

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

(PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1842.

[NUMBER 291

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 3, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of the following interesting account of the Natives, and the Establishment on Rottnest, drawn up by the Superintendent of Public Works, during a week's sojourn on the Island, superintending the laying of the foundation stone of a light house.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

SIR,—In obedience to His Excellency's commands, I proceeded to Rottnest on Tuesday, the 18th inst., to dig out and lay the foundation of the intended light-house, on that Island, and after being 7½ hours on the passage we landed. I mention this circumstance because we took with us the Native *Wenar*, who was convicted at the last quarter sessions, of murdering another native, and being transported for life, it gave me an opportunity of seeing the working of the savage mind under such circumstances, and ascertaining his views of the propriety of the sentence. At first he appeared very sulky, particularly with me, nor did I wonder at it, when, after some time had elapsed, he, by signs and broken English seriously asked me if I was going over to hang him, I assured him that was not the nature of my business, he then became more cheerful, and the injustice of his sentence according to his view, was argued with a warmth that was really interesting. "What for Governor sulky black fellow, me twanga no. White kill white fellow! black fellow sulky no! By and by, long time ago, white fellow come and kill black fellow; Governor sulky no! What for black fellow *gid-jil* black fellow. Wife *quipple* me, brother *gidjil*, Governor sulky. Black fellow *gidjil* white fellow that no good, black fellow *gidjil* black fellow kill em brother, that *quabba*." Such were his arguments, and if we turn it into plain English it will run some how thus,—“I cannot understand why the Governor is sulky or severe with me,—if a white man kills a white man we never interfere,—some time back the white men killed many of the natives, and the Governor took no notice, now, why should the Governor take any notice of me, if I kill a fellow native, that steals my wife, or kills my brother, when it is according to our law. I admit for me to kill a white man is wrong, but not so to kill a man who kills my brother.” I say trying the argument by the standard of savage equity, it would require no small degree of reasoning to overturn it. On landing, when his irons were knocked off, he seemed much pleased, and the next day he went cheerfully to work, consoling himself under the idea, that by and by we should have another Governor, who would liberate them all, and tell them to go and fight it out.

Supposing the following observations may not be uninteresting, I submit them for His Excellency's perusal, they are drawn from observations made during my visits to the Island, which have given me frequent opportunity of entering into their character and what may be called their domestic arrangements.

The allowance made for food is, I think, well arranged, it consists of 1½ lbs meal, and not less than 2½ lbs of cabbage, per day, per man. The cabbage is first boiled, when done the meal is put into the boiler and all stirred up together. This is done twice a day, the allowance is arranged to give

two meals. It is given them in buckets to every three men a bucket, the superintendent standing and calling every one to his, who have placed themselves rank and file in readiness, so that no dispute can arise, out of the buckets they subdivide it, into two dishes with shells or spoons, and each takes his share of the “skraping” while the larger body, in the dishes cools. Silence is the order for some 8 or 10 minutes among them, when all save pails, dishes and spoons have disappeared, and cheerfulness and chatter wages around. Here I may be allowed to make a remark which I consider due to the wife of the Superintendent who overlook this part of the establishment. It must be evident to all acquainted with the native character that cleanliness is not one of their domestic virtues. And it therefore required the greatest care to establish that promoter of health among them, in this point no one need be more particular than Mrs. Vincent, not a copper, ladle, bucket, dish, or spoon, but areas clean as the most fastidious would require them, for such a purpose. I tasted the food, it was sweet, but I should like it better with salt, which the natives will not eat, yet to them the food is evidently wholesome, and their bodies are in a healthy state. As an instance a short time ago one of them cut himself with an axe, splitting the great toe from the others, almost up to the instep, and another cut and bruised himself very much in a fall on the rocks while hunting, and yet without medical aid, save the binding up of the foot; the first was at work in 3 weeks, and the other in as many days.

