



Western Australia.

ANNO SEXAGESIMO PRIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

No. V.

A BILL INTITULED

AN ACT to further amend the Constitution Act of 1889, and for the better Protection of the Aboriginal Race of Western Australia.

[Reserved, 11th December, 1897.]

WHEREAS the welfare of the Aboriginal Race will be better promoted if entrusted to a sub-department of the State under the control of a responsible Minister of the Crown, with a provision for the appropriation of a sum of Five thousand pounds per annum for the use of such sub-department, to be supplemented by annual votes as occasion may require: Be it enacted by the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. THIS Act may be cited as the Aborigines Act, 1897.

Short title.

61° VICTORIÆ, No. 5.

The Aborigines Act, 1897.

- (2.) To distribute blankets, clothes, and other relief to the Aborigines, at the discretion of the Department ;
- (3.) To provide for the custody, maintenance, and education of the children of Aborigines ;
- (4.) To provide as far as practicable for the supply of medical attendance, medicines, rations, and shelter to sick, aged, and infirm Aborigines ;
- (5.) To manage and regulate the use of all reserves set apart for the benefit of the Aborigines ;
- (6.) To exercise a general supervision and care over all matters affecting the interests and welfare of the Aborigines, and to protect them against injustice, imposition, and fraud.

8. A SEPARATE account of the moneys placed at the disposal of the Aborigines Department shall be opened and kept at the Colonial Treasury, and a balance sheet containing details of the whole of the expenditure of such moneys during the preceding financial year shall be annually prepared in the office of the Aborigines Department.

Account of moneys received and expended by the Department to be kept at Treasury.

Ib., s. 13.

9. THE accounts in connection with such moneys shall be duly audited in the usual manner by the Auditor General, and all payments therefrom shall be made in accordance with the Audit Act, 1891.

Audit of accounts.

Ib., s. 14.

10. THE Minister shall, in every year, present to both Houses of Parliament a report on the condition and welfare of the Aborigines and of the transactions of the Aborigines Department, and of all moneys expended by the Department during the preceding financial year, and shall annex thereto the annual balance sheet by this Act required.

Minister to present annual report to Parliament.

Ib., s. 12.

11. THE Minister may cancel or may direct the cancellation of any contract of service between any Aboriginal native and any person who, in the opinion of the Minister, is unfit to be an employer of such native.

Cancellation of contracts of service.

52 Vict., 25, s. 5.

12. ALL powers and duties by the Aborigines Protection Act, 1886, the Aborigines Act, 1889, or otherwise conferred or imposed on the Governor with regard to Aborigines, shall be exercised and performed by the Governor in Council.

Powers, &c., conferred by certain Acts on Governor to be exercised by Governor in Council.

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Act to be proclaimed. **13.** THIS Act shall be proclaimed in Western Australia by the Governor within three months after he shall have received official information by cablegram or otherwise of the Royal assent thereto, and shall commence and take effect from the date of such proclamation.

I hereby reserve this Bill for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure thereon.

GERARD SMITH, Governor.

SCHEDULE.

The Aborigines Protection Act, 1886, Part I.

The Aborigines Act, 1889.

The Constitution Act, 1889, Section 70.