

1876.
—
VICTORIA.

TWELFTH REPORT
OF
THE BOARD
FOR THE
PROTECTION OF THE ABORIGINES
IN
THE COLONY OF VICTORIA.

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

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REPORT.

Melbourne, 30th June 1876.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

The Board for the Protection of the Aborigines has the honor to submit this the Twelfth Annual Report of its progress, with other reports and returns relating to the Aborigines, which are attached as Appendices.

The number of natives living on the stations is as follows :—

Coranderrk	...	...	...	...	...	137
Lake Hindmarsh	...	...	...	...	...	67
Lake Condah	...	...	...	...	...	89
Lake Wellington	...	...	...	...	...	81
Framlingham	...	...	...	...	...	63
Lake Tyers	...	...	...	...	...	63
						<hr/> 500

There is also a large number of Aborigines still unreclaimed, many of whom are supplied with rations, blankets, and slops, whom it is very desirable to bring under the direct supervision of the Board.

The gross value of produce raised on each station is as follows :—Coranderrk, £1,343 2s. 7d.; Lake Wellington, £67 9s. 9d.; Lake Hindmarsh, £195 16s. 10d.; Framlingham (estimated), £150; Lake Condah, £25 6s. 7d.; Lake Tyers, £69 16s.

Although the area under hops at Coranderrk was increased this year by four acres, the weight produced was only about the same as last year. It will also be noticed that there is a falling off in the gross cash proceeds, which is accounted for by a fall in the market of about fourpence per lb. as compared with last year. The Board, however, is pleased to state that the Coranderrk hops realized the highest price of any offered in Melbourne.

The return of the population of Coranderrk shows a large death rate since the last Report, and the Board's attention has been specially directed to this matter. A sub-committee of the Board visited the station last July, and the General Inspector of the Board, and the Chief Medical Officer of the colony, at subsequent periods, also visited it. Two separate reports from these sources appear in the Appendices, both of which tend to prove that the position or condition of Coranderrk has influenced this excessive mortality; but returns received from most of the other stations, as well as the report of the Sub-Protector of Aborigines in South Australia, show that the prevalence of measles has also seriously diminished the Aboriginal population of both colonies.

It will, however, be observed that no less than fourteen deaths have occurred at Coranderrk from pneumonia, the best preventive for which might have been the removal of the people to a more genial climate.

Such a situation has been pointed out in the report of Messrs. Curr and Ogilvie; but as, unfortunately, the greater number of the people have a very decided and natural objection to leaving the present station, the Board is of opinion that the wiser course would be to replace about twenty of the worst huts by others more suitable to the climate, and also to form a station at the locality indicated in the report last mentioned, which would not only be useful as a sanitarium for any Coranderrk invalids, but would form the nucleus of a station for the natives of that part of the colony, and which the Church of England Mission has proposed to undertake, with the usual assistance afforded by the Board.

The reports from the other stations are so generally encouraging, that they may be left to speak for themselves.

The education of the young is a matter which has engaged the serious attention of the Board, and from the success which has resulted from the schools at Lake Wellington, Lake Tyers, and Lake Condah being under the inspection of the Education Department, it is its wish to carry out this system wherever possible.

It would be very desirable that an amendment should be made in the Act, whereby the Board would be authorized to apprentice out all lads who, having finally left school, object to remaining on the stations.

In order to give effect to the foregoing suggestions, an increase in the funds usually voted by Parliament will be necessary; and if a wise liberality is exercised now, it will enable the Board to put the stations in the way of becoming more nearly self-supporting than they are at present.

Whilst on this subject, the Board would also wish to bring under Your Excellency's notice the inconvenience felt from the funds voted by Parliament being placed on the Estimates under different heads, and to suggest that it would not only simplify matters, but also enable the Board to economise its expenditure, were the sum given in the form of a grant which could be utilised by the Board in the usual mercantile manner.

Owing to circumstances, several changes have been made in the general management, more especially at Coranderrk, which led to some temporary disorganization, which has now been remedied.

The Board begs to express its thanks to the Chief Medical Officer of the colony for the very elaborate report drawn up by him on the sanitary condition of Coranderrk, and also to the gentlemen acting as Local Guardians for the valuable services rendered to the Board by them.

F. R. GODFREY,
Vice-Chairman.

To His Excellency Sir George Ferguson Bowen, K.G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

APPENDIX I.

SIR,

Coranderrk, Healesville, 9th August 1875.

I have the honor to forward, according to request, a copy of the register which I have kept of the births, deaths, and cases of illness which have occurred on the station since the beginning of this year.

There was no register kept previous to that time, but as I judged it necessary that such a register should be kept, I requested to be supplied with a book for such purposes, and got it at the beginning of the year.

I would beg to state, in regard to those who have suffered from illness, and in regard to those who have died, that they were attended either by Dr. Gibson or Dr. Elmes, and in the greater number of cases by both.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

HEINRICH STÄHLE.

Frederick Godfrey, Esq., M.P.

REGISTER of Aborigines who have died at the Coranderrk Station during the Year 1875.

Date.	Name.	Age.	Cause of Death.
16th February ...	Charlie	30 years	Heart disease.
24th " ...	Parker's baby ..	3 days	Premature.
25th " ...	Barker's baby ...	10 days	Measles.
26th " ...	Benjamin	2 years	Disease of the ear affecting the brain.
3rd March ...	John Starling ...	3 years	Dysentery.
7th " ...	William Nash ...	16 years	Pleuro-pneumonia ; died in the Melbourne Hospital.
11th " ...	Eliza	36 years	Pleuro-pneumonia.
29th " ...	Louisa	50 years	Measles.
30th " ...	James	10 months	Effects of measles.
5th April ...	Polly	40 years	Effects of measles.
8th " ...	Minnie	10 years	Pleuro-pneumonia.
25th " ...	Johnny	7 years	Effects of measles—dysentery.
9th May ...	Mary	9 months	Thrush.
10th " ...	Mary	7 months	Thrush.
11th " ...	William	6 weeks	Thrush.
27th " ...	Sarah	48 years	Pleuro-pneumonia.
27th June ...	Isabel's baby ...	12 days	Cold on chest.
29th " ...	Samuel	3 years	Dysentery.
8th July ...	Julia	7 years	Pleuro-pneumonia.
12th " ...	Lydia's baby ...	6 days	Cold on chest.
24th " ..	Tommy Black ...	28 years	Pleuro-pneumonia.