Perhaps I may here be permitted to say, I think with the superintendent of the establishment, a little animal food allowed them occasionally, would be of advantage, particularly when they are more laboriously engaged, as in the present instance, in carrying up materials for the erection of the light-house; for although the superintendent allows them frequently to go out hunting, after their work is done, at which time they obtain fish, snakes, frogs, &c., which they dispose of as they please, except when a large fish is caught, and then it is boiled up for their mutual benefit, in addition to their allowance. Still I think if some of the cheap flocks of goats were purchased the expense would be trifling, and by serving out some two or three times a week the advantage would be felt by all. I ought to state that independent of the above allowance, ½ lb rice twice a week is given to each man, and if any thing extra is done, after their usual hours of work, a small portion of bread is given them. In very hot weather the practice is to breakfast early, give them a task which may be completed by 11 o'clock, when they leave the field, and return home, lying by all the middle of the day, and in the evening are employed in getting wood and water for the morrow.

The following may be taken as an outline of the general proceedings:—

Wednesday, January 18th—half-past 5 o'clock in the morning native cell unlocked, and in about half an hour, 6 are sent to cut grass to litter down the stock yard; 2 to examine fishing lines and make ready for fishing after breakfast; one to cooking, or rather warming up the breakfast, it having been prepared the evening before; two to grinding axes,—this every one is aware, who knows anything of the mechanical arts, requires some degree of judgment, and I was much pleased to find, on examining the different tools, that each had their

proper edge and baze or bevel, some for cutting wood, and some for stone, which would have done credit to an apprentice of some standing; six were sent to gather dung dropped by the cattle, which is thrown in a large hole dug and walled for the purpose; the others to fetch salt water, which was thrown on the dung collected, and gather sow thistles for rabbits, pigs, &c. On the return of the grass cutters, every man stood by his bundle until examined by the superintendent, to see that each had brought a proper load. When approved, it was spread about the yard, and then they all passed off with their hooks and ropes to the store, where the superintendent was ready to examine them. One with hook bent,—supposed carelessly,—ordered no breakfast; not a very pleasant sound to the offender if one may be allowed to judge from the countenance, but not a word was said in reply. Half-past seven o'clock, natives called to breakfast, which call was cheerfully obeyed, all standing as before stated. After breakfast all hands to work, 12 under the direction of the corporal to grub land, 6 with self and superintendent, to dig the foundation of the light-house, 2 to attend at home, and 2 sent fishing. At 3 o'clock all returned home. This was a long day's work, which arose from my desire to return as early as possible to the main. Half-past four, natives called to dinner, arranged as before. In the evening the fishermen returned—“Groupee sulky plenty, catch em no;” and from what I could see they seemed as sulky as the fish—but not with their dinner, that taken, the cloud disappeared, and the evening passed with a short corrobory. I am told they are much disappointed if they are not successful in fishing. In their rambles they had, to use their own expression, “seal meal em bush get down,” seen a seal which had escaped into the bush near the lakes. No uncommon thing I am told, as they are frequently seen some distance inland.

I ought to have mentioned, that, on our return from work, the native that came over with us stopped behind hunting, which is contrary to the rules of the establishment. A messenger was sent after him, who soon returned with his man, and a severe reproof was given him in presence of all, together with a threat that punishment would be the consequence of such another transgression. This, at first sight, may be thought severe, but when we consider that order must be the “order of the day,” or when it is viewed as a main link in the chain that unites all subordinate bodies to their superiors, it will be felt to be necessary; and, further, if permitted to range abroad at pleasure, no hour could be calculated upon with certainty for their return. The plan pursued by the superintendent is, to take all new prisoners under his immediate direction until they are acquainted with the rules and orders of the establishment.

Thursday morning, breakfast early; 7 o'clock men arranged, except those that went fishing yesterday, who were taken with us. “Snipe meal em masser,” was the cry as we approached one of the lakes. This proved to be the first appearance of that bird on the island for the season; it is much prized for its flavour, is about the size of a pigeon, visits the island for about three months in the year, and is scarcely, if ever, I am told, seen on the main. I was much pleased with the cheerfulness of the prisoners on their way to renew their toil, frequently laughing and singing, and at work passing their jokes. “Gate gate.”

cries the superintendent, "you wongy too much." "Make hasto," cries Molly Dobbin (one of the prisoners), "done this masser soon 'nother job get down." Two o'clock returned to dinner; 4 o'clock native dinner. Remainder part of the day spent by them in singing, recounting their mischievous tricks, or rehearsing their deeds of valour.

