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Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 13, 1845.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the following Fifth Annual Report of the Protector of Natives, C. Symmons, Esq., to be published for general information.

By His Excellency's command,
In the absence of the Colonial Secretary,
EDWARD C. SOUPER,
Chief Clerk Col. Sec. Office.

Perth, December 31, 1844.

SIR,—With feelings of general satisfaction at the experience of the past year, so connected with my duties as Protector of Aborigines, I have the honor of laying my Annual Report before His Excellency the Governor.

In despite of the many obstacles, both natural and physical, which are constantly obtruding themselves, I have reason to believe, from the result of the last five years, and the contrast presented by the past and present in the general conduct and manners of the aborigines, that the work of civilization is, however slowly, yet steadily progressing.

I am induced to ground this belief on the following facts, viz:—the yearly increasing intercourse of the natives with, and consequent utility to, the settlers; the almost total absence of aggression on our property, however unprotected; and the extremely rare occurrence of any feuds amongst themselves. With reference however to the quarrels, serious or otherwise, which even now occasionally occur in the vicinity of the located districts, I beg to call the especial attention of His Excellency to the fact, that they mostly originate in the vindictive feelings, infidelity, or other gross misconduct of the women, who, not having the fear of Rottneat before their eyes, delight apparently in dashing up the savage passions of the men, and wreaking an almost fiendish malice on any unprotected female who may chance to have incurred their displeasure. I respectfully suggest that, on a fit occasion, a striking example be made of some notorious offender, without respect to sex or age. I pledge myself for its astounding and salutary effect.

In addition to these facts, and as indubitable proof of the moral influence, and its beneficial consequences, which we have been gradually acquiring over the passions and prejudices of our savage neighbors, I may adduce a circumstance which occurred in March last at Jinginup, a remote farm, about thirty miles from any settled habitation. An influential native had died from the effects of a blow inflicted by the managing Bailiff* of the station. The tribe was numerous, comprising many daring characters, all highly excited at the loss of their comrade and leader. The white establishment consisted of only two men and two boys, sole guardians of a valuable flock of sheep and herd of cattle; yet, so entire was the conviction on the minds of the natives of our intention to see them righted—so implicitly did they rely on our good faith, that, a native express having been despatched to give information to the authorities, they rigidly refrained (although jealously watching the station) from the slightest aggression or hostile movement during an interval of seven days, and awaited patiently the arrival of the competent authorities.

A similar evidence has also come to my

* This man was tried for manslaughter at the Sessions, and acquitted on some local technicality.

knowledge within these few days, in the case of the death of a native by a spear wound inflicted in a sudden quarrel. The sufferer was a very old man, and of consequent repute and importance amongst his tribe, and his death proportionably to be revenged. His relations, however, contrary to their usual custom of wreaking a bloody retaliation on the offender, have applied to me in full confidence of justice and redress. Such are some of the fruits of the inviolable good faith and harsh dealing I have endeavored to maintain in all transactions with the aborigines.

Much extenuation might also often times be pleaded for those acts to which native delinquency is now usually confined, such as the abduction of a sheep or cow (of rare occurrence), or the more frequent robbery of a settler's hut for the object of a few pounds of flour. With reference to the first offence above alluded to, I can adduce a very recent case in point, where a settler permitted a valuable herd of cattle to roam for weeks totally unprotected at a distance of eight or ten miles from his homestead, in a wild unlocated district, and surrounded by mountain tribes, who are lawless in their habits in proportion to the rarity of their intercourse with the settlers of the plains. Under such circumstances, what marvel is it that a cow has been speared? Again, the isolated position of many of the out-stations—the too frequent want of a secure storehouse, and often the fact of the absence of the unmarried settler from his house or hut for several hours of the day—all present temptations too potent to be resisted by an omnivorous savage, whose occupation from sunrise to sunset is to wander in quest of what he may devour, and who possesses but extremely vague ideas either of the value of property, or the relative distinction between "meum and tuum." On reflection, it is to me matter equally of surprise and congratulation that, when opportunities are so frequent, and temptation thus held out to delinquency, crimes of this nature should be comparatively of such rare occurrence.

The Native Schools, in proportion to their several stages of advancement, are making satisfactory progress. That established on the Upper Swan suffered, in the early part of the year, serious annoyance from the intimidation of the adult natives in its vicinity, who are too frequently the inveterate opponents of our experiments in civilizing the younger members of their community, the measures, however, which I promptly adopted to obviate this difficulty have apparently proved efficacious.

With regard to the parent School at Perth, however much I may feel gratified at the good that has already been effected, I yet cannot be insensible to the many annoying difficulties which are frequently occurring in the present management of its youthful inmates. With the younger children, in number about fifteen, our task is easy, but we have also about sixteen boys and girls of from thirteen to sixteen years of age resident in the establishment. So long as these were children, they were mere children, they were proportionately ductile, but with their years, so have our difficulties increased.

Impatience of control on the part of the lads, and the necessity for the most watchful supervision of the girls, are daily becoming more apparent.