All were attended either by Dr. Elmes or by Dr. Gibson, and in the greater number of cases by both.

(Signed)

HEINRICH STÄHLE,

Superintendent, Coranderrk.

APPENDIX II.

SIR,

Coranderrk, 20th September 1875.

I have the honor to hand you my report on Coranderrk Aboriginal station.

I take it for granted that in reporting on it I am to suppose that the welfare of the Aborigines is the primary consideration with the Board, under which circumstance I shall report against it being a suitable location for them, and principally for the two following reasons :—

1. It is too cold and wet a climate for them to remain in all the year round ; and

2. It is too near a white population for the Aborigines to be kept clear of the vices incidental to the two races being in such contiguity. The vices I specially refer to are drunkenness and prostitution ; and although I have no direct evidence of either one or the other taking place to any great extent, it would require a great deal of negative evidence to prove to me that they are not prevalent. At any rate, I consider prevention the safer course, and I think this would be best attained by removing the station to a place where the white population was less numerous than in the neighborhood of Coranderrk. The first objection, on account of climate, would be met by removing to a more genial one, and probably both requirements might be found somewhere on the banks of the Murray River.

It is here, however, necessary for me to inform the Board that by far the larger proportion of the Aborigines at Coranderrk would prefer remaining there, partly because it is their country, or near it; but probably, also, in a limited degree, for the same reason that the worst part of a white population prefer loafing about towns to going into the country in search of work.

A minor consideration against Coranderrk is that it is unsuitable for both sheep and cattle; and as meat is so heavy an item in the expenditure, the Board may probably take this circumstance also into its consideration.

If the Board decides on removing the Aborigines it will be necessary at once to look out for some more suitable place; as, although there will be no necessity to remove before the autumn, it must be remembered that not only has the new location to be selected, but it will have to be got ready for the reception of the people by that time.

But if, on the contrary, the Board should decide on still retaining Coranderrk as an Aboriginal station, I will proceed with my report on it.

Coranderrk may be described as a sour rangy country with some very rich flats, especially those commencing about two miles up the Badger Creek on its left bank, and joining the present hop plantation, to which they are little, if anything, inferior.

The village is as clean as I suppose we have any right to expect it to be; but the floors of all the huts should be raised considerably above the road level, and a deep drain should be made on the lower side of the road, through the village, to prevent the water rendering the huts on the lower side of it damp.

I am not able to report anything about the children attending the school in consequence of the present position of Mr. Ståhle in reference to the Board.

The fencing on the station, with the exception of that round the hop plantation, is mostly very old, and very much out of repair.

Coranderrk is not suitable for rearing either sheep or cattle—the former stock would become fluke, and it is too cold for cattle. The cattle I have seen are about an average of those in the neighborhood, and in about the same condition, which may be described as “low store.” I understand there are about 400 of them, but no bullocks old enough to kill. A flock of goats might be kept to supply mutton when short of beef, and if Angora rams were used something might be got for the pelts in the course of time.

There is a large stock of potatoes in store, and some of the people are now employed in cultivating cabbages, &c., in the garden. There is also some barley growing.

I would suggest that, instead of giving the people their rations once a week, uncooked, it would be better to have a general kitchen, in charge of a white cook, where all their food should be cooked, and from whence it should be issued to them at each meal-time. The advantages which might accrue from this system, or some modification of it, would be, that the food would be better cooked, less waste, and the people would have a better chance of keeping their huts in a more cleanly state. If the Board should not approve of this suggestion, I think the meat ration should be issued oftener than it is at present—say, twice a week.

As I know nothing of hop cultivation, I will merely report what Mr. Burgess says on the subject.

Mr. Burgess does not place much confidence in the Aborigines as permanent laborers, and he desires me to inform the Board that, to give him a fair chance of producing a good crop this year, he would require *the assistance of three white men for the next three months.* He also wants blue-gum seed or plants to protect the hops from the hot winds, and for which the ground is already prepared. He desires me also to inform the Board that when he was engaged he was promised a hut for himself and family, and which has not yet been built, and from which circumstance he has been put to the expense of keeping his wife and family in Hawthorn.

I have now only to add a few remarks on what I conceive ought to be the general management of the Aborigines, and I think in reference to this they should be divided into classes.

1st Class.—All full-blooded Aborigines, partially or wholly ignorant of the laws of civilization, and all the infirm and aged; all of whom should be managed in a purely paternal manner.

2nd Class.—All others above a certain age, on being admitted to the station, should be required to sign an agreement with the superintendent to obey all his lawful orders, &c., and that on any breach of this agreement the superintendent should be authorized to administer such mild punishment as might be thought adequate to the offence (stopping tobacco, &c.); but that for any flagrant breach of discipline they should be summoned before a bench, and treated exactly as a white man would be under similar circumstances, for which purpose it would be necessary that their accounts with the station should be so kept that there should always be a small balance to their credit to meet any probable fine imposed. Of course the superintendent would also be instructed that the less he felt it necessary to call in the aid of a magistrate to assist him in the management of the Aborigines the better the Board would be pleased.

3rd Class.—Which may be called the Educational Class, would of course be composed of the youths of both sexes. I think this class should be so educated that as they arrive at a sufficient age they could be sent into the world to compete for employment with the white population, the station never being closed against them in periods of distress or sickness.

