying the blacks with spirits, and considerable assistance was rendered by Captain Standish, the Chief Commissioner of Police, who has used every legal means, through his officers, to suppress the evil. The Board, also, issued a circular letter to the Honorary Correspondents and the various Magistrates throughout the Colony on the same subject, and to some extent the frightful vice of drunkenness has been suppressed. Not long ago an attempt was made to obtain a license for a public-house in the vicinity of the mission station at Lake Hindmarsh. The matter was laid before the Board by the missionaries in charge of the station, and a statement was immediately forwarded to the Honorable the Commissioner of Lands and Survey requesting that any application for an occupation license for such a purpose might be refused, and the subject was also brought under the notice of the Honorable the Treasurer and the Honorable the Attorney-General with a view to prevent the issue of a spirit license. The Board at the same time appealed to the local magistrates and pointed out to them the frightful consequences of permitting the indiscriminate sale of spirits in the midst of a black population. The imperfect state of the law however renders it possible that at

any time such applications may be successful, and the result of years of teaching and careful training thus destroyed. It ought to excite surprise that in a civilized country those who are possessed of some intelligence, and are certainly not driven to such a crime by poverty, should, in spite of all warnings and in view of the consequences of their misconduct, excite the passions of the weak and ill disciplined Aborigines by supplying them with spirits; but from the report of the magistrates it would appear that only the strongest repressive measures will prevent the publican from pursuing his gains by this violation of the law. Even in Melbourne and Geelong it is found almost impossible to protect the Aborigines from these their enemies, and in the outlying districts of the Colony, where there is less protection, whole tribes of Aborigines are sometimes drunk for days together. In such a state they are guilty of frequent breaches of the peace, and not a few of the greater crimes *inter se*, are distinctly referrible to this cause.

After careful consideration of the question, the Board are of opinion that the existing law should be amended, and that any publican convicted of the offence of selling spirits to the blacks should in addition to imprisonment be declared unfit to and incapable of holding a victualler's license. Such an alteration would not be objected to by the respectable publican, and would probably serve to deter the unprincipled dealer from harboring blacks in the vicinity of his premises.

The subject of the criminal law as it affects the blacks was considered by the Board, and they addressed a memorial to Your Excellency on the subject which you were pleased to consider favorably. The steps ordered to be taken thereon have already had the effect of mitigating to some extent the severity of our laws, as they effect Aboriginal criminals. The effect of close imprisonment on one of this people is to deprive him of all hope and gradually to reduce him to a state of imbecility. Accustomed to freedom in its widest sense, the restraint of a gaol produces a lethargy which in cases of prolonged imprisonment results in death, and it is a serious consideration whether some other more appropriate punishment than close incarceration could not be desired which would have a due effect on the criminal. As the law stands it only remains for the Government to exercise it in such a manner as, on the one hand to avoid that leniency which would bring the law into contempt amongst the Aborigines, and on the other to avoid cruelty. The Board believe that the action taken by Your Excellency has been productive of good results, and will ultimately lead the way to an amendment of the law as it affects the blacks. Now, in all cases, where an Aboriginal is brought to trial, copies of the depositions are forwarded to the Board, and proper steps are taken to provide counsel and interpreters.

The criminal law as it affects the black population.

The Central Board of Health brought under the notice of the Board the desirability of vaccinating the Aborigines. This proposal excited some discussion in consequence of doubts existing in the minds of some members of the Board as to the utility of vaccinating the blacks, but ultimately, it was agreed that facilities should be afforded to the Board of Health, to carry out such measures as they might deem desirable, so soon as the Aborigines should be collected in depôts.

vaccination.

A despatch received by Your Excellency from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, drawing attention to the exertions made by Miss Florence Nightingale to ameliorate the condition of the Aborigines in the several colonies under the British Crown, with especial reference to their treatment in hospitals and the education of the children, was carefully considered by the Board; and though they regret that they have not been able to supply very exact information, some few valuable facts have been gathered together as to

Statistics as to diseases, treatment in hospitals, &c.



diseases, which will be found in the Appendix to this Report. In future years the Board confidently hope to submit statistics to Your Excellency which will be more satisfactory.

Thomas Bunge-  
leen.

On the 30th July, 1860, the Board had under their consideration the case of an Aboriginal boy, named Thomas Bungeleen, who was at that time employed in the Crown Lands Office, and was nominally under the care of the Surveyor-General. According to a statement made by Mr. Thomas, the Guardian of Aborigines, the history of the boy's early life is as follows :— He is the son of the celebrated captive chief of Gipps Land, and was brought to Port Phillip in 1846, when about six months old. In 1848 he was placed by Mr. Thomas at the Merri Merri Creek Aboriginal Station, and on the breaking up of that missionary establishment in 1850, he was removed, with the consent of the Government, to the National School at Moonee Ponds, where he was under the care of the master. On Sunday, the 29th August, 1852, he and his brother (since deceased) were publicly baptized at Trinity Church, Pentridge. Respecting his parents Mr. Thomas says—“In 1845-6 a great disturbance was made in consequence of a report of a white woman being held captive in Gipps Land by the blacks. The Government sent out a party of native police, under the command of the late Mr. Walsh, who, it was reported, committed awful destruction of Aboriginal life. Not finding the white woman they secured by stratagem the celebrated old chief, Bungeleen, and they determined to detain him and his two wives and children as hostages. The old chief, with his family, was brought from Gipps Land to the Native Police barracks at Narrec-Narree-Warreen, where he was brutally chained to a gum tree for many days and nights. My blacks informed me of his usage, and I brought the matter officially under the notice of the Government, and he was unchained, but strictly watched by the native police. He soon died of grief, leaving two lubras—one very young, with two infants, who were removed to the Merri Merri Creek Mission Station. The young lubra inhumanly went away from the mission station, with a mob of blacks, leaving her two children behind. She soon became diseased, and died about eighteen months afterwards at an encampment at the junction of the Diamond Creek and the River Yarra Yarra.”

Thomas Bungeleen presents all the marks of the pure Australian, and in mental capacity, disposition, and character, is probably a fair type of the race. Before the Board undertook the care of him, some attempts had been made to teach him drawing, and he had been occasionally employed in copying letters and in other clerical duties, but all the gentlemen who had kindly taken an interest in his welfare, and endeavored to teach him, concurred in stating that his want of application rendered any great improvement quite hopeless ; he was found to be averse to labor, and all those inducements which operate on the European were wanting in him. He was brought before the Board and examined as to his qualifications ; it appeared that he had obtained some little instruction ; he could read with facility, write clearly, and seemed to possess some knowledge of arithmetic ; he exhibited a quiet unembarrassed manner, and replied to every question calmly but promptly. Here, in the case of this young Aboriginal, an opportunity seemed to be presented to the Board of proving to the world that the Aborigines of Australia are degraded rather by their habits, than in consequence of the want of mental capacity, and though the boy showed only an average ability, it was thought that by careful education, and instruction, he would probably become a good citizen, and of the highest usefulness as an agent in dealing with the Aboriginal race. With this view they sought admission for him at the grammar school, St. Kilda Road ; admission was refused, and perhaps the interests of the school were best served by the refusal, but comment on this fact would not probably tend to place in the

most favorable light the peculiar advantages which we derive from civilization. The Board then proposed to have him educated at the Scotch College, but this was abandoned on the recommendation of Dr. Cairns, who suggested that he should be placed under the care of Mr. Robert Doig, a schoolmaster at Fitzroy-square, who kindly took charge of him at once. After a short experience it was found that ordinary means of coercion were quite ineffectual to compel habits of obedience and industry, and with great regret the Board had to abandon their scheme of educating Bungeleen in the manner first proposed. After being some time under the charge of Mr. Thomas, who has at all times exerted himself in a most praiseworthy manner in the boy's behalf, he was transferred to the S. S. *Victoria*, where, under the eye of Captain Norman, it is hoped he may be taught the duties of a seaman. The difficulty of educating and imparting instruction to an Aboriginal who, whatever may be his natural good qualities, is yet not without many of the characteristics of the savage, is very great. Precisely those persons who, by education and character, are best fitted to teach and control him, are those who would be the least likely to undertake such a charge; and the discipline of an ordinary school would scarcely improve him, even if he could be made to attend it regularly. Bungeleen's mind, under proper treatment, may be so far improved as to admit of his receiving a higher education, and if he acquire habits of obedience and industry, improvement is certain. Nearly all the Aborigines are, however, prone to amusements, and they dislike work and restraint of every kind: of a happy, playful, kindly nature, it is questionable whether any of them are capable of sustained labor, such as is requisite to obtain knowledge to fit them for the business of civilized life.

Before the appointment of the Board, repeated applications for land had been made to the Government by a person named Banfield, of Benalla, on behalf of an aboriginal or half-caste girl living in that locality. Mr. Banfield's letters were transferred to the Board, and enquiries at once instituted as to the condition of the girl. It was discovered after some trouble that she was living in a public-house, and it became the duty of the Board to endeavor to have her removed to some asylum, away from the degrading influences of a hotel, and steps were taken accordingly, to ascertain whether or not the Board had power to remove her. The girl being an orphan they found that they had no control over her whatever, and as Mr. Banfield refused even to allow her to come to Melbourne to appear before the Board, they were reluctantly compelled to give up all hope, for the present, of improving her position.

Aboriginal girl at Benalla.

From communications received from Mr. Crawford Pasco and others, it became apparent that unless some steps were taken by the New South Wales Government as to the management of the blacks on the north side of the Murray, it would be exceeding difficult to supply the wants of those continually migrating to this Colony; and difficult also to prevent the use of intoxicating liquors amongst them, in consequence of the innkeepers across the border supplying all comers, black or white, with their commodities. The case was brought under the notice of the Honorable the Chief Secretary, and a despatch was forwarded to the Sydney Government which has had the effect of directing attention to the matter, and the condition of the blacks in New South Wales is to some extent improved. Clothing is supplied to them and their wants and necessities are at least recognized. Before the Board directed attention to the matter, many of them resorted to this Colony to obtain food and clothing, and it was often difficult for the honorary correspondents to recognize those who were and those who were not entitled to the liberality of the Victorian Government.

The New South Wales blacks on the Murray.

No. 39, &





Customs  
habits  
and  
of the  
blacks.

The Board have not neglected to collect information from all quarters relative to the customs and habits of the Aborigines. Mr. Thomas, the guardian, has placed all his notes, the results of more than twenty years' experience amongst the tribes frequenting Bourke, Mornington and Evelyn, at the service of the Board, and honorary correspondents have been requested to furnish complete sets of native weapons and utensils, so that records of this interesting people may be preserved for the use of the ethnologist. The secretary has been engaged for some time in collecting every fact of importance connected with the blacks, and he has promised to furnish the Board with a report which will embrace a brief historical account of their relations with the white man since the foundation of the Colony; a concise account of their customs, with drawings of their nets, utensils, &c.; a description of their modes of warfare, with drawings of their weapons, &c.; and advantage will be taken of all facts collected by physicians and surgeons who have examined the frame of the Aboriginal. In this manner, it is hoped, that some result may be achieved which will prove interesting and valuable to the man of science. The mere collection of facts will indeed be valuable, and if the work is not done now, it will soon become impossible to do it all with any degree of accuracy. Though not coming properly within their functions the Board have encouraged the secretary in prosecuting this work, as the means of collecting information at their command they conceive should not be neglected.

Provision for the  
maintenance  
and education  
of the blacks.

In view of all the circumstances affecting the Aborigines the Board were desirous of making provision for their wants in 1861, in such a manner as to lay the basis of a complete system, which might be carefully and fully established by the aid of information which would be acquired from year to year. When the Board commenced their duties, the Aborigines were in a shocking condition; their mere physical wants were not met, and none had the care of them, except at the stations formerly mentioned, where comparatively few blacks were located.

Estimates for  
1861.

It was obvious that any attempts to impart religious or secular instruction would be futile so long as they were allowed to starve. The Board accordingly at a meeting, held on the 1st October, 1860, approved of the following estimates, which were duly submitted to the Government:—

	£	s.	d.
Rations, Clothing, and Agricultural Implements,			
Expenses of Stations, Medical Attendance and general wants of the Blacks, 1860, @ £5 each ...	9,300	0	0
Salary of Guardian, with travelling expenses ...	600	0	0
School Teacher, Loddon Aboriginal Station ...	150	0	0
Teacher and Matron, Acheron Station ...	200	0	0
Teacher, Little River Station, Bacchus Marsh Dis- trict ...	100	0	0
Salary of the Secretary ...	100	0	0
Buildings for Home and School for Aboriginal and half-caste children ...	600	0	0
Expenses of the Home and School ...	500	0	0
	<u>£11,550</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Black children  
and half-castes.

In consequence of the necessity for economy in the public service, the first item was reduced by the Government to £5,000, and the last items for schools were struck out altogether. The Board deeply regret that their means have been thus crippled; had they succeeded in obtaining the necessary funds, they had intended to have erected a school at a convenient distance from Melbourne, yet sufficiently remote from the white population, where all neglected Aboriginal children and half-castes, could have found a

home. It was intended to have had them taught useful occupations, so as to have fitted them for employment as servants. The Guardian reports that there are many neglected black and half-caste children throughout the Colony, who are utterly uncared for, and in all probability, if steps be not taken to rescue them, they will become as idle and as depraved as the worst examples among the white population. The latter element in our population, the half-castes, though numerically small, are increasing, and it is a serious duty to interfere at once to prevent their growing up amongst us with the habits of the savage, as they possess the instincts, powers of mind, and altogether different constitution of the white man.

After careful consideration of all the circumstances affecting the Aboriginal population in this Colony the Board are of opinion :— General recommendations.

- 1st. That it is the bounden duty of the people who have taken possession of their country to protect them as far as possible, and to a certain extent to maintain them. We occupy for pastoral and for other purposes nearly all the land in the Colony, and that which we do not occupy is the least fitted for the black population. Under these circumstances it is necessary that permanent reserves should be made for the blacks whenever their numbers are such as to require a tract of country yielding food.
- 2nd. That they should be confined as closely as possible to those reserves; and, for their better management and control, that the Act relating to the Aborigines should be amended giving to Your Excellency full power to order as to their residence and maintenance; and to order, also, as to the disposal of orphan and deserted children.
- 3rd. That other than educated blacks in the employment of settlers should be prohibited from visiting towns and gold fields.
- 4th. That rations and clothing should be distributed to them when necessary.
- 5th. That medical aid should be afforded in certain cases.
- 6th. That habits of industry should be inculcated and encouraged by forming Aboriginal settlements in the localities to which the blacks chiefly resort where some could be taught farming and the management of sheep and cattle; whilst others might be encouraged to support themselves by hunting and fishing, to build houses, and to provide clothing.
- 7th. That severe measures of repression should be urged against the sale of spirituous liquors to the blacks.
- 8th. That missions should be encouraged, and the population of each reserve, where practicable, placed under the care of missionaries, subject to the inspection of the honorary correspondents and the inspectors appointed by the Board.
- 9th. That a superintendent should be appointed whose duty would be to visit each station at least once in every year, examine into the condition of the blacks, and report thereon, as well as report as to the distribution of stores by the honorary correspondents and the missionaries.

