

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

(PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 1841.

[NUMBER 235]

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 7, 1841.*

HIS Excellency the Governor having had before him, in the Executive Council, the following Report, has been pleased to direct the same to be published for general information.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

Perth, Dec. 31, 1840.

SIR,—As Protector of Natives, I have the honor to lay before His Excellency my quarterly report from the 1st October last, and to accompany it with a short summary of the transactions of the past year, being the first in which I have entered on the duties of Superintendent, or Protector of Aborigines.

In my report for the quarter ending March 31st, I had the pleasure of being enabled to acquaint his Excellency with the visible reformation effected in the habits of the natives by the recent appointment of a Police Constable, whose sole duty was to patrol the streets of Perth, and prevent the recurrence of those frequent outrages, and petty annoyances, which had previously been a source of serious complaint and inconvenience to the inhabitants of the town. The prohibition to carry offensive weapons of any kind, within the precincts of the town, which I have most rigidly enforced, has materially operated in producing this effect. During the following quarter, the advantages anticipated from the above appointment of Police Constable were fully and most satisfactorily tested; and it is most gratifying for me, now, at the expiration of this, the first year of my official duties, to be enabled to state that no outrage on the lives or properties of the settlers, nor aggression amongst themselves (with one exception*), have been committed during the last three months.

The conduct of the natives has been uniformly correct and peaceful; and, in the present dearth of white labor, their usefulness to the settler, either in domestic drudgery, or in the rural occupations of the farm, is daily becoming more apparent, and consequently more readily recognized.

To endeavor to wean the natives from their habits of indolence, and determined system of begging, I have invariably refused money or food without having previously obtained some equivalent service; but, little permanent good in this respect can be effected, while, for the carrying of a letter, or the exertion of a single hour's manual labor, the native by the ill-judged liberality of the Colonist (the residents of the town especially), can procure sufficient food for the maintenance of himself and family during the following forty-eight hours.

* The murder of a Canning woman by the relatives of the murderers of Mrs. Cook at York, (the uncle of the victim having been instrumental in the apprehension of the said murderers.)

To evince our disgust at objects which, however disgusting to civilization, have been perpetrated by the natives on each other only in strict accordance with their established customs and prejudices, I have invariably punished the offenders by banishment from the town, for a limited period, thus depriving them of many of their comforts, and compelling them to seek a precarious subsistence in the chase.

His Excellency has been pleased to adopt my suggestion of an improvement on this system of punishment, viz., the including in the banishment the wives and children of the offender, as I discovered that, in several instances, the proscribed party, although living in the bush, was actually supported in indolence by the ample supplies procured through his wife, or wives, from the inhabitants of Perth.

The quarter ending June 30, was marked by the apprehension, trial, and execution of two natives (Do-jip and Bara-bang), for an atrocious murder of a settler's wife. This being the first judicial execution in the Colony, the effect on the temper and conduct of the natives was naturally looked forward to with some anxiety; and, I am now enabled to congratulate his Excellency on the successful results of the experiment. But one opinion throughout the Colony has been expressed as to the beneficial effect produced by this terrible example on the native population; and the length of time which elapsed between the commission and the punishment of the crime, has, I trust and believe, fully established the fact in the minds of the natives, that no interval of time will ever screen the guilty from the punishment which will certainly overtake him. It had been previously supposed that, provided only a native could succeed in escaping to the bush, a residence there for a longer or a shorter period, according to the nature of his offence, entitled him to a free pardon on his return to the dwellings of the settler; and, I am afraid that, in many instances, the result verified the supposition.

In my own transactions with the natives, I have pursued but one invariable plan, that of certain reward and punishment, let whatever period of time elapse, and I have reason to believe in its success. During the month of May I visited the Canning and Murray Districts, so notorious during the first years of the Colony, for acts of native violence and aggression, and was highly gratified in observing the good feeling and amicable relations subsisting between the settlers and the aborigines.

It is a matter of no small gratification to be enabled in this, my fourth quarterly report, to remark that many of the legal difficulties that were continually interfering with the conviction of native offenders, have, with the concurrence of the Home Government, been removed; and, I beg leave respectfully, but earnestly, to suggest to his Excellency the absolute necessity, in all cases of murder committed by natives on the settler, and when legal conviction en-

sues, of carrying into effect the extreme penalty of the law; not so much for the purpose of depriving a desperado of life, as of striking a wholesome terror into the breasts of the native population.

