

1853-4.

VICTORIA.

ABORIGINAL PROTECTORATE

ON THE

L O D D O N .

RETURN TO ADDRESS.

MR. FAWKNER. — 4TH NOVEMBER, 1853.

L A I D U P O N T H E C O U N C I L T A B L E B Y T H E C O L O N I A L S E C R E T A R Y ,

B Y C O M M A N D O F

H I S E X C E L L E N C Y T H E L I E U T E N A N T G O V E R N O R ,

A N D O R D E R E D B Y T H E C O U N C I L T O B E P R I N T E D ,

28th FEBRUARY, 1854.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

R E T U R N .

1. WAS the land referred to at that time in the use, possession, or occupation of any one or more Squatters, with the quantity of land taken either from the one, or if more than one person, from each Squatter, to form the Station for the Aborigines?

Part of the land in question had been for a period of about twelve months in the occupation of Mr. A. F. Mollison; a considerable portion was, however, unoccupied. Mr. Mollison had formed an out-station, and had two flocks of sheep only on the ground. There was no other stock located there at the time that it was taken up as an Aboriginal Reserve.

2. Was any compensation given to such Squatter or Squatters, and if any, how much when was it given; and if any award was made, who framed the award?

No record of any compensation being applied for can be found.

3. When the Protectorate was abolished was this Run or any part thereof returned to the person or persons from whom it was taken in 1841?

No part thereof.

4. The date on which the Protectorate of Aborigines was abolished or dispensed with in this Colony?

The date fixed for its abolition was 31st December, 1849, but the final close of the business of the Department was not effected till about three months later.

5. The date at which Mr. Protector Parker ceased to hold office as such Protector; and the date at which he ceased to draw pay and allowances as such Protector?

March 14th, 1850.

6. The day on which Mr. Protector Parker delivered up possession of stores, &c., belonging to his office as aforesaid, and the quantities and persons to whom delivered?

February 28th, 1850, an account of stores, &c., was taken; from that date the Schoolmaster had the immediate charge of the establishment, but under the surveillance of Mr. Parker, as visiting Magistrate.

7. To whom and at what date did Mr. Protector Parker deliver up the said Aboriginal Station? Was it to the original holder or holders; or, in case it was not delivered up, in whose hands and for whose benefit has it been held since the abolition of the Protectorate?

The Aboriginal Station has been held by Mr. Parker for the benefit of the Aborigines. See also the preceding answer.

8. The opinion of His Honor the Superintendent, if any such was "officially" given, of the capabilities or value of services or conduct of Mr. Protector Parker during any or all the time he acted as such Protector, together with amount of pay and of allowances, and the amount of actual services performed by him for such pay and such allowances? A yearly statement of all such services?

The estimation in which Mr. Parker's services were held, and the extent of those services, may be collected from the accompanying letter. [See Appendix A.] For the amount of pay and allowances, see Appendix B.

9. The amount of rent that has accrued to the revenue for the use of the said Station of about fifty-six square miles, at what time paid, whom paid by, and into what fund it was placed?

See Appendix C. £60 paid yearly by Mr. Parker or his agents.

10. The reason why this land, being in the near neighbourhood of the Diggings, was not parcelled out and put up to auction in suitable lots, for the benefit of the revenue and encouragement of an agricultural class on that part of this very rich gold country?

In the beginning of 1853 an intimation was given to Mr. Parker that the Reserve was disproportionately large, and he pointed out to the then Surveyor General the portions which, with the greatest advantage to the public, and the least injury to the Aborigines, might be surveyed for sale. In compliance with an application made in May, 1853, the Surveyor General undertook to have the land surveyed for sale as soon as a Surveyor could be spared for the purpose, but so as not to interfere with Mr. Parker's buildings. A Surveyor is now on the spot marking it out for sale.

11. If the said Run or Aboriginal Station has not been let at a fixed and suitable rent, or leased for a valuable consideration, a return stating in what manner the Government intend to proceed with this large scope of land that is fit for use, much wanted, and would add, if sold, a large sum to the land fund?

Replied to in Nos. 9 and 10 above. Mr. Parker states that he has given his services gratuitously in the oversight of the establishment and the instruction of the natives. He has also supplied the establishment with flour, and occasionally with meat, at prices fixed by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, being, at his request, calculated merely to cover the cost of production. In 1852 the price of flour and meat was 2d. per lb. for the whole year.

12. If Mr. Parker holds this said Station or any part thereof, what amount of money does he pay, or stock does he return it as capable of feeding?

See Appendix C. The estimated capability of the Run, as fixed by the Commissioner of Crown Lands, is 12,000 sheep; but in 1851, with less than this number on the Run, 1700 sheep and lambs died of starvation.