As far as possible the Board have attempted to carry out the above scheme; and they believe that, if it be steadily pursued, it will be eminently successful. Though it may be a considerable period before the black population ceases to be a charge on the revenue, there is no doubt that, if the Aboriginal settlements be carefully managed, they will in time become almost self-supporting.

In concluding this Report the Board are desirous of expressing their approval of the warm sympathy which Your Excellency has shown in the welfare of the Aboriginal population ; and though they have reason to regret that Your Excellency's advisers, for purposes of economy, have curtailed the pecuniary means which would have enabled them to succour and preserve from starvation and death many members of almost extinct tribes, they have a lively satisfaction in the consideration of the fact that their labors have resulted in the improvement of the blacks generally, and they are confident that the Legislature, with no niggardly hand, will enable them to continue a course of action which, in all civilized Christian countries, should be followed as a matter of course.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,

THEO. J. SUMNER,

Vice-President of the Central Board for  
Aborigines.

His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B.,  
Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Victoria,  
&c., &c., &c.

## APPENDIX No. 1.

## NUMBER AND LOCATION OF ABORIGINES.

Districts.	Authority.	Total Number including Men, Women, and Children.
Bourke, Mornington, and Evelyn	Thomas	35 <sup>1</sup>
Geelong, Barrabool	Armitage	20
Charcourt Tribe, Purrumbeet	Manifold	20 <sup>2</sup>
Mount Elephant Tribe	Burke	24
Portland, excepting Lake Condah, Glenelg, and Wannon	McLeod	63
Tooram, Merri, Wyete, Yallok, and Terang	Allan	207
Avoca, Loddon, Rich Avon, Korong, Moliagul, &c.	Urquhart	325
Swan Hill and Lower Murray District	Jamieson	500
Cobram	Hughes	42
Cooma, Lower Murray	Manly	100
Goulburn Station	Hickson	96 <sup>3</sup>
Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Buninyong, Mount Emu	Taylor	255
Campaspe	Chauncy	40
Wodonga, Wangaratta, Kiewa, Whroo, Yackandandah, } Barnawartha, &c. ... .. }	Reid	60
Mitta-Mitta, Thurumatong, &c.	Lane	27
Lake Hindmarsh, Horsham, Glenorechy, &c.	{ Wilson, Ellerman, and Officer	} 300
Gipps Land	Thomas	221 <sup>4</sup>
Omeo	Haughton	6
		<b>2,341</b>

<sup>1</sup> 23 Males, 12 Females.<sup>2</sup> 12 Males, 8 Females.<sup>3</sup> 46 Males, 26 Females, 24 Children.<sup>4</sup> Tarrawaragal, or Port Tribe

Woor Zeal .. .. 13m. 6f.

Near run, or Breuthen .. .. 31m. 23f.

Tambo and Buchan .. .. 44m. 37f.

.. .. 42m. 25f.

130m. 91f. = 221.

The above estimate of the population is of course liable to errors, and the Board will feel obliged by any authentic communications as to the numbers of the Blacks in the several districts.

R. BROUGH SMYTH, Secretary

Central Board for Aborigines, Melbourne,  
28th August, 1861.

## APPENDIX No. 2.

### SHOWING THE QUESTIONS PUT TO THE SETTLERS AND OTHERS, THROUGHOUT THE COLONY, AND THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ANSWERS.

1. *The number of Aborigines in your District, distinguishing adult males, adult females, and children?*

This question is answered by the Table of the Population of the Aborigines.—*Vide* Appendix No. 1.

2. *The names of the Tribes to which they belong?*

This question was not replied to generally in such a manner as to enable the Board to separate the population into tribes. Further information is now being obtained on the subject.

3. *The localities where they most frequently congregate?*

In nearly every case the correspondents state that they congregate around public-houses, in towns where there are public-houses and on the gold fields. Where there are neither gold fields nor towns they frequent the stations of the squatters. They appear to neglect in a great degree hunting and fishing, and prefer the populous districts of the white man to the solitudes of the forests and plains.

4. *Their moral and social condition; their means of livelihood, whether or not any of them are employed as servants by the settlers, and whether or not such servants reside during the whole of the year with their employers; if during only a part of the year, for how long?*

MR. JOHN C. AITKEN.

The moral and social condition of the natives is very low. Some deaths have occurred within the last six months, caused, in more than one instance, by intoxication. At this moment there are on the reserve several cases (both men and women) of venereal disease in its worst form. Until lately the blacks depended principally for a livelihood on the settlers, a considerable number finding employment as sheep shearers, reapers, and stock-keepers, but seldom for continuous labor, with the exception of a few of the younger lads, who sometimes remain on a station for a year or two.

MR. J. M. ALLAN.

States that their moral and social condition is very low. They occasionally obtain food by hunting and fishing, but often depend on the settlers for food, &c. They seldom remain more than two or three months in employment.

MESSES. G. ARMYTAGE AND SON.

They live chiefly by begging. We have been in the habit of supplying them with rations when we considered them really in need. There are only two or three employed as servants, and these only occasionally. They cannot be induced to stay long in one place.

MR. JOHN BEVERIDGE.

Their morals are as bad as they can possibly be; in fact they do not understand the meaning of the term. Their social condition is little better; each looks to himself alone, and it is very rare indeed to meet with anything like affection amongst them. All the young men can get employment if they feel inclined. They will not work more than two or three months at a time. The work they are most expert at, and like best, is stock-keeping.

MR. R. BURKE.

Their moral and social condition is very depressed. There is a great deal of drunkenness amongst them. They are frequently employed by the farmers in the neighborhood, but only during the harvest season; at other times they subsist by hunting.

MR. PHILIP CHAUNCEY.

Their moral and social condition can scarcely be worse than it is.

In their pristine state the natives were a merry, independent, thoughtless race, with but few temptations to vice.

Thieving was scarcely known among them, and intoxication not at all. Among their virtues personal courage and affection for their offspring were common. I have often known them to be generous, patient, and attentive to each other's wants, and in Western Australia they are noted for being remarkably honest and trustworthy.

Freedom is to them the *summum bonum*. Nor will the promise of any reward, or amelioration of his state, or the fear of any punishment, induce the Australian aboriginal to work for any length of time, either for himself or others. I believe this to be an invariable rule with the adults, who have not been trained from their early youth.

Never having been accustomed to moral restraint, most of them readily fall victims to every vice which accords with their sensual desires. In this district the women are probably all prostitutes, and both sexes are drunkards, or, perhaps I should rather say are occasionally addicted to intoxication.

The number of trees marked by natives in this district prove that, at no distant period, they were numerous. There are also very many and large "native ovens" in the county of Rodney, which will afford evidence of the same fact for centuries to come.

They have never been engaged in any regular occupation, nor have they ever performed any set labor. Formerly, each tribe had its own defined district, within which the men obtained food, and amused themselves by hunting and fishing, and the women by digging roots, &c. This district would



comprise an extensive range of country, affording a diversity of food, and in which they had fixed camping places, selected in the most secure and convenient places for obtaining the food yielded by that part of the country, and which from generation to generation, they would occupy at the time of year when the object sought after was in season; they would also sometimes exchange visits with neighboring tribes, either for friendly or hostile purposes.

Now, however, they are fast fading away before the predominant race, and in this district will, doubtless, be extinct in a very few years.

I have alluded to these facts to show that it cannot be a matter of surprise that the aborigines do not readily engage in the pursuits of the civilized people who have taken possession of their country.

The means of livelihood of the Goulburn and Campaspe tribes must now be almost entirely derived from the white people who occupy their hunting grounds, being the wages of bark getting, duck shooting, and prostitution.

I know of no aboriginal on this side of the Goulburn employed as a servant by a settler. At Mr. O'Dea's station some lads are occasionally made use of for cattle hunting, in which they take great delight and evince much skill. Last summer, at Mr. Headlam's station, at the Lower Moira, several native lads mounted as many unbroken colts, and rode a race, in which one of them ran against a tree which killed the horse, but the native escaped unhurt.

MR. GEORGE CHENERY.

Not improved lately; stripping bark; two stock-keeping for Mr. Bon; one girl nursemaid for two years at Mr. Dickens, knows her letters and says her prayers; four go shearing but spend the money so made in drink.

MR. CECIL P. COOK.

They are generally wandering about from place to place, addicted mostly to drink if they can get it—live on kangaroo and opossum, and are often employed by settlers, but very seldom for a year, mostly for two or three months at a time.

MR. JOHN L. CURRIE.

Their condition is debased—they live principally by begging. They will not apply themselves to fixed employment. They are generally employed during the shearing season at sheep washing and other occupations connected therewith and as soon as that is over they resort to the nearest public-house and spend their earnings in drink.

MR. DAVID EDGAR.

The moral condition is low; the men addicted to intemperance, the women to prostitution, thus contracting and fostering disease which forbids increase, and is fast hastening their extinction as a race. Their means of livelihood precarious enough; hunting, fishing, but more commonly begging, or getting food for chopping wood, carrying water, &c., &c., amongst the stations. A few men occasionally work at sheep washing, cutting firewood, bush fencing and shepherding, or stock riding, for short periods. The younger men who have no lubras generally stop at some stations; I only know two or three who hire themselves like white men. They are trustworthy and truthful, seldom neglecting or leaving their charge without notice, but I cannot with any certainty name the time they may stop, as they are generally paid by the week, usually 10s, with rations.

MR. LEWIS FENTON.

As to their morals, they (the women) are not virtuous; nothing else but common prostitutes. As to their means of livelihood, the settlers engage many, but they generally stop only a short time in one place; they are continually roaming about from station to station.

MR. LEWIS GILLIES.

Moral condition very low; social condition low. Some are engaged as odd hands by farmers and occasionally by townspeople in cutting wood and at similar labor, for which they receive food, clothing, tobacco, &c.

MR. HENRY GODFREY.

Their moral and social condition is very bad; a full reply however on this head would occupy too large a space of time and paper, and be then at best very unsatisfactory in perusal. A *vis à voce* statement would be (if possible), far better. Whenever they arrive on this station those willing to work are employed, but they are naturally too lazy and too inactive to exert themselves; you can never induce them or any of them to reside permanently on any place by any offers of remuneration; a fixed abode or locality is contrary to their habits and natural instincts.

MR. JAMES HAMILTON.

Their moral and social condition is most abject; the males are occasionally employed by the settlers, and a few are employed a greater part of the year; when not so employed, they obtain their livelihood by fishing and hunting.

MR. G. D. HEDLEY.

The men obtain their livelihood by working at times for the settlers; this they do very well, and are generally well paid for it, but it is only for harvest work and other odd jobs that they are so employed; they are, however, always fed by the settlers wherever they may happen to be.

MR. CHARLES W. HUGHES.

Most of the stations have one family attached to them, who are fed in return for small services, and they remain if well treated during the greater portion of the year; many stations also have one or more of the lads and young men regularly hired; in my own case, by written agreements, which they understand as well as most white men; they generally engage for six or twelve months; my rate of wages is ten and twelve shillings per week.

**MR. H. JAMIESON.**

Moral and social condition very bad; means of livelihood are by fishing, hunting, and obtaining at certain seasons a large supply of edible roots; of late years, there are very few regularly employed on any of the stations here; every year the number is diminishing; in former years there were large numbers employed usefully on most of the stations; white labor is now abundant, and blacks prefer a camp life.

**MR. H. B. LANE.**

Social condition very low; some four or five of the males are occasionally employed on the stations as stockriders, &c., but they are too restless in their habits to be induced to remain more than a few weeks at a time in any one place.

**MR. THOMAS LUMSDEN.**

The ill effects of intemperance are too frequently apparent; two of them have been for six or eight months in service; one of the above children lives altogether in service, and never mixes with his tribe; the other, a female about ten years of age, has been adopted by a most respectable townsman; she is well educated and clothed, and a most intelligent and good girl.

**MR. J. R. LEARMONTH.**

Their moral and social condition is of the very lowest description; their means of livelihood principally by hunting and fishing. A few of them are employed by the settlers, but their number is small compared with the total in the district. Generally speaking they do not reside more than seven months out of the year with their employers.

**MR. JOHN MAXWELL.**

Their moral and social condition is low, and their means of livelihood (before the reserve was established) by hunting, or furnished by the squatters at the different stations they frequented. A few are employed as stockriders by the squatters for as long as they will remain, but they cannot be relied on for any given term.

**MR. JOHN MANIFOLD.**

Their moral and social condition is bad. Some of the young men are employed by the settlers occasionally, but they are generally averse to remain long in a place.

**MR. G. E. MACKAY.**

Grossly immoral, and their social condition as bad as can be. They have neither clothes nor houses, and, as might be expected, suffer much from pulmonary diseases. They have abundance of food—game, fish, roots, and food from settlers, which they obtain for asking for. They are occasionally employed by settlers, but never remain more than a week or two in any place. They seem impatient of restraint and incapable of any continued exertion.

**MR. CURTIS A. REID.**

Their moral and social condition has never been improved; they are no further advanced in civilization at the present time than they were fifteen years ago, and I am afraid, owing to their stupidity and ignorance, and their great desire for a wandering life, that they will be no further advanced in fifteen years to come. In fact I am of opinion that, in the course of a few years, the race will become almost totally extinct in this district. Some are occasionally employed by the settlers, but they appear to have no energy, and either cannot or will not work, even where good remuneration is offered.

**MR. MORDAUNT MACLEAN.**

Their moral and social condition are both very low; their means of livelihood depend upon the benevolence of the public, and none are employed, to my knowledge, as servants, as they decline altogether to work.

**MR. HUGH L. McLEOD.**

They are a wandering people, and will seldom remain long in any place, though the young and healthy can obtain employment from some of the settlers, also food and wages.

**MR. A. WATSON.**

I consider their moral and social condition at the very lowest possible point, but I think now much worse than before, being brought in contact with the very depraved class of Europeans, servants of the first occupiers of the country.

**MR. J. N. McLEOD.**

I must say their moral and social condition is bad; their means of livelihood is very much by begging and doing a little work at stations. Few I may say do now remain permanently with settlers.

**MR. R. McLACHLAN.**

A few of the younger blacks are employed as stockmen and shepherds, but only for short periods, as they are not disposed to remain long in one place.

**MR. W. McKELLAR.**

Their moral and social condition is, I presume, much the same here as it is elsewhere, not high in the scale. They have no regular means of livelihood, and I know of no aboriginals in this district who are steadily employed by the settlers.

## MR. ANDREW M. MCCRAE.

Their moral and social condition is bad. Their means of living abundant, especially in the sold settled portion of the colony, where the opossum (their favorite food) is more plentiful than it was twenty years ago,—much more plentiful.

## MR. M. O'SULLIVAN.

Very low; their means of livelihood are thieving and opossum hunting. I know of only one boy employed as cowherd; he is said to be the son of Branke, a small chief, who was murdered a few months ago here. This boy has been in the same employ for the last two years.