One striking, and most important feature of improvement in the rising aboriginal population, is, the success which has attended the experiment of domiciliating some fifteen or twenty boys and girls with the inhabitants of Perth, where they are clothed, fed, and gradually initiated in the (to them) mysteries of civilised life. It is most gratifying to state that they give general satisfaction to their employers, while their daily attendance at the school under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Smithies, the Wesleyan Minister, and the instruction of the Native Interpreter, Mr. Armstrong, ensures that surveillance over their moral conduct which promises future most beneficial results.

At the suggestion of his Excellency, three Native Constables were, some months since, selected from the three native tribes mostly resident in Perth and its vicinity, who, from their local influence, and the fact of their daily ration of flour being stopped in the event of any outrage being committed by their companions, it was expected might operate as a check and preventive of crime. Without wishing to ascribe any very important results from these appointments, their effect has certainly been beneficial,—several instances have occurred where native offenders have been arrested by the Constables, and delivered up to the authorities. One of these sable functionaries, who, previous to his appointment, was notorious for his troublesome conduct and savage demeanor, is now, to all outward appearance, a reformed character, and has never given the slightest cause of complaint. At the special request of the settlers, two similar appointments have been recently made in the District of the Upper Swan and at Leschenault.

The monthly distribution of flour, in the proportion of 1lb. to each male and female adult, which has been permitted me through the kindness of the Local Government, although it sounds trivial in amount, has answered the end proposed, inasmuch as the period of its distribution is impatiently anticipated even by those tribes far removed from Perth, and being granted solely in the event of good conduct, or, rather, in the absence of misdeemeanor, has proved a salutary check to violence and aggression. As Protector of Natives, I feel it my duty gratefully to acknowledge the liberal pecuniary assistance received from the Local Government in providing for the clothing, lodging, and Sunday board of a considerable number of native children of both sexes. The altered appearance, and respectful demeanor of these late denizens of the bush, must bear ample testimony of the valuable interest to which the Government funds have been applied.

A short code of regulations for the guidance, not only of the native children domi-

ciliated in our families, but also of their employers, has been drawn up by Mr. Armstrong, the Interpreter, to whose kind feeling and lively interest in the welfare and happiness of his little charges, it bears unequivocal testimony. I beg leave to suggest to his Excellency the expediency of printing the above regulations, a copy of which accompanies this report.

The Convict Establishment at Rottnest, which the Executive Government has requested me to visit monthly, will receive my diligent attention. Three native prisoners, Kun-di-bang, Wan-nyn, and Dinang-wart, have died since my last report. Two of whom from natural causes, and the third from the effects of eating a poisonous fish. Imprisonment, however slight, the separation from their families, and the change in their usual habits, appear to be sensibly felt by the elder prisoners, but produce apparently little or no effect on the young men. The appearance of the prisoners in general is healthy and cheerful; their hours of labor moderate; and their Government rations, though simple, sufficient and nutritious, while ample time is daily allowed them for the exercise of their favorite pursuits of the chase.

The result of their labors is apparent in the erection of a substantial stone dwelling-house, and out-buildings; the accumulation of many tons of salt from the lakes on the Island; and reaping of several acres of wheat; and the formation of gardens for vegetable produce. When we consider that all this has been effected within a period of fifteen months, by the labor of eight uncivilized and naturally most indolent natives, assisted solely by the Superintendent, Mr. Vincent, and a white prisoner, we are the more induced to regret that the natural, unbiassed inclinations of the Aborigines of Western Australia should at present form such an inseparable barrier to their acquirement of any habits of industry or profitable activity.

The above proof however of the capabilities will be, I trust, an additional incentive to our endeavors for training up the rising generation in the habits of civilised life, and must surely be our best earnest of the probabilities of future success.

With such a cheering retrospective view of the labors of the past year, a harbinger, I sincerely believe of brighter days, and after having experienced the zeal of the Government on all occasions connected with my official duties, I feel it would be almost invidious in me to suggest the necessity of marking the commencement of another year by increased rather than by relaxed exertions in the furtherance of the important object of native civilisation.

Previous to closing this report, I feel in justice bound to acknowledge the truly valuable co-operation I have received, in all matters relative to the juvenile natives, from the Rev. Mr. Smithies, the Wesleyan Minister; and, also, the efficient assistance (through his intimate acquaintance with the native customs and language), at all times afforded me by Mr. Armstrong, the Interpreter, to whose zeal and activity in the punctual discharge of his official duties, I consider the success of our exertions mainly attributable.