Under some such system as I have sketched, I do not think it would be too much to anticipate, and that at no very remote period that the necessity for a Board might cease; but I do fear that unless the grown-up half-castes are made to feel their personal responsibility to a greater extent than I think they do at present, and unless the young are taught that they will have to battle for their living the same as white people, some future Board for the Protection of the Aborigines will have to deal with a vagabond race only distinguishable from the whites in that they will be lower sunk in depravity than the basest of those whites.

As I am to a certain extent new to my present duties, I have no doubt omitted much which the Board would wish to be informed on; it will therefore be my further duty to answer any questions the Board may think fit to put to me.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

C. S. OGILVIE,
General Inspector.

R. Brough Smyth, Esq.,
Honorary Secretary, Board for Protection of Aborigines.

F.S.—Fifteen
horses and a
team of bul-
locks.

APPENDIX III.

SIRS,

Melbourne, 20th December 1875.

We have the honor to forward for your information our progress report on the present state of the Aborigines of the colony as the result of enquiries made at your suggestion.

In giving effect to your wishes in connection with this matter, we have the honor to state that we left Melbourne on 12th October last, and proceeded by rail to Rochester, and thence by buggy, *viâ* Wyuna, to Echuca, from which point, as far as practicable in the flooded state of the Murray, we followed that river down to within a few miles of the South Australian boundary, calling at all the stations on the way, and losing no opportunity of seeing and conversing with every Aboriginal whom we met, as well as making the fullest enquiries of sheepowners and others living in the locality.

As the result of this part of our journey, we have the honor to state that the Aborigines seen by us amounted only to fifty-four; but that our enquiries lead us to estimate the number frequenting this tract of country at about two hundred souls, and that the total number resident on the Murray, from Albury to the South Australian boundary, may be set down at two hundred and fifty souls. Concerning them it is also necessary for the Board to bear in mind that the whole of the natives in question frequent equally both banks of the river, a practice which seems to have prevailed amongst them previously to the advent of the white man.

From the very full information we have received from residents on both sides of the river, we have further come to the conclusion that during the last five years the tribes in question have been reduced in numbers by not less than one-half. This will easily be credited when it is borne in mind that the natives are readily engaged by sheepowners and others as shearers, bullock-drivers, boundary-riders, &c., &c., at the highest current wages, and that almost the whole of these large earnings are devoted to the purchase of spirits either in this or the neighboring colony, and for doing which there appears at present to be no practical obstacle; though, at the same time, it is probable that, were they really supplied with the amount of spirits which their wages should purchase, that a very speedy termination of their existence would ensue. On occasions, particularly of being paid off at any woolshed, it has been pointed out to us, on testimony which it is impossible to doubt, that it is the custom of the tribe, four or five of whose members may have cheques amounting to £70 or £80 amongst them, to adjourn to some low shanty or public-house, or even to some secluded bend of the river, where they are met by appointment by a white man, who has long had his eye on them, with a cart containing a few cases of spirits, when they proceed to dissipate, sometimes in one night, the whole proceeds of their previous labor. On such occasions atrocities are enacted which it would be difficult for those unacquainted with savage life to realize. In them the young and the old of both sexes take part, and they not unfrequently end in the murder of a woman or two, or in the infliction of such injuries to some of the females as result often in death. If to these facts it is added that the birth of a child is now rare in the tribes, that the women are gradually becoming fewer in proportion to the men, that those yet remaining are victims to constant prostitution, in spite of their urgent remonstrances, some estimate of the ordinary atrocities obtaining will be within the knowledge of the Board.

In view of the above facts, and as a remedy for the evils which we have now brought under the notice of the Board, we have the honor to suggest that immediate steps be taken to form a station at which the tribes in question may be collected. Whilst we are aware that the natives to whom we refer cannot be expected to resort to such a station in large numbers at once, we have seen at Ebenezer, Condah, and Framlingham a state of things which leads us to hope that substantial good consequences would speedily result from such a course.

The site which we would recommend for this station is the country surrounding some lakes belonging to the Kulkyne station, about twenty miles south from the head station on the Murray River of that name.

This seems to us to be a locality admirably adapted for the object in view; and could a reserve be obtained there capable of carrying 5,000 sheep, the Treasury would in a great measure be relieved of expense in connection with the establishment, whilst the desired isolation of the natives would be secured.

EBENEZER MISSION STATION.

After having made our inspection of the Murray River tribes, we proceeded to the Ebenezer Moravian Mission station, which is in charge of the Rev. Mr. Spieseke. This establishment is on a reserve of 3,607 acres of poor country generally, a large portion of it being mallee; and a further 1,000 acres of country which Mr. Edols holds on a squatting tenure, and of which he has ceded the use.

Of this land the proper grazing capability is not more than 750 or 1,000 sheep. A rather inferior brush fence encloses the reserve.

The quantity of stock at present on the reserve is 1,900 mixed sheep, 8 working bullocks, 4 horses, 2 milch cows and calves, 2 heifers, besides about 12 head of cattle and 4 horses belonging to the Aborigines. It will be observed that the above stock is very considerably in excess of what we estimate the carrying capabilities of the present reserve.

There is a small hay paddock, but the crop has been a failure this year.

The buildings on the Ebenezer station comprise—a church, the missionary's cottage, school-room, dormitory and mess-room for orphans, all of which are built of limestone. They are enclosed in a well-kept garden, and present a creditable and handsome appearance. The native huts are built of good substantial logs, and a few of them of limestone. We inspected them within half an hour of our arrival at the station, and we are happy to state that we found them in excellent order, though small and ill-ventilated. There are, however, no closets attached to them, a circumstance to which we drew Mr. Spieseke's attention, as we look on conventional decency, especially in reference to females, as a civilizing agent.