## MR. DAVID REID.

Moral and social condition of the lowest order. A few employed by settlers; but they seldom stop long in one place; sometimes they are kept for two or three months, but seldom longer.

## MR. J. V. ROBERTSON.

I am told they have no moral feelings, and are nearly as bad as they can be, still they are generally honest and kind towards their friends; they make opossum rugs, baskets, &c., and sell them for drink; will not remain in service for any length of time.

## MR. PHILIP RUSSELL.

Their moral and social condition is very low. Their principal means of livelihood is what they get from the Europeans. There are none employed by the settlers as servants except for a few weeks at sheep shearing.

## MR. F. BYLEY.

With respect to their social condition, seven of them—three men, two women, and two children—live constantly under their bark fence at Curcurrigar-mundgee. Two live at Wanguiderry, the man being employed as stockman, and the others wander about in different localities, but principally in the neighborhood of the public-houses. Jemmy and Sally, before mentioned, are the most regular and settled in the district, living, I believe, the whole year round in a hut.

## MR. F. W. SPIESEKE.

Their moral and social condition is low. They live upon game, herbs, roots, sometimes fishes, but they prefer European food, to which they have become much accustomed; their original food is, in my opinion, getting more and more scanty, except the opossum. Not many are employed as servants by settlers; remain not long at one employment; are chiefly employed during the lambing and wool season.

## MESSRS. C. E. STRUTT AND R. J. GLASS.

Very bad indeed; very degraded with scarcely an exception. They live chiefly on provisions begged from the different stations, when in their vicinity, or on opossums, fish, grubs, and birds, according to the season. A few are employed by the settlers, for a few weeks at a time, as stockmen, and to help at sheep washing. None remain throughout the year.

## MR. JOHN HAMLET TAYLOR.

Their moral and social condition is very low and depraved; drunkenness is very prevalent. They chiefly get their living by making opossum rugs and prostitution. The farmers give constant employment to them, and many are engaged during the wool and potatoe seasons amongst the settlers. Many would be glad to get constant employment of a light nature.

MR. THOMAS, *Guardian*.

I am happy to state of the Yarra tribe, that their moral condition is improved, but the Coast tribe have greatly deteriorated through their having become slaves to ardent spirits; their social condition (if I understand the question), in both tribes, is much improved, and they are faithful in any engagements they make with Europeans. The Coast tribe when not engaged with white people subsist on fish, opossums, and bears &c., so do the Yarra tribe. They have on various occasions been engaged by kind settlers, and might be depended upon, but should a messenger come from another tribe, off they go and leave their master without ceremony. I have known one Kooloorlook to shepherd for eighteen months and his master stated that he had not lost a sheep during the whole time. One of my blacks and his lubra were shepherd and shepherdess for four years to Mr. King, M.L.A. When the gold times commenced, and labor scarce, the Coast blacks with the assistance of their masters got in all the crops by Mount Eliza. The Yarra blacks through the season reaping, &c., for the farmers on the Upper Plenty. The two Melbourne tribes at the present time are always ready as reapers, sheepwashers, &c. The Yarra tribe know how to work by contract. A case occurred up the Plenty two years back; a barn was erected, one Wonga was asked what he would charge for roofing it with bark. He went round the building two or three times, consulted the three blacks with him, and finally said "cut bark where we find good trees, *only cut it*; you cart it away, and white man put bark on, pay us black fellows, two pounds." The same black made a contract with a publican in Richmond for the cutting of bark for the first shanty public-house on Anderson's Creek Diggings; the man did not pay him in full, but deducted for tobacco and other trifles, which the blacks considered as gifts, the blacks came to me; I went to the employer and threatened to issue a summons; the publican then paid the money. I have often in my communications with the Government pressed a code of simple laws to meet aboriginal cases with Europeans. In 1839, on the death of Mr. Batman, who had fifteen Sydney blacks, I drew out agreements for and articulated some for six months. (Sir George Gipps highly commended my plan, and through his Secretary, E. Deas Thomson, Esq., conveyed his approbation). After three months a squatter enticed one away and broke his agreement. I had him up, and the magistrates dismissed the case on the ground that the blacks did not understand the agreements: the consequence was that all the others bolted from their employ.

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## MR. W. S. URQUHART.

They are generally honest, very lazy, fond of drinking and smoking. I have not been able to ascertain in any case that there existed any sense of religion, (except in the observance of their superstitions at corrobories). Their social condition is of the lowest, and at the gold fields they are freely supplied with drink, which of course tends to debase them and destroy their constitution, the men make a living by stripping bark from trees for the roofs of huts, and by cutting wood, and doing domestic drudgery for a few days, about hotels and stations. They too frequently get paid in drink for these services, the women wash, and make baskets, nets, and opossum rugs. It is a painful, but well known fact, that about townships and gold fields prostitution is their too frequent mode of obtaining a livelihood, as a proof many of the children are half-castes.

On cattle stations they are sometimes employed as stockriders, there are very few who live permanently at any place for more than two or three months, and I know of no instance where any of them have remained without taking occasional visits to corrobories, or going away for a few weeks. They are good stockriders, and as such, can earn good wages. They are sometimes useful in gardening, but cannot be entrusted with the care of flocks of sheep.

## MR. A. WATSON.

I consider their moral and social condition at the very lowest possible point, but I think *now* infinitely worse than before, by being brought into contact with the very depraved class of Europeans, servants of the first occupiers of the country.

## MR. CHARLES WATKINS.

Prostitution is common among them with the Europeans. They go about the diggings cutting wood and getting bark, and are employed by the settlers for a few weeks in the year sheep washing. I do not know any that remain permanently in any employment.

## REV. J. Y. WILSON.

Their moral and social condition has been but little, if at all, improved since the arrival of the white man. Their means of livelihood precarious; a few obtain regular wages as stockmen or bullock drivers. I know of one or two to live at one station for several years regularly.

## MESSES. WILSON, ELLERMAN, AND OFFICER.

Their moral and social condition could not be lower, and has been caused principally by the excessive use of intoxicating liquors. Those who keep about the stations subsist almost entirely on European food received from the settlers; the old men catch game, which is very plentiful, and indeed on the increase. Many are employed as shepherds, stockriders, &c., but never for a very long period; there are a few exceptions, and these have been known to remain on a station for years.

## MR. J. W. WYSELASKIE.

Moral and social condition very much to be deplored; drunkenness and immorality almost generally prevail. Means of livelihood: no settled means, principally by begging; are willingly employed by settlers, who readily give them work, and wages from 8s. to 10s. per week, with rations, &c.; never remain a whole year—seldom longer than two months.

5. *Whether or not means have been used to impart religious, moral, or secular instruction; and if so, with what success?*

The settlers generally concur in stating that measures have seldom been used to impart instruction of any kind, and that when attempts have been made they have most often failed. In some cases the children have readily received instruction; but as they became older their indolence and carelessness prevented anything like permanent improvement.

6. *Whether or not they have recourse to medical assistance in sickness; and whether or not, in your opinion (having regard to their habits), such assistance would be generally beneficial?*

The majority of the Honorary Correspondents state that medical assistance is of little avail except in extreme cases, where the patient is prostrate. In many instances the native doctor is called in, who, by charms and the use of native herbs, induces the blacks to believe that their diseases may be cured. Unless the patient is quite removed from the influence of his tribe the European physician it appears is of little use.

10. *What means would you suggest for adoption as most likely to be beneficial to the natives of your district?*

## MESSES. G. ARMYTAGE AND SON.

More stringent measures to prevent them obtaining intoxicating drinks. Any licensed victualler selling them spirits should be deprived of his license, or any other person supplying them should be severely punished, if detected. We attribute the rapid decrease of the aborigines in a great measure to the too frequent and immoderate use of intoxicating liquors.

## MR. R. BURKE.

The only other means which I would suggest for the advantage of the natives would be to grant a portion of land to two of the natives who are steady, with a view of ascertaining whether they could be induced to cultivate it. Twenty acres would be sufficient, and instead of the fee simple they should receive a lease for life, without power to sublet.



## MR. P. CRAUNCY.

I would particularly submit to the Board that any attempts to materially change the habits of the adult aborigines will prove futile, and that the following are, in my opinion, the chief means which should be resorted to to better their condition.

1. Inducements, such as food and clothing, should be offered to keep them away from diggings' townships and public-houses.

2. The law as regards offences should be rendered more stringent and operative than it is.

I would propose to carry out these means as follows: 1st. A suitable site for a station and reserve should be selected, having regard in the first place to its distance from any white population, and secondly to the surrounding country affording an average supply of game and fish, and not being required for sale or for any more important purpose.

The Board of Land and Works might recommend that a temporary reserve of, say sixteen square miles, be set apart for the aborigines, within which no land would be sold nor occupation license granted, excepting that already held by the licensee of the run in which such reserve occurred, who might continue to depasture his cattle or sheep over the ground, but not be allowed to have or erect any shepherd's hut or other building thereon, or to interfere with the peaceable occupancy of the land by the natives, who on their part would not be likely to disturb his cattle.

I enclose a tracing showing a locality about thirteen miles below Murchison, on the Toolamba run, which might probably be found to be an eligible site; but not having lately visited that part of the country, I am not prepared to say whether any local objection exists to its being so set apart. I would recommend that within this reserve, in a suitable position near the river, four or five good pise huts be erected near each other, one as a residence for the "Guardian of Aborigines," one for a storehouse, and the others as quarters for the natives.

The success of the establishment, would, I believe, mainly depend upon the choice of a suitable person as guardian, and I would urge that unless this be made a first consideration all other means will prove ineffectual. He should be a married man, of energy and great benevolence of character and imbued with a missionary spirit. His duties would be to take an active and intelligent interest in the welfare of the natives, to keep a school for the children, and to superintend the weighing out by a native assistant of the rations.

A garden and paddock should be kept and if *properly managed* many of the natives would work in it with sufficient regularity to supply the establishment with vegetables and perhaps wheat, to be ground into flour by a hand mill and thus lessen the cost of rations.

Attempts have often been made at various native establishments in Australia with more or less success to induce the young natives to marry and settle down. This result should of course be perseveringly aimed at in the system of education pursued, but I am not at present prepared to offer any definite suggestions. Several girls (aborigines) have been married in Western Australia to Europeans and have been calculated to make them much better wives than the majority of immigrant girls.

Hints on the best methods of reclaiming the juvenile natives might be obtained from the records of the schools at Port Lincoln, Perth, Albury, &c. Having myself brought up and educated an aboriginal boy from the time he was six years old, I found that it conduced greatly to his habits of regularity and cleanliness to make him wash himself all over at a stated time every morning. I am however of opinion that no attempt will prove entirely successful unless the children be completely separated from their own people, by sending them to the school at Bombay or some other place where colored children were taught and the climate was suitable.

If any of the natives absented themselves from the station I have proposed on the Goulburn for more than two days at a time, the ration might be withheld, as a punishment, until the truants had presented themselves after their return morning and evening for two successive days.

The Goulburn river, not as yet being navigated, abounds with fish, and its swamps and lagoons with wabbees or crayfish. Since the Murray has been navigated by steamers, the natives have found it scarcely possible to catch fish, heretofore, their chief means of support. A native of the Moira tribe, who rode up the Murray with me last November, informed me of the intention of himself and five other aborigines to proceed as a deputation to His Excellency the Governor to request him to impose a tax of £10 on each steamer passing up and down the Murray, to be expended in supplying food to the natives in lieu of the fish which had been driven away.

3. In order to render the law effective, I would recommend, first, that it be altered. By 13 Victoria, No. 29, clause 47, any person supplying an aboriginal with spirituous or fermented liquors is liable to a penalty not exceeding £5: I would make this £10 nor more than £25, or imprisonment in default of payment, and in the case of a publican, in addition to the penalty, his license should imperatively be taken from him. I would suggest, secondly, that a reward of £10 be given to any member of the police force, or other person, giving such information as would lead to the conviction of any person supplying a native with intoxicating drink of any kind, *whether such native was made drunk or not*.

The greatest punishment allowed by law should be inflicted on men convicted of abusing native women. A fortnight ago, when I was at Rushworth, a white man had just been sentenced to 3 months imprisonment for abusing an *old* native woman. She had been made helplessly drunk, and then five men abused her so as nearly to cause her death: she could scarcely crawl into court the next day: this is no uncommon case. I was informed that a native woman lately died at Whroo, from the abuse she received from a number of white men.

I subjoin a rough estimate of the cost of such an establishment as that proposed above, and which could also be made available for more distant tribes.

FIRST COST.				£
Erection of five pise huts, say	...	...	...	350
Furniture and implements	...	...	...	50
Garden fence	...	...	...	30
30-acre paddock fence	...	...	...	100
Purchase of four acres	...	...	...	40
				<hr/>
				£770
				<hr/>
ANNUAL COST OF MAINTENANCE.				£
Salaries of the guardian and wife	...	...	...	350
Rations	...	...	...	400
				<hr/>
				£750





Ms. JOHN L. CURRIE.

I can only state generally that the only method I could suggest of enabling them to pass the few remaining years they may have to exist with some degree of comfort, would be to collect them into one locality at the beginning of winter, where they would be under police supervision; to erect a building in which they could lodge, and have a supply of warm clothing, and a regular supply of food issued to them. From their improvident habits they suffer extremely during the winter months from cold, and often, it is to be feared, also from hunger. They are incapable of any employment that requires constant application. To fix, or rather attempt to fix them permanently to any particular spot would, I believe, so interfere with their natural migratory habits as to defeat the object in view, and if enforced would, I believe, prove a cruelty in place of a kindness.

MR. CECIL P. COOKE.

Clothing as above, and flour and sugar distributed among them now and then in small quantities, otherwise they would sell it for spirits; but there are exceptions amongst them who seldom if ever get drunk, and work very well, but only for short intervals.

MR. DAVID EDGAR.

To carry out any plan of assistance to answer the benevolent intentions of the Board towards the Aborigines their own habits must as much as possible be met, and the most feasible that suggest itself to me would be to appoint the local bench, with a few others, a sub-Board, the clerk of the bench Government storekeeper.

The sub-Board should order the distribution of stores, &c., to such stations where natives frequent, and where the owners would undertake the distribution amongst the natives; discretionary power should be given to such to give or withhold as circumstances required, making returns at stated times to the clerk of the bench, who should do all Government correspondence.

The natives have always been in the habit of looking to settlers, or, as they say, "Big one masters," for help in distress, and would attend to their commands or advice more naturally than to any one else; and settlers, on their part, I feel certain would cheerfully give their aid to carry into effect any such scheme, having for its object the amelioration of the condition of the fast failing and too long neglected race.

The medical men of this district, Doctors Sutherland and Molloy, would, I feel certain, for small consideration, undertake the medical department.

The Board might also request the clergymen of the district to take any opportunity of giving religious instruction.

MR. THOMAS FENTON.

They require to be fed and clothed, and have medical aid when required.

MR. LEWIS GILLES.

The formation of a dépôt in connection with an already existing Government establishment, at which they could receive occasional supplies of stores, and make their wants known. The moral condition of the young half-caste and other natives could only be bettered by their entire separation from their native friends.