Friday morning superintendent called out for volunteers to go with us; a number of them came forward quietly, and offered willingly, but only four being wanted the others were put back. I mention this little incident because it shows the disposition of the men, and that they have no objection to be under the direct management of their head. Just before starting to work, Molly Dobbin came to me, and as a great secret asked me "how long time masser want me till Fremantle walkee?" I said 3 years (I had been told so). He seemed pleased with the prospect of liberty at that period, although, I am told, when their time is up they have great dread of meeting their tribes again, fearing they shall be speared. Could not something be done to keep them among us after they are thus made useful.

This day we laid the eight corner stones of the wings and the tower. As we had finished our work by 12 o'clock, the natives were permitted to go hunting till 5 o'clock, about which time they returned with fish, frogs, &c., the cooking and eating of which formed their evening's employment. The order of the establishment speaks for the superintendent, but I would not leave the subject without noticing the corporal in charge of the detachment, his quiet, steady conduct with the prisoners, and his determined perseverance in directing their labors, deserves great praise; and the men under his command (soldiers I mean,) all seem willing to do any little service and lend a helping hand to promote the well-being of the establishment.

I beg leave to observe, I do not intend to set forth this place as an elysium for the natives, far from it. The prisoners will sit down and weep most bitterly, particularly the old men, or those who have left wives and children on the main; and when they see the smoke from the fires at the place where they have been accustomed to meet when unshackled and free, memory wanders over the scenes of bygone days, they seem sensitively alive to their lost freedom, and lamentably bewail their captivity.

There is one singular property of the island which may be worth notice to those that are curious in geology, all the rocks that bound the coast, the highest hill in the interior, the lowest plains, and 16 feet below the level, which is the depth of a well dug by the superintendent, is composed of broken shell without a particle of sand or other material being mixed with it so far as I am able to discover, except some unknown deposite in here, and there a low spot of swamp which probably may prove to be decomposed sea-weed.

I am, Sir,

Your ob'd't servant,

H. TRIGG,

Supt. of Public Works.

To the Hon. P. BROWN, }
Colonial Secretary. }

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 2, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of the following extracts from the Annual Report of R. H. Bland, Esq., Protector of Natives, York.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

"Having so recently received the appointment, I am unable to give as correct a statement of the proceedings of the natives as I could desire. I am happy to state that, throughout the York District, the natives have during the past year, been

peaceably inclined toward the settlers; the only offences committed by them being a few cases of petty theft. The natives in the Toodyay district have not been so peaceable. An attempt was made on the life of a settler with a view to the release of a native prisoner, at the time under confinement for sheep stealing. This should be a warning to all those attempting the apprehension of native offenders to be particularly on their guard against treachery. Several cases of cattle stealing have likewise occurred in that neighborhood, as, however, the principals concerned in these offences have been transported to Rottnest, it is to be hoped that the remainder of the tribe will conduct themselves more orderly for the future.

"I am happy to state that, since my appointment to this office, I have not had one complaint made to me by a native against a settler for any offence whatever.

"The natives have altered but little in their habits during the last twelve months, their civilization must be a work of time, and will go on more slowly here than in the neighborhood of the towns. The pursuits of the settlers being principally pastoral, they are necessarily scattered over a great extent of country, and so small a quantity of land being actually under cultivation, enable the natives to procure grain and the indigenous productions of the earth with nearly the same facility as before the district was settled. There is consequently but little inducement, and no real necessity, for their changing their habits of wild freedom for the restraints of civilized life. Indeed, with regard to the adults, all that we can expect is to make them orderly subjects so far as respecting our persons and property. Our efforts to improve the race should be directed towards the rising generation by establishing schools, and thus early weaning them from their wandering habits, and giving them a taste for the employments and comforts of civilized life, for which purpose I am anxious to see a school established at York so soon as a person can be found willing and competent to undertake the duties."

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 8, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct a list of the names of the Chairman and Committee of the Town Trust of Perth for the current year to be published for general information,—

Chairman.
W. B. Andrews, Esq.

Committee.
Messrs. George Leake
James Purkis
Peter Brown
W. H. Drake
Richard Jones

Treasurer.
Mr. James Purkis.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 8, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified that he has empowered the Trustees of the Town of Perth to levy, under the Act of Council 4 & 5 Victoria No. 18, the following rates from the owners or occupants of any land within the said Town for the purpose of a foot-path in Hay-street—viz., the owners or occupants of allotments on the north side of Hay-street twenty shillings each, and all other owners or occupants ten shillings.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 8, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the re-publication of the following notice, which was issued from this Office on the 23rd April, 1840, placing all Timber, Stone, and Clay, or any

other material, which may exist in any of the town-sites, under the charge and management of the Trustees of the respective Towns.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
April 23, 1840.

