

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
January 15, 1847.*

H. E. the Governor is pleased to direct the publication for general information, of the Annual Report of the Protector of Natives for the Perth and Southern districts, for the year 1846.

By His Excellency's command,
G. F. MOORE.
Colonial Secretary.

Perth, Dec. 31, 1846.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit to His Excellency the Governor, my Report for the year 1846.

I am happy to believe that with reference to our relations with the Aborigines, the Native character has within the last few years, undergone a decided amelioration; the mutual exchange and indeed necessity of friendly offices between the settlers and the natives—the conviction in the minds of the latter that redress of any grievance is ever ready through the instrumentality of the Protectors—and the steady working of our police regulations, have each and all combined to produce effects beneficial alike to the white and to the colored man.

Natives acts of aggression have been for several years, confined to occasional petty depredations on the flocks and herds—petty and insignificant indeed may even the worst of these be termed, if compared with those of no very remote date, when the aborigines in open day used to maltreat, in some cases murder, our shepherds and drive whole flocks into the hills; indeed were other proofs wanting to illustrate the strong moral influence we have attained over the minds of the aborigines, it would suffice to quote the fact of Mr Turner's settlement at Augusta, where sixty miles distant from the next station, destitute of any protection from soldiers or police, and dependent solely on themselves, three males and two females have for several years resided, have sown, and reaped, and herded stock in undisturbed tranquility.

There is one subject connected not only with my official duties, but also with the interests of the whole South Western District, to which I have adverted on several late occasions, and which I now beg seriously to lay before His Excellency and the Executive Government, viz.—the policy and indeed absolute necessity of an additional police force to that now stationed in the district.

While three mounted police constables find full employment in preserving tranquility in the York and adjacent districts, the same results are expected to be attained in a range of country of equal extent, and much more difficult of access, by the efforts of a solitary individual. By unremitting exertions and at much personal hazard, the party above alluded to (Mr Edward Hester), was enabled during the first three years of his appointment, to maintain the tranquility of his district, until at length, emboldened by his evident weakness, and by repeated escapes after capture, from the

began to treat all restrictive measures as impotent; warrants, despite of the police constables best exertions, remained unexecuted—petty offences multiplied, and in this dilemma my sole resource was, by permission of the Local Government, to call in the aid of a mounted policeman from the Toodyay district. The effect was most salutary, in three months from that date not a warrant remained unexecuted, and perfect tranquility now pervades the whole district!

I beg respectfully to urge the policy of making some immediate provision for a permanent augmentation of the police force in the above district; to meet the very limited financial means at the present disposal of the government, the Resident of Bunbury has proposed, provided a police horse can be procured, that he will undertake to keep it free of expense to the government, and ready at all times for the service of a private of the detachment quartered at Bunbury, who will thus be enabled to act as a mounted police assistant of Mr Hester.) (The almost total inefficiency of a dismounted police force in the pursuit of native offenders, was fully tested in the Southern district, previously to any requisition being made for the service of the Toodyay police constable.)

The immediate completion of the Lock-up at Bunbury, is another matter of paramount necessity, and until this is effected, I predict nothing but annoyance and trouble to the district authorities, and much additional expense to the Government in the unavoidable conveyance of prisoners overland to head quarters. When completed, the lock-up at Bunbury can at least for the present accommodate the prisoners committed from the Vasse.

Our late native institution, which has for some time been transferred to *Galitilup*, eleven miles distant from Perth, and respecting the new arrangements of which, I gave some particulars in a former report, is, I think, steadily progressing; it would however be not only deceptive, but, as it were, underrating whatever small success may have hitherto attended our efforts, were I to disguise the discouragements and difficulties that are continually besetting our attempts to civilize the youthful native population; years of residence beneath our roofs, kind treatment, a sufficiency of wholesome food, and monthly wages sufficient for all the purposes of pocket money, prove often but weak and insufficient barriers when opposed to their innate yearning for the freedom of savage life, and their distaste for systematic labor however light.

To these obstacles, I regret to add, there is not only an evident disinclination in the parents to commit their children to our charge (mainly attributable I believe to the mortality which carried off so many of our pupils some two years since), but we have also constantly to combat the stratagems and inducements of the adult bush natives, to inveigle our boys into a renewal of their former wild mode of life.

The managing committee have lately en-

a party who originally came to the colony as a Catechist of a mission to the Aborigines, and who has long identified himself with their best interests. Of the zeal and devotedness of the Rev. Mr. Smithies, in the discharge of his duties as director of the establishment, I am happy to bear unqualified approval. The committee and myself beg to express our grateful acknowledgements for the very prompt and liberal manner in which our wishes have been met by the local government, in the apportioning of a grant of land as a native reserve for the pupils of our establishment at *Galitilup*, and we assure them that no pains shall be wanting on our part, to make the results in some measure proportioned to the gift.

Our school at Fremantle remains stationary in point of numbers, but the care and attention of the teacher, Mrs. Robinson, have produced a sensible improvement in the pupils nor do they appear to have any inclination to resume their bush habits.

The Establishment at Rottnest, so far as regards the Native Convicts, has, during the past year, progressed satisfactorily, their conduct has been uniformly correct, and their health good; two deaths have occurred, arising, as proved by the post-mortem examination, from organic disease of some standing.

I regret to report the partial failure of the grain crops in the island from blight, this, joined to the circumstance of the number of prisoners having of late considerably increased, induced me to suggest to His Excellency the expediency of granting free pardons to those natives who, by uniform good conduct and length of imprisonment, might be deemed deserving of such clemency; fourteen convicts have accordingly been lately discharged.

Having ever considered the Rottnest establishment rather a school of reform than of punishment, I should strongly advocate not merely the humanity, but I believe, the policy, of similar gaol deliveries, and I am much gratified at perceiving my views thus sanctioned by the approval of His Excellency and the Local Government.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,
(Signed) **CHARLES SYMMONS,**
Protector of Natives.
The Honble. the Col. Secretary, Perth.

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