



THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

[PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.]

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1853.

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
March 5, 1853.*

HIS Excellency the Governor directs the following appointments to be notified for general information:—
Messrs. T. A. Conroy, to be Superintendent of Police.

- C. Elderton, to be Deputy Superintendent of Police and Secretary to Board of Education.
- W. Gale, to be Ist Clerk in Custom's Department.
- P. Brydges, to be Medical Attendant at Bunbury.
- W. Johnston, to be Schoolmaster at Guildford.

By His Excellency's command,
W. A. SANFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

£5 REWARD.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
March 7, 1853.*

WHEREAS some evil-disposed person or persons have removed the Head of the Beacon intended for the top of the Passage Rock, which Beacon was left on the Island of Carnac last year. His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified that Five Pounds Reward will be given to any one giving such information as may lead to discovery of the Offender.

*Council Chambers, Perth,
March 3, 1853.*

HIS Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified for general information, that the Legislative Council will meet for the dispatch of public business on Monday, 4th of April next.

By His Excellency's command,
A. O'GRADY LEFROY,
Clerk of Councils.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
March 5, 1853.*

HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication for general information, of the following Annual Report of the York Guardian of Natives for the Year 1852.

By His Excellency's command,
W. A. SANFORD,
Colonial Secretary.

York, January 24th, 1853.

SIR.—I have the honor to forward for His Excellency's information my Report for the year 1852:—

In the course of the past year several occurrences have taken place to interrupt the harmony which usually prevails between the white and aboriginal population. The first of these which happened in the early part of the year, was, that one of the very earliest settlers firing upon and wounding an unoffending old Native in the arm, with a gun loaded with small shot. The previous position of the settler, who had filled the office of Chief Magistrate of this District, afforded a very bad example to the lower class, particularly to the recently arrived convicts, this case was remitted to the Quarter Sessions.

The second was a violent and unprovoked assault committed by a hut keeper, who had formerly been a Parkhurst lad, at a corrobory, upon Ngoun, one of the quietest and most useful Natives in the District, and which occasioned the loss of sight of his right eye. The offender was dismissed by his employer and continued to evade the Police for some time; but was at last captured and punished by imprisonment.

A charge was also brought against a ticket-of-leave holder by a Native woman

married to a Shepherd in the employment of a settler for an assault of a gross nature. With this exception, complaint against this class, by the Natives have been of a trifling nature and of rare occurrence, and I am happy to bear testimony to the general quiet and orderly conduct of the ticket holders throughout the District.

A considerable number of Native offenders were arrested during the first half of the year. Some of these were Prisoners belonging to this and other Districts, who had escaped from the Perth road gang, some had committed robberies at the out-stations in the preceding year, and had escaped capture by taking refuge at great distances in the interior. The remainder were principally for robbing Shepherd's huts and other places left exposed without a keeper.

An experiment having been made in the previous year, of working some Native Prisoners without chains or guard along with Assistant Surveyor Gregory's Road Party, and having been found to answer, His Excellency directed me to retain all the Native Prisoners sentenced in this District, and employ them on the roads near York, under a Native Superintendent. I must confess I was at first averse to the trial, fearing they would not fail to abscond and give the Police a vast deal of trouble. But I soon found they preferred working under a Native Superintendent, in their own District, to working in chains in the Perth gang. The fear of being sent thither operated as a great check upon idleness or misconduct; and certain of being sooner or later recaptured, they had the discretion to remain at their tasks notwithstanding every facility to escape. There being secret difficulties in procuring the services of a free Native to Superintend them, I selected two from amongst the Prisoners themselves. These were Yalget and M'Knoe, runaways from Perth road gang, who had acquired considerable experience there and at Rottnest. Yalget was the most truthful and straightforward Native I ever knew. Under these men the Prisoners after clearing two streets in the townsite, commenced clearing a part of the newly surveyed road to Northam, which had been left uncleared, between York and Woodlands, Mr. Hoops farm, by Mr. Gregory's Road Party of ticket-of-leave men, and which it was necessary to complete before the line could be thrown open. With some few directions they gradually adopted a method of working of their own. One of the overseers with two others, kept several hundred yards in advance setting fire to the largest trees, then came the main body grubbing up the smaller ones, behind these two, and sometimes four were busily occupied in cutting up, the largest fallen trees, with crosscut saws, and removing or burning them, and last of all follows the remaining overseer with an assistant filling up the holes, and removing any stones, dead wood, or stumps left by the