APPENDIX [A.]

Superintendent's Office,
Melbourne, 8th June, 1850.

SIR,

A copy of the Despatch of the Honorable the Colonial Secretary (29th January, 1850, 50 | 45) is placed in the hands of the Commissioner of Crown Lands of the Western Port District, in order that he may be made aware of the general views entertained by His Excellency and the Executive Council as to the measures which it may be desirable to take for the benefit of the aboriginal inhabitants of the Colony, now that the Protectorate is dissolved. The proposed measures may require some modification before they are fully made applicable to the Port Phillip District, but it is desirable that, as far as practicable, the arrangement herein proposed should be carried into effect.

Upon the several points adverted to in the first six clauses of this Despatch, it may not be now particularly necessary to remark.

The question of the precise position and extent of the reserves that it may be considered advisable to withhold from pastoral occupation will come more particularly under review, and require the report of the Commissioner of Crown Lands whenever the time comes when the boundaries of runs to be let on lease, and their estimated contents and capabilities, should be definitely settled.

The seventh, eighth, and ninth clauses, pointing out the duty that devolves upon the respective Crown Lands Commissioners, are those to which your attention is more particularly directed.

To assist you in forwarding the periodical reports that may be required of you, forms are herewith enclosed, which it is proposed should be adhered to; but it is to be understood that it will be your place to furnish the Government with any other information or remarks which circumstances may call for, and which may facilitate the discharge of the obligation under which it lies to watch over the aboriginal inhabitants of the colony, their relations with the settlers, and their gradual civilization.

Printed Forms
will be furnished
you before the
31st December.

Goulburn Station, Present Establishment.

With regard to the two Aboriginal Establishments formed by the late Protectorate Department within your District, I would, however, point out that that upon the Goulburn is, from this date, considered more particularly under your general oversight, and open to your visits of inspection. It will be satisfactory to me to find that you can visit it at an early date, and furnish me with a report by which I may be guided in continuing the existing establishment or operating any modification. It is in the main pretty much upon the plan which His Excellency and the Council wish to see carried out on all the Aboriginal Reserves, and is understood to have been in general, for some years past, economically and successfully managed. I should consider it best that the medical officer in charge should look upon the Commissioner of Crown Lands as his more immediate superior, and, except in cases where circumstances might justify or call for a more direct communication, should carry forward his correspondence, submit the requisite returns and reports, and make his requisitions through your office. All requisitions for supplies would of course, after being approved and countersigned by you, be transmitted by you direct to the Clerk of Works Office; any other general correspondence to the Superintendent. I enclose you certain papers connected with this establishment which may give you information upon its present state, and the wishes and views of the officer in charge, to whom you will be so good as to communicate such portion of these instructions as may be desirable. It will be your duty while visiting the Goulburn Station to fix definitely and submit for His Excellency's approval, the extent to which, in future, it should extend; I think twenty-five square miles quite sufficient for a permanent reserve, and you will be so good as to state what might be the best and most convenient boundaries for such reserve, and in what way the lands thus decided to fall without the original reserve ought to be left open to pastoral occupation.

Loddon Station, Present Establishment.

The Aboriginal Station on the Loddon, in the same manner (with the exception of the discontinuance of the officer Assistant Protector of Aborigines) the establishment has been continued since the commencement of the year upon a footing as sanctioned previous to 31st December.

In the case of this Station, however, particular considerations induce me to propose to leave the more immediate oversight in the hands of Mr. Parker, late Assistant Protector, whose residence upon the Reserve, for the present at least, I have considered might be continued in due regard to his position for past services, and the influence, which he undeniably possesses, with the tribes frequenting it. If His Excellency consents to this and other arrangements which must be submitted to him, I should propose that until a proper medical officer may be placed in charge, the requisitions, &c., be forwarded through him; at the same time that I see no reason why the official superintendence should not be exercised by

the Crown Lands Commissioner in the same manner as in the other instance, and requisite periodical reports presented by him.

I should be glad, however, before this subject is considered finally disposed of, that the Station should be visited by you and a report furnished, which may guide me in submitting final plans, for the management of the station in future, to the Governor.

In the case of both the stations just named, I would particularly direct your attention to the 9th clause of the annexed letter, respecting the issue of food and clothing.

With regard to the opinion expressed in the 10th clause, I see no reason to doubt that if the small school now maintained on the Loddon Station is considered at all productive of good, (upon which subject I should be glad to have your opinion), its continuance upon the present economical plan will be sanctioned.