In my last annual report I made mention of the marriage of two of our pupils, and alluded also to the intention of eventually effecting a similar arrangement with the remainder as time and opportunity per-

mitted. Circumstances are, however, not unfrequently occurring which will, I fear, compel us to accelerate the union of several of these parties much sooner than, from their youth and inexperience, might otherwise be deemed advisable.

The objection also of selecting from so limited a number those who are willing and eligible to contract such an engagement, presents of itself no trifling impediment, independently of the considerable outlay of funds for separate dormitories and other incidental expenses.

Such, and other various difficulties, are however but the natural and inevitable consequences of all aboriginal experiments, and will in nowise discourage us from strenuously coping with, and endeavoring to overcome them.

Looking indeed to the partial success which has hitherto attended our own exertions as the earnest of future triumphs, we may find sufficient encouragement to persevere in the cause of native civilization.

During the last year we have lost two pupils by mesenteric disease, to which both the natives in the bush and those domesticated among us appear peculiarly subject.

The land lately appropriated by Government as a small experimental farm or garden for the use of the boys of the Institution, has been for some months in process of clearing, and is now under partial cultivation. This outdoor occupation appears to suit the tastes of the lads, who ply the axe, spade, and grubbing-hoe, with some dexterity and much good will. To this new occupation, and the employment of the girls, in the whole of the domestic arrangements of the establishment, may be attributable their somewhat slower advancement in the mere school exercises than was manifested in the preceding years.

I have much pleasure in being enabled to inform His Excellency of the recent introduction into the establishment of the "Infant School" system of instruction, under the superintendence of a teacher of much practical experience. I believe this mode of instruction will be found above all others best calculated to attract the attention and stimulate the capabilities of our little charges, and a corresponding improvement may be confidently expected. The progress of the children at the Fremantle school reflects much credit on their teacher, Mrs. Robinson.

The friendly understanding between the settlers and the aborigines having now been so long uninterrupted, the office of Native Constable has been for some time past nearly a sinecure. I have, therefore, with the concurrence of his Excellency, temporarily abolished that appointment in the more settled districts, giving the dismissed functionaries to understand that, in lieu of their hitherto daily ration of flour, an ample remuneration will be given them on each occasion when their services may be required. I am not aware that, by this arrangement, any pecuniary saving to Government will be effected, but I feel confident that it will be the means of ensuring a more zealous coöperation, and increased activity in circumstances of difficulty.

I am happy to inform his Excellency, that the vice of drunkenness, which was at one time becoming somewhat prevalent among the adult natives, so far as I can judge from my own district, appears to be almost wholly eradicated; probably in consequence of the legal penalties to which by a recent Act all parties convicted of selling or gratuitously giving liquor to natives render themselves liable.

The judicious system of management which has now been steadily working for upwards of five years on the Island of Rottnest, continues to produce not merely a highly beneficial effect on the prisoners, but also a most salutary and deterring influence on the free native population. Although the most systematic order regulates the entire establishment, it is maintained solely by the influence of a mild though steady discipline. Three examples only of corporeal punishment have occurred during the last eighteen months. There are at present twenty-three prisoners on the Island, eleven of whom are condemned for life, the remainder for periods varying from six months to two years. During the past year two prisoners have died from organic disease, as ascertained by a post mortem examination, which is always instituted in cases where the cause of death is not self evident.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your very obedient serv't,
CHARLES SYMONS,
Protector of Natives.
The Honorable the
Colonial Secretary }

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 15, 1845.

Tenders in triplicate will be received at this Office on Tuesday, the 28th day of January instant, for supplying for the use of the Post Office (60) sixty Mail boxes.

For further particulars application to be made to the Postmaster-General.

By His Excellency's command,
In the absence of the Colonial Secretary,
EDWARD C. SOUPER,
Chief Clerk Col. Sec. Office.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 15, 1845.

His Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct it to be notified for general information, that Her Majesty's Colonial schooner *Champion* will sail for Bombay on or about the first of February next.

By His Excellency's command,
In the absence of the Colonial Secretary,
EDWARD C. SOUPER,
Chief Clerk Col. Sec. Office.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 9, 1845.

Tenders in triplicate will be received at this Office until Tuesday, the 28th instant, for a supply of from 20 to 30 cords of firewood for the use of Her Majesty's Gaol at Fremantle. The firewood to be delivered in Cliff street above high water mark.

Further particulars may be known on applying to the Resident Magistrate of Fremantle.

By His Excellency's command,
In the absence of the Colonial Secretary,
EDWARD C. SOUPER,
Chief Clerk Col. Sec. Office.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 9, 1845.

Tenders in triplicate will be received at this Office on Tuesday, the 11th day of February next, from such person or persons as may be willing to supply for the use of the public service during the ensuing year the following water transport for passengers or goods:—

To and from Fremantle and Rottnest
To and from Perth and Rottnest
To Perth and Fremantle.

For particulars application to be made at this office.

By His Excellency's command,
In the absence of the Colonial Secretary,
EDWARD C. SOUPER,
Chief Clerk Col. Sec. Office.