MR. HENRY GODFREY.

The most beneficial means for adoption towards the natives of this district (and I should say of any other), would be to enact and carry out the most stringent regulations preventing them from entering any diggings, or being in the neighborhood of any bush public-house, perhaps on the latter head a more forcible clause with a heavier penalty on publican's for giving them, directly or indirectly, intoxicating liquors, would be most desirable; this in addition to the regular distribution of the before named stores in the manner suggested, is, in my experience, and to the best of my belief, the greatest boon that could be conferred on these wretched creatures.

MR. JAMES D. L. HAUGHTON.

An influential and highly respectable squatter, a justice of the peace, informs me that there are thirty natives of the Omeo tribe on the River Murray, a burden and a complete nuisance to all the settlers. I believe that, if blankets, tea, and sugar were allowed them, they would return and settle down on the Omeo Plains. I may mention that two of the Omeo tribe have been most useful to Government in tracking horse stealers, &c., and one man, "Omeo Tommy," was the sole means of the capture of the murderers of Mr. Green, who were executed in Melbourne some ten months ago. I am most anxious that an allowance of blankets, tea, sugar, &c., be granted by the Central Board to the aborigines of this district.

MR. G. D. HEDLEY.

In recommending a reserve I think the conferring upon me such powers as might protect the reserve from trespass, and the means of furnishing them with seeds for cultivation and implements, and above all the erection of an open shed for them to live in (they would not occupy a house closed on all sides), to protect them from wet weather, which is a cause of great mortality among them, would be the most likely means of benefiting them, and of preserving this little remnant of their race from utter extermination.

MR. C. W. HUGHES.

The only means I can suggest for benefiting them is to induce them to part with their children and educate them in Melbourne. This, however, could only be accomplished by mild measures, and would only succeed in a few instances. For some years I have been hoping to accomplish good in this way by getting one of the men in my service to marry and settle regularly, and then bring up the children; but hitherto I have failed, as the tribe always get them away when they marry. One boy has, however, recently returned with his wife, and I still hope I may succeed.

I would strongly recommend that the police be instructed to enforce the 47th section of the Publicans' Act, and that the presence of blacks in towns and on the diggings should be discouraged as much as possible, by putting them in the lock-up whenever they have a chance of doing so. This may seem harsh, but I am satisfied that it will be for their real good, as any one must admit who has seen them about the small townships and diggings.

**MR. HUGH JAMIESON.**

A judicious distribution of food and clothing, as already named, and I believe a moderate sum of money might be well spent in paying for the services of a medical man in certain cases where the natives will appreciate his services and follow his directions—such payments only to be made upon the certificate of a magistrate.

**MR. H. B. LANE.**

I hardly know what to suggest to prevent (what seems but too probable) the total extinction of the aborigines in this neighborhood in the course of a few years. I believe they are kindly treated at the stations where they generally resort, but from all accounts their numbers are diminishing with fearful rapidity, and there does not seem to be the proper proportion of infants to keep the race duly replenished.

**MR. J. R. LEARMONTH.**

If found in food and clothing they will be well satisfied.

**MR. JOHN MANIFOLD.**

I cannot suggest any means that would be likely to be so beneficial to the natives as preventing them (if possible) from obtaining intoxicating liquors.

**MR. G. E. MACKAY.**

I should recommend a reserve for the use of the aborigines, which should be on the banks of a river, and remote from a town or public road. It need not be of any great extent, and might be cultivated for their benefit by, or under the superintendence of, a zealous missionary, who, in addition to a moral and Christian training, would also instruct the young in gardening, the cultivation of the vine, &c. The adults might be of use on the farm occasionally as laborers, and should be encouraged to remain by periodical distributions, at short intervals, of tobacco, of which they are immoderately fond, some simple ornaments or articles of dress would be highly prized by the females. Such a mode as I have suggested of ameliorating the condition of these wretched creatures would be inexpensive, for after the first outlay for fences and in cropping the land it would be self-supporting.

The question of expense, however, is a minor matter; it is evidently our duty—a duty too long neglected—to do everything in our power to relieve the temporal wants of these poor people, and to endeavor to make them acquainted with the great truths of the gospel.

**MR. MORDAUNT MACLEAN.**

I can suggest nothing beyond supplying them with blankets, and providing a depôt from which they could obtain a weekly ration upon personal application. I may add, in conclusion, that I have been well acquainted with the aborigines for many years, both in New South Wales and in the Portland Bay district, in this colony, and in the habit of issuing the Government blankets, &c., in both places. In the former colony, in the county of St. Vincent, on the sea coast, the men would have readily, and were competent to perform, any farm work, and a system was introduced of having written agreements, by which the men were enabled to recover wages before the bench of magistrates, and the employers obliged to prove what articles they had furnished on account, with the price of each item. After a time this system worked admirably, as they found they were protected from being defrauded, and were at the same time liable to punishment for absconding or misconduct. This system still continues to act most satisfactorily in the police district of Brouleer. In the district of Portland Bay the aborigines will sometimes shepherd and assist in washing and shearing sheep, and many of them are good stockmen. They may remain sometimes in your service for months, but you cannot depend upon them for a day. From what I have seen of the natives in this neighborhood, I fear it is hopeless to attempt to better their condition—their existence is passed in wandering about, generally in the vicinity of public-houses. They occasionally sell a few fish, or wild fowl, and often perform a "corrobbery" for the amusement of white spectators, after which one of the party carries a hat round to receive contributions, and I believe almost every penny they collect is expended in intoxicating liquors, which they manage to obtain through some means or other.

**MR. H. L. McLEOD.**

I think a missionary ought to be appointed by Government to pay them constant visits, also medical attendance, or the doctor in the district paid by Government for attending them as they are an unhealthy race, for instance there are at present six here ill, for some of whom I have had to obtain medical advice.

**MR. J. N. McLEOD.**

I would recommend a reserve (speaking exclusively of my own district) of say two thousand acres of good rich land, on the banks of the River Fitz Roy, and on the N.W. point of the Mount Clay Range which borders on a forest and heath country extending all the way to the River Glenelg, upwards of twenty miles, where there are plenty of kangaroo and game of all kinds, they can hunt without interfering with anyone; there are also fish in the rivers which they can and do catch in great quantities; in fact, all that they would require would be some tea, sugar, and tobacco, and for the first twelve months flour, after which they should have it of their own growing, if they were supplied with bullocks, dray, ploughs, axes, &c. If any of the churches would appoint a missionary, I would give them the use of this ground and a sufficient sum of money to start them; if not, I think the Government should appoint a superintendent.

**MR. R. McLACHLAN.**

I would suggest that at the different stations where they are in the habit of meeting together, that a supply of flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, pipes, blankets, and tomahawks be distributed among them, and requesting each settler to issue to them as he saw fit, and that a return be sent in every quarter to the Government of the quantities issued.

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## MR. WM. MCKELLAR.

If measures be devised and put in operation for preventing the natives from frequenting the townships, or at all events, from settling in or around them, I think that their benefit would be thereby much subverted, because their facilities for procuring spirituous liquors would be greatly diminished, and temptation to indulgence in them much lessened. The result in all probability, would be, that they would locate themselves on those stations where they found the best treatment, and might in the end render themselves useful in some degree to the settlers. I found this to be the case with regard to some of them previous to the formation of the township of Benalla.

## MR. A. M. MCCRAE.

The aborigines are rapidly disappearing. I can suggest nothing better for them than food and clothing and particularly that a short Act should be passed as soon as possible rendering the giving of any kind of intoxicating drinks to an aboriginal punishable, not by fine, but with three months' imprisonment with hard labor.

The 47th clause of the Licensed Publican's Act, 13 Victoria, No. 29, it will be observed, makes the offence punishable only in the event of the person supplied becoming intoxicated. Publicans and others are allowed to train or accustom the aboriginal to the use of liquor, till the taking of it becomes a habit and the poor creature's ruin is completed. In conclusion, I would beg to call attention to the half-castes—a very interesting race. When police magistrate in Gipps Land, in 1852, I saw one there in her 18th year, who had been taken from her parent—the mother an aboriginal—at 8 or 9 years of age, by an excellent lady, the late Mrs. Davis, of Woodside, in Gipps Land (lost in the *Royal Charter*). This girl was of a good size, well made, and of a very prepossessing appearance. Mrs. Davis had herself given her a good plain education, and had made her, as I was informed, a very efficient house servant.

In the witness-box, where I first saw her, she satisfied me that she was perfectly well acquainted with the obligation of an oath. She gave her evidence honestly and clearly, and in a long and trying cross-examination never once contradicted herself.

As this girl is, I believe, a fair specimen of this race, it is surely most desirable that they should be separated, if possible, from their aboriginal parents and assigned to persons known to and approved of by the Board.

I would not recommend that any of the half-castes should be sent to stations, unless after the strictest enquiry, and then males only.

The females, I would suggest, should be assigned to private families in or near towns, or away from the haunts of the aborigines and the contaminating society of old hands, &c., &c.

## MR. M. O'SULLIVAN.

A strict surveillance over the public-houses, grog-shops, and stores, and the prompt and severe punishment of the offenders. I have not been long enough in this district to answer altogether from personal observation, and am indebted to the old inhabitants for most of the answers and information. Increased vigilance on the part of the police, and prompt punishment to the fullest extent the law allows would materially ameliorate their condition.

## MR. DAVID REID.

Give them good warm clothing in winter, and the advantage of being treated properly in sickness by giving them medical advice and medicines; this in my opinion, is all that can be done.

## MR. J. V. ROBERTSON.

Up to this date the publicans sell drink to the blacks freely; if this could be prevented and a severe punishment inflicted upon any white man buying spirits for them, it would be a great blessing for them.

## MR. PHILIP RUSSELL.

To prevent them getting spirituous liquors on the diggings and townships.

## MR. GEORGE RUSSELL.

I am of opinion, and have always been so, after a residence of upwards of thirty-three years in this district, that the only efficient means of benefiting the aborigines would be to clothe and feed the adults, as they might require assistance in this way, without coercing or controlling in any way their established wandering habits of life, and that the young of both sexes should be removed from their tribe, educated and taught industrious pursuits in establishments for the purpose, situated in a distant part of the country from where they had previously been located. I think from 2 to 12 years of age would be the most suitable time of life to carry out the system if adopted.

## MR. F. W. SPIESEKE.

Considering that they belong to the one great family of mankind, and feeling therefore the same inward want as the rest after something higher than that wherewith they now try to satisfy their craving, the gospel should be preached to them, and that without loss of time, before they disappear; along with that bread should be given them; and being poor and needy should be brought into houses; and being too often denuded should be covered, until by their own industry they can procure this for themselves.

## MESSRS. C. E. STRUTT AND R. J. GLASS.

No means whatever would be of benefit to the natives in improving their condition so long as they can obtain spirits, nor would they improve, even in the absence of spirits, so long as they have full option to attend to instruction or not as they may choose. They have neither the wish nor the application to learn anything requiring much trouble. The half-caste children might possibly be improved, if placed at an early period under European influence exclusively, but if left as at present, to their own inclinations and mode of life without any restriction, the whole race will speedily become extinct. The great difficulty experienced in bringing up and teaching a young aboriginal is occasioned by the interference of the older blacks in taking away their younger relatives from the Europeans who may be endeavoring to educate them. If this interference could be effectually prevented, the efforts of individuals to improve the condition of the young blacks and half-castes might be more successful. It would however be difficult to prevent the older blacks from intimidating those who are under European care, as they would not hesitate to kill those natives who refused to accompany them in their wanderings.

## MR. JOHN HAMLET TAYLOR.

I would suggest the appointment of a gentleman as guardian, who is fully acquainted with their habits, and that he should reside on the reserve set apart for their use, that he should distribute food and clothing, and hold out inducements to those who would wish to engage in cultivating a portion of the reserve. If the officer appointed would take an interest in this employment, I have every hope of success, and from my knowledge of their general dispositions I feel certain many might be made useful members of society.

## MR. W. S. URQUHART.

I would recommend that in the event of a reserve being established that medical aid be dispensed and the young educated and trained to a knowledge of agriculture and simple mechanism; that food and necessary clothing be distributed. Some of the natives display a rude skill in gardening, and an institution of this kind might be made useful and reproductive and a boon to the district by experimental farming and the cultivation of plants and trees likely to suit the large and arid plains which form so conspicuous a feature in the greater part of this district.

I would further suggest that an hospital be erected for their special use, within one mile of the Township of St. Arnaud, containing an area of five acres, and which, from its distance of about ten miles from the settlement I propose, would be well adapted for the sick and infirm from its vicinity to medical attendance, and it is a well known fact that they have an abhorrence of dying at their usual place of abode, this would also show them the benefit of a compliance with the rules of civilization.

## MR. CHARLES WATKINS.

I would specially recommend that the police should have strict orders to carry out the provisions of the Act regarding the sale of intoxicating liquors to them, and that not only publicans but that any individual supplying them should be liable to a fine or imprisonment, on the evidence of the particular native supplied or of other of them who could point out the individual, and also that no publican should be allowed to take a cheque from an aboriginal, which is frequently done in parts of my district, and the unfortunates supplied with liquor. I have seen most disgraceful scenes from drunkenness, both men and women, being sometimes reduced to a state of positive mania, when spending their cheques obtained from the settlers after sheep-washing. The tribes in this district are being quite exterminated by heavy quantities of liquor supplied to them. I hardly ever see them but they are in a state of intoxication.

## MR. A. WATSON.

I consider it an imperative duty on the part of the Government to help to relieve the physical wants of the aborigines. I fear anything more is hopeless; nothing has ever been done by the Government, a disgraceful reflection, if the old protectorate system is excepted, which was and is proved to be an utter squandering of public money without the slightest benefit to the aborigines.

## REV. J. Y. WILSON.

On the reserve build them small but comfortable two-room cottages, themselves being invited to aid in their erection, in order to give them some interest in them; instruct them in making such things as will increase their own comforts. Teach them gradually a knowledge of God the Father as the Great Artificer; teach them when they cut down a tree it is God that made it grow, and gave it for their use; that when they plant a potatoe it is the power of God that makes it grow and bear fruit; when they have begun to acknowledge a God, then gradually unfold his revealed will, first (the account of the creation being explained) the Mosaic law, then the Christian dispensation affectionately applied to them, as well as a white man, I think might effect at least some good, if carried out in the spirit of Christ.

## MESSRS. WILSON, ELLERMAN, AND OFFICER.

If the blacks be well supplied with food and clothing, it would no doubt be the means of making them more comfortable, but no other means will be found more beneficial than the establishment of missions among them. We are of opinion that the Moravian mode of teaching and training is best suited to the comprehension of the aborigines; we would further remark that immediate steps should be taken to prevent the erection of a public-house or store near the present mission ground; parties have applied for an occupation license, and are now about building within eight miles of the Moravian mission; should this be allowed, we feel confident that every endeavor to better the condition of the aborigines will be set at naught, and the recognized usefulness of the mission destroyed, considering that the said mission was located in its present position, that it might be at a distance from public houses, we are of opinion that the missionaries should be protected from such annoyances.