With reference to the 11th clause, and duty of extending medical advice to the Aborigines in case of need, you are sufficiently aware of the habits and nature of the Port Phillip natives on the one hand, and of the real circumstances of this District, with regard to the restricted number, distribution, and avocations of medical practitioners, official or otherwise, in the Country Districts, to enable you to concur with me in considering it out of the question to conform altogether to the wishes of His Excellency and the plan of Dr. O'Brien.

I am aware that for all common cases of disease amongst the tribes frequenting the Loddon Station, the late Assistant Protector has prescribed efficiently, and I have his assurance that he is still willing to do so. However, I think in the case of this important station, it may be requisite to appoint a medical official of similar class and qualifications with the person so employed at the Goulburn. In the mean time you will, however, oblige me by reporting what facilities may be looked for in the Western Port District generally towards the adoption of any such system as that proposed by Dr. O'Brien.

I have only at this time to add, that the Aborigines in the County of Mornington, which is properly included in the Western Port District, will be more particularly under the charge of the Officer entrusted with the duty of watching over those frequenting the adjoining county of Bourke, in charge of the city and vicinity of Melbourne.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

C. J. LA TROBE.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands,
Western Port.

[ENCLOSURE, No. 1.]

Enclosure in Minute to Mr. C. C. Powlett, dated 8th June, 1850.

PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT WITH MR. PARKER.

1. The late Assistant Protector to be allowed to remain on the Reserve and erect a cottage at his own charge, with the full understanding, however, that whenever it may be held proper to remove him, the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds will be the utmost limit allowed in compensation for any such dwelling, or any improvements whatsoever effected by him.

2. He engages to relieve the Government of the whole charge of the Aboriginal Flock, and to pay all expenses incurred in management, &c., and to supply the necessary amount of wethers required for the Government establishment, keeping and furnishing regular accounts of increase, &c., on the consideration that he is allowed the wool.

3. He may have the privilege of depasturing Stock within the limits of the Reserve, and of cultivating, as far as may be required for his own use, or the convenience of the Aboriginal establishment, but for no other, with the understanding that he gives employment, both pastoral and agricultural, as far as possible, to the Aboriginal Natives, and carries on such operations mainly by their instrumentality.

4. Any Stock that he may then place upon it will, of course, be liable to assessment under the Act, and further to a charge of per thousand head, payable half-yearly upon a certified return, and countersigned by the Crown Commissioner.

5. Should it appear to the Crown Commissioner that the amount of Stock depastured on the Reserve is less than might reasonably be maintained upon it at any season, I see no reason why, under specific arrangement with him, the neighbouring settlers might not be admitted to the same privilege, as far as temporary right to depasture a given number within defined limits on the same general conditions, the privilege of residence, however, not being conceded.

6. It is understood that until a proper Medical Officer be appointed to take charge of the Aboriginal Station, the late Assistant Protector will act as Visiting Magistrate, and give a general oversight to it, and secure the presentation of the proper requisitions and reports, the more general official superintendence to be, however, vested in the Crown Commissioner, in the manner pointed out in the communication made to him of date 8th June.

7. In the event of these arrangements being acted upon, I should fix the limit of their duration to three years only. It must be borne in mind that their sole purport is the advantage of the Aboriginal Tribes in the vicinity.

APPENDIX [B.]

RETURN, shewing the amount of SALARY and ALLOWANCES paid Mr. Inspector PARKER for the period from 1st July, 1851.

NOTE.—In consequence of the imperfect state of the Vouchers relating to the period prior to the date when Port Phillip became a separate Colony, on 1st July, 1851, a complete Return for this period cannot be readily compiled. The following information has, however, been obtained, viz. :—

In October, November, and December, 1846	}	Mr. Parker received Salary, £250 per annum, and 2s. 6d. a day in lieu of forage.
In January,		
In July,		
In March,		

And although I have no direct evidence upon the subject, I believe these were the rates paid to him from his first appointment up to the time when his office was discontinued, on 31st January, 1850.

Audit Office, Melbourne,
7th December, 1853.

(Signed) EDWARD GRIMES,
Auditor General.

APPENDIX [C.]

RETURN, shewing the amount of RENT that has accrued to the REVENUE for the use of the LODDON STATION, at what times paid, by whom paid, and into what fund it was placed, so far as can be ascertained in this Office.

Amount of Rent that accrued to the Revenue.	At what times paid.	By whom paid.	Fund in which placed.	Remarks.
£ s. d. 60 0 0	15th January, 1851	E. S. Parker	Territorial Revenue	For the period from 1st January to 31st December, 1851
60 0 0	23rd March, 1852	" "	" "	" " 1852
60 0 0	27th May, 1853	" "	" "	" " 1853
£180 0 0				

Audit Office, Melbourne,
7th December, 1853.

(Signed) EDWARD GRIMES,
Auditor General.