The following is a list of Aborigines on this station at the period of our visit:—

	Black.	Half-caste.		
Married men ...	6*	4	Men temporarily absent ...	14
„ women ...	6	4	Men in hospital (Horsham) ...	1
Single men ...	4	1	Men who occasionally visit station	13
„ women ...	—	—		
Widowers ...	4	—		28
Widows ...	2	—		16
Boys up to 15 years ...	16	1		46
Girls „ „ ...	8	6		
	46	16	Total ...	90

* One in hospital.

Of the above children, 11 boys and 11 girls live in the children's house, the remaining 9 live with their parents.

The mortality among the people, we are informed, has been in 1873, 3; in 1874, 4; and in 1875, 16; the greater number of deaths in the last year being from measles. At present there is no sickness on the station, the people looking remarkably healthy. Mr. Spieseke informed us that originally many were suffering from pulmonary and venereal diseases, to which disorders the deaths of many were attributable.

The school at Ebenezer is entirely conducted by Miss Gregory, and is attended by between 20 and 30 pupils, who appear to be under good control, and to have made satisfactory progress in their lessons; probably they are as far advanced as white children of their ages generally. There are many very nice singers among them, and one half-caste girl promises to be a proficient on the harmonium. We think Miss Gregory deserves great credit for the general state of her pupils.

We noticed that the greater number of the people (it being optional with them) attended prayers in the church, morning and evening, whilst we were there.

The situation of this station appears to us to be healthy, the village being built on a dry limestone rise; added to which the climate is mild, and the people derive great advantage from its retired situation, and from there being no public-house within 12 miles of it. The decent appearance and quiet respectful behaviour of the little community speak highly in favor of the general management of the place, and we are of opinion their good behaviour and the prevalence of efficient discipline are attributable to the circumstance of the people looking to Mr. Spieseke as their head and protector, and to no authority beyond him. Another very potent source of good discipline at Ebenezer is the fact that Mr. Spieseke realizes a considerable sum annually from the wool, which is at his own disposal, and which he dispenses in wages, &c., for the benefit of the people. This is no doubt the principal source of his power, and to this and his position of authority we credit the result which we have the honor to lay before the Board.

The rations are supplied by Mr. Lloyd, storekeeper, of Dimboola, who is also the correspondent of the Board. Mr. Spieseke suggests that he should be allowed to purchase rations, especially flour, at such times as they could be obtained at the greatest advantage, both as to their market value and the price of carriage, and he suggests the months of February and August as the most favorable months for that purpose. Both Mr. and Mrs. Spieseke are also of opinion that the slops sent up by the Board are inferior and dear, and that it would be a better plan to send up the different kinds of clothing in the piece, to be made up by the women on the station. We think a saving might be made by purchasing these slop materials from a wholesale Manchester warehouse, rather than from a Collins street tradesman.

Concerning Dr. Fairbairn's charge for medical attendance, we have the honor to state that it seems to us excessive, but there appears to be no way of having it reduced except by an appeal to the doctor himself. Whilst on this subject, we would suggest that the quarterly medical inspections should be discontinued, as of little or no use to the Aborigines—the medical man being called in only when his attendance is actually required.

In consequence of the present limited area of the reserve, the quantity of stock kept is insufficient to supply the people with a proper ration of meat or milk, keeping up at the same time the number of the flock; and as by the attached copy of a letter from the Board of Land and Works the Government appear willing to increase the area to a capacity of carrying 3,000 sheep, we think the Board should at once urge it to perform its promise, as, if granted, it would not only enable the station to supply the people with the necessary ration of meat, but would relieve the Treasury permanently of a material portion of the expenditure of this station, as the money derived from the wool of 3,000 sheep would amount to a very respectable sum. At present we regret to say that the weekly average of meat issued at Ebenezer is only 3 lbs. per adult head, and that of bad quality, a quantity which the Board will readily see is quite insufficient.

In a sketch map attached we show the original reserve and the additions required, making the area altogether about 17,600 acres, which, as the country is very thinly grassed, besides very much of it being mallee, would not be too much for 3,000 sheep.