## MR. J. W. WYSELASKIE.

Under the present system of affairs, I am unable to suggest any means, the adoption of which would be beneficial to the blacks in this district, further than those already referred to under question of supplying their bodily wants; as to moral improvement, I cannot see my way to give any opinion on the subject; that must be taken up in another quarter.

7. *Can you give advice or make any suggestions as to the quantity and kind of stores you would recommend to be supplied by the Government for the natives in your neighborhood, and the mode of distribution?*

## MR. JOHN C. AITKEN.

The European ration is, I think, the best ration to give to the natives, and to consist of flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, and soap,—and I would add butcher's meat, which has not been usually given, as the supply of game, kangaroo, is precarious, and becoming more so annually.

## MR. J. M. ALLAN

Recommends that the following stores be distributed annually:—

<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
One blanket,	One blanket.
One suit of woollen clothing.	One loose woollen dress,
One tomahawk,	One woollen petticoat.
One large clasp knife,	One strong hair comb,
One ration of flour to those requiring it.	One package of needles and thread.
	One ration of flour to those requiring it.

Also recommends that the clothing be marked with the broad arrow.



## MESSRS. G. ARMYTAGE AND SON.

We have always thought stores should be provided by the Government for them—say flour, sugar and tea, and rough clothes: they would not require a great quantity, as they are always wandering about the country: but if there were some place that they could procure provisions, it would be a great benefit to them. The mode of distribution is a very difficult matter: the only way we can suggest is through the police.

## MR. P. BEVERIDGE.

I would advise flour, rice, sugar, tea, and tobacco, as also blankets, shirts (serge and cotton), and some kind of coarse warm dresses for the females, to be placed at the various police stations along the river to be distributed by the officer in charge to the sick, old, and children. Be it distinctly understood that I do not recommend the young men as recipients of the stores in question, as they can always get food and clothing, as well as wages if they like to work. Why I propose the police as the distributors of the said stores is because I fear the squatters would have a delicacy in most cases to act.

## MR. R. BURKE.

The best kind of stores to give them, I think, are blankets, guns, powder and shot, medicines, and regular food when they are ill. The supply of blankets should be every winter. Guns ought to last them several years, and, provided they kept their guns and conducted themselves properly, a moderate allowance of powder and shot should be issued.

## MR. P. CHAUNCEY.

A daily ration consisting of, say two pounds of flour, half an ounce of tea, a half-pound of sugar, a sufficient supply of soap, and (if asked for) a small quantity of tobacco, without which they would not remain; and when fish, kangaroos, opossums, and other game were scarce, they might occasionally have a pound of meat each per diem. The children, both pure natives and half-castes, should have half a ration. Blankets and other clothing might be served out at stated intervals.

## MR. GEORGE CHENEERY.

Blankets, blue shirts, and moleskin trousers; also flour, tea and sugar, and tobacco.

## MR. LINDSAY CLARKE.

I consider it would be desirable to issue to the native population twice a year a supply of tea, sugar, flour, blankets, trowsers, and shirts; the distribution to be made at stations as remote as possible from townships.

## MR. CECIL P. COOKE.

I would suggest that good warm blankets be supplied them twice a year, also check shirts and trowsers for the men.

## MR. D. EDGAR.

The kind of stores required would be flour, sugar, tea, trowsers, strong shirts, blankets, belts, pannicans, quart pots, and small tomahawks. About half rations for the whole, if wisely distributed, would make them comparatively comfortable.

## MR. THOMAS FENTON.

The kind of stores required—flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, meat, and blankets; the mode of distribution when required—any resident to supply them when in want.

## MR. LEWIS GILLES.

They seem generally sufficiently clad and well fed; supplies of tea, sugar, and tobacco, with occasional blankets, would probably be more valued than any other stores.

## MR. HENRY GODFREY.

The stores that would place them beyond want, and be amply satisfactory to them, are flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, and pipes. Of clothing—shirts, trowsers, and blankets, also tomahawks; 5 lbs. flour, 1 lb. sugar, and 4 oz. of tea, per adult, per week, would be a liberal and charitable allowance from the Government, if disposed to make it. As to the mode of distribution there is some difficulty; the only suggestion I can make is, that whatever is intended to be given to them by Government be sent to each of the abovenamed station occupiers for distribution, in the ratio of four men to each station, there being nine stations. The whole would get relief, and I have no doubt that none of the abovenamed squatters would object to incur any little trouble or inconvenience attendant on such an arrangement. This would be the more desirable system, because, in conformity with their roving tastes, they would then be sure of a supply of food for four of them at any one of such localities, whenever their hunting or other pursuits induced them to change their temporary abode, without which freedom to rove they would soon sicken and die.

## MR. JAMES HAMILTON.

I would recommend coarse blankets for all, and flour, tea, and sugar to be distributed amongst the old and the sick.

## MR. G. D. HEDLEY.

I would strongly urge the claim these poor creatures have to an immediate supply of clothing. If a supply of blankets were forwarded to me I would be responsible for their proper distribution. I also think that the men should be furnished with guernsey shirts and duck trowsers; the women with guernsey shirts in addition to the blankets.

## MR. CHARLES W. HUGHES.

This is a broad question. What good can we do by making them beggars? I think none. Their wants are few and easily supplied, and I believe all that like to work are readily employed, and I think we do them more good by letting them work and encouraging them to do so. A few slops and a little flour, tea, and sugar, for the old, helpless, and sick, is all that I would recommend; and I will willingly undertake the distribution in this neighborhood.



**MR. H. JAMIESON.**

I would recommend a judicious distribution of ordinary rations, flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, &c., with good blankets and winter clothing to the aged, the infirm, and the young, when required; also rewards for meritorious acts, such as saving anyone from drowning, or for diving for the purpose of recovering the bodies of drowned men. In these cases the assistance of blacks is invaluable. As a magistrate I have always made a point of rewarding the natives well for such services. Numbers of lives are lost annually in the Murray and Darling rivers.

**MR. HENRY B. LANE.**

It would be useless to issue any greater quantity of stores to them than would last for more than the time they remained in one locality. If there were an annual gathering, fixed to take place say at the Little River, near Leigh's Punt, and the natives were to be attracted to it by presents of clothing, &c., it would at least enable statistical information of the various tribes to be obtained, and absentees would have to be accounted for, &c.

**MR. THOMAS LUMSDEN.**

I am of opinion that blankets, clothes, and rations would have the best tendency towards their social condition; and if it were deemed expedient, the best mode of distribution would be at the residence of a settler, say four or five miles distant from a township.

**MR. JOHN MANIFOLD.**

Blankets, blue shirts, and trowsers would be most conducive to the comforts of the natives, distributed once or twice in the year.

**MR. G. E. MACKAY.**

I am not in a position to offer any suggestion as to the quantity of stores; but the articles more immediately required are blankets, tomahawks, fishing lines and hooks, flour, tea, and sugar. Distribution might be made by police magistrates.

**MR. MORDAUNT MACLEAN.**

Blankets, with a proportionate supply of flour, tea, sugar, and tobacco.

**MR. H. L. McLEOD.**

I would suggest that the old and sick should be supplied with clothing, blankets, and food necessary for invalids, besides the usual rations.

**MR. J. N. McLEOD.**

If the aborigines remain as they are, I know no other plan than sending blankets each year to different police stations for distribution among them; also tea, sugar, flour, and tobacco.

**MR. R. McLACHLAN.**

I would suggest a white man's weekly ration of flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, and meat, be given to every adult while living at their favorite places of resort, and also a pair of blankets each once a year; and I am strongly of opinion it would be the means of prolonging their lives and make them in a measure contented and happy.

**MR. W. MCKELLAR.**

If by stores in this query be meant food or ordinary provisions, I would recommend flour, tea, and sugar as weekly rations. If stores include clothing, in addition, I would further recommend good comfortable blankets.

**MR. ANDREW M. MCCRAE.**

Tea, sugar, flour, and animal food, the quantity not to be a full ration except to the aged, sick, and helpless. For clothing, I believe the blanket to be most prized. The distribution of supplies to be made on the reserve of course, where the superintendent knows the habits of his charges would be able to distribute more judiciously than a stranger.

**MR. CURTIS A. REID.**

I should recommend flour, tea, sugar, and tobacco, as these are the items most eagerly sought after by the natives. I would also recommend two pairs of blankets annually for each adult, and one for each of the children, as to all appearance they suffer most from cold and wet. I should think that the best method of distributing such supplies would be through the agency of the police.

**MR. DAVID REID.**

Send by all means blankets, large and small sizes, also cotton shirts and moleskin trowsers, and the sooner the better, for the winter is all but over.

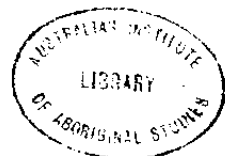
**MR. PHILIP RUSSELL.**

The best kind of stores I would recommend to be supplied by the Government would be blankets, slop clothing, flour, tea and sugar, and the mode of distribution by a respectable storekeeper in the neighborhood, to be regulated by a few of the respectable inhabitants.

**MR. J. V. ROBERTSON.**

If three tons of flour, quarter of a ton of sugar, one box tea, a proportionate allowance of beef and a little tobacco were distributed yearly to the Connewarre blacks, it would certainly ameliorate their condition greatly. One blanket for each every two years, a moderate allowance of shirts, jumpers, trowsers, and hats of some kind for the men, with material for clothing for the women would also be most acceptable as well as the very necessary addition of houses.

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**MR. F. W. SPIESEKE.**

Flour, sugar, tea, tobacco, blankets and clothing for both sexes; and in order to induce them to settle down and lead a civilized life, they should be aided in the making of a comfortable home by giving them articles and materials essential to it. As to quantity one pound of flour for the day is I think not too much, the other rations should be in proportion. As to the mode of distribution, in their present state it must be given to them daily, otherwise if had all at once they would next day be without anything. It would be well to have a mess room where they should assemble at the same table, excepting the old, sick, and the children; they should be made to work for this in order to discourage idleness. The work done should be directed to their own benefit by building huts, laying out gardens, &c.

**MESSRS. C. E. STRUTT AND R. J. GLASS.**

A few articles might be placed under the charge of the police for the use of the sick. Any other articles given to the blacks would immediately be sold for spirits.

**MR. JOHN HAMLET TAYLOR.**

I would recommend stores as follows: tea, sugar, flour, soap, salt meat, and blankets, to be distributed by the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the District.

**MR. THOMAS, *Guardian*.**

The Yarra and Coast tribes have been supplied for years, by an arrangement between Mr. La Trobe and myself, in order to prevent the five distant tribes from thronging Melbourne, and my impression is, that it has not cost Government for the Yarra and Coast tribes £80 per annum. I formed two depôts, one at Mount Disappointment and the other at Moody Yallock, after a consultation with the blacks themselves. The arrangement has been successful and the metropolis freed from the frequent visits of upwards of 700 blacks with their dogs.

**MR. W. S. URQUEART.**

The quantity of stores and mode of distribution would be for further consideration, sugar they are very fond of. The usual kind of rations of the settlers, namely, tea, flour, sugar, and beef or mutton, is the only fare of which they have much experience. They prefer mutton or beef, when they can get it, to the wild animals and birds which they hunt. They make constant use of tobacco.

**MR. A. WATSON.**

I think a supply of blankets, large shirts, twilled shirts, boots, &c., should be placed at the disposal of respectable persons in a number of different localities in each district, and I have no doubt settlers or their superintendents would willingly undertake the duty of distributing, but all articles should be distinctly marked in such a way as to prevent the natives from disposing of them for grog or being plundered by the white man in exchange for valueless trash.

**MR. CHARLES WATKINS.**

I think that flour and blankets, also some warm clothing should be placed at the disposal of some responsible person in the district, (especially during the winter months), and that he should be empowered to procure some meat and vegetables to be issued at his discretion. That all blankets and clothing should be so marked as to be easily identified and a severe penalty inflicted on any person who was found in possession of such stores.

**THE REV. J. Y. WILSON.**

Tea, sugar, flour, and butcher's meat, slop clothing, and blankets. The distribution should be committed to the magistrates of the district.

**MESSRS. WILSON, ELLERMAN, AND OFFICER.**

We would recommend that stores be left at Veite's station, Mr. Charles Officer's station, and the Missionary station. We have no doubt that two tons of flour, with tea, sugar, and tobacco, &c., in proportion, together with clothing, at the two first-mentioned stations would be sufficient; and eight tons of flour, tea, sugar, tobacco, and clothing at the Mission station would be required annually. The settlers and missionaries could then send in a return, attested by a magistrate, of such supplies issued by them to the natives.

**MR. J. W. WISELASKIE.**

Quantity and kind of Stores.—Blankets, wearing apparel, and provisions. Wearing apparel, such as whites—one blanket and one suit of clothes for each individual per annum. Provisions—7 lb. flour, 10 lb. meat, 2 oz. tea, and 1 lb. sugar each per week. Mode of distribution—send articles to Wickliffe; pay some person, (say storekeeper), to act; give instructions to supply clothing annually, and rations weekly; to keep accounts and furnish returns.

8. *If inducements were offered do you think that the natives would follow pastoral or agricultural pursuits?*

The evidence of the correspondents is conflicting on this point. Some suppose that their indolence and carelessness would prevent their following any pursuit requiring attention and labor: others believe that they would readily engage in agriculture if facilities were offered.

9. *Would you recommend a reserve for the use of the aborigines; if so, to what extent, and in what part of your locality?*

Some of the correspondents have recommended reserves and these have been in many cases proclaimed: others state that reserves are unnecessary.

## APPENDIX No. 3.

## REPORTS ON THE DISEASES OF THE ABORIGINES.

SIR,

District Police Court,  
Melbourne, 8th November, 1860.

I have the honor to forward reply to your communication of the 13th ultimo, touching the diseases most common to aborigines and mortality among them.

1. Although the aborigines of this colony are liable to the usual diseases of Europeans, I invariably found years back that they seldom had the common diseases, as rheumatism, &c., to the extent Europeans have. Yet, I may state that eight-tenths of the mortality among the aborigines of Victoria arises through intemperance, bringing on pulmonary disorders, pleurisy, pneumonia, disorders of the chest, consumption, &c., which carries them off so speedily that the ablest medical treatment when available seldom saves them. I may safely state, that when their respiratory organs are once affected, recovery becomes hopeless. I have witnessed this so invariably within the last ten years, as to look forward for death as soon as they are afflicted in the chest.

2. The aborigines, however, were not so affected in their respiratory organs years back as at present; they have only been carried off so precipitately since they have become slaves to intoxicating liquors. I have known blacks years back to labor under diseases of the lungs for nine or more months, but now seldom so many weeks, and often not so many days.

3. There is a peculiarity even in their pulmonary disorders to the European; there is not that straining, distressing cough, which Europeans labor under, the phlegm comes free without much exertion and pain to the invalid, but accompanied with blood.