WITH a view of preventing in future the indiscriminate destruction and waste of valuable materials which exist on the town-sites of this Colony, such as timber or wood of every description, stone, clay, &c., His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to place all this description of property under the charge and management of the Trustees of the respective towns to dispose of or to appropriate the same as to them may appear most advisable, and most conducive to the benefit of the inhabitants, and the improvement of the towns.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 3, 1842.

CLAIMS ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

MUCH delay and consequent inconvenience being frequently experienced by persons having claims on the Local Government from the practice of transmitting their accounts direct to this office instead of forwarding them in the first instance to the head of the department for which the work has been performed or the supplies have been made. The Governor is pleased to direct it to be notified that henceforward no account will be ordered for payment which has not the signature of the Head of the Department attached to it as also the certificate of the Superintendent of the Public Works where the claim is for work performed.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 3, 1842.

SEED WHEAT.

THE Wheat raised by the Establishment on the Island of Rottnest being in quality well suited for the purpose of seed, and His Excellency the Governor considering that a change of seed would be advantageous to many of the Agriculturists directs it to be notified that permission will be given to obtain a supply of this Wheat in exchange for an equal weight of Colonial Wheat or a proportionable quantity of flour. A sample of the Rottnest Wheat may be seen on application to the Messenger at the Public Offices.

Persons desirous of availing themselves of this offer will be required to submit a sample for the wheat or flour for examination and approval, and the exchange will be effected at Fremantle.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 1, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the following list of accepted Tenders for the Conveyance of Mails from and after the 1st April, to be published for general information,—

Between Perth and Fremantle, daily, M. Quinn.

Between Perth and Guildford, three times a week, E. Barron.

Between Perth and Bunbury, via Canning, Pajarra, and Australind, once a fortnight, Thos. Hester.

Between Guildford and Albany, once a fortnight, H. E. Johnston.

Between Guildford and Toodyay, once a week, N. Shaw.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 3, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication

of the following notice, which has been issued by the Resident Magistrate, Bunbury, relative to the sale of a town allotment.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Bunbury, January 17, 1842.

THE Sub-Collector of Revenue will offer for sale by public auction at the Government Offices, Bunbury, on Monday, the 14th day of February next, at one o'clock, the undermentioned town lot, subject to the Government regulations,—

Bunbury, No. 82.

For further particulars application to be made to the Sub-Collector or Assistant-Surveyor.

GEORGE ELIOT,
Resident.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 1, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that George F. Stone, Esq., having returned to Perth, has resumed his duties as Sheriff and Registrar and Sub-Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 3, 1841.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to approve of the appointment of James Tait, Esq., to act as deputy to the Sub-registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, in the District of the Murray, in the case of his illness or unavoidable absence from the district.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
February 2, 1842.

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct it to be notified for the information of those concerned that Warrants for the payment of the undermentioned contingent accounts have been sent to the Colonial Treasurer's between the 1st and 31st of January last,—

- J. A. Smith, overcharge on spirits imported
- L. & W. Samson, drawback on spirits exported
- R. C. Garrett, disbursements of the Champion Col. schooner
- C. Macfaull, 6 sets of Perth Gazette.
- C. Symmons, forage allowance
- R. H. Bland, do.
- H. M. Ommanney, do.
- A. Hillman, do.
- P. S. L. Chauncey, do.
- Do., hire of poney and bush allowance
- J. Allison, chainer's pay quarter ending 31st Dec.
- J. Simpson, do. January
- J. Mitchell, do. December
- Thos. Gill, do. January
- J. Woodford, do. to 8th January
- F. J. Gregory, do. January