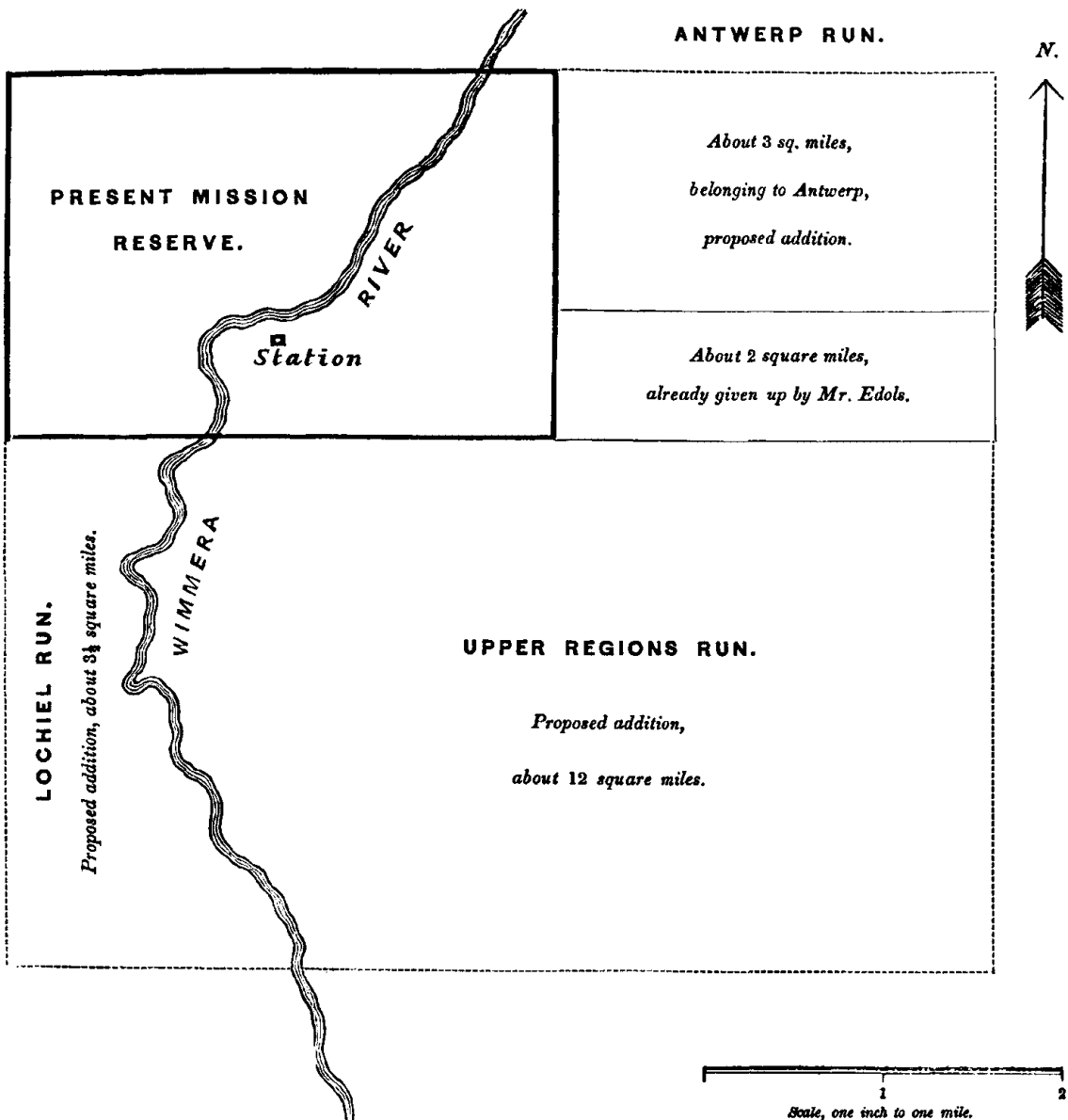
We have, in conclusion, to inform the Board that we derived much satisfaction from the inspection of this station, as we found the people in good health, contented, dutiful, and industrious; in proof of which latter quality Mr. Spieseke informed us that almost all the work of the station, including the fine church, mission cottage, dormitory, and school-house, all of which are built of limestone and plastered, is the work of the people and missionaries. There should, however, be more cattle kept on the establishment, as at present the children get but little milk; and the want of a proper supply of fruit and vegetables is also noticeable, and the more remarkable where labor is so plentiful. As stated previously, the want of closets is also noticeable, and they should be built at once.

The accounts of receipts and expenditure of wool money, though apparently correct, might be kept in a better manner; also, there is no register of deaths kept. We think Mr. Spieseke should be requested to attend to both these matters; and with reference to his accounts, we think for the future they should be audited in the usual way.

In the event of the additional area being granted by the Government, we would suggest that the Board should have it invested in trustees of its own appointing.

During our stay at Ebenezer 200 sheep arrived, the gift of Mr. Charles Officer and Mr. Charles Armytage. We understand these two gentlemen have been for some years past in the habit of making the station similar welcome presents, and we think the thanks of the Board are due to them for such generous charity.

“EBENEZER MISSION STATION.”—PROPOSED INCREASE.



LAKE CONDIAH MISSION STATION.

From Ebenezer we proceeded to Lake Condah Mission station, of which the Rev. Mr. Stähle is in charge.

The area of this reserve is about 2,000 acres of good pastoral land, with some rich slopes and flats fit for agricultural purposes. It is not adapted for sheep, as they would be likely to become flukey; it would, however, carry from 350 to 400 head of mixed cattle if properly fenced and managed.

The stock at present on the reserve consists of 257 head of fair mixed cattle, 7 horses, and a team of working bullocks, whilst 16 cows in the dairy yield a plentiful supply of milk. We regret to have to report that this reserve is without a ring fence (one-half of it having been burnt last year), so that to some extent its pasture is common to the stock of the neighbors. That this fence, with the labor at command, was not replaced long since, we think is very much to be regretted.

As regards cultivation, we may state that there is a small paddock of oats for hay, some potatoes, and about 2 acres of hops, which latter are looking well; the crop of potatoes and hay is not promising. There are also two or more small grass paddocks for horses, &c.

The buildings comprise the missionary cottage and kitchen, school-house, children's dormitory, and store, all very good weatherboard buildings. There is also a very good vegetable and fruit garden, in which also a small quantity of arrowroot is being grown; but it does not appear to us that there are by any means enough vegetables and fruit grown to supply the people.

The people's huts are of slabs, with bark roofs. They are small and ill-ventilated, and have mostly earthen floors, which generally want raising. Some of the floors are, however, boarded. The whole of the huts would be rendered more healthy by having efficient drains cut round them. There are no closets provided for the people. To these two wants we drew Mr. Stähle's attention, but we were not informed that any steps would be taken in the matter.