COMMISSARIAT NOTICES.

Commissariat Office, Perth,
Jan. 4, 1845.

TENDERS FOR WHEAT.

NOTICE is hereby given that the period for the reception of tenders for the supply of (1,500) Fifteen Hundred Bushels of Colonial Wheat for Her Majesty's Service, advertised to be received at this Office till Wednesday, the 15th instant, is extended to Wednesday, the 5th February, at 12 o'clock.

W. H. DRAKE,
Dep.-Asst.-Com.-General.

Commissariat Office, Perth,
Jan. 4, 1845.

TENDERS FOR GRINDING.

NOTICE is hereby given that the period for the reception of tenders for Grinding such Wheat as may be required for Her Majesty's Service, advertised to be received at this Office till Wednesday, the 8th instant, is extended to Wednesday, the 29th instant, at 12 o'clock.

W. H. DRAKE,
Dep.-Asst.-Com.-General.

Commissariat Office, Perth,
Jan. 3, 1845.

TENDERS FOR FRESH MEAT.

THE Deputy Assistant Commissary-General hereby gives notice, that sealed tenders in triplicate will be received at this Office on Wednesday, the 19th March, from such person or persons as may be willing to contract for the supply of such quantities of Fresh Meat (Mutton or Beef) as may be required by the Commissariat Department at Perth, Williamsburgh, Pinjarrah, and York, from 1st April, 1845, for (6) six or (12) months, for which payment will be made quarterly by Bill on the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, at thirty days' sight, and payable in London at par.

Two responsible sureties will be required for the due fulfilment of the contract.

Any further information may be known on application at this Office.

W. H. DRAKE,
Dep.-Asst.-Com.-General.

Commissariat Office, Perth,
Jan. 3, 1845.

TENDERS FOR TRANSPORT.

SEALED TENDERS in triplicate will be received at this Office on Wednesday, the 19th March, 1845, from such person or persons as may be willing to supply for the use of the public service, from the 1st of April, 1845, to 31st March, 1846, the requisite land and water transport to the following places—

Water Transport.

From Perth to Cockburn Sound
" Owen's Anchorage
" Gage's Roads
" Fremantle
" Guildford
" Rottnest Island
" Pinjarrah

Land Transport.

From Perth to York
" Williamsburgh
And from the above detailed places to Perth.

The tenders to express separately the price per cwt. to or from each station.

W. H. DRAKE,
Dep.-Asst.-Com.-General.

Commissariat Office, Perth,
Dec. 18, 1844.

TENDERS FOR WHEAT.

THE Deputy Assistant Commissary-General hereby gives notice that

Sealed Tenders in triplicate will be received at this Office on Wednesday, the 5th February, 1845, from such person or persons as may be willing to supply for the use of Her Majesty's Service (1,500) Fifteen Hundred Bushels of Colonial Wheat (60) sixty pounds per bushel, the growth of the harvest of 1844, and to be delivered before the 31st March, 1845.

The Wheat to be of unexceptionable quality, free from moth, smut, and drake, and to be delivered at such place as the Commissariat Officer in charge may direct free from any charge for bags, casks, portage, &c., to the Government, at the risk of the contractor.

The wheat to be subject to the approval of a board of Survey before payment is made.

No tender will be received for a less quantity than (100) one hundred bushels, and the parties whose tenders are accepted will be required to enter into a bond, with two good sureties, for the due performance of their contract.

Payment for these supplies will be made by Bills at thirty days' sight on the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, payable in London at par.

Any further information may be known on application at this office.

W. H. DRAKE,
Dep.-Asst.-Com.-General.

Commissariat Office, Perth,
Dec. 18, 1844.

TENDERS FOR GRINDING.

SEALED Tenders in triplicate will be received at this Office on Wednesday, the 29th January, 1845, from such person or persons as may be willing to Grind such quantities of Wheat as may be required for the use of the Commissariat Department from 1st April, 1845, to 31st March, 1846.

The tenders to express the price per bushel of (60) sixty pounds, and the quantity of 20 per cent. flour and bran returned therefrom.

Two sureties will be required for the due performance of the contract.

Payment for this service will be made by Bills drawn at par upon the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, at thirty days' sight.

Further particulars may be known on application at this office.

W. H. DRAKE,
Dep.-Asst.-Com.-General.

Commissariat Office, Perth,
Jan. 4, 1845.

TENDERS FOR FLOUR.

TENDERS in triplicate will be received at this Office on Wednesday, the 5th of February, 1845, at 12 o'clock, from such person or persons as may be willing to supply

FOUR TONS OF GOOD 20 PER CENT. FLOUR

for the use of Her Majesty's Service.

Samples to be forwarded with the Tenders, and the Flour to be finally subject to the approval of a Board of Survey, when received from the Contractor.

Payment for this service will be made by Bill drawn at thirty days' sight upon the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, payable in London at par.

Further particulars may be known on application at this office.

W. H. DRAKE,
Dep. Asst. Commissary-General.

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