4. Wounds of whatever kind which do not affect a vital part are more readily cured than white people. I have seen most desperate wounds inflicted by their weapons (that would have kept Europeans for months invalids) healed in an incredible short time, to the astonishment of medical men. Wounds, whether by accident or otherwise, are immediately attended to by their doctors; if in the fleshy part of the body, they suck the blood from the wound, and continue sucking until blood ceases to be extracted; if little blood comes from the wound they know all is not right, and will put the patient to pain by probing the wound with their lancet (a sharp bone), or place the body in that position so to compress the opposite part to force blood; they know well the consequence of stagnant blood or matter, especially in the upper part of the body; when the wound is thoroughly clean, they leave the rest to nature, and place a lump of pridgeory (a kind of wax oozing from trees) on the wound; should there follow a gathering, they open the wound afresh, and see all right, and again cover it over with pridgeory.

5. Their general remedy is friction; if very severe about the thighs or legs, the doctor gets a good mound of hot ashes prepared, made solely from bark which is without grit; the patient is laid on his belly, and the doctor rubs most unmercifully the hot ashes on the part affected as a butcher would in salting meat; if in the thighs or legs, the patient is put into the mound of heated ashes nearly up to his knees, where he sits whilst the doctor is rubbing with hot ashes the parts affected. During this process the doctor is incantating, blowing occasionally a portion of the dust into the air with a hissing noise: when sufficiently operated upon, the invalid is wrapped up in his blanket.

6. The blacks treat boils and swellings thus: when hard, they lotion the part well with decoction of wattle bark; when obstinate, they boil wild marshmallow, and poultice—if it softens and does not break, they apply their sharp bone lancet.

7. The aborigines are deeply afflicted with a disorder called by them bubberum, white men call it itch, but it is in no way like it: it appears as raised dark scabs, and spreads, joining each other, until they cover almost all the lower extremities; it seldom affects the head or upper parts, but I have known it almost cover the thighs and legs so that the afflicted one could with difficulty move about. The native cure for this distemper is every night and morning to grease the parts affected with wheerup (a red ochre) mixed with decoction of wattle bark. I knew one instance of this disease becoming most distressing to a white man, in a respectable position, who was continually cohabiting with black lubras.

8. Through their imprudence and carelessness they often get severe burns, which they cure by dabbing the parts over with melted fat, afterwards dash the parts affected with a puff made of opossum fur and the dust of wheerup.

9. The aborigines of Australia are very subject to dysentery, but not to the fatal extent as Europeans; their remedy for this disorder is drinking plentifully of the decoction of wattle bark and eating gum the day, and pills night and morning made by themselves of wattle bark and gum.

10. If of long standing the patient is compelled to lay on the back, the native doctor places his foot on the patient's ear and presses this organ until water literally gushes from the patient's eyes; however rough the treatment, I have known this operation to give relief, and the patient cured.

11. The blacks study much the color of the spittle in those affected in the lungs, and know well its stages. When the patient begins to expectorate blood, much attention is paid him; should this increase, which is generally the case, the doctors hold a consultation, and when once a consultation is held the doctors will not allow the patient to take any more medicine from the whites. The invalid is laid on his back and held firm by three or four blacks, whilst the native doctor keeps continually pressing with his feet, and even jumping on his belly. I need scarcely state that this cruel practice brings on premature death.

12. Though this disease in the first instance must have been contracted from the whites, the native doctors have prescribed a cure which though simple has proved efficacious: they boil the wattle bark till it becomes very strong, and use it as a lotion to the parts affected. I can state from my own personal knowledge of three Goulburn blacks, having this disease so deeply rooted in them, that the then colonial surgeon, Dr. Cousin, on examining them said life could not be saved unless they entered the Hospital and an operation performed, which they would not consent to; after eighteen months these three blacks returned to Melbourne among the tribes (two were young and the other middle-aged) perfectly cured, and the blacks assured me that they had only used the wattle bark lotion. Dr. Wilmot, our late coroner, also saw these three blacks whilst in this state, and after their soundness, and in his report upon the aborigines stated: "However violent the disease may appear among aborigines that it could not enter into their system, as it did in European constitutions."

13. In the aboriginal primitive state, in times of sickness as influenza or other diseases prevalent, they invariably carried fire about with them wherever they went on thick pieces of bark which they provided for the day's journey.

FEVERS.

14. The aboriginal doctor's treatment in fevers is strictly the cold water system, no matter what kind of fever it may be, accompanied with prohibition of animal food. The doctors have a quantity of water by them, fill their mouths full and spurt it over the whole of the patient's body, back and front, and for a considerable time on the navel, then with their hands throw it over face and breast, then lay the patient on the back, breathe and blow on the navel, incantating continually while operating. If the patient be young, the doctor will carry him and plunge him into the river or creek; the adult patient will voluntarily plunge himself in three or four times a day. The blacks obstinately persist in this mode of treatment, although they find death generally the result. I was not a little surprised to find many years back that this was also the mode of treatment adopted by the natives of the South Sea Islands. I was called to witness their habits, when a party of them were enticed over by the late Mr. Boyd. They were located at Mr. Fennel's (Mr. Boyd's agent), on the banks of the Yarra; as soon as fever attacked them they crept to the banks of the Yarra and plunged themselves in three or four times a day.

15. I attach to this report on the diseases of the aborigines, the opinion of twenty-nine gentlemen, situated in various parts of the colony, who, one and all, bear testimony to the awful mortality among them, the following opinions of the cause:—

Names of the Gentlemen consulted.	Diseases.	Names of the Gentlemen consulted.	Diseases.
Mr. Orr ...	Venereal	Mr. Gilles ...	Intemperance
Mr. Lane ...	Scorbutic	Mr. Strutt ...	Intemperance and violence
Mr. Templeton ...	Intemperance and venereal	Mr. Allan ...	Influenza, inflammation of lungs, venereal
Mr. Sherard ...	Intemperance and exposure	Mr. Godfrey ...	Drunkenness, consumption, venereal
Mr. Shuter ...	Consumption and decline	Mr. Gottreux ...	Bronchitis, affection of the chest
Mr. Wilson ...	Intemperance and exposure	Mr. Currie ...	Pulmonary complaints, intemperance
Mr. Fiske ...	Bronchitis, pericarditis, psoriasis, and intemperance	Mr. Lydiard ...	Syphilis, intemperance, rheumatism
Mr. McLeod ...	Intemperance and exposure	Mr. Stewart ...	Consumption, intemperance
Mr. Ormond ...	Consumption, venereal, intemperance	Mr. Mitchell ...	Pulmonary consumption, venereal
Mr. Cooke ...	Syphilis	Mr. Cooke ...	Consumption, and old age
Mr. Aitken ...	Liver complaints, intemperance, rheumatism	Mr. Huon ...	Influenza, intemperance
Mr. Skeue ...	Syphilis, consumption, rheumatism	Mr. Wills ...	Intemperance, gun shot wounds, venereal
Mr. Beveridge ...	Pulmonary consumption, venereal	Mr. Featherstonhaugh ...	Pulmonary consumption, venereal
Mr. Allen ...	Influenza	Mr. Lewes ...	Atrophy, influenza
Mr. Craig ...	Influenza, consumption, intemperance		

16. A return from a public hospital I deem would be a fair criterion for the Central Board embracing the two points, mortality and disease.

RETURN of Aboriginal Natives admitted into the Melbourne Hospital from 1st January to 8th November, 1860.

Date.	Name.	Tribe.	Disease.	Remarks.
April 17 ...	Tommy Buckley	Gipps Land ...	Burnt back ...	Discharged July 20
July 4 ...	Maria ...	Yarra ...	Pneumonia ...	" " 24
September 14 ...	James Shaw ...	Hopkins River ...	Pleurisy, phthisis ...	Died October 20
" 18 ...	Sandy ...	Sydney ...	Pneumonia and phthisis ...	" September 25
October 30 ...	Tommy Buckley	Gipps Land ...	Pleurisy and phthisis ...	" November 2
" 30 ...	Tommy Mannering	Yarra ...	Pneumonia and phthisis ...	" " 7

Four deaths and two discharged.

RETURN showing the number of Aboriginal Natives who have died in the Yarra and Western Port Districts, from the 1st April, 1839, to the 31st December, 1859, distinguishing sexes, tribes, &c.

	YARRA Tribe.		Western Port Tribe.		Other Tribes journeying.		Total.		Grand Total.	Remarks.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
From 1st April, 1839, to 1st March, 1840	4	1	4	3	2	1	10	5	15	1 murdered.
" 1st March, 1840, to 1st March, 1841	1	0	1	1	4	0	6	1	7	2 murdered; 1 shot himself; 2 shot by authorities; 1 died in gaol.
" 1st March, 1841, to 1st March, 1842	6	3	1	2	5	2	12	7	19	2 murdered; 2 died of grief; 1 after leg amputated; 2 executed.
" 1st March, 1842, to 1st March, 1843	4	2	1	1	2	0	7	3	10	1 executed.
" 1st March, 1843, to 1st March, 1844	2	5	3	3	2	2	7	10	17	1 died by violence.
" 1st March, 1844, to 1st March, 1845	1	1	1	4	3	3	5	8	13	1 murdered; 1 died by wounds.
" 1st March, 1845, to 1st June, 1846	5	3	0	1	3	1	8	5	13	
" 1st June, 1846, to 1st June, 1847 ...	1	4	2	0	5	0	8	4	12	2 executed.
" 1st June, 1847, to 1st June, 1848 ...	0	4	7	3	2	1	9	8	17	
" 1st June, 1848, to 1st June, 1849 ...	2	2	3	1	3	2	8	5	13	1 murdered.
" 1st June, 1849, to 31st Dec., 1849 ...	4	7	2	0	4	5	10	12	22	
" 1st Jan., 1850, to 31st Dec., 1850 ...	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	2	4	2 murdered by Gipps Land blacks.
" 1st Jan., 1851, to 31st Dec., 1851 ...	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	1 spared in drunken fray.
" 1st Jan., 1852, to 31st Dec., 1852 ...	2	0	3	1	5	1	10	2	12	5 murdered; 1 through intemperance.
" 1st Jan., 1853, to 31st Dec., 1853 ...	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	
" 1st Jan., 1854, to 31st Dec., 1854 ...	1	0	0	1	2	0	3	1	4	1 murdered in a drunken row; 1 intemperance.
" 1st Jan., 1855, to 31st Dec., 1855 ...	0	0	3	1	2	0	5	1	6	1 poisoned while drunk; 1 intemperance.
" 1st Jan., 1856, to 31st Dec., 1856 ...	0	0	2	1	3	2	6	2	8	2 through intemperance; 1 supposed poisoned.
" 1st Jan., 1857, to 31st Dec., 1857 ...	1	0	2	1	1	0	4	1	5	1 Murray River black through intemperance.
" 1st Jan., 1858, to 31st Dec., 1858 ...	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	3	
" 1st Jan., 1859, to 31st Dec., 1859 ...	1	1	1	0	3	0	5	1	6	2 suddenly intoxicated; 1 Collingwood Stockade.
							129	81	210	

RETURN showing the number of Aboriginal Natives born in the Yarra and Western Port Districts, from the 1st April 1839, to the 31st December, 1859.

	Yarra Tribe.		Western Port Tribe.		Other Tribes wandering.		Total.		Grand Total.	Remarks.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
From 1st April, 1839, to 1st March, 1840	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	3	
" 1st March, 1840, to 1st March, 1841	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	
" 1st March, 1841, to 1st March, 1842	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	
" 1st March, 1842, to 1st March, 1843	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	
" 1st March, 1843, to 1st March, 1844	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
" 1st March, 1844, to 1st March, 1845	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
" 1st March, 1845, to 1st June, 1846	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	
" 1st June, 1846, to 1st June, 1847 ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
" 1st June, 1847, to 1st June, 1848 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
" 1st June, 1848, to 1st June, 1849 ...	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	3	
" 1st June, 1849, to 31st Dec., 1849 ...	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	4	
" 1st Jan., 1850, to 31st Dec., 1859 } the last 10 years ...	2	3	1	2	0	0	3	5	8	
							11	17	28	

(Signed)

W. THOMAS,  
Guardian of Aborigines.



Church Mission Station, Yelta, Lower Murray.  
29th November, 1860.

GENTLEMEN,

In reply to the communication of your secretary bearing date the 15th October, I have the honor to inform you that I have no statistics of the diseases prevalent amongst the aborigines; of ten that have died here during the last four years, there have died of consumption, three; of debility and purulent scabies, one; inflammation of lungs, one; hardening of the stomach, one; venereal &c., one; old age, two; and one from a spear wound. The three first were men, the second a boy, the others women, with the exception of the one speared who was an elderly man.

I do not feel qualified to draw up a special report upon the subject, but for the information of your Board, will mention the diseases which I have observed to be most prevalent amongst the aborigines in this district.

I will first state that the treatment I adopt is the homoeopathic, the medicines being administered in a solution of the tincture or the crude drug in suitable doses. In all curable cases this treatment has been invariably successful, and in the face of many disadvantages, smoking, unsuitable diet, and such like.

The medical treatment the aborigines get generally is very little. At the various stations salts is the almost universal remedy for all their complaints, and I doubt not, is often the source of much after suffering to them, producing hæmorrhoid, &c.

Inflammation of the lungs is of frequent occurrence, and when not fatal in itself, is generally the commencement of pulmonary affections, which terminate fatally after a year or two of lingering sickness.

The violent exertion they undergo at corrobories, combined with sleeping upon wet ground, causes them to take cold, which generally produces inflammation of the lungs; this affection being more frequent in the summer, when they make their camps upon the flooded ground, and sleep upon it almost as soon as the water is off—the coolness and moisture being grateful to them at the time; this I think is one fruitful cause of their sicknesses. Influenza is prevalent amongst them at times, generally at the commencement of winter and at its close. It has proved fatal in several cases, where it has been combined with inflammation of the lungs, enlargement of the liver. I have known a few cases, which terminated fatally in each instance.

Dropsy is not unfrequent, I know of one case in which the woman after lying for some months very ill and becoming of a great size, recovered; and is now her usual size and free from the disease, as she was not at this station I had no opportunity of administering medicine to her. A man died of this complaint a few months since, about twenty miles above Euston.

Heart disease.—Two men died last summer at a station on the Darling, and their deaths were attributed to this disease.

Apoplexy.—I have known one well marked instance, and the two cases above mentioned may have been similar instances. Sudden deaths are not unfrequent.

Paralysis is not uncommon. I know of two instances in this neighborhood, both men, who lost the use of one side and the power of speech. The one recovered his speech after a few months, and, later, the use of his limbs. The other is still speechless, and his leg and side are quite paralysed. Another instance, which occurred about two years ago, was a young man at this station who was suddenly paralysed in one arm, and lost both hearing and speech, but in about a month fully recovered without any medical treatment, and he has had no repetition of the attack.

Rheumatism is very common: I think very few are free from it. I have afforded them temporary relief at times by giving them an embrocation of turpentine and oil.

Diarrhœa, which sometimes results in dysentery, is at times prevalent, especially at the time when certain native berries are in season. The usual homoeopathic remedies have invariably counteracted the disease.