others. In this way, besides streets, they cleared from 4 to 5 miles of road, averaging 40 feet in width, in some places through a dense forest, in others over very rocky ground, where for want of proper tools recourse was had to fire, to enable them to split the large blocks of stone. Thus removing masses that must have weighed many tons. The road completely cleared of every stump or stone, may be galloped over without risk, and is as fine a piece of work as any of the kind in the colony. For several months from 10 to 12 Prisoners, on an average, were thus employed, men who had committed various offences, from homicide to petty larceny, working and sleeping in the bush by themselves, and having it in their power at any moment to escape. But the supremacy of law was fully vindicated over the minds of these wild denizens of the bush, by the fact that only two ever abused this liberty or patrol, if I may so term it. They took a pride in their work, imagining they could beat the white men, and on one occasion, after their work was over I found they had walked a couple of miles to see the Convict road and returned boasting that theirs was by far the best.

I took much interest in their operations, visiting them frequently and observing them narrowly. I found them always cheerful, and without wrangling or disputes among themselves, in fact a more kindly race cannot exist. I endeavoured to explain to them their responsibility to a supreme being and to convince each individually of the grave nature of his offence, they repeatedly promised never to offend again. I felt confident that few or none would do so, and I am happy to say, that, although some time has elapsed, not one of the party has been again committed for any offence.

I would recommend therefore that this plan should be continued, as the whole surveyed roads, which have still to be cleared, may be completed by them. And by choosing a judicious white man as Superintendent, who would be at pains to instruct them, as well as direct their labours, a great deal might be done to reclaim, as well as to punish our wild brethren.

In the latter part of the year there were few complaints against Natives, except at the extreme settlement; the Police having been sent to the Irwin River, at the driest season of the year returned with their horses completely knocked up and having been required to send off four others to Kojonup to convey the mail per steamer, two of which strayed back to their own districts, it was some months before they were again available, consequently the efficiency of the Police was much impaired during that time.

The Natives who have been added to the Convict Police have been very useful. On two occasions the York Native constable has arrested and lodged white men in gaol without any assistance.

Without this addition I conceive the force would be very imperfect.

The Rev Mr. Smithies with a part of the Mission establishment removed in the commencement of the year from Gulililup to York, to occupy the fine grant which has been selected for their operations in this district. Much time was taken up in removing, in clearing from 20 to 30 acres of the land, and in erecting the requisite buildings, and it was not until the beginning of October that the whole party were collected upon the Gerald Mission. Being unavoidably after absent, Mr. Smithers experienced great inconvenience from the want of proper assistants. And the management had of necessity to be confided to persons neither qualified by their habits or their inclinations for the charge. The Native inmates male and female, yearning as it is usual for their own locality, were easily rendered dissatisfied, and have gradually left, until few of the original scholars remain. This is the more to be regretted, as several of the lads were well qualified to be of great assistance in teaching their brethren, and great hopes had been placed on their efforts. As they had been reared in the Institution until married, it is not to be wondered at that they should wish to be more their own masters. I do not fear however that the instruction and training they have received will be lost, whether they should be employed amongst the whites, or mix with their own race in the bush. Several

deaths occurred amongst them shortly after their arrival, from Influenza and other causes. A prejudice was thus created amongst the Natives here against the Institution. I trust this is now dying away, as several girls have joined of their own accord and others have expressed a wish to do so. The land is as fine as any in the District and the hopes are thus greater of rendering the Mission more extensively useful in its new locality. I earnestly hope the untiring zeal of Mr. and Mrs. Smithies, may be rewarded by ample success.

Before concluding, I must allude to the fact, that no death by violence in connection with their superstition, has come under my notice during the past year; and if success can justify any course of proceeding, the policy pursued by His Excellency has been fully borne out and a great amount of suffering has been saved in the Native race. The greater interest course which was springing up amongst themselves and the security in which they now dwell, is a clear and sufficient proof of the benefit they have received from it.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. COWAN

Guardian of Natives.