The present number of people on this station was stated by Mr. Hogan (the schoolmaster) to be 98, but on looking over the return furnished us by him (Mr. Stähle having only very recently taken charge) we find the number to be 108, as under :—

Married Couples.	Sons.	Daughters.	Total.
Sutton, John (black) and Lucy (black)...	2 (black) ...	2 (black) ...	6
Hewitt, Wm. (black) and Lizzie (black)	...	...	2
Green, John (black) and Carry (half-caste)	1 (half-caste) ...	1 (half-caste) ...	4
Mullen, Jas. (black) and Ellen (half-caste)	1 (black) ...	3 (black) ...	6
Taylor, Margaret (black) ...	...	2 (black) ...	3
King, Wm. (black) and Hannah (half-caste)	2 (black) ...	2 (half-caste) ...	6
Frazer, John (black) and Jenny (black)	...	...	2
Green, Thos. (black) and Jenny (half-caste)	1 (half-caste) ...	1 (black) ...	4
White, John (black) and Louisa (black)	4 (black) ...	1 (black) ...	7
Officer, Lizzie (black) ...	1 (half-caste) ...	...	2
Buins, Hy. (black) and Maria (black) ...	1 (half-caste) ...	...	3
Wallaby, Wm. (black) and Kitty (black)	...	...	2
Wilson, Wm. (black) and Maryanne (black)	...	...	2
Mobourn, John (black) ...	2 (black) ...	...	3
McDonald, Edward (black) ...	1 (half-caste) ...	2 (half-caste) ...	4
Egan, Jas. (half-caste) and Emily (half-caste)	...	...	2
Lancaster, Jas. (half-caste) and Bessie (half-caste)	1 (half-caste) ...	...	3
Gorrie, Wm. (black) and Mary (black)...	...	2 (1 black and 1 half-caste)	4
Robinson, Hy. (black) and Mary (black)	...	2 (black) ...	4
White, Wm. (black) and Georgina (black)	...	...	2
Total married couples and children ...	...	...	71
10 black and 5 half-caste orphans, from 3 to 17 years ...	...	...	15
3 black and 1 half-caste widowers ...	...	...	4
2 black widows ...	...	...	2
6 black old men ...	...	...	6
3 black and 7 half-caste young men ...	...	...	10
Total ...	...	...	108

At present there is no sickness, all looking very healthy. Here, as at Ebenezer, the ration of meat is under 3 lbs. per week; it is not nearly enough.

The school is under the direction of Mr. Hogan. It is attended by 36 children, of whom 18 are boys and 18 girls; 13 of which are half-castes and 23 blacks. They all seem to be very well taught, kept in excellent order, and well drilled. In fact Mr. Hogan deserves very great credit for the state of his school.

We were informed that the greater number of the people attend prayers, morning and evening, in the school-house, voluntarily.

The orphans' dormitory and eating-room is in charge of a half-caste couple, and seems to be well kept.

This station is not so favorably situated for health as Ebenezer, where the site of the village is limestone. The climate is also much moister. The village is, however, well placed, having a good natural drainage, which, if assisted by effective drains round each hut and the raising of the floors, would leave little to complain of in that respect. Like Ebenezer, we conceive it derives great benefit from its retired situation, the nearest public-house being 10 miles off. The decent appearance and respectful behaviour of the people speak well for the manner in which the station has been conducted.

With reference to the slops sent to Lake Condah station we think the same course should be pursued as we have recommended in the case of Ebenezer—viz., that all that are required should be sent up in the piece, to be worked up by the women on the place. We also recommend that the quarterly medical inspection should be discontinued, as a useless expense.

The two principal works required to be carried out on this reserve are fencing in the whole with a ring fence, to effect which speedily we have the honor to recommend that Mr. Stähle be supplied with the sum of £50, to be disbursed as wages among the people, and which we feel sure would greatly tend to hasten the work. The other principal requirement of the station is the drainage of the swamp, which would not only probably conduce to the health of the people, but would add some valuable land to the station.

The present requirements of the station are—

1 young bull.

1 very light 7-hoed scarifier (for the hops).

1 dozen men's hoes.

500 running ft. of 9-in. tongued and grooved pine boards, to line part of ceiling of school-house, in which there is at present a great draught.

We pointed out to Mr. Stähle that when he became better acquainted with his neighbors he might solicit a present of a few sheep from them after shearing, telling them what Messrs. Officer and Armytage did in that way for Ebenezer. Mr. Curr has also requested his district inspector to use his influence in the same direction.

As the Board is aware, Mr. Stähle has only recently taken charge of this station. Everything is apparently going on well between himself and Mr. Hogan, but we think, to avoid the chance of future trouble, Mr. Stähle and Mr. Hogan should be informed of their relative positions to each other.

FRAMLINGHAM.

From Lake Condah we proceeded to Framlingham Aboriginal station, which is in charge of Mr. Goodall, assisted by Mrs. Goodall, and is managed entirely without further aid from white people. The area of this reserve, Mr. Goodall informed us, is 3,500 acres, about one-third of which is good pastoral land, with some rich spots adapted for cultivation; the remaining two-thirds, as estimated by Mr. Goodall, being low-class stringybark ridges. With the exception of about half a mile, the whole of the reserve is fenced in with log, post-and-rail, and wire fences. There is a very good grass paddock of 150 acres, about 16 acres oats, 5 acres of pease, 5 acres of rye-grass, 5 acres of potatoes, and 1 acre of hops. The stock depastured on this reserve is 75 head of cattle, 7 working bullocks, 3 draught mares, 1 foal; there being no saddle horses, with the exception of one or two, the property of Mr. Goodall.

This trifling amount of stock on this really fine reserve is a matter which we think very much to be regretted; for not only is the land not made to contribute to the funds of the establishment, but even the insufficient ration of 2½ lbs. per head of meat issued to the people has to be purchased from a butcher.

Under these circumstances, we have the honor to recommend that 100 heifers and 2 bulls be purchased without delay and put on the ground. We think the heifers might be bought at £4 or £5 per head.

Should the incurrence of such an outlay seem undesirable, we have the honor to inform the Board that we have been informed by Mr. Goodall that 3,000 acres of the reserve can be readily let for £300 per annum—a proposal which we think worthy of consideration, as with the proceeds of such a rent for eighteen months the necessary cattle might be purchased. This course is not, however, without objections, and might be modified so as to meet the case, if the more desirable action recommended be impracticable. It is our duty to add, for the information of the Board, that we are of opinion that an annual loss of not less than £600 per annum has resulted from Condah and Framlingham not having been properly stocked and improved by the Aboriginal labor at command.

