

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. (PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.)

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

HIS Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct the publication of the following copy of a letter which has been received from C. Symmons, Esq., Protector of Natives, transmitting his Quarterly Diary of proceedings connected with the Aborigines in his District.

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

SIR,—Enclosed is my Quarterly Diary of matters connected with the Aborigines in my District, which I have the honor of submitting for His Excellency's information.

In perusing it, His Excellency will, I trust, feel gratified at observing that while the period which it comprises has passed over unmarked by any serious outrage on the part of the native population, the efforts of the authorities in the apprehension of some old and recent offenders have been eminently successful. With but one exception, not a native over whom any serious charge is impending is at this moment at large; a fact which argues well both for the general peaceable demeanour of the Aborigines and the efficiency of the police. To the energy and activity of Mr. Drummond, the Superintendent of Police, much of these results must be attributed; and His Excellency has no reason to regret having selected so efficient an agent in all matters connected with the bush as the individual above alluded to.

Nor must the efficacy and usefulness of our Native Constables be wholly overlooked. On several late occasions have they apprehended and brought in offenders who, from their knowledge of the intricacies of the bush have defied the efforts of the legal authorities. It argues much for our influence over these uncivilized men that, untempted by any large reward, they can thus be induced voluntarily to act in direct opposition to men not only of their own colour, habits, and dispositions, but not unfrequently their very blood-relations.

Amongst people so notorious as the Aborigines of Western Australia in avenging all injuries real or imaginary, we might suppose that men whose duty must necessarily render them obnoxious to their comrades would not long remain unpunished, but it is remarkable that on occasions when the native constables have come into collision with their sable brethren, in the exercise of their official duties, their peculiar costume and character have invested them with a protecting power and permitted them to insult the prejudices and oppose the passions of the many, not only with impunity but generally with most satisfactory results. This amongst a people owning no chief—a literally pure democracy—is only another proof of the halo of protection shed around the native when supposed to be supported by the authority and influence of the white man.

The native children of both sexes domiciliated with the inhabitants of Perth continue to give general satisfaction, and their usefulness increases in proportion to the length of their service.

The unfavorable state of the weather has frustrated several attempts I have made to

visit the Convict Establishment at Rottnest, but I have the satisfaction of informing His Excellency of the healthy state of the prisoners, and the general satisfactory working of the system adopted by the Superintendent.

Rottnest probably, from its insulated position, and the consequent ignorance of the Aborigines relative to its interior arrangements, is shrouded by such undefined terrors in the minds of the native population as to prove one of the most efficient preventives of crime, and the severest possible punishment on its commission.

I consider the prison on Rottnest as one of the most powerful engines which the Colonial Government wields (rather in *terrorem* than in point of fact) over the Aborigines of Western Australia.

As Protector, and consequently interested in all plans for the amelioration of the native condition, I may be allowed to express my gratification at a late order in the Government Gazette, whereby His Excellency offers gratuities to all such employers as can produce a certificate of having efficiently instructed a native in the operations of a farm, or any handicraft trade. If duly carried out in the spirit of the regulation, no plan would appear better devised for eventually breaking down the barrier which at present intervenes between the settler and the Aborigines. Once prevail upon the adult savage to domicile himself for a lengthened period under our roofs, a gradual appreciation of the comforts and luxuries of our civilization will naturally creep upon him, together with a consequent disgust of, and inability to return to his former precarious and desultory mode of life.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your very ob'd't servant,

CHARLES SYMMONS,

Protector of Natives.

Perth, June 30, 1841.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 8, 1841.*

HIS Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct the publication of the following return of Lands in Western Australia, assigned in Occupancy for a period of Ten years, to persons now absent from the Colony, which have been resumed for non-performance of the conditions of assignment,—

Avon—6,000 acres—	John Butler
“ —5,000 acres—	Archibald Butler
“ — 573 “ —	John Hurrey
“ —2,713 “ —	R. M. Lyon
“ — 800 “ —	T. Maxwell
“ —4,386 “ —	George Robb
“ — 386 “ —	Wm. Shorthouse
“ — 380 “ —	John Durnford

Canning— 320 acres—	John Adams
“ —5,000 “ —	Stephen Henty

Swan—972 acres—	John Butler
“ — 10 “ —	Thomas Bannister

Murray— 500 acres—	Joseph Bignell
“ —1,000 “ —	J. A. Dutton
“ —5,000 “ —	M. Friend
“ —1,100 “ —	Edward Hugo
“ — 800 “ —	J. C. Cooper

Cockburn Sound—180 acres—James Henty

Leschenault—2,560 acres—W. Hudson

Sussex—3,500 acres—W. P. Ashburner

The above described Lands will not be open for purchase until further notice.

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

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
July 2, 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,—

P. P. Smith by agent, James Purkis—1,146½ acres, being the back or N.W. portion of 1,720 acres situate on the right bank of the Canning River.

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

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
June 23, 1841.*

IT appears to His Excellency the Governor to be highly desirable to promote in every way the civilization and improvement of the Aborigines of this Territory, and to extend the measures already in operation for this purpose, His Excellency has directed it to be notified for public information—

1st. That a remission in the purchase of Land to the extent of (£18) eighteen pounds will be allowed to any person who shall produce satisfactory evidence to the Government that a Native has been in his constant employment for the space of two full years, and that he has acquired a competent knowledge and skill in the usual operations of farming, threshing, reaping, mowing, &c. &c.

2nd. That a remission in the purchase of Land to the extent of (£36) thirty-six pounds will be allowed to any person who shall produce satisfactory evidence to the Government that he has instructed a Native in a trade, calling or handicraft of such a nature as is usually brought under the system of Apprenticeship; and that such Native has acquired such proficiency therein as would in the case of an European apprentice, entitle him to receive his indentures and be treated on the terms of a journeyman. The person applying for such remission will also be required to give the Native such a certificate as will entitle him to be treated as a journeyman.

His Excellency conceives that the object contemplated in this notice will be materially facilitated by the present gradually improving condition of the Aborigines, and by the kind disposition hitherto generally evinced towards them by the Colonists.

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

*Printed by CHARLES MACFAUL,
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