Chronic Diarrhœa.—I have met with several instances which, from the irregularity of the patients' diet and other causes, have been very difficult to cure. These complaints, combined with the very injudicious and frequent use of salts, are the fearful cause of hæmorrhoids.

Skin Disease (a virulent pustular scabies) is very common, and often very troublesome. It generally succumbs to sulphur, or, in very severe cases, to sulphur and mercury. This complaint, when combined with a weakly state of body, sometimes proves fatal: it then forms a crust over the whole skin, and is exceedingly painful and itchy, and is accompanied with fever. I know one case, a weakly boy of about twelve years of age, in which death ensued from its effects. It arises principally from filth, and is propagated by contact.

Hardening and Enlargement of the Stomach.—This is a disease that appears to be peculiar to this people: the stomach becomes perfectly hard; at first it feels about the size of the fist, but it gradually enlarges to a great size—the limbs and body waste away to a mere skeleton—the appetite is voracious, with a great craving for meat, though the patient is able to eat but little at a time, and the food seems to afford no nourishment—great debility ensues—and the patient dies after lingering perhaps a year, or even two. I have not been able to find a cure for it, though I have often relieved it for a time by the use of medicine and nourishing diet. A medical friend has treated one case by the external application of iodine with some little benefit, but without effecting a cure,—the patient, I hear, is now near death. He pronounces the complaint incurable. Men and women are alike subject to it; the cases I have met with have been persons in the prime of life. No *post-mortem* examination has been made in any case, so that little is known of the peculiar features of the disease, or its cause. It would be interesting and useful to anatomize a case, but I fear the prejudices of the people would be opposed to anything of the kind.

Venereal is not so frequent amongst the men as is generally supposed, I have seen very few cases, but I believe many of the young women, and even girls are afflicted with it. I have seen on the Darling several severe cases. The young women and girls are sought after by the white men, who suffer very severely for their folly and wickedness. The women when very bad, abstain from animal food, and live chiefly on vegetable diet, and generally get round after a short time, though I should not say that they were cured. They rarely apply for medicine for it, except in very severe cases.

In conclusion I would remark that the sexual excess which the present generation of Aborigines indulge in renders them weak in constitution and deficient in stamina, and consequently more liable to disease and less able to bear it. The present generation is not equal to the former; the old people are finer, stronger, and better able to endure fatigue; as one remarked to me a short time since, "in former

times, before whitefellow come, blackfellow could run like emu; but now, supposing big one run, then big one tired, and plenty heart jump about: not always like that blackfellow.

Many of their best customs and most stringent rules, in regard to the young people, have been weakened and broken by the introduction of the evil habits of vicious white men; and the young men being more intelligent, pay less regard to the old men, and follow their own sexual desires to the full extent. The young women are even more sensuous, and reckless of future consequences.

I am not aware that complaints common to Europeans exhibit any marked difference upon the aboriginal constitution.

The universal belief that all sickness is caused by witchcraft worked by one of another tribe has often an injurious effect, and I think sometimes hastens the disease to a fatal termination.

Trusting these few remarks will be useful to your Board, in assisting them to reply to the questions of the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

I have, &c.,

THOS. HILL GOODWIN.

Acheron Aboriginal Station,  
31st January, 1861.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant, and hasten to inform you that I have filled up the return you sent me, as far as it lay in my power.

Since my appointment as superintendent of this establishment, in April, 1859, it has been my desire to instruct the natives, and particularly the young, under my care; and although I have done so at intervals, still I did not succeed in forming a regular school until the 27th of last November, in consequence of the want of a house, books, stationery, pictures, &c.; and although there are a number of children on the station at present, the majority of the young men and children have not returned since the removal of the station to some four miles higher up on the Acheron River. The house which I now use for a school-room was a stable, which I had cleaned and fitted up for that purpose; the blacks attend very regularly, and are anxious to gain information, but their knowledge at present is but trifling.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT HICKSON.

E. Brough Smyth, Esq.,  
Melbourne.

## APPENDIX No. 4.

DISTRIBUTION OF STORES FOR THE USE OF THE ABORIGINES BY THE  
CENTRAL BOARD.

PORTLAND—J. N. McLeod, 8th August, 1860.—25 pairs blankets. 26th December, 1860.—1 chest tea, 3 bags sugar, 6 bags flour, 25 lbs. tobacco. 7th June, 1861.—100 pairs blankets, 1 ton flour, 500 lbs. sugar, 1 chest tea, 50 lbs. tobacco, 50 lbs. soap.

CANTERTON—J. H. Jackson, 14th August, 1860.—36 blankets, 36 guernsey shirts. 27th November, 1860.— $\frac{1}{2}$  ton flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  chest tea, 2 cwt. sugar. 26th December, 1860.—1 chest tea, 2 bags sugar, 4 bags flour, 20 lbs. tobacco. 27th February, 1861.—36 pairs trowsers, 36 shirts, 25 lbs. tobacco. 22nd April, 1861.—70 pairs blankets, 70 flannel shirts, 70 cotton sheets, 40 pairs trowsers, 30 woollen gowns.

BALMORAL—R. Officer, 13th July, 1861.—4 bags flour, 2 bags sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  chest tea, 56 lbs. tobacco, 1 gross pipes, 24 pairs blankets, 24 serge shirts.

HAMILTON—P. Learmonth, 4th June, 1861.—32 pairs blankets, 30 blue shirts, 12 bags flour, 60 lbs. tea, 420 lbs. sugar, 60 lbs. tobacco,  $\frac{1}{2}$  gross pipes.

BELFAST—J. Ritchie, 16th July, 1861.—60 blankets.

WARRNAMBOOL—Lewis Gilles, 17th October, 1860.—24 pairs blankets, 12 serge shirts, 12 pairs trowsers, 12 check shirts, 24 woollen jackets and shirts, for women.

TOORAM—J. M. Allan, 2nd October, 1860.—15 pairs blankets, 15 suits men's clothing, 10 suits women's clothing, 10 tomahawks, 2 bags flour, 1 small medicine chest, containing medicines suitable for the alleviation of influenza, rheumatism, diarrhoea, &c.

MOUNT SHADWELL—R. Burke, 11th September, 1860.—24 pairs blankets, 12 serge shirts, 12 pairs moleskin trowsers, 12 lindsey woolsey dresses. 26th December, 1860.—1 chest tea, 3 bags sugar, 6 bags flour, 25 lbs. tobacco. 9th July, 1861.—1 ton flour,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  chest tea, 50 lbs. tobacco, 28 lbs. soap, 6 doz. pairs blankets, 3 doz. pairs trowsers, 3 doz. pairs flannel shirts, 3 doz. hats, 2 doz. pairs men's boots, 3 doz. women's dresses, 3 doz. flannel under dresses, 1 doz. pairs women's strong boots, 3 doz. neck handkerchiefs, 3 doz. sun bonnets.

CAMPERDOWN—R. D. Scott, 5th December, 1860.—40 blankets, 24 pairs trowsers, 24 blue shirts, 24 pairs strong shoes, 24 hats or caps, for the men; 18 flannel petticoats, 2 pieces flannel, 18 coarse gowns, 18 pairs shoes, for the women; 24 bags flour, 120 lbs. tea, 840 lbs. sugar, 120 lbs. tobacco, 1 gross pipes.

MISSION STATION, YELTA—T. Goodwin, 13th October, 1860.—90 pairs trowsers, 500 yards print, 500 yards calico, 50 pairs blankets, 2 cross-cut saws, 2 cwt. assorted nails, 1 doz. spades, 3 assorted rakes, 2 pairs maul rings, 1 doz. assorted wedges, 2 hand saws, 4 oz. Dover's powders, 28 lbs. Epsom salts, 1 lb. senna, 4 bottles liniment for rheumatism, &c., 1 lb. pill in lump for coughs, &c., 5 lbs. mustard, 2 lbs. linseed meal, 6 yards adhesive plaster, 1 lb. bluestone, 1 lb. tow, 15 yards linen for bandages, scales and weights for medicine and box for same, 3000 lbs. flour, 1000 lbs. sugar, 200 lbs. tea, 100 lbs. soap, 200 lbs. tobacco. 26th December, 1860.—2 tons flour, 10 cwt. sugar, 1 chest tea, 56 lbs. tobacco. 16th March, 1861.—2 tons flour, 1 chest tea,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton rice, 3 cwt. soap, 2 cwt. oatmeal, 1 box pipes, 1 gross knives, 1 gross combs, 1 gross looking glasses, 2 cwt. seine twine, 1 cwt. fishing lines, fish hooks, Nos. 3, 5, 7, 9 and 10, 100 of each, 150 blankets. Men's clothing.—3 doz. cotton shirts, 4 doz. woollen guerneys, 1 doz. red serge shirts, 4 doz. blue serge shirts, 2 doz. waistcoats, 2 doz. coats, 6 doz. felt hats or caps, 12 doz. cotton handkerchiefs. Boys' clothing.—3 doz. cotton shirts, 2 doz. woollen guerneys, 2 doz. red serge shirts, 2 doz. moleskin trowsers, 2 doz. jackets (assorted sizes), 3 doz. men's blucher boots, 2 doz. boys' blucher boots, 3 doz. women's and girls' boots. Women's clothing.—3 doz. red serge petticoats, 100 yards flannel for petticoats, 100 yards red serge for making petticoats, 3 doz. woollen polka jackets, 3 lbs. assorted thread, 3 doz. white cotton thread, 4 doz. brown and black cotton thread, 1 gross assorted broad tape, 2 doz. assorted thimbles, 4 oz. sulphate of zinc, 1 lb. washed flowers of sulphur. Homeopathic medicine.—16 oz. tinct. of arnica, 4 oz. tinct. of acouite, 1 oz. tinct. of belladonna, 4 oz. tincturis sulphuris. 3 American felling axes, 12 handles for ditto.

MISSION STATION, LAKE HINDMARSH—H. C. Ellerman, 20th September, 1860.—24 pairs moleskin trowsers, 3 pairs blue blankets, 12 pairs middle-sized shoes, 24 straw hats, 3 sets camp kettles, 24 pannicans, 1 chest tea, 2 cwt. rice, 50 lbs. tobacco, 10 bags sugar. 26th December, 1860.—1 chest tea, 1 cwt. rice, 3 bags sugar, 10 cwt. flour. 27th February, 1861.—4 tons flour, 10 cwt. sugar, 100 lbs. tea, 100 lbs. tobacco, 400 lbs. rice, 400 lbs. peas, 12 bottles castor oil, 2 gross pipes, 200 lbs. soap, 100 pairs blankets, 8 doz. twill shirts, 6 doz. woollen do., 6 doz. flannel jackets, 6 doz. moleskin trowsers, 6 doz. trowsers for boys, 100 yards calico, 100 yards print for dresses, 3 doz. bonnets, 8 doz. caps, 2 doz. straw hats, 6 doz. leather belts, 1 lb. white thread, 1 lb. black thread, 8 doz. pocket-knives, 5 doz. tomahawks, 8 doz. looking-glasses, 10 doz. pannicans, 30 camp kettles, 8 doz. pairs shoes, 5 doz. tin plates, 8 tin spoons, 5 packets large needles, 5 doz. comforters, 100 yards flannel, 1 doz. pairs scissors, 4 doz. linen summer coats, 1 medicine-chest, with directions. 3rd June, 1861.—4 tons flour, 24 women's dresses, 50 leather belts, 150 cotton handkerchiefs, 36 chemises or women's shirts.

SWAN HILL—C. A. D. Pasco, 26th March, 1861.—100 pairs blankets, 200 serge shirts, 100 pairs fustian trowsers, 2 webs flannel, 1 barrel oatmeal, 50 lindsey woolsey, 50 flannel petticoats, store-book for entry of receipt and expenditure of stores.

"BOORT," LOWER LODDON—H. Godfrey, 11th September, 1860.—1200 lbs. flour, 60 lbs. sugar, 60 lbs. tea, 3 doz. pipes, 20 pairs blankets, 36 serge shirts, 20 pairs trowsers. 26th December, 1860.—1 chest tea, 2 bags sugar, 4 bags flour, 25 lbs. tobacco,

MOUNT FRANKLYN ABORIGINAL STATION—E. Parker, V.M., 24th October, 1860.—400 lbs. meat per month, 3000 lbs. flour, 448 lbs. sugar, 80 lbs. tea, 336 lbs. rice, 56 lbs. soap, 112 lbs. salt, 2 tin hand basins, 12 iron spoons, 12 tin pannicans, 12 table knives and forks, 12 enamelled iron dinner plates, 1 enamelled iron meat dish, 12 rack hair combs,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ream foolscap paper, 12 testaments, 12 school

slates and pencils, 24 yds. unbleached calico, 12 print dresses, 36 twilled shirts, 12 boys' jumpers, 12 yds. coarse towelling, 12 cotton handkerchiefs. 26th December, 1860.—6 bags flour, 3 bags sugar, 1 chest tea, 25 lbs. tobacco.

ECHUCA—C. E. Strutt, 26th December, 1860.—6 bags flour, 3 bags sugar, 1 chest tea, 25 lbs. tobacco. 27th February, 1861.—36 check shirts, 36 flannel shirts, 36 check shifts, 36 flannel shifts.

COBBAM—C. W. Hughes, 9th July, 1861.—50 blankets, 200 lbs. flour, 112 lbs. sugar,  $\frac{1}{4}$  chest tea, 28 lbs. tobacco.

CHILTERN—D. Reid, 17th October, 1860.—60 check shirts, 60 pairs blankets, 20 pairs moleskin trousers, 5 cwt. sugar, 1 chest tea,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton flour, 50 lbs. tobacco. 26th December, 1860.—3 bags sugar, 6 bags flour, 1 chest tea, 25 lbs. tobacco.

KIEWA—H. B. Lane, 26th December, 1860.—6 bags flour, 3 bags sugar, 1 chest tea, 25 lbs. tobacco. 14th March, 1861.—6 bags flour, 3 bags sugar, 1 chest tea, 25 lbs. tobacco, 25 blankets (red or blue), 12 tomahawks. 16th July, 1861.—8 pairs blankets.