The buildings on the Framlingham reserve only comprise Mr. Goodall's cottage, which is miserably small and partly dilapidated. A store, also used occasionally as a school-house, and the Aboriginal huts, which though small, are on the whole decent, being built of slabs with either bark or paling roofs; but the floors generally want raising, and the drains round the huts require deepening and keeping in better order. There are some nice little gardens attached to some of the huts. There are no closets; in fact there is not one on the whole place.

The present number of people on Framlingham amounts to 71, as under:—

						Black.	Half-caste.
Married men...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2
„ women	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
Unmarried men	...	...	...	...	...	7	1
„ women	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Widowers	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
Widows	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Children from 3 to 15 years	...	...	...	...	...	9	7
Infants	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
						47	24
						24	—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	71	—

N.B.—No serious sickness for two years except measles; 15 deaths in the last three years.

The people are all looking very healthy, and are quiet and respectful in their demeanour.

We regret to state that there are neither vegetables nor fruit at Framlingham; in fact there is no garden whatever.

The school is conducted by Mrs. Goodall. The elder children read very well, and the young ones are not backward for their ages. We think the school creditable to Mrs. Goodall, who can, however, only devote her time partially to the native children.

Mr. Goodall informed us that he believed that there were but few of the people who were not, more or less, affected in the lungs, &c. From our own observation we are unable to give any opinion on this subject; at any rate there was no outward sign of ill-health. On this station, as well as at Ebenezer and Condah, we recommend the discontinuance of the quarterly medical inspection as an unnecessary and useless expense.

We have pointed out to Mr. Goodall that an increased area should be laid down in clover and rye-grass every year, instead of putting in the same acreage of oats in the same paddock every year. Were the former system adopted, the grasses would gradually spread over a great portion of the reserve, very much increasing its pastoral capabilities.

We think the present salary, £90 per annum, received by Mr. and Mrs. Goodall too low, and that it should be at once raised to £120 per annum. We also think that the £20 allowed him to build a house insufficient, and suggest that he be allowed a further sum of £20. At the same time we do not understand why Mr. Goodall has not utilized the services of the people on the place in adding to the decency and comfort of himself and family.

With reference to the slop clothing supplied to this station, we have the same remark to make as at the other two stations, viz., that the material be purchased and made up by the women on the station.

Amongst the Aborigines on this station it is said that prostitution has ceased, and, as a consequence, the births are again, and have for some years been frequent, and, as a general remark, we may add, as applying to all three stations we have now reported on, that the unmarried girls and women appear to be as modest as their white sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Goodall appear kind to the people and to have gained their respect and confidence. Mr. Goodall should be supplied with two saddle horses.

With reference to some Aborigines located on a free selection at Colac, Mr. Goodall suggests that they should be sent into Framlingham. We have already communicated with the police at Colac, and they have promised to write to the hon. secretary on the subject.

A complete reformation of this station, from a commercial point of view, is absolutely necessary.

With reference to the general state of the Aborigines, and bearing in mind the fact constantly stated, that savage races not only die out but cannot even be preserved in the midst of civilization, we have the honor to state that the impression made on our minds by what we have been told by the managers of all the Aboriginal stations on the subject of the medical visits to such stations is, that not only does the Aboriginal under your care show a high death rate, but that the medical attendance has been of a very perfunctory character, and, except that the visits of a doctor may raise the spirits of the sick, all but useless.

Under these circumstances, we think it our duty to recommend that the first medical talent in the colony should be engaged to visit Coranderrk, so that a reliable report, more or less applicable to all the stations, may be before the Board on what is the most important portion of the subject with which we are dealing.

EDWARD M. CURR,
Member of Aboriginal Board.
C. S. OGILVIE,
Gen. Sup. Aboriginal Stations.

To the Vice-Chairman and Members of the Board for Protection of Aborigines.

Increase of Area of Mission Station "Ebenezer," Lake Hindmarsh.

W.70/4195. G.B. No. 70/1644.
GENTLEMEN,

(COPY.)

Office of Lands and Survey, Melbourne, 4th March 1870.

In reply to your respective communications of 16th November last, urging that the area of the mission station at Lake Hindmarsh may be increased, I have to inform you that the Board of Land and Works has decided that in re-estimating the rents of runs to be paid under the Land Act of 1869 from and after 1st January 1870 provision be made to increase the grazing capability of the mission station at Lake Hindmarsh by the addition of such extent of country as will allow it, as a whole, to support 3,000 sheep.

I have, &c., &c.,
(Signed)

C. HODGKINSON,
Assistant Commissioner Crown Lands and Survey.

To Winnemanda Stewart and others, Ebenezer.

APPENDIX IV.

GENTLEMEN,

Melbourne, 23rd June 1876.

In accordance with your instructions, I left Melbourne on 10th June to visit the Lake Wellington and Lake Tyers Missionary Aboriginal stations, and herewith hand you my reports on them.

Lake Wellington station is in charge of the Rev. Mr. Hagenauer.

The area of the reserve is 2,300 acres, 500 acres of which are irreclaimable bog; the remaining 1,800 acres is fair grazing land, of sandy loam, with portions fitted for the cultivation of root crops and artificial grasses. There is also a section of 160 acres, purchased by the mission, adjoining the reserve. The whole is substantially fenced and subdivided into paddocks.

The site of the village, from a sanitary point, is good, being on a high well-drained bank overlooking the River Avon. The health of the people is good. There is little or no pulmonary disease. The services of a medical man are therefore very rarely called in.

The buildings consist of the missionary's house, kitchen, &c., boys' boarding-house, school-room, church, hop-kiln, store-room, &c., all of which are neat weatherboard buildings, and are all in good repair, with the exception of the boys dormitory, and for which I recommend Mr. Hagenauer be allowed the sum of £30.

The people occupy thirteen cottages, built of paling or weatherboards, all of which are floored, and have a comfortable and cleanly appearance. A plot of land is attached to each cottage, in which the people raise vegetables for their own use, and in some instances arrowroot for sale. A privy is erected at the bottom of each garden.

The crops on the station consist of one and a half acres of arrowroot and about two acres of potatoes, besides which there is a vegetable and fruit garden.

The stock on the station comprise 208 well-bred cattle, 6 working bullocks, 150 sheep, and 8 horses. There are 16 cows in the dairy, and consequently an abundance of milk for the people.

The number of Aborigines at present residing on the station is 80, besides occasional visitors belonging to the district, who reside in a camp attached to the village.

The school is in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Hahn, under the Educational Department. It is attended by 24 children, half of whom are girls. School inspector's report, 16th June 1876:—"Percentage, 95.327. The children have passed a very creditable examination in almost all subjects. Arithmetic in the higher classes needs attention. The school in general is in a most satisfactory state of working efficiency.— (Signed) — HOLLAND, Insp."

Mr. Hagenauer earnestly desires me to draw the attention of the Board to the necessity of initiating some system whereby all the boys, after leaving school, may, if they object to remaining to work on the station, be apprenticed out to farmers, tradesmen, or others, as it is evident that it is at this period of their lives that the proper bias can be given to them to become useful members of society, and practically prove the advantages they have derived from the training they have received.

There are many very satisfactory features in the management of this station, among which may be mentioned, that the people, besides doing the work of the place, cultivate patches of arrowroot in their own time in their gardens for sale; that many of them have money in the savings bank; that all of them subscribe some trifle to the local hospital; and that there is a library provided for them of between 300 and 400 volumes, ranging from pictorial books for the young up to works on geography, history, astronomy, &c., for the more advanced, and many even of these latter books show signs of being well used.

It is Mr. Hagenauer's ambition, at no very distant period, to make this station self-supporting, and many of the people express the same hope. I may not be so sanguine as Mr. Hagenauer, but I have no doubt that the mild but firm discipline established from the commencement has a gradual tendency towards such a consummation.

The Lake Tyers Mission station is in charge of the Rev. Mr. Bulmer.

The area of this reserve is 2,000 acres, and is situated on a peninsula jutting into the lake. The soil is rather poor sand; the grass is consequently inferior. There are, however, some loamy patches fit for the cultivation of root and grass crops.

The reserve is substantially fenced in with posts and rails, and there is more fencing now being carried on.

The site of the village is healthy, being naturally well drained. The health of the people is good; there is little or no pulmonary disease, and it has very rarely been necessary to call in a doctor.

The buildings consist of Mr. Bulmer's house, Mr. Hallier's house, dormitory for boys and girls, school-house, and store; all of which are fair wooden buildings, but require some repairs, especially the dormitory and school-house. I recommend the Board should allow £30 for this purpose.

There are six native huts in the village, built of paling, all of which, excepting one, are floored and are tolerably comfortable and well kept. There is a plot of ground attached to each of these huts in which some of the people grow arrowroot for sale. There are no privies, but Mr. Bulmer has promised to get them built.

The crops consist of 1½ acres of arrowroot. There are 9 acres more cleared and ploughed and got ready for a crop of rye-grass. There is also a good vegetable garden, but owing to the exceptionally dry season, it is not at present producing much.

The number of people residing at present on the reserve is 94, of whom 57 reside in camps and 20 in the huts in the village.

The school is in charge of Mr. and Mrs. Hallier, supervised by the inspector of the Educational Department. It is attended by 17 children, from 4 to 14 years of age, 11 of whom are boys. With the exception of the two youngest children, who live with their parents, the whole of the children sleep and have their meals in the dormitory. Mr. Holland, the school inspector, reported on 29th May 1876, as follows:—"The children appear fairly equal to the requirements of the classes in which they are working, and the school generally seems to be in a satisfactory condition."

The children, and, with a very few exceptions, all the people, are insufficiently and untidily clothed, not having had any blankets or slops for two years.

There are only 28 head of cattle and 100 ewes on the station, in consequence of which all the people, with the exception of the school children, are dependent for their meat on what they can procure by hunting, for which they are allowed two days per week. There is no milk for the children. I recommend that a moderate sum should be granted Mr. Bulmer by the Board to purchase the nucleus of what would form a future herd.

The people appear to be well conducted and obedient, working at fencing, clearing, &c.; but, in judging the management of this station, it must be borne in mind that Mr. Bulmer has to deal with a large number of very partially reclaimed savages from the mountains, who do not reside permanently, and that in some unaccountable manner the station does not appear to have received its fair share of assistance from the Board for the last two years.

C. S. OGILVIE,
General Inspector.

To the Vice-Chairman and Board for Protection Aborigines.

APPENDIX V.

SIR,

Ulupna, 23rd October 1875.

In reply to yours of 4th ultimo and 15th instant, requesting information respecting the condition of the Aborigines in this district, I have the honor to report that I cannot consider it so satisfactory as in preceding years; I attribute this solely to the number of "shanties" that have lately sprung up in this district. The facilities for obtaining spirits are so great that it is utterly impossible to restrain them. The natural consequence is, undue exposure, resulting in death. Sixteen have died within the last eighteen months. Those remaining consist of 10 old women, 10 old men, 14 middle age, 13 young grown-up men and women, 14 half-caste children, and 7 black children; in all, 68. Those who are grown up generally find employment. I would suggest that the children be taken away with as little delay as possible. The mothers of the greater number would willingly accompany them. I would also point out, with regard to the old, that they have an utter repugnance to being removed from their native beat. The general health of those remaining is good.

I have, &c., &c.,

JAMES RUTHERFORD.

R. B. Smyth, Esq.,
Hon. Sec., Board for Protection of Aborigines.