As visiting Magistrate to the Convict Establishment at Rottnest, I should be unjust were I to deny my unqualified approval of the zeal, and energetic activity, testified by the Superintendent, Mr. Vincent, in

the discipline and general management of the natives committed to his charge.

I have the honor to be,
Sir, your most obedient,
humble servant,
CHARLES SYMMONS,
Protector of Natives

The Honorable the }
Colonial Secretary. }

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 5, 1841.*

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint R. W. Nash, Esq., Barrister at Law, to the office of Advocate-General, during the absence on leave of the Honorable George Fletcher Moore, Esquire.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 4, 1841.*

TENDERS in triplicate will be received at this Office until Tuesday, the 19th instant, for the conveyance of a Mail weekly between Guildford and York.

For further particulars application to be made to the Colonial Secretary.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 6, 1841.*

SURRENDER OF LAND.

THE undermentioned application for the Surrender of Land having been received in conformity with the public notice issued on the 29th September, 1837, His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the same to be notified for the information of parties who may be in any way interested,—

Charles E. Mangles by Agents, L. & W. Samson, 17,595 acres, 16 perches, from location 11, Cockburn Sound, containing 20,000 acres.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 4, 1841.*

THE Collector of Revenue will offer for sale by public auction, at the Public Offices, Perth, on Wednesday, the 6th day of March next, at one o'clock, the undermentioned portion of Land, subject to the existing regulations,—

Location No. 35, Avon District,—comprising 640 acres situate in a square, adjoining the S.W. side of Avon location No. 20, and adjoining the N.W. side of Avon location No. 4.

For further particulars application to be made to the Surveyor-General and Collector of Revenue.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
November 4, 1840.*

ON Wednesday, the 3d of February next, at 1 o'clock, the Collector of Revenue will offer for sale by public Auction, at the Public Offices, Perth, the undermentioned portions of Land, subject to the existing regulations,—

Location No. 107, Lake Boorambup Perthshire, comprising 640 acres at the North end of the Lake,—next to the North of E. Jeffers' 200 acres.

For further particulars application to be made to the Surveyor-general and Collector of Revenue.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
December 28, 1840.*

MASTERS of Vessels trading with the Mauritius, or any of the Islands in the Indian Archipelago, are informed that they may be supplied with Rottnest Salt, by the ton, on application to the Government Resident, Fremantle.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
October 13, 1840.*

SALE OF LAND.

THE Collector of Revenue will offer for sale, by public auction, at the public offices, Perth, on Wednesday, the 13th day of January next, at one o'clock, the undermentioned portions of land subject to the existing regulations,—

Location No. 29, Leschenault—comprising 100 acres on the left bank of the Preston River, adjoining the North and West boundaries of the original reserve for Picton Townsite, and with a width of 19 chains 27 links North and South.

Location No. 30, Leschenault—comprising 100 acres on the left bank of the Preston River, adjoining South boundary of location No. 29, on the original reserve for Picton townsite, and with a width of 17 chains 27 links.

For further particulars application to be made to the Surveyor-general, and Collector of Revenue.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
October 27, 1840.*

SALE OF LAND.

THE Collector of Revenue will offer for sale, by public auction, at the Public Offices, Perth, on Wednesday, the 27th of January next, at one o'clock, the undermentioned portions of Land, subject to the existing regulations—

Sussex location, No. 11—comprising 270 acres, adjoining Womerup townsite, and between Sir James Stirling's land and Geographie Bay.

Sussex location, No. 10—comprising 824 acres between the Southern shore of Geographie Bay and the land of Captain Molloy.

For further particulars application to be made to the Surveyor-general and Collector of Revenue.

*By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.*

QUARTERLY AVERAGE of the Weekly Assets and Liabilities of the Bank of Western Australia, from October 6th to December 31st, 1840,—

LIABILITIES.	
Notes.....	£4,556 0
Deposits.....	7,953 10
	£12,509 10
ASSETS.	
Specie.....	£4,155 13 5
Bills.....	13,252 4 6
Dishonored bills	£21 4s.
	£17,407 17 11
M. MACDERMOTT, Managing Cashier.	

*Printed by CHARLES MACFAULL,
Government Printer*