ACHERON ABORIGINAL STATION—P. Snodgrass, 17th September, 1860.—6 slates, 6 spelling books, 2 reams ruled foolscap paper, 1 atlas, 2 geographies, 6 hymn books, 6 testaments, book called *Line upon Line*, *More about Jesus*, *Bible Stories*, tracts, &c.; pens, pencils, and blotting paper; 1 door, 2 windows, for the school-room; 6500 lbs. flour, 2500 lbs. sugar, 300 lbs. tea, 150 lbs. tobacco, 150 lbs. soap, 36 pairs blankets, 36 pint pannicans, 24 quart ditto, 3 pairs bullock bows, 2 dray chains, 4 pitchforks, 12 reaping hooks, 6 field hoes, 2 large boilers, 1 bell for the store, 4 rakes, 30 bright common prints, 2 pieces flannel, 2 pieces calico, 1 lb. white thread, 2 doz. pieces tape, 12 doz. bone buttons, 12 doz. hooks and eyes, 4 doz. reels mixed cotton, 30 serge shirts (blue), 30 striped cotton ditto, 30 pairs fustian trousers, 1 lb. cotton cord. 26th December, 1860.—1 saddle and bridle, 1 double mould board plough, 4 body bullock chains, 44 bullock rings, 1 chest carpenters' tools, 5 doors for dwelling-house, locks, hinges, &c., for ditto; 2 large front windows, 4 small windows (bedroom), 900 feet flooring boards, 6 starts for bullock yokes, 19,500 lbs. flour, 3000 lbs. sugar, 350 lbs. tea, 500 lbs. tobacco, 500 lbs. soap, 2 bags rice, 2 bags sago, 2 caaks oatmeal, 2 gallons vinegar, 60 pairs blankets, 30 pairs slop boots, 40 pannicans, 1 case (12 doz.) pipes, 30 red serge shirts, 30 moleskin trousers, 10 boys' ditto, 30 striped cotton shirts, 30 pieces print for dresses, 2 pieces flannel, 2 pieces unbleached calico, 6 lbs. white thread, 6 gross bone buttons, 6 gross hooks and eyes, 8 doz. reels cotton (12 to 36), 2 doz. needles (2 to 10).

BUCHAN AND SNOWY RIVER, ETC.—J. C. Macleod, 8th July, 1861.—70 pairs blankets, 70 red and blue shirts, 30 pairs trousers, No. 4; 10 pairs ditto, No. 2; 2 tons flour, 10 cwt. sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  chest tea, 1 cwt. tobacco, 30 lb. Epsom salts, 50 lb. sulphur, 12 chipping hoes, 144 fish-hooks, assorted; 1 doz. tomahawks, small; 24 lb. twine for lines and nets, 6 lb. thread for sewing rugs, 2 doz. pairs boots, 1 doz. felt hats, 70 twilled shirts, 6 doz. hair combs, 3 doz. tooth combs, 3 doz. camp looking-glasses, 6 pocket knives, 112 lb. soap, 1 box pipes, 6 doz. woollen comforters, 3 doz. pint pots, 3 doz. quart pots, 1 gross needles, No. 3; 6 doz. coarse huckaback towels.

PALMERSTON—G. D. Hedley, 26th December, 1860.—6 bags flour, 3 bags sugar, 1 chest tea, 25 lb. tobacco. 9th May, 1861.—20 grey blankets, 20 guernsey shirts, 15 pairs trousers.

GIPPS LAND—A. McMillan, 16th July, 1860.—125 pairs of blankets, 188 twilled shirts, 100 pairs moleskin trousers,  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton sugar, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  tons flour, 2 chests tea, 112 lbs. tobacco. 26th December, 1860.—5 cwt. sugar, 1 ton flour, 2 chests tea, 50 lbs. tobacco. 3rd June, 1861.—100 pairs blankets, 50 pairs small size ditto, 144 blue serge shirts, 48 small size ditto, 60 pairs moleskin trousers, 48 leather belts, 144 Scotch twilled shirts, 72 ditto for boys, 48 pairs trousers for boys, 48 pairs boots, 72 felt hats, 288 fish-hooks, 60 pocket knives, 288 fishing lines, 50 lbs. twine for nets, 144 tin quart pots, 144 tin pint ditto, corks and sinks for nets, also small rope; 48 2-gallon tin camp-kettles, 12 iron buckets, 72 tomahawks, 1 medicine chest, with directions; 30 lb. salts, 20 lb. sulphur, 6 tons flour, 1 ton sugar, 2 boxes tea, 4 cwt. soap, 4 cwt. tobacco, 1 gross pipes.

MISSION STATION, GIPPS LAND—T. Bulmer, 8th July, 1861.—1 ton flour, 3 cwt. sugar,  $\frac{1}{4}$  chest tea, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. rice,  $\frac{1}{4}$  cwt. tobacco, 1 gross pipes, 70 pairs blankets, 70 pairs trousers, 70 shirts, 70 serge shirts, 100 yards printed calico, 1 cwt. soap, 20 pairs boys' trousers, 20 boys' shirts, 1 doz. pairs boots, 1 doz. pairs boys' boots, 1 doz. hats, 6 doz. woollen comforters, 3 lbs. white and black thread, 1 gross assorted needles, 50 yards coarse towelling, 50 yards red serge.

COAST TRIBE—Mr. Thomas, 28th August, 1860.—500 lbs. flour, 300 lbs. sugar, 25 lbs. tea, 28 lbs. tobacco.

UPPER YARRA—Mr. Green, 9th January, 1861.—4 bags flour, 2 bags sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  bag tea, 25 lbs. tobacco, 25 lbs. soap, 10 pairs blankets, 7 lbs. Epsom salts, 2 pints castor oil, 2 lbs. mustard,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. senna, 3 yards adhesive plaster, 2 lbs. sago. 2nd March, 1861.—8 bags flour, 1 chest tea, 4 bags sugar. 15th April, 1861.—50 lbs. tobacco, 14 pairs blankets. 6th August, 1861.—8 bags flour, 4 bags sugar, 2 chests tea, 50 lbs. salt, 50 lbs. soap.

MORDIALLOC—Mrs. Macdonald, 8th July, 1861.—15 pairs blankets, 28 lbs. soap.

BACCHUS MARSH—Mordaunt Maclean, 13th October, 1860.—3 bags flour, 3 bags sugar, 1 chest tea, 10 lbs. tobacco. 26th December, 1860.—6 bags flour, 3 bags sugar, 1 chest tea, 10 lbs. tobacco.

GEELONG—J. M. Garratt, 31st October, 1860.—12 pairs moleskin trousers, 12 cloth caps, 2 flannel petticoats, 2 common cotton gowns, 12 pairs strong shoes. 26th December, 1860.—1 chest tea, 2 bags sugar, 4 bags flour, 25 lbs. tobacco. 2nd May, 1861.—24 pairs blankets, 24 pairs trousers, 24 twilled shirts, 24 blue serge shirts, 24 pairs strong boots, 24 felt hats.

GEELONG—C. Read, 5th September, 1860.—25 serge shirts, 25 pairs blankets, 1 chest tea, 3 bags sugar, 3 bags flour, 6 billies, 25 pannicans.



## APPENDIX No. 5.

HONORARY CORRESPONDENTS OF THE CENTRAL BOARD APPOINTED TO  
WATCH OVER THE INTERESTS OF THE ABORIGINES.

Allan, Esq., J. M., Tooram	McLeod, Esq., John, Lucknow, Gipps Land
Andrews, Esq., Henry, Geelong	McLeod, Esq., Hugh L., Benyeo, Apsley
Burke, Esq., Robert, Mount Shadwell	McLeod, Esq., J. N., Mortlake, Portland
Campbell, Esq., Duncan, Lake Lalbert	Macleod, Esq., Archibald W., Bairnsdale, Gipps Land
Chenery, Esq., G., Delatite Station	Manley, Esq., J. Wemyss, Toolamba
Ellerman, Esq., H. C., Wimmera	Maxwell, Esq., John, Merton
Fergusson, Esq., William, Camperdown	Officer, Esq., C. M., Yat Nat, Balmoral
Godfrey, Esq., Henry, "Boort," Lower Loddon	Pasco, Esq., Crawford A. D., Swan Hill
Garratt, Esq., J. M., Geelong	Porteous, Esq., Andrew, Carngham
Hedley, Esq., M.L.A., G. D., Palmerston	Read, Esq., David, The Hermitage, Belvoir
Hughes, Esq., C. W., Cobram	Read, Esq., Charles, Geelong
Jackson, Esq., J. H., Sandford	Ritchie, Esq., John, Boodearra
Jamieson, Esq., Hugh, Mildura	Scott, Esq., R. D., Camperdown
Johnson, Esq., John, Gipps Land	Simmons, Esq., J. W., Swan Reach
Laue, Esq., H. B., Yackandandah	Snodgrass, Esq., M.L.A., Peter, Goulburn
Learmonth, Esq., Peter, Hamilton	Strutt, Esq., C. E., Fehuca
Macleod, Esq., Mordaunt, Bacchus Marsh	Watson, Esq., Samuel, Murravill
Mackay, Esq., G. E., Tarawingee	Wilson, Esq., Charles, Walmer, Horsham
McLachlan, Esq., Ronald, River Avon	Young, Esq., James, Bacchus Marsh.
McMillan, Esq., Angus, Bushy Park, Sale	

## APPENDIX No. 6.

By HIS EXCELLENCY SIR HENRY BARKLY, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Victoria, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

To THEODOTUS JOHN SUMNER,\* Esquire, RICHARD HEALES, Esquire, M.L.A., HENRY LANGLANDS, Esquire, HENRY JENNINGS, Esquire, WILLIAM MACREDIE, Esquire, THOMAS EMBLING, Esquire, M.L.A., and the Honorable STEPHEN GEORGE HENTY, M.L.C. all of the City of Melbourne, in the Colony of Victoria—Greeting.

WHEREAS it has been deemed expedient by His Excellency the Governor, by and with the advice of the Executive Council of the said Colony, that a Commission should forthwith issue for the establishment of a "Board for the protection of the Aborigines residing in the Colony of Victoria, to advise " the Government as to the amount of public moneys to be voted from year to year for the benefit of " the said Aborigines, to control the expenditure of such moneys in the most efficient and economical " manner to the benefit of such Aborigines, to recommend the proclamation of reserves for aboriginal " purposes; to supply rations, clothes, stock, implements, or such other articles as may be deemed " requisite in carrying into effect the purposes for which the said moneys may be voted; to recommend " the appointment or removal of all agents, officers, or local committees in connection with the said " Board; and to direct and control the duties of all such persons so appointed or employed"—

Now know ye that I, the Governor, with the advice aforesaid, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these presents authorise and appoint you Theodotus John Sumner, Richard Heales, Henry Langlands, Henry Jennings, William Macredie, Thomas Embling, and Stephen George Henty, to be a Board for the purposes aforesaid; and this Commission constituting you a Board for the purposes herein set forth shall continue in full force and virtue: and you the said Board may, from time to time, and at any place or places, proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing thereof contained, although the business of the said Board be not regularly continued from time to time by adjournment. And also that the before named Richard Heales be the President of you the said Board; and Robert Brough Smyth, Esquire, F.G.S.L., be Secretary thereunto, whose services you may use as occasion may require. And, lastly, that you do report to the Governor of the said Colony, under your hands and seals, each and every twelve months, such matters and things as relate to the condition of the Aborigines, statistics, supplies, and expenditure, as can be furnished by the local agents or committees, and by you the said Board.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Colony, at Melbourne, in the said Colony, this Eighteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty, in the twenty-third year of Her Majesty's reign.

HENRY BARKLY.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. MOORE.

Entered on Record by me, in Register of Patents Book 10, page 152, this Eighteenth day of June, One thousand eight hundred and sixty.

J. MOORE,

For Chief Secretary and Registrar.



\* On the 25th March, 1861, Theodotus John Sumner, Esq., was appointed by His Excellency the Governor in Council Vice-President of the Central Board.



ACCOUNT showing the Amounts Voted for the Aborigines, and the Amounts Expended, from the 1st January to 31st December, 1860.

Dr.			Cr.		
1860.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1860.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amounts voted:—			Salaries	750 0 0	
Salaries	750 0 0		Wages to Robert Hickson	188 0 0	
Contingent expenses	5,000 0 0		Contingent expenses	438 15 0	
			Authorised to Government Storekeeper, to cover requisitions for stores*	3,830 0 0	
			Unexpended balance...	...	5,201 15 0
		5,750 0 0			548 5 0
					5,750 0 0

\* For particulars of expenditure see statement attached.

ACCOUNT showing the Amounts Voted for the Aborigines, and the Amounts Expended, from the 1st January to 31st August, 1861.

Dr.			Cr.		
1861.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	1861.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Amounts voted:—			Incidental expenses	8 18 8	
Salary of Guardian	450 0 0		Medical attendance	70 0 6	
Salary of School Teachers			Education and Maintenance of Aboriginal boy	31 4 1	
—one at £150 and one at £100	250 0 0		Clerical assistance	13 10 0	
Teacher and Matron (Acheron)	200 0 0		Labor and blacksmith's work (Acheron)	20 5 0	
Laborer (Acheron)	60 0 0		Rent of house for hospital, board, and firewood (Casterton)	18 0 11	
		960 0 0	Beef (Acheron)	1 13 0	
Contingent expenses	5,000 0 0		Seed wheat (Acheron)	7 0 0	
			Authorised to Government Storekeeper, to cover requisitions for stores*	4,450 0 0	
			Salaries to 31st August	600 0 0	5,220 12 2
			Unexpended balance...	...	739 7 10
		5,960 0 0			5,960 0 0

\* For particulars of expenditure see statement attached.

STATEMENT of the total cost of all Clothing, Provisions, &c. (including transport thereof) supplied for the use of the Aborigines from the commencement of the year 1860 to the present time (August, 1861).

Station.	1860.	1861.	Station.	1860.	1861.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Melbourne (guardian's office)	28 1 1	51 7 6	Bacchus Marsh...	31 12 3	30 15 5
Swan Hill	210 3 4	231 3 4	Chiltern	110 2 0	33 2 11
Mount Franklyn	267 16 6	33 2 11	Warrnambool	48 14 0	
Upper Goulburn...	127 9 6		Camperdown	164 14 0	
Acheron River	366 0 4	536 8 10	Palmerston		33 2 11
Portland	103 2 6	168 1 8	Yering		
Coast Tribe	52 10 6		Echuca		66 17 11
Yarra Tribe	37 12 2	128 7 3	Little River		47 10 1
Gipps Land	246 9 4	815 3 4	Hamilton		79 5 0
Geelong	68 14 7	80 14 8	Buchan		192 1 5
Sandford	65 17 11	164 14 8	Cobram		29 3 10
Lake Hindmarsh	74 17 3	647 14 2	Western Port		11 6 10
Loddon	61 6 2	27 5 4	Belfast		21 15 0
Mount Shadwell	35 11 0	216 17 11	Upper Murray		6 8 0
Darling and Murray Junction	115 7 0		Yackandandah		33 2 11
Yelta, Lower Murray	235 12 10	625 16 7			
Tooram...	41 6 0	259 13 2		2,493 0 3	4,571 3 7

The amount for 1861 is that incurred according to the requisitions. It will be observed that the names are not identical for the two years; the stations are however those mentioned on the requisitions.

The vote of 1860 has been credited with the following amounts :—				£	s.	d.	
For rebate from the Customs Department of this Colony's moiety of the duty collected at Goolwa on supplies for the Yelta station, viz., 29th Nov., 1860				10	11	9	
" " " " 28th Feb., 1861				29	19	6	
And the following surcharges—							
January 5, 1861.	on supplies for Acheron station	...	...	...	1	17	6
February 15,	ditto freight to Yelta	...	...	...	0	9	3
				£42 18 0			
Government Stores, Melbourne, 28th August, 1861.							

V.C.B.R.