- Messrs. Gregory, surveys on the Swan
- Sundry soldiers, services with assistant-surveyor Chauncey
- Sundry persons, petty expences of Survey Office
- Sundry persons, contingent expenses with Mr. Ommanney
- Sundry soldiers, services with assistant-surveyor Hillman
- W. H. Edwards, timber, &c., for Champion
- E. Pace, fresh meat and vegetables
- T. Prince, hire of a whale boat
- James Dyer, conveyance of provisions to Champion
- John Williams, constable for January
- F. F. Armstrong, keep of natives
- Abr. Jones, allowance as teacher at Guildford
- Abr. Jones, rent of school-room, ditto
- N. Paterson, services as officer of revenue, Eremantle
- D. S. Murray, half year's rent of store
- A. Davies, cooper at Fremantle
- A. Curtis, colored shirts for gaol
- E. Pace, sundries for ditto
- G. E. Cameron, carriage of provisions
- D. S. Murray, boat-hire to Rottnest
- G. Leake, rice and soap for ditto
- G. M. Bouglas, apprehension of *Wi-war*, and conveyance to Fremantle
- W. Stafford, irons for prisoners
- W. Hyde, ferry charges
- R. Viveash, expences attending Quarter Sessions
- G. Bracher, ditto.
- E. Quarterman, ditto.
- J. Furmaner, travelling expenses as special constable
- N. Smith, Jr., superintendence of prisoners working on roads
- J. Dyer, conveyance of goods to gaols, &c.
- H. H. Brown, hospital expenses
- T. Salkilld, expenses in bringing back A. Lawson
- M. Crisp, board and lodging of ditto
- J. Dudley, do
- James Jones, conveyance of York mail
- J. Harris, conveyance of Albany mail
- J. P. Watts, conveyance of Fremantle mail
- Do., canvass supplied for post office
- Do., bags for do.
- John Ellis, conveyance of Guildford mail four months to 31st of Dec.
- A. Jones, 3 months conveyance of Upper Swan mail
- A. Curtis, whale boat to Rottnest with Superintendent of Public Works
- W. T. Pether, door frames for light-house at Rottnest.
- A. Curtis, a mortar for signals at the ferry
- T. Mortaun, freight of goods for Rottnest, and cart cover supplied
- G. K. Foster, expenses incurred on His Excellency's excursion to the southward outports
- Wollaston, Brothers, horse-hire for do.
- Sundry soldiers, escorts. ditto
- W. Hyde, ferry charges for soldiers passing and repassing
- C. Symmons, expenses on a trip to Rottnest
- G. F. Stone, books, &c., for Registrar of Births, &c.

Rev. J. R. Wollaston, bounty on introduction of laborers

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

Revenue Office, Perth,
Feb. 1, 1842.

LIST of Licenses granted at this Office since the last return,—

PUBLICANS LICENSES.

- Nicholas Goguey, Perth
- H. L. Cole, do
- Thos. Sweetman, do
- John H. Monger, York
- Thos. Jecks, Guildford
- Wm. Devenish, do
- Martha Crisp's license, Perth, transferred to Robert D'Arcy

ONE GALLON LICENSE.

Messrs. L. & W. Samson

AUCTIONEER'S LICENSE.

Daniel Scott

DOG LICENSES.

- H. C. Sutherland 1
- E. W. Landor 2
- Isaac Cousins 1
- Charles Symmons 1
- Edward Corbett 1
- Elizabeth Sholl 1
- George Clement 1
- Benjamin Mason 1
- James Crane 1
- Thomas Morris 1
- John Embleton 1
- Robert Austin 1
- W. Lewington 1
- T. R. C. Walters 1
- Abraham Myers 1
- John Okely 1
- James Crichton 1
- Charles Clarkson 1
- Karn Doolan 1
- Henry Trigg 1
- Thos. Jones 2
- Richard Hinds 1
- W. J. Lawrence 1
- W. Heal 2
- Edward Barron 1
- Edward C. Souper 1

List of persons who have obtained Licenses at Bunbury,—G: Eliot, Resident:

PUBLICANS LICENSES.

C. B. Penny
Lewis Birch

ONE GALLON LICENSES.

Clifton & Plowes
James Kay Child

AUCTIONEER'S LICENSE.

Andrew Stirling

DOG LICENSES.

- M. W. Clifton 7
- A. Stirling 7
- A. J. W. Northey 2
- Lewis Birch 2
- Wm. Woods 1
- James Knight 1

H. CAMFIELD,

Acting Collector.

Printed by CHARLES MACFAULL,